

Refining 121

Chapter 121 – The Demon Monarch Arrives

Looking at his strong gaze, Qin Yu finally understood that today's Shan Wugu was no longer the Lang Tu of the past. He had his own convictions, his own path, his own judgment. After a moment of silence, Qin Yu quietly said, "Potato, I hope that you won't regret this in the future."

Shan Wu squeezed out a smile.

Qin Yu sucked in a deep breath. "I have already obtained the five element spiritual objects, so the Saint Furnace is yours to take away. I wish you a smooth journey and I hope you can truly obtain the status of the demonic path's Saint Son."

He cupped his hands together and turned to leave.

Shan Wugu's lips moved, but in the end he didn't go to stop him. After a brief hesitation, his eyes hardened. He knew that his martial talent was ordinary at best, and besides patience, there was nothing extraordinary about him. If he wanted to stand above the clouds and grasp his own destiny, he knew that Demonic Slaughter was his only path. In any case, even if he knew there were numerous perils in the way, he still couldn't give up.

Brother, I know you mean well. I'm sorry that I must disappoint you.

Shan Wugu opened his mouth and sucked in another breath of slaughter energy. After today, he had no idea just when he would have another opportunity like this. He had to do his best to refine as much as possible and further his cultivation.

After leaving the cave and sealing the entrance, Qin Yu frowned. He had already done his duty as a brother. If Shan Wugu couldn't accept his advice, that was his choice.

In the end, they were no longer two youths in the Eastern Mountain Sect. They now had their own cultivation and their own status, and they also had to take responsibility for their own decisions.

Shua –

A brilliant light flashed. Qin Yu flew far away.

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Blood Red Island.

The atmosphere was heavy and gloomy.

How grave a sin was the crime of losing the Saint Furnace? Once the Demon Monarch's anger fell upon them, they feared that the vast majority of people here would be incinerated into ashes.

Suddenly, billowing demonic energy rose up from where the Saint Furnace had been. The demonic energy instantly condensed into a demonic array. Demonic light rocketed into the skies and a figure appeared. His open eyes were as awe-inspiring as silent thunderclaps and all the demonic cultivators present felt their hearts quiver.

“We greet the Saint Lord!” Everyone on the island fell to their knees, their faces full of fear.

Deepblue’s complexion was paper white. He struggled to kneel down, disregarding his opening wounds as his body streamed with sweat.

The Saint Lord’s face was blurry and demonic light rippled around him. Although his figure wasn’t large, his aura pressed down like a million mountains. Powerful, tyrannical, overbearing, looking down upon the world with disdain, capable of sweeping away all, this aura left one gasping for breath. With just a single glance, Deepblue’s chest blew open. Flesh and blood splashed out to reveal his beating heart.

“Saint Lord, mercy!” Deepblue pitifully pleaded.

Demonic light flickered. The Saint Lord disappeared from everyone’s sight, his icy cold voice left reverberating in the wind.

“I am very disappointed.”

Puff –

Puff –

The heads of demonic cultivators all around suddenly blew open, white and red goo splattering out! Besides Deepblue and Han Shanye, everyone other demonic cultivator in their group had died.

Northgate Demon’s forehead touched the ground. His body was stiff and his complexion was white. The Saint Lord hadn’t harmed them, proving that he was well aware of what had occurred in the sea region. If so, then would he be able to find out about Shan Wugu’s actions? If this was the case he feared that their fates would be at least a hundred times more miserable than those who had died!

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He had obtained the five element spiritual objects. With this, his harvests in the sea region had far surpassed his original expectations. Qin Yu didn’t want any other sudden surprises to jump up at him. He found a place and waited for the arrival of the Netherworld Ship.

But at this time, Qin Yu froze. His heart felt as if it had been grasped by a great hand. Every beat brought about excruciating pain. Cold sweat started to stream down his forehead, causing his robes to stick to his body. He didn’t know what had happened, but his intuition told him that some great danger was rapidly approaching!

This sort of feeling...

The Demon Monarch!

Qin Yu’s complexion changed. His first thought was to immediately run away, the farther the better. When he fought with the Demon Monarch’s demonic visage, although he had managed to force it back, he had gained a far clearer understanding into how terrifying the Demon Monarch truly was. If the Demon Monarch really came, there wouldn’t even be the smallest chance of him escaping alive.

This was bad!

If the Demon Monarch came, it must be for the Saint Furnace. If he were to find out about Shan Wugu's actions...then Shan Wugu would certainly die.

Blood red flames ignited. Qin Yu turned and flew away.

He raced towards the seabed mountain range cave dwelling at full speed. It soon appeared before his eyes. He flicked his sleeve, pushing open the entrance and breaking directly in.

Shan Wugu had reached a critical moment in refining the slaughter energy. At this time, his eyes popped open, filled with surprise.

Within his mind, a dreadful focus locked onto him with the sharpness of a saber point. It tore at his soul.

The Demon Monarch would soon arrive!

Qin Yu didn't even have time to explain himself. With a flick of his sleeve, he took away the Saint Furnace and fled from the cave.

Bang –

Seawater erupted. Qin Yu soared into the horizon, howling into the distance like a scarlet meteor!

Within the cave, Shan Wugu's pale face was streaming sweat. It was clear he had suffered a backlash while in the process of refining the slaughter energy. A self-ridiculing smile appeared on his lips. If you want to leave then leave. At least Qin Yu hadn't killed him. Perhaps this was because he had left behind a point of consideration for their past friendship. However, when you urged me to give up on refining slaughter energy, was that the time when you decided to take away the Saint Furnace?

Soaring across the sea, tearing through the skies like a blood red rainbow, Qin Yu didn't know that Shan Wugu had misunderstood him. He continued to wildly run away. As time passed, the foreboding feeling in his heart didn't vanish, but instead became increasingly strong.

He knew that the Demon Monarch had locked onto him.

Suddenly, Qin Yu looked upwards. At some point, the gloomy weather up above had turned pitch black. Stars appeared in the darkness, their silver starlight gathering in the vault of heaven. Then, a figure emerged from the starlight. Without releasing the least bit of aura, just by stepping into this part of the world, Qin Yu was nearly frozen where he was. Fear gushed out from the depths of his soul.

The Demon Monarch...had arrived!

"It's you?" The voice was astonished, as if a little surprised. "Little friend, it seems the two of us are fated to meet."

The faint voice fell into Qin Yu's ears, no different from a deafening thunderclap. The voice seemed to rumble into his soul. He spat out a mouthful of blood, his complexion turning pale white as his magic power froze in his body!

Night had arrived in the Netherworld Sea Region. In the gathered sea of stars, Qin Yu was locked in the air, blood leaking from his nose and pouring from his mouth. He looked extremely distressed. At this moment, even his brave mentality was collapsing in despair.

Perhaps he might be able to contend with a common Nascent Soul, but his opponent right now was the demonic path's Saint Lord, one of the strongest existences in this part of the world. How could he possibly face him?

Hu –

Strong winds whipped up between the heavens and earth. A massive bone hand appeared. It seemed to reach across the endless river of space and time and grasp out towards Qin Yu. He wanted to struggle, but he was only able to cause the magic power in his body to surge, forcing himself to vomit even more blood. He could only stare helplessly as the great hand fell down upon him, like a powerless and insignificant ant.

But as the great bone hand was about to fall down, the sea suddenly roared. The endless sea began to tumble and boil. A giant wave appeared, so high and vast that it seemed as if it could shatter the world.

Before it arrived, one could already feel the terrifying strength contained in every single drop of water. Even with the Demon Body, touching this wave would mean being grounded to pieces.

Qin Yu closed his eyes and gently sighed inwardly. In his path of cultivation, he had encountered far too many life or death situations. He had expected that his death would eventually come, but he never hoped that it would come so soon.

He had obtained the five element spiritual objects and would soon be able to cultivate the Five Element Sword Diagram. A radiant road of cultivation had slowly opened in front of him, but now that radiance would soon be plunged into darkness.

Indeed, humans were nothing but fortune's fool. The world was unpredictable!

Whoosh –

A voice from beneath the water echoed out in his ears. He could feel the water around him as well as that terrifying strength. The imprisonment that shackled his body suddenly erupted, and a desolate voice sounded out. "Junior, the graciousness of saving my people's princess will be considered even with this. Whether or not you can live, that will all depend on your fate!"

Qin Yu's eyes flashed open. He watched as the giant sea wave flew above him and violently smashed with the bone hand. At this time, space fiercely twisted as if it couldn't withstand the terrifying impact of strength. Pain stabbed at his eyes and he couldn't help but close them. Tears dripped down his cheeks.

Following that, he felt his entire body wrapped up. He was like a speck of sand so tiny that it could be ignored, flowing down a raging river. Wild twists and tumbles, crashes and bumps, sent him hurtling about. The powerful force nearly flattened him and tore him apart. Countless wounds opened up on his body and blood gushed out from his head.

Qin Yu bitterly smiled. He suddenly understood why the voice had said that whether or not he could live would depend on his fate. Indeed, just because he hadn't died then didn't mean he wouldn't die now. This was a truly tragic and saddening reality. He took a deep breath. Pain wracked his body. Broken bones stabbed into his flesh. Each breath he took was like fire, and it felt as if his lungs would explode. His breath was filled with the scent of blood.

His heart beat furiously. Even if he knew this would aggravate his bloodless, he couldn't care about the consequences, because only like this could he stimulate the strength of the Demon Body and find a slim hope of survival. Otherwise, if he remained caught up in this terrifying battlefield, all that awaited him was death.

Qin Yu tightly shut his eyes. He was afraid that if he opened them, his eyeballs would blow apart from the force of the water. He stepped on the water. As he made this single step, the originally gentle currents of water were now a hundred times harder than steel. With the sound of shattering bones, Qin Yu raced away.

Before he collapsed, he needed to flee the battlefield!

Bang –

Bang –

Heaven-shaking thunderclaps rolled without end, each one stirring up massive waves. Wild strength swept across the sea surface, swirling up endless plumes of water that blocked out the sky. Like a mere ant, Qin Yu struggled to live beneath this heavenly might. His complexion became increasingly pale and less and less blood flowed from his wounds. His open wounds began to turn white, as if all his blood was about to be drained away.

Seawater slammed into his face, each drop possessing a horrifying strength. The experience was no different from being bombarded with an endless wave of boulders. His flesh, bones, every part of his body shook and groaned. A tide of pain tore through his body, wanting to swallow Qin Yu's consciousness. But, the resolve on his face never vanished.

Facing the Demon Monarch, Qin Yu was as small and weak as a baby, without any strength to resist. He could only close his eyes and wait for death. But now, with this sea monster race powerhouse helping him, he was given a slim chance to live. No matter how faint and uncertain this hope was, he had to do his best! Perhaps there was a day he would die, but that day was not this day.

Today, he wanted to live!

An animalistic roar sounded out from the depths of Qin Yu's heart. He gathered up the final dregs of his strength and displayed the Blood Escape Art. Scarlet light erupted around him, tearing open the heavy waves of water. It was unknown how many times he was struck, but the blood light soon collapsed and the terrifying impact that crashed upon his body suddenly vanished.

He had made it out!

Qin Yu staggered. His body had turned thin and emaciated; this was caused by the massive blood loss he experienced as well as his forceful use of the Blood Escape Art. His black robes were torn to shreds and hanging from his body. His chest rose and fell weakly, making it seem as if he could collapse at any moment.

He took out a pill and swallowed it down. Then, he bit down on his tongue. As he was still conscious and alert, he flew off into the distance. Behind him, the two super powerhouses were still fighting, and the range of their battlefield would expand as time passed. Storms would descend upon the surrounding area for hundreds of miles, and all life in the vicinity would perish!

Qin Yu flew aimlessly. He didn't care which direction he flew in, only that he flew as far away as possible. He didn't know how long he flew for, but he spat out a mouthful of blood. His injuries had reached their limit; any more and he would die. He flicked his sleeve and took out the Thousandcraft House. Qin Yu landed inside, swallowed more pills, and used up the last of his strength to release the Yinyang Twin Ants.

Then, he fell unconscious.

Chapter 122 – The Storm On the Sea

Waves roared, soaring up to the heavens. Their terrifying strength was able to grind down all, their momentum shocking the world. But within the eye of the storm, it was actually strangely peaceful. Two figures faced each other within the center, each one emitting a horrifying aura!

The Demon Monarch had a placid expression, without the least bit of anger on his features. His hands were crossed behind his back, and he exuded the inherent bearing of a true grand master. He lightly said, "I came here without any intention of making enemies with the sea races. So, sir, why must you stop me?"

A wild strength twisted space. Only a thin figure could be seen within. "In these past days, many of the sea races have gone missing. After investigating, I discovered that my people's princess was nearly killed by demonic path cultivators. Is this what the Demon Monarch means when you say you have no intention of becoming enemies with us sea races?"

The Demon Monarch replied, "This matter was an error made by random demonic path cultivators. I will give the sea races an answer for that. But, this junior has taken a most precious object of mine. I must take it back no matter what."

The thin figure shook his head. "He saved my people's princess."

The Demon Monarch frowned. "It seems that sir has made up your mind to interfere." He took a step forward and shouted out, "Come!"

Bang –

The tranquility within the eye of the storm was instantly smashed apart. Terrifying strength howled around, shaking the world.

After a moment, the Demon Monarch's voice sounded out. "Sir is truly formidable. I have learnt a great deal. In the future if there is such a day, then I invite sir to come and visit me on land. I will surely prepare a grand welcome for you."

The entire storm was suddenly split in half and the Demon Monarch stepped out. Several parts of the hem of his robe fluttered about in tatters. It was clear that he had suffered a loss in this confrontation with the mysterious sea monster powerhouse, but even so he remained calm and unflustered, seeming exactly like a peerless powerhouse.

Shua –

Demonic energy flashed. The Demon Monarch vanished from sight.

Within the other half of the storm, the waves continued to billow. Faintly, one could see a titanic figure within, standing as tall and grand as a mountain!

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An unknown period of time passed. At some point, Qin Yu finally struggled to open his eyes. This simple move left him gasping for breath. Right now, he was so weak that he could barely open his eyes, and his entire head seemed covered with a thick, hardened layer of blood. In a situation where he couldn't move his arms, smoothly opening his eyes wasn't an easy task at all.

The sky was dark and the light extremely dim. Luckily, there was no stabbing pain that followed. His eyes were still blood red from the damage he took. His pupils shrank and widened several times, and finally he was able to clearly see his surroundings.

Buzz –

After realizing that its master had awoken, the ant king flew over, expressing its worry and closeness. The ant king was covered in blood and its translucent wings were broken in several sections; it had obviously experienced a bitter battle. However, the swarm of ants was filled with gusto. They didn't seem dispirited by the battle at all, but rather seemed much more ferocious.

Qin Yu struggled to move his lips. "You worked hard..." The originally intact Thousandcraft House was mostly ruined now. All that was left behind was the frame that lifted him above the sea waters. Every inch of it was covered in blood, and one could see the torn pieces of sea monster bodies.

The ant king gently nudged Qin Yu, worried at how weak its master was.

Qin Yu's lips pulled up in a smile. "Don't worry. Since I've awoken, I shouldn't die. Ant king, continue guarding me. I still need some more time."

He put in a great deal of effort to move. Every movement left him sweating profusely, but he finally managed to swallow down some pills. These were a magic power increasing Cloudrain Pill, a body enhancing Blood Energy Pill, and a soul fortifying Star Pill. As they flowed down his throat, they turned into a heat that washed through him and started to repair his nearly collapsed body. He closed his eyes. Although he was fatigued to the point of death and his mind ached, he forced himself to stay conscious.

To the violent and savage sea monsters, the smell and taste of blood was the most sensitive and clear signal. The blood that flowed out from the pieces of the Thousandcraft House attracted their hostility without end.

There was almost never a pause in the slaughter. The Yinyang Twin Ants revealed the terrifying strength they gained after evolving to the next level. If it weren't for the water being a poor environment for them to fight, the sea monsters would have all been torn to pieces before they could even approach Qin Yu. As the ants swallowed a massive amount of flesh and blood, blood red lines began to appear between the black and white markings that covered their bodies, and their aura became that much more ruthless and bloodthirsty.

Four days later, Qin Yu opened his eyes. Moving a bit, his bones crackled and popped. His wounds were far from fully recovered, but he finally had the strength to preserve his own life a little.

On this day, he could be said to have lived through that calamity!

He took out Greatsun Mulberry leaves to reward the ants. Qin Yu discovered that blood lines had appeared on the bodies of the Yinyang Twin Ants, but fortunately, they didn't seem to affect the control and influence he had over them. The temptation of the Great Mulberry leaves remained as irresistible as before, and he calmed down. As for what these blood lines were and what they meant, this was something he would have to pay further attention to in the future.

He looked up and around, also taking out the Netherworld Sea Region map to contrast with his surroundings. However, he had randomly flown all the way here and with having drifted on the currents for all this time, he momentarily found it hard to determine his location.

Thinking for a moment, Qin Yu rose up. With a thought, the swarm of ants flew beneath his feet and lifted up his body as they flew into the distance. He couldn't stay any longer on the ruined pieces of the Thousandcraft House. Although it wasn't easy to travel on Yinyang Twin Ants, their great strength still allowed him to fly over the water.

But before long, Qin Yu ordered the ants to stop. He peered into the distance. The horizon was still dusky, perhaps a little deeper than before. He turned a hand and produced the Windhearing Conch. He poured his magic power into it and listened. Several moments later, Qin Yu's pupils rapidly shrank!

Buzz –

Buzz –

The ant swarm furiously beat their wings as they burst off in the opposite direction.

In the far off distance, that deep black color rapidly spread towards Qin Yu. He could soon hear the loud rumblings in the air, as if countless great beasts were roaring out in unison. The Yinyang Twin Ants hurried along. They could clearly feel the immense danger approaching them.

Qin Yu bitterly smiled. This was a sea storm, and one that was occurring in the most terrifying Netherworld Sea Region. If this was a storm in the ordinary sea region, then a Golden Core cultivator would be safe as long as they were a bit careful. But in the Netherworld Sea Region, even a Nascent Soul cultivator might perish within if they had bad luck!

The ant king screamed, hastening the swarm to hurry up. But, the storm was bizarrely fast. In a short moment later, it had already caught up to them.

Looking back, Qin Yu could see the black sea waters being drawn up into the air where they formed a wall of water that blocked out the skies. It roared and rumbled as it came hurtling towards him. Blazing gales were whipped up endlessly, sucking up massive columns of water that shot into the skies, each one like a ruinous cruel dragon. The dark clouds above were pressed down, nearly connected together with the wall of water. Thunder roared out, and arcs of lightning raced along the water wall.

Qin Yu's senses far surpassed those of others, and he could clearly see several sea monsters who had been torn into pieces within the water wall. They twitched violently before being zapped by lightning and charred and disintegrated into black powder.

His face paled. This wasn't fear, but at this moment, his slow heart beat began to accelerate. The blood within his body began to flow faster and faster. With a flick of his sleeve, the ant swarm was taken back into the imperial spirit bag. Blood flames ignited around him as he used the Blood Escape Art without hesitation.

Perhaps this would cause his recently recovered injuries to flare up, maybe becoming worse than before. But compared to falling into that storm, Qin Yu had no other choice.

Hu –

Wind blew against his face. As his speed rose, his figure became a beam of light that raced towards the horizon. But in the endless sea where the environment almost never changed, he strangely appeared quite slow. In this state, Qin Yu could clearly feel every change occurring within his body.

There was a light crack in his chest. The recently regrown bones suddenly broke apart and jutted outwards. Rough ends dug through his blood and flesh, scratching his lungs and leaving a dark blood red line. With every breath he took, blood flowed out, and a coppery smell rose up in his throat and nose. Every time he breathed, it felt as if he were drawing in fire.

His furiously beating heart was still strong, but with every contraction and expansion, a slight pause began to occur. Although it wasn't obvious, it actually caused the magic power circulating in his body to slow down. The wounds on his body that had just regenerated split apart one after another, and blood flowed out once more. From the corners of his arms, the tips of his eyebrows, his arms, thighs, blood dripped down. It soaked his robes, and as it flowed across his face it turned into a thin layer of red ice that was sent hurtling back in the next moment...

His severely wounded body wasn't able to withstand the effects of the Blood Escape Art for a long time. Qin Yu was well aware of this and he knew that he had to escape the domain of the storm. But as time passed, even though he had thrown the storm a good distance behind him, he still couldn't find its edge.

If he continued like this, his body would collapse and he would die before the storm hit him. With a sigh, Qin Yu stopped. The blood light scattered to reveal a pallid face. His slightly recovered body seemed much skinnier than before. Since he couldn't avoid it, then he might as well not run away. Of course, he wouldn't wait for death, but would seek out a chance to live, no matter how hopeless the situation.

Qin Yu crossed his legs in a sitting posture. With a thought, a brilliant light erupted from his body as almost a hundred talismans covering him. After finishing this, he flipped his hands. The Hundred Nether Sword appeared in his left hand and the bronze mirror appeared in his right. These two were his strongest magic tools. Although they were deeply slumbering and hadn't truly recognized him as their master, at this crucial moment Qin Yu didn't have time to consider these things. Either they helped him and lived together, or they would be buried with him in the storm, sinking forever to the depths of the sea!

Rumble rumble –

Loud rumblings shook the heavens and earth. In the far distance, he could see the black clouds connected with the wall of water, the water spouts that blazed into the skies, and the roaring thunder that raced through it all. From this distance, he could truly feel the terror of the storms in the Netherworld Sea Region. This was a truly majestic power that embodied the might of the world.

Everything that tried to block its path seemed as small and insignificant as ants. Everything that stood in its way could only wallow in despair and be annihilated.

Qin Yu took a deep breath. Then, like a great stone, he plummeted towards the seabed!

In the next moment, water boiled around him. Every drop tumbled about him, releasing endless energy.

Buzz –

Buzz –

At the same time, the talismans surrounding Qin Yu all lit up together as they resisted the pressure of the sea. Still, he coughed and spat out blood. He was wildly tossed about in the boiling water, unable to distinguish north, east, south, west, up, or down! Compared to the storm that had appeared when the Demon Monarch engaged the mysterious sea monster powerhouse, this one was at least 30% more terrifying!

Kacha –

Kacha –

From the very edges, the talismans began to break apart. Bit by bit, as if eroding away, it became to quicken with time. Suddenly, the surrounding pressure disappeared and everything brightened. This was Qin Yu being sucked into the wall of water. With loud roaring all around, he was a piece of wood riding on the waves, able to be torn apart at any moment.

Whoosh –

A spout of water soared up. From the moment it formed, only a few breaths of time had passed. Qin Yu didn't have time to respond before he was pulled out from the wall of water.

Pika paka!

Pika paka!

The talismans rapidly collapsed. The tearing strength lashed at Qin Yu's body, tearing apart massive sections of his skin and flesh to reveal the bone beneath. Blood soaked his body, flowing down his arms to his palms and drowning the two treasures. He lowered his head and ruthlessly said, "If you don't make your move, then we will step beyond redemption!"

Chapter 123 – Dreams of Being Handsome

Bang –

The bronze mirror trembled. Blue light gushed out, covering Qin Yu like a sheet of water. In that brief moment, all of the defensive talismans shattered. If it had been any slower, the strength of the waterspout would have been enough to tear Qin Yu to pieces.

The blue divine light formed a bubble of air. It was pulled around within the waterspout, wildly circling about. The feeling of being inside at this time could be imagined. Qin Yu didn't believe that the bronze mirror which had the ability to resist the waterspout also didn't possess the ability to eliminate this sort of incredibly spinning force. Perhaps a larger possibility was that it still remained hostile to Qin Yu, and

even though it couldn't do anything now, it still hoped to take advantage of this waterspout to cause severe damage to him.

Beggars can't be choosers. Qin Yu clenched his teeth and decided that in the future he would subdue the bronze mirror and allow it to experience just how horrifying the grudge of a man could be!

Black clouds tumbled and a bolt of thunder vehemently crashed down. The entire waterspout began to sparkle with arcs of lightning. The blue divine light fiercely twisted, and it was clear that the power of thunder was causing severe damage to it. On the surface of the bronze mirror, more mottled marks appeared, and the blurred mirror surface became far more gloomy and cloudy than before.

From appearances, if it were struck by thunder again, it likely wouldn't be able to hold up the barrier.

Qin Yu roared out, "If you don't want to be destroyed here, then stop the spinning for me!"

The blue divine light paused for a moment. Then, it began to rotate in reverse. It really did have the strength to counterbalance the rotational force of the waterspout.

Qin Yu drew in a deep breath and stood up straight. His face was steadfast as he looked around.

Bang –

From the black clouds, lightning fell.

Qin Yu suddenly moved. He thrust out a bamboo that flashed with lightning. Lightning attracted lightning, and the lightning that rushed towards the waterspout veered to the side and collided with the bamboo.

It worked!

Qin Yu's spirits rose. Although using the Skythunder Bamboo like this was an absolutely dastardly move that should have caused him to be struck down by the heavens, in the face of death, this was all he could do. Moreover, as long as he lived, then even if the entire Skythunder Bamboo was ruined, if the root existed he could still use the little blue lamp to quickly regrow it once more.

Something seemed off...

Qin Yu frowned. He felt as if he had forgotten something.

Because he had lost so much blood from his injuries, even his thoughts seemed to slow down.

Suddenly, Qin Yu clapped his hands together and cursed himself for being an idiot. Why should he fear thunder? The little blue lamp seemed to be extremely interested in this! Although the thunderstorm was not true heavenly tribulation, its might wasn't much weaker, meaning that there was a chance that the little blue lamp would be interested.

Shua –

The little blue lamp appeared.

He didn't know whether it was an illusion or not, but the moment the little blue lamp appeared in the world, the black roaring clouds above his head seemed to freeze for an instant. Then, countless peals of

thunder rang out and endless lightning recklessly surged forth, carrying with it a despairingly dreadful aura!

Bang –

Bang –

Thousands of bolts of lightning crashed down upon the waterspout.

The bronze mirror fiercely trembled. Qin Yu could feel its anger and fear. If the bronze mirror could speak, it would definitely be spitting out curses right now.

Bastard, just what the hell did you take out? If you want to die then die, don't drag me into it!

This dense barrage of thunder wasn't something that the bronze mirror could resist; it could instantly turn Qin Yu to black char. But, his complexion remained calm and steady, and confidence rose in his eyes.

This was because the little blue lamp had never disappointed him!

All of the thunder slammed down almost simultaneously. It spread through the waterspout at a terrifying speed, instantly evaporating all of the water.

The waterspout suddenly turned into a thunderspout!

Qin Yu's hair was scorched and his black robes burned away. The black sword moved imperceptibly but fell silent in the next moment. As the bronze mirror was shaking and cursing in fear, a brilliant luster flashed across the little blue lamp. Its thumb-sized form suddenly became the incarnation of a black hole, releasing a terrifying swallowing strength.

The spout of thunder was drawn into the black hole, violent twisting and distorting like a raging river of water flowing into an endless chasm. In an instant, all of it was absorbed! At this moment, even the terrifying sea storms of the Netherworld Sea Region seemed tiny compared to the little blue lamp.

The little blue lamp was clearly not satisfied with a single spout of thunder. It freed itself from Qin Yu's grasp and shot up into the skies, racing into the tumbling black clouds. No one knew what happened, but no more thunder came crashing down. Soon after, the black clouds began to run away as if they felt fear. They split into countless parts that raced away and vanished from sight. Soon, the dim and dusky seas of the Netherworld Sea Region were revealed again.

After the black clouds faded away, the originally overweeningly powerful and unparalleled sea storm seemed to have lost the source of its power. The howling winds gradually weakened and the wall of water fell lower and lower. Finally, it wasn't able to maintain its shape and collapsed. A mass of blue divine light shot up from the sea. Qin Yu's eyebrows were tightly furrowed together and his complexion was extremely ugly.

At this time, there was the sound of splitting air. The bronze mirror hurriedly parted its divine light, allowing whatever it was to come close.

It was the little blue lamp!

It didn't seem any different from before.

Qin Yu happily smiled and grabbed hold of it, his heart finally relaxing. The little blue lamp was the very foundation of his strength; he absolutely could not lose it! He looked around at the sea that was gradually calming down. With a deep breath, he suppressed the desire to shout out curses. First it was the Demon Monarch chasing him down, then he barely managed to escape the battlefield of two super powerhouse existences. Just as he thought he had caught a moment of reprieve, a sudden sea storm had nearly buried him here.

His luck was just rotten to the extreme!

But what Qin Yu didn't know was that at this time, his bad luck had yet to end.

Because deep beneath the sea, a giant head with a single eye was fixed tightly on him, flashing with a cold light.

The Nine Nether Winding Paths could be called one of the safest areas in the entire Netherworld Sea Region. But, it just so happened that the sea storm passed over there. This tumor had a sharp sense of danger. It fled ahead of time, and relied upon its powerful mortal body to move deep beneath the sea, avoiding the violent rage of the storm.

Originally, it had planned to wait for the storm to pass over before it left, but at that time it had suddenly sensed the aura of the human cultivator who had visited its home earlier. After a moment of hesitation, it chased after the storm and finally found Qin Yu.

Then, the tumor saw something that never in its life would it have imagined to be possible.

This thunderstorm was powerful enough to annihilate a Nascent Soul powerhouse. However, that dreadful thunderstorm was actually swallowed clean by a thumb-sized lamp. It didn't know what the lamp was, but the tumor's instincts told it that as long as it obtained it, it could change its destiny. It was unable to suppress the rising hope in its heart. After crushing any hesitation and fear it felt, the tumor finally made its move!

Seawater suddenly sunk down, forming a bottomless hole that fell straight down into the sea, leading all the way to the seabed. Qin Yu's heart shrank but before he had time to react, an invisible strength latched onto him and violently dragged him downwards. Up above his head, the seawater rapidly closed up, caging him in.

Crazily sinking at an unimaginable speed, the weak light of the sea soon vanished, replaced with a pitch black so dark that a person wouldn't be able to see their fingers in front of their face. Qin Yu was enraged. He struggled with all his strength but he couldn't escape. He could only continue sinking into the darkness, deeper and deeper. At some unknown time, the imprisoning strength suddenly vanished and the channel leading to the seabed collapsed.

What followed was the terrifying pressure brought forth by an endless volume of seawater!

Qin Yu's eyes popped open. Blood vessels fiercely stuck up all over his body. His bones began to break, cracking and popping even as his organs were pressed together into one.

Puff –

Blood drilled out from all the pores on his body, dying the water red. Blue divine light gushed out from the bronze mirror, protecting Qin Yu. But, this light trembled, as if it would collapse in the next moment.

In the distance, the tumor was quietly floating in the water. Markings bulged on its surface, allowing it to inflate over ten times in size to resist the sea pressure. Although it had made its move, it was naturally cautious, thus it chose the safest method – using the sea to kill others.

Severely wounded and weakened, there was no way for this human cultivator to escape. All it needed to do was wait for this human to die in order to obtain its harvest.

Bang –

A dull explosion rang out in the sea. Seawater exploded outwards. The human cultivator was wrapped in a protective blue light and began rapidly surfacing. The tumor's sole eye flashed with contempt. Did this human not know how deep below the sea he was? This was a useless effort. Beneath the giant head, several tentacles gently swung about, pushing through the water. The tumor began to follow behind.

Bang –

Bang –

Seawater burst out all around as the blue divine light kept pushing up towards the sea surface. But as time passed, the surroundings remained as dark as before, and the pressure of the seawater didn't decrease by much. It was clear that the human cultivator was becoming impatient.

The tumor began to smile.

Almost there.

And sure enough, after a little bit longer, the blue divine light began to rapidly dim. Blood bloomed in the sea and the human cultivator floated about, motionless.

The tumor thought for a moment and decided to wait a bit longer. For it to have survived so long, it had to give a great deal of credit to its vigilance and carefulness. But, as faint threads of blood flowed through the water, the tumor's eye suddenly brightened. It opened its mouth and sucked in a bit of the scarlet water. Then, its body began to violently shiver with excitement and ecstasy.

To think there was such wonderful flesh and blood in this world. The strength contained within made the tumor instinctually seek it and desire it.

The tumor's own body had always been a pain deep within its heart. Even with its current strength, it spent most of its time hidden deep in the seabed, rarely revealing its presence.

Even though it knew that its appearance was horribly grotesque and repulsive, deep in its heart it had always dreamed of being handsome!

And now, the chance to make his dream a reality had finally appeared. With such powerful flesh and blood strength, after it swallowed and absorbed it, it could definitely break through the shackles of its cultivation and transform its true figure. At that time, with its strength, changing into the form of a human would be as easy as turning a hand.

The tumor's sole eye began to blaze with an unprecedented heat. It hesitated for two breaths of time but was finally unable to resist the trembling excitement in its heart. A tentacle rushed towards the human cultivator. As it did, it opened its mouth, drawing in all the blood in the water. This sort of formidable flesh and blood strength left it thrilled with joy.

Mine! Mine! All of this flesh and blood is mine! I won't wait even a second longer, because this human cultivator is leaking blood with every passing moment, blood that is mine! Mine!

Then, the wonderful feast of flesh and blood appeared in front of the tumor. It could see that the human cultivator was a young man. Even though the young man was thin and emaciated, it could still see the sharp angles and edges of his face.

A thought suddenly formed in the tumor's mind. Perhaps later, it could transform into this appearance.

Then, as fast as this thought appeared, it rapidly overtook the tumor's entire mind.

But before then, it needed to eat this human male. Unfortunately, it didn't know this human's name, otherwise it could also borrow it.

Name...perhaps I should seriously think of a name for myself.

Name? I can have my own name?

The tumor began to shiver with excitement again!

Its mouth opened impossibly wide. It seemed as if its entire body was composed of some sort of highly malleable substance. It sucked in a massive amount of seawater and Qin Yu's body. The tumor didn't worry that it would eat something that it shouldn't eat. Its unique body properties allowed it to absorb what it needed and reject what it didn't.

The tumor's mouth had no teeth, but the esophagus that led to its stomach was filled with sharp blades. They wriggled about, interlocked together. Even without touching it, there was no need to doubt how sharp they were. Anything that touched them would be torn to pieces.

As the seawater flowed through the esophagus, Qin Yu's shut eyes suddenly popped open. He raised his hand, exhausting all of the strength in his body to thrust out the Hundred Nether Sword!

Chapter 124 – Wresting Flesh and Blood

Puff –

The sword easily cut through flesh and blood. The blade was submerged, sinking in with so much force behind it that even Qin Yu who was holding the hilt was dragged in. Blood churned all around, drenching him. As he drilled in, the flesh and blood around him wildly contracted.

Kacha –

Kacha –

In an instant, his arm and hand was nearly broken to fragments!

Qin Yu's complexion was deathly pale. He stubbornly held onto the sword hilt, not allowing himself to fall back into the crazily shaking esophagus. The tumor maniacally shook as it put up its last ditch struggle. Pained howls rose up from inside and out, and only after an hour did it begin to slowly fade away. The wriggling flesh and blood began to relax and blood erupted like a fountain, pouring all over Qin Yu. As this blood fell onto his wounds, it was unexpectedly absorbed by him.

Hu –

Qin Yu felt as if his body had caught fire from within. His exposed skin and flesh suddenly turned deep vibrant red, as if he were a piece of iron in a blazing furnace. Steam evaporated from all around him, and this steam was light red like burning flames. As Qin Yu opened his eyes, his pupils had turned crimson in color. They were cruel, tyrannical, ruthless, and utterly emotionless.

Ignoring his arm injuries, he grabbed tight to the Hundred Nether Sword and used it to tear open the flesh and blood in the wound around him. As he strained himself, broken bones pierced through his skin, causing his face to pale even further. With his other hand, he labored to tear open the edges of the wound. But, what was strange was that not even half a drop of blood flowed out.

Qin Yu continued without expression. He drew the Hundred Nether Sword, and it seemed to shake as if it were unhappy. But with a cold cough it immediately quieted down. Putting away the Hundred Nether Sword, Qin Yu used his free hands and pushed his entire body in. With a comfortable sigh, the flesh and blood around the opening rapidly wriggled and regrew over itself. It was impossible to tell that there was a cultivator hiding within.

Deep within the seabed, a giant tumor floated about, several of its tentacles waving with the currents. There were already some sea monsters that had detected the powerful aura emanating from this corpse, and it turned their eyes red with greed. However, regardless of whether they were strong or weak, as long as they approached within a thousand feet of the tumor, their bodies would shake and twist and they would turn and rapidly flee. There was a horrifying majesty that filled the air, one so profound that they didn't dare to provoke it.

One day, two days, three days...

The tumor withered more and more. It shrank a great deal, as if some hungry parasite was within, chewing away at its organs. Half a month later, followed with a dull thumping sound, a hand tore through the remaining thin layer of the tumor's skin. Qin Yu shot out, a dazed look on his face. It was only after a long time that clarity returned to his eyes. Although he didn't know exactly what had happened, blurry fragments of the past floated about in his mind.

To plunder flesh and blood, taking its essence to use for oneself, was this the instinct of the Demon Body? After thinking for a long time, Qin Yu let out a long breath. No matter what happened, he was alive, and he felt quite good. His injuries had healed and every inch of his flesh and blood seemed as if it had been tempered within a flaming forge. Boundless potent blood energy flowed through his body, and when his bones crackled they seemed to contain a strength that could grind down everything.

Moreover, at this time deep beneath the sea, he didn't feel any pressure from the water at all. It was clear that some sort of earth-shaking change had occurred to his mortal body. He looked down at the

withered corpse of the tumor. Even the strength within the tumor's corpse had been completely sucked away, so it wasn't hard to imagine how such drastic changes occurred to his body.

At this time, the magic power within him seemed to be frozen, as if it were sealed away into his dantian sea without any fluctuations at all. Qin Yu faintly thought that this wasn't a bad thing. He momentarily set this matter aside for the future. With a thought, all his pores closed and his aura was sealed into his body, unable to be sensed outside. Although this happened on the surface, there seemed to be more mysteries occurring in his body that he hadn't discovered. Perhaps these were things he would slowly come to know about in the future.

Potato...

The Demon Monarch had lost his furnace and hadn't been able to catch him. Would he vent his anger on Potato? Qin Yu felt his heart tighten. He stepped onto a large fish and hurtled through the water. Although his magic power had been sealed up in his dantian, he could still rely upon his potent mortal body to travel at an incredible speed. Along the way, the sea monsters felt his aura and turned to flee in panic.

In the eyes of the sea monsters, Qin Yu was actually an extremely powerful member of their race. This was because after the Demon Body swallowed up the tumor's strength, it had also automatically obtained its aura.

The journey continued smoothly. Half a day later, Qin Yu found the underground cave at the seabed. The entire cave had been destroyed and Potato had vanished without a trace. Carefully sensing his surroundings, he faintly felt a bit of horrifying demonic energy that had yet to scatter.

For this energy to still linger here even after half a month, only the Demon Monarch could accomplish this.

He should have taken Potato away.

Qin Yu was worried. His eyes were overcast. He forcefully suppressed any thoughts he had. Considering things too much right now was useless. What he should do was refine the five element spiritual objects and cultivate the Five Element Sword Diagram. At that time, he might be able to contend with a Nascent Soul cultivator. Also, he needed to find a way to inquire into Potato's current situation. Just as he was about to leave, Qin Yu stiffened for a moment before recovering. Still, his actions couldn't be hidden from the eyes that were secretly watching him.

"What sharp senses." A light sound echoed out. A powerful divine sense swept out, not even bothering to conceal its overbearing power.

Instinctually, Qin Yu suddenly closed off every pore of his body, severing himself from all outside contact. He was like a dead piece of wood, a block of stone.

The owner of the divine sense was startled. As he was, the water along the seabed tumbled, revealing a figure. This was actually a massive turtle, large to an unimaginable degree. Just its open eyes were the height of an adult human. The turtle cast a massive shadow onto the sea floor. Its eyes were locked onto Qin Yu. "Junior, what a powerful aura concealing method. Even I wasn't able to probe you."

Qin Yu's thoughts raced. He quickly bowed. "Greetings, senior. I thank senior for saving my life!" This voice was the same voice that had faced off against the Demon Monarch. It was the mysterious sea monster powerhouse that had rescued him.

The giant turtle lifted a front claw. Although its actions appeared clumsy, its claws shined with a cold light. Qin Yu didn't doubt that as long as this massive turtle gently waved his claw, he would be torn to pieces without any chance of resisting.

"Junior, put away your aura concealing method. I want to examine you and see just who you are." Although these words were lightly spoken, they didn't brook any room for argument. Qin Yu hesitated for a moment and nodded.

His pores started to open. But, within his body, there seemed to be a mutual understanding with his will as the fluctuations of his formidable blood energy were hidden.

The turtle's nail fell between Qin Yu's eyebrows. It was hard and cold to the touch. Qin Yu remained unbending, and after several breaths of time, the large turtle retracted its claw. It looked at Qin Yu with pity. It originally thought that this junior might be a spy from the demonic path, but it never imagined he would be a bastard with bad luck. His cultivation had been completely wasted without even a little bit left remaining.

Well, that was also reasonable. Just how terrifying were the shockwaves produced in the battle between it and the Demon Monarch? A common Nascent Soul would have fled far and wide. Although this junior's cultivation hadn't been weak, for him to escape and survive, that could already be considered a great stroke of luck.

But, the turtle had lived a long time, and it had always been careful. The large turtle narrowed its eyes, calmly asking, "Junior, why did you appear here? Why was the Demon Monarch chasing you?"

Qin Yu respectfully replied, "Reporting to senior, this junior had joined forces with others to seize a treasure of the demonic path. When the Demon Monarch arrived, I took the demonic treasure and fled, but I had to leave my friend here. With senior saving me, I luckily managed to survive. The reason I came back today was to see how my friend was doing." As he spoke, he seemed a bit dispirited.

Something had truly happened to Shan Wugu, thus Qin Yu's expression was entirely heartfelt and flawless. The large turtle thought for a moment. The things that Qin Yu told him weren't far off from what it knew, so he should be speaking the truth. But then, its eyes flashed. "For the Demon Monarch to cause such a stir, even I am curious as to why. What kind of treasure did he lose?"

Qin Yu revealed just the right amount of bitterness. He took out the Saint Furnace and sighed inwardly with relief. It seemed that this turtle had an extremely high and lofty field of vision and had no interest in his storage ring. All of its attention was focused on the Saint Furnace. A light sparkled in the giant turtle's eyes. The Saint Furnace suddenly let out a buzz and the large turtle coldly humphed before revealing a dignified expression.

It stared at the Saint Furnace. After a long time, it released a breath, a bit of unwillingness in its eyes. "This thing doesn't have any fate with me. Since you stole it, you should keep it." As it spoke, its eyes glanced at Qin Yu, a bit of strange curiosity in them. It was clear that he had seen something related to the Saint Furnace.

A bit jittery, Qin Yu tried not to reveal any expression at all. He obediently put away the Saint Furnace. Although he wanted to ask the old turtle what that look meant, he figured that the turtle wouldn't tell him anyways. Now, he began to think about how to leave.

And as he was thinking about how to leave, he actually didn't know that the large turtle in front of him was also considering what to do with him. To be able to frontally contend with the Demon Monarch and even faintly occupy the winning side, even if the large turtle had the advantage of the sea terrain, one could still imagine how incredibly powerful the giant turtle was. This turtle was no ordinary turtle, and in fact, he had an amazingly high status within the sea races.

As for why the giant turtle had appeared in the Netherworld Sea Region and had saved Qin Yu, that wasn't a coincidence at all, but had been a request that someone had made of him. Although he also had his own reasons for coming, no matter what he couldn't handle this matter poorly. If he allowed this human boy to go free and wander about in the Netherworld Sea Region, there would be no way he would survive past today. He would become food that fed the variation sea monsters.

The old turtle began to think over things. It was the sea races that had falsely accused him at the start, and although this boy had caused the sea races to lose a bit of face, he still kept his word and released that little girl Lushy. And afterwards, he also rescued her from the hands of the demonic path. The reason that the boy had fallen to such a state today was because of his own actions, but the sea races couldn't fully absolve themselves from this.

In addition, this surnamed Qin boy had been severely wounded and his cultivation had been wasted, but even so he hadn't forgotten his friend and had risked his life to return here and look for him. He could be said to be a rare individual amongst the humans that valued friendship.

Of course, the most important reason was that if this ridiculous boy could survive until now, he must possess heaven-defying luck.

Whatever, whatever, him coming up with so many reasons was all because the giant turtle had become tenderhearted in his old age. If this was back in his vibrant youth, then if some human cultivator were placed in front of him, he would simply have swallowed them whole as a little snack. The large turtle suddenly smacked his lips together, as if he were remembering the taste of something.

Inexplicably, Qin Yu felt a cold sweat drip down his forehead.

"Senior..."

The large turtle glared at Qin Yu, a bit angry that his pleasant recollection of past delicious meals had been interrupted. But remembering that Qin Yu was a human, he awkwardly looked at him. With a light cough, he said, "Boy, consider this a show of kindness. I will save your life."

Before Qin Yu could say even half a word, a current of water wrapped around him and pulled him onto the turtle's back. The large turtle began to move. Its legs floated about and its massive figure leisurely pushed through the water. It moved with incredible speed and roaring currents rose up at the sea bed. This feeling didn't seem as if they were racing through the water, but that the seawater itself was pushing them forwards.

These simple actions revealed the old turtle's tyrannical skills. It was no wonder that within the sea it had been able to face off against the Demon Monarch without suffering a loss.

Qin Yu was wrapped up tightly in water, unable to move at all. His eyes were wide as he cried without tears. Just what was going on here? He was doing quite well by himself, so who needed saving? His thoughts raced, but after several moments he sighed, closed his eyes, and accepted his fate. There shouldn't be any dangers for now. At the worst he would just look for a chance to quietly leave.

Chapter 125 – The Sea Race's Capital City

The large turtle's speed was astonishing. As they swam forwards, they didn't meet a single variation sea monster or even a fish. This old turtle was absolutely at the level of a High Ancestor within the sea. His aura was like a rising sun, causing everyone who noticed him to not even dare to approach.

After an unknown period of time, there was the sound of falling water. The seawater parted around Qin Yu. As he opened his eyes, he saw boundless mist in front of him. He knew that he had arrived at the edge of the Netherworld Sea Region.

But without the Netherworld Ship, how would they leave?

Soon, the big turtle taught Qin Yu just what it meant to be incomparably mighty. He saw the large turtle open its mouth wide, suck in a deep breath, and then spit it all out.

Rumble rumble –

Winds and clouds changed color and the sound of roaring waves filled the air. In that moment, within the boundless mist in which one couldn't even tell where the sun was shining down from, a straight channel was blown into creation. The big turtle flew out from the channel leisurely, appearing completely comfortable.

From behind, deep within the Netherworld Sea Region, a terrifying eyeball locked onto them. It hesitated for several moments and finally chose to leave.

The big turtle suddenly quickened his pace, parting from the scope of the mist within the blink of an eye. He ruthlessly twisted his head back and said, "Brat, just what did you do to draw in something like that!"

Qin Yu's entire head was wet with fog. He tilted to the side, "What does senior mean?"

The big turtle coldly sneered, "Little boy, stop pretending to be an idiot. If you continue to test my patience, be careful that I might throw you off!"

Qin Yu bitterly smiled. "Listening to senior, it sounds as if I have provoked some fierce existence within the Netherworld Sea Region. But with this junior's cultivation, how do you think I could have possibly done that?"

The big turtle lightly frowned. This sounded reasonable. If this brat really did provoke that thing, he would have died even if he had eight lives. Moreover, he was a cripple now, so he was even more worthless. The turtle's complexion became increasingly ugly. After a long time it let out a cold humph. If that thing didn't come for the boy, then did it come for him? The big turtle hadn't truly fought in several years, and now it felt its fighting spirit begin to stir.

Alright, this old turtle will remember this. I'll settle this with you in the future!

Qin Yu was being fully honest, though he didn't sense the rising anger within the big turtle. He cursed in his heart. Although he didn't know what had happened, his instincts told him that the 'thing' which the old turtle was speaking of had come for him.

Was it the demonic path's Saint Furnace? Or the tumor?

Within the Netherworld Sea Region, these were the only two things that Qin Yu had gone out of his way to deal with. After thinking for some time, he took a deep breath and placed these thoughts to the side. Since he had already left, in the worst case situation he simply wouldn't come here anymore.

The big turtle had a calm expression as he hurried along. Qin Yu certainly wouldn't stir up trouble by asking needless questions. They continued forwards.

After ten days, the big turtle slowed down and dove deep into the sea.

Qin Yu opened his eyes and a sharp light flashed through them. Soon, his eyes widened and shock filled his face. A brilliant radiance lit up the dark sea waters. There was a titanic coral growing on the seabed like an ancient tree, emitting a soft and gentle light. And at the center of this coral was something that only existed in legends...a city beneath the sea!

It spread out along the seabed, a kaleidoscope of colors weaving together. It was at least ten times larger than any city Qin Yu had ever seen in his life. This city had no walls because deep beneath the sea, this city was a supreme existence that no types of life forms dared to attack.

The architecture of the city was different from anything Qin Yu had seen before. Many of the buildings were composed of seabed sand and dirt, shells, and coral. There were none of the straight lines and upright structures that were in human cities, but rather many buildings were shaped in sloping curves. A faint barrier of light surrounded the city, isolating out the water. However, the barrier didn't stop the sea races from entering or leaving. Qin Yu clearly saw several beautiful deep sea carp swimming around the edges of the capital city and then continuing to swim about happily.

After arriving, the big turtle was clearly in a much better mood. As it turned and saw Qin Yu's shocked expression, it proudly said, "Boy, you humans aren't the only ones who can build cities. This is the capital city of my sea races, a great sun deep beneath the sea that will never be extinguished!"

Before the old turtle's massive form had approached the capital city, the city guards were already alerted. They came out of the city to welcome the old turtle. The sea monster leading the group had taken human form. His body was incredibly muscled and strong, and two snow white fangs jutted down from between his lips, indicating his high status amongst his fellow sea mammoth clansmen. He wore thick armor that contrasted his impressive figure.

But in front of the old turtle, the guard was as docile as a sheep. He respectfully said, "Mister Turtle, you've returned." Behind him, the normally unruly and cold city guards had all lowered their heads, so low that they seemed as if they would break their necks.

The old turtle casually waved a claw and an eerie light flashed. As it dispersed, an old man with a hunched back appeared with a turtle shell on his back. With his thin body and moustache, he didn't seem to be someone that could be described as terrifying. Of course, no one dared to laugh or even look

at him. All of the sea races kept their eyes low and heads down, being as respectful and solemn as they could.

Qin Yu endured this for a long time, but in the end he couldn't stop his lips from twitching a little.

The old turtle maliciously glared at him, a thick threat in his eyes. Qin Yu immediately understood why these sea races had put on such a performance.

Thinking of it, they had probably learned their lesson already!

"Find a place to settle this boy." After he spoke, the old turtle flew into the capital city. That weird thing from the Netherworld Sea Region had actually dared to have thoughts on him. If so, then this matter wasn't simple at all. He had to inform his majesty promptly so that preparations could be made.

The sea mammoth leader bowed. "Mister, please take care!"

It was only when the old turtle vanished from sight that the captain looked up, a warm smile on his face. "Little brother, my name is Meng Li, what is yours?" For someone to be able to quietly lead the guards of the capital city for so many years, this fellow naturally had his skills. Although he seemed like a clumsy fellow who only knew brute force, the reality was that he had extremely exquisite thoughts.

Qin Yu cupped his hands across his chest. "...Ning Qin."

If he were to give his real name, he feared that these people in front of him would immediately become enraged. He swept his eyes around, thinking that it might be a good time to leave. But, he also knew that since this was the capital city of the sea races, there were likely countless sea race powerhouses here. So, he suppressed those thoughts momentarily.

Meng Li sensed that Qin Yu was hiding things, but he didn't care. All he needed to know was that this human was someone brought here by Mister Turtle; his name didn't matter at all. He kept an amiable expression on his face and slapped Qin Yu's shoulder. "Come, I'll personally lead you into the city."

After giving orders to his subordinates, Meng Li brought Qin Yu into the capital city. They chatted a lot and the two of them seemed to get along quite well. Of course, Qin Yu was trying to glean some information the entire time. He had no idea why the old turtle had brought him all the way here.

Meng Li's smile didn't fade in the least. The more Qin Yu was like this, the more unusual he felt Qin Yu was. His attitude became even warmer and more intimate.

The sea races' capital city was filled with flowers. Countless sea monsters walked or swam about. While many of them were incomparably ugly fish monsters, there were also blindingly beautiful half-human half-fish women. Sensing the look of astonishment in Qin Yu's eyes, Meng Li pulled him close and quietly said, "Those are the merfolk race. The majority of their people are women, and each one of them is an unparalleled beauty. And, what they are most adept in is how to please a man." He waggled his eyebrows suggestively. "Brother Ning, if you want, I can lead you somewhere later this evening. Trust me, you absolutely will not regret going."

Qin Yu revealed an awkward expression but also a bit of desire. He hesitated for several moments and finally shook his head. "There's no need. I just arrived at the capital so it's best if I'm a bit more discreet." Since the sea mammoth leader wanted to get closer to him, he didn't object too much. In any

case, he had no idea how long he would be staying here in the sea race capital city for, so having some good connections was never wrong.

The capital city was mind-bogglingly large. The law forbade everyone besides the royal family and those with permission from flying. Everyone had to travel by walking or swimming. A great deal of time was spent travelling, so to fix this problem, short distance transmission arrays were set up. There were a great deal of these distributed in various areas of the capital city, and one could freely use them after paying a few spirit stones.

In this city beneath the sea, the truth was that there were many humans present, and some of these humans lived very good lives. As they walked about, they had their own crowd of sea race followers. Even so, they weren't allowed to use the transmission arrays within the capital city. Rumors said that long ago, one of the previous emperors had lost one of his favored daughters, and this was a punishment he had passed down upon the humans.

Concerning this, no one amongst the sea races dared to violate this rule. Even Lord Meng Li, captain of the capital city guards, could only shake his head and force a smile. He turned around and apologetically said, "Brother Ning, this is quite embarrassing but it seems we can only choose a place nearby. But this area is the edge of the capital city and there aren't really many good dwellings here."

The capital city's edge was quite good actually.

Qin Yu sincerely said, "Brother Meng is too polite. As long as I have somewhere I can stay, I will be more than satisfied."

Meng Li sighed. "Then I will have to temporarily inconvenience Brother Ning. Once Mister Turtle returns, we can properly settle you somewhere else. In the future, if there is a day when I might need a bit of Brother Ning's time, I hope that you won't blame me for this blunder today."

Qin Yu waved his hand and put on an expression as if he had been touched. Meng Li cheered inwardly. It was true that he needed to take good care of anyone that Mister Turtle brought back, but before he had determined how important Qin Yu actually was, emptying out an entire residence for him was just too costly.

A residence within the capital city wasn't easy to obtain at all.

There were many places where an inch of land was worth more than its weight in gold. Even though Meng Li was skilled in making money, he didn't dare to casually toss it about. But now, it seemed that he had managed to trick this Ning fellow. At the very least, he wasn't complaining, so that was good. He just needed to leave behind a good impression today, and even if this Ning fellow were to rise up in the future, there would still be many ways to recover from this.

After quietly praising his own wisdom, Meng Li led the way to the edge of the city. After some time, they walked into a narrow valley. The two stopped at the end of a courtyard and pushed open a door. The courtyard was quite small, but it was clean and tidy, and flaming corals grew luxuriously all around.

Meng Li spoke several more apologetic words. He told Qin Yu that he had several official matters to attend to, and would make another visit in a few days once he wasn't busy.

After sending Meng Li away and seeing his figure vanish, Qin Yu's smile disappeared. A calm light lit up his eyes. Who said that the sea monsters were all brainless brutes? This Meng Li was actually quite sharp.

But, he had never planned to stay in the sea race capital city for long, so it was the same wherever he lived. In fact, the more remote the area, the less noticeable it was, the more convenient it would be for him to move.

Good.

Shutting the courtyard doors, Qin Yu closed his eyes. His divine sense flowed out like threads of silk, sweeping through the entire courtyard. After a long time, he determined that there weren't any problems. Then, he opened his eyes, entered his room, and sat down to meditate.

He had just entered the capital city today so it wouldn't be good for him to leave so soon. He would wait a bit and consider his plans first. It had to be known that for a human cultivator to openly and honestly walk through the capital city was actually incredibly difficult.

There was no passing of sun and moon at the seabed, but the coral would change colors along with the shifting of yin and yang. When the blazing red coral in the courtyard turned a cold and quiet blue color, that meant night had arrived.

Shua –

Qin Yu opened his eyes. At the very least, he had determined that there was no one spying on him around. It seemed that the old turtle didn't care about him too much and thus didn't have any plans against him. This relaxed Qin Yu's heart. It would be much easier to leave like this.

And at this moment, a vague sound echoed in Qin Yu's ears, accompanied with a bit of yin chill.

Chapter 126 – Refining the Lotus Seed

Before Qin Yu could respond, the Hundred Nether Sword within his storage ring was already ringing with excitement, urgently signaling to come out. With a flick of his sleeve, the Hundred Nether Sword howled out. Qin Yu stood up and followed behind it.

In a corner of the courtyard, there was a well. The surface of the water was four to five meters below ground, and the water was extremely clear. Looking further down, it was dark, and it was unknown where it led or how far down it went. At this moment, the Hundred Nether Sword was hanging atop the well. Then, with the sword tip directed towards the well, it gave off a sharp keening cry!

In the next moment, a sharp light flashed out from Qin Yu's eyes, indicating his surprise. He could see faint traces of black energy rising from the well and fusing into the Hundred Nether Sword. The roaring sound suddenly became clear and a yin chill permeated the air. It seemed that the previous changes were all caused by the black energy within the well.

After probing for a moment, a puzzled expression crossed Qin Yu's face. The aura coming from the well was that of specters. He had already experienced this before in the Netherworld Realm, but the spectral aura emanating from the well was actually far richer. No, it was much richer than that, at least ten times more so.

Within the Netherworld Sea Region, when the Hundred Nether Sword was soaked in Qin Yu's blood and also used to kill the tumor, it had completely recognized Qin Yu as its master. Now, Qin Yu could clearly feel how happy the Hundred Nether Sword was at this moment. Whether it was because of how dense it was or because some other change had happened to it, the spectral energy rising from the well was an incredible tonic to the sword.

This fellow had already fallen in love with this place. And, after realizing that Qin Yu had the intent of leaving, it also shook out a threat: if you want to leave, then leave without me!

Qin Yu ignored its whining. His thoughts rapidly raced. The Hundred Nether Sword was an extremely high quality treasure. If he continued to empower it, there was a high chance it would evolve into a spirit treasure, rapidly increasing its killing abilities. He didn't dare to go to the Netherworld Sea Region again, so if he missed the chance this well offered, it would likely be impossibly difficult for him to find another place with such formidable spectral energy.

The big turtle had tossed him here and quickly hurried away. In addition to the observations he made today, it seemed that the big turtle clearly didn't care about him. If so, then he could actually stay in the sea race capital city for a period of time. As soon as this thought appeared, it quickly overtook his mind. The sea race capital city was absolutely the safest possible place. If he was a bit more careful, then this place would actually be a good choice to refine the five element spiritual objects.

The next day, as the pale blue coral in the courtyard turned blazing red once more, the spectral energy coming from the well vanished. Qin Yu looked down at the little blue lamp as the light faded away, a thoughtful look in his eyes.

The Hundred Nether Sword flew back, stumbling. A loud crashing sound rang out. Qin Yu went over to check and found that the sword had fallen over. With twitching lips, he placed the sword back into his storage ring.

Qin Yu pushed open the courtyard doors and attempted to leave. No one jumped out from the bushes to stop him. Besides some others glancing at him with cold and disdainful eyes, everything was perfect. In the far off distance, he could see the gates of the capital city. He turned and followed back along the road he came from.

When the coral turned dark blue once more, the Hundred Nether Sword woke up on the dot. It fired towards the well, completely alert, and called out for the spectral energy to rise up once more.

On the third day, Qin Yu slowly expanded his area of action. He visited the city gates once and even stood below the gates and jovially chatted with Meng Li. He vaguely raised the topic of whether he could temporarily leave the capital city, but as he saw the awkward expression on Meng Li's face, he quickly changed the topic.

Bidding his farewells, Qin Yu returned to the courtyard, a bit unsure.

Today, the Hundred Nether Sword seemed to sense something. It endured the temptation and stood waiting. Then, it pointed straight at Qin Yu as if staring at him, seeming to say, hey big fellow, if you dare to leave, I will immediately go wild!

Qin Yu glared at it and smiled, "Screw off and go digest some more. If you keep trying to act tough here, aren't you afraid that you'll die from holding it in?"

Buzz –

The Hundred Nether Sword was overjoyed. It wagged about like a happy dog and rubbed Qin Yu's leg. Then, with a whistle, it rushed over to the well. This was its own request and Qin Yu was too lazy to bother with it.

Qin Yu let out a light breath and shook his head. He didn't know whether his decision to stay was right or wrong, but since he had already made his choice, there wasn't any need to continue hesitating.

It was time to begin.

Although he had only started studying array formations, Gu Shengping had been an extremely skilled individual and the fragments of things he left behind were very useful. Qin Yu only had to follow the directions to complete the necessary arrangements. A moment later, a simple array formation was drawn up. It possessed excellent concealing properties and was almost undetectable.

Its function was simple. It shielded one's aura and covered up fluctuations of strength. In terms of defense, it could mislead and imprison. As for killing abilities, arranging that was too difficult and Qin Yu didn't have full confidence he could do so. Moreover, this was the sea race capital city, so he wanted to cause as little trouble as possible.

His dantian sea was still quiet and his magic power in a frozen state. But, Qin Yu could feel the boundless energy beneath the layer of ice. It was like a slumbering volcano. Once it awoke, it would surely erupt with an even greater power. But waiting for it to naturally wake up on its own would require some time. Qin Yu thought about it for a moment and decided to try giving it a push with outside forces.

He took out several Cloudrain Pills and swallowed them. As they entered his mouth, their medicinal efficacy flowed into his flesh and blood, rapidly transforming into magic power. As if drawn in by a magnetic attraction, this strength gathered into Qin Yu's dantian sea without any need for him to revolve his cultivation method. This magic power fused into his dantian sea, and several moments later, a smile appeared on his face.

It worked.

Magic power of the same source possessed an instinctual desire to merge together. There were clearly more fluctuations of magic power beneath the layer of ice, but it was far from enough. With a flick of his sleeve, Qin Yu took out the entire bottle of Cloudrain Pills, a full hundred of them.

He lifted his hand and swallowed some.

He closed his eyes and refined them.

Magic power continuously flowed into his dantian sea. The fluctuations beneath the ice became increasingly strong.

One day...

Two days...

Three days...

In a quiet and peaceful environment, time slowly passed. This small courtyard seemed to be forgotten by everyone else. In his room, Qin Yu sat cross-legged in meditation. Sweat dripped down his forehead, drenching his robe and sticking it to his body. Within his dantian sea, the layer of invisible ice violently trembled as the edges began to crack apart.

Qin Yu swallowed down ten Cloudrain Pills in a single go. Billowing magic power broke in, and with a light cracking sound, magic power broke free from the ice.

Bang –

His black robes fluttered about. Strong winds whipped up as a powerful aura suddenly erupted from his body.

Golden Core first level, Golden Core second level, Golden Core third level...Golden Core seventh level...

However, at this time, Qin Yu's rising aura had yet to stop.

Golden Core eighth level, Golden Core ninth level...peak ninth level!

Shua –

Qin Yu's eyes flashed open as a sharp light exploded within them. As he carefully sensed the changes in his body, he smiled. In the Netherworld Sea Region, after the Demon Body swallowed the essence of the tumor, Qin Yu had gained a foundation for his cultivation to rapidly rise. The layer of ice during this time was his body absorbing and transforming the essence.

Golden Core ninth level could be called the peak of the Golden Core realm. Another step forwards was the tenth level, otherwise known as the Hollow Nascent Soul realm, just a thin thread away from breaking into the Nascent Soul realm. If Qin Yu continued to cultivate like this and also had enough pills, he would be able to attack the Nascent Soul realm in another year or so. If he succeeded, he would become one of the peak existences in this world.

Just how intense was this temptation? Even Qin Yu couldn't help but feel his thoughts waver. But, he soon suppressed this desire. Even Golden Cores had divisions of strength, so there were naturally the strong and weak amongst Nascent Souls. If he had a chance to obtain an even greater strength he should naturally try that with every ounce of effort he had.

In any case, he had nearly completed all the necessary preparations. All that was required was for him to begin!

Closing his eyes, Qin Yu silently took control of the rising magic power in his body. At the same time, he started to carefully deliberate over the steps needed to refine the five element spiritual objects.

Two hours later, he made sure that all the details were flawless and he had a full grasp of the procedure. Then, he opened his eyes. With a flick of his sleeve, the Fleeting Flame Furnace emerged. He lifted a finger and the mouth of the furnace opened. A black light shot out, emanating boundless fluctuations of water-attribute aura. This proved its identity as a water-attribute spiritual object. As he was in the sea race capital city in the depths of the sea, to start by refining the water-attribute spiritual object first was the most appropriate path to take.

He lifted a hand. Magic power tumbled atop his palm. With the cultivation of a ninth level Golden Core, the magic power on his power soon condensed into the shape of a furnace. This furnace had three feet and a narrow body. Small textures covered it, in the shape of wind, fire, and thunder. Although this furnace was only condensed from magic power, it emitted an ancient and boundless aura.

The Fleet Flame Furnace hummed, seemingly awed, appearing as if it were submitting.

Qin Yu's thoughts stirred. Perhaps a furnace like this really did exist in the world, and what he was doing was borrowing a bit of its strength to form a projection. As soon as this thought appeared, he pushed it to the side. He had reached the most critical moments of refining the five element spiritual objects and he couldn't allow himself to be distracted and lose his concentration.

The furnace atop his palm opened. The black light briefly struggled. Soon, the light dispersed, revealing its true form. This water-attribute spiritual object was a black lotus seed. It was the size of a knuckle, and looking at it carefully, one could see watermarks covering its surface. The watermarks came in dense layers, twining about each other as if the waters of a hundred rivers were contained within.

Whoosh –

The lotus seed flew into the furnace. Qin Yu's heart shook. He instinctually closed his eyes and his consciousness soon turned blurry. He was half-awake, half-asleep, as if he were observing a waking dream.

In this dream, he was a lotus root that had been accidentally abandoned in a mountain pool. He soaked in this cold pool of water, not knowing how many years passed. With great difficulty, he broke through his shell and took root in the bottom of the pond where he started to germinate. But, the soil at the bottom of the pond was even colder than the water. As his roots drilled into the soil, they froze and died.

But he never gave up. He stubbornly persisted on the edge of life and death, tenaciously living on. After more years passed, his roots slowly adapted to the cold soil and one day, he was able to draw in nutrients.

Countless years passed. A black lotus broke through the water, and its leaves were enthroned in black light. At some unknown day, the lotus suddenly burst apart. Only a single lotus seed flew out. It was pitch black in color and countless watermarks swirled on the surface of his body.

In the room, Qin Yu opened his eyes, a dazed look on his face. For a time, he found it difficult to distinguish whether he was Qin Yu or a lotus seed who had lived so long ago.

The furnace on his palm shook and cried. In the next moment, it scattered into magic power that rushed into Qin Yu's body. Then, in his dantian sea, a black seed appeared. It began as a phantom but soon took material form. It suspended itself at the base of the great dao platform, echoing in resonance with the Golden Core. The black light of water contracted, syncing together with Qin Yu's aura.

The magic power within Qin Yu's body whistled. It had become much more lively and exuberant than before. As he took in a deep breath, his conscious returned to crystal clarity. His thoughts raced. He soon understood that the 'dream' he experienced was the process by which the lotus seed had been

born. Because he had refined it into his soul, he had obtained the 'memories' of the lotus seed, and the lotus seed became a part of his body.

He could feel that the magic power in his body was clearly much smoother than before. Qin Yu smiled. Moreover, it seemed that the use of a water-attribute spiritual object was much more than this. At the very least, if he were wounded in the future he would have the support of the lotus seed's strength, and his injuries would recover far faster.

The first of the five element spiritual objects had been successfully refined!

Silently calculating the time, Qin Yu's eyebrows leapt up. He never thought that the 'true dream' he experienced would take nearly half a month. He nearly hadn't used up any magic power in his body, but his soul actually felt weary and a bit more diffuse than before. This was clearly the result of refining the lotus seed and fusing with its 'memories'.

This feeling of weariness left Qin Yu a bit restless. But thinking about it, he couldn't figure out the reason. So, he closed his eyes and started to restore his mind.

Chapter 127 – Reasons For Driving Out

The capital city guard division was located in a small and humble office. From the outside, it seemed like a tiny courtyard, and after entering, one would secretly sigh at the diligence and thriftiness of the lord captain. It was exactly because of these reasons that Guard Captain Meng Li had such an excellent reputation within the capital city.

But if someone entered the storage room where the confidential documents were kept, they would discover that there was an entirely different world within this simple courtyard. There was purple coral furniture crafted from the most exquisite materials. A rug woven from soft seahorse hair was spread out across the ground. Just a small piece of this was enough to supply an ordinary sea race family for an entire month.

At this time, thrifty and honest Meng Li was sitting back against a wide and deep-seated purple coral chair. He gently rolled a string of beads in his hands. The beads were translucent and glossy, formed from some type of red material. Although one couldn't see any signs indicating where they came from, they were undoubtedly produced by some grandmaster. A wide purple coral table was in front of him. The tabletop was perfectly smooth and formed from a single slab; it was clear that the coral this originated from had to at least be several thousand years old.

Right now, his eyebrows were furrowed as he was lost deep in thought. He was contemplating his recent actions these past days. If there was anything he did wrong or anywhere he had been lacking, then he had to promptly fix the situation. The Zhang Mansion's third young master's concubine was with child...his niece at the summer palace was getting married...the royal palace guard captain had just taken in a new mermaid lover...

Mm...all of the requisite courtesy gifts had been sent. That was good.

Meng Li lifted a purple sand cup and took a sip. He sighed. These past years, it had been extremely difficult to work in the capital city, and this was especially true as a guard captain. Although he had

managed to save up some wealth during this time, the expenses required every month were also considerable, especially since he had to curry favor.

But money that needed to be spent had to be spent.

Meng Li immediately recalled a point where he had to waste money recently. A month ago, Mister Turtle had brought a human cultivator from who knew where, and until he knew this person's true background, he had to be careful around him. So much time had passed but Mister Turtle hadn't returned to ask anything. In this situation, it was likely that Mister Turtle had already forgotten. After all, Mister Turtle was infamous for his memory throughout the entire capital city. Unless someone took the initiative to raise the topic, this human boy would probably not be remembered for another hundred years.

Thinking that he had made a completely useless investment, Meng Li sighed inwardly. Luckily, he had been wary at the start and hadn't put in too much money to begin with. Since this boy was useless, there wasn't any point to keeping him around. Any residence within the capital city was worth a small fortune. No matter how remote the location was, the rent that could be acquired every year was considerable.

Life wasn't easy. He had to save where he could.

He knocked on the table. Someone immediately pushed open the door and entered. Meng Li gave several orders to have someone send Qin Yu away.

"Wait." Before the man left, Meng Li said, "Be tactful so that he doesn't bear any grudges. Understand?"

The subordinate smiled flatteringly, "Captain, don't worry."

...

On a high cliff, a giant willow tree rose up into the black clouds. Strong winds howled. Suddenly, a bolt of lightning came crashing down from the heavens, striking the crown of the willow tree. The entire willow instantly turned into a blazing conflagration of fire that dyed the skies red. After an impossibly long time, the flames began to gradually die down. The willow branches and leaves had been burnt away, leaving behind only a pitch black tree trunk. Eventually, the rainy season arrived. Drops of rain started to bathe the blackened willow, and unexpectedly, an eye-catching glint of green appeared. The willow hadn't truly died, and after bathing in fire, a newly formed branch began to grow out...

These were the memories that Qin Yu had fused with after refining the second of the five element spiritual objects – the wood-attribute willow branch. At this time, within his dantian sea, a verdant willow branch appeared beside the black lotus seed. The deep green divine light was overflowing with vitality. If one said that Qin Yu's restorative abilities had increased after he had refined the lotus seed, then these regenerative capabilities had now risen to a whole new level.

With the regenerative powers of water and wood stacking on top of each other, combined with the potent recovery strength of the Demon Body itself, then Qin Yu might be able to give himself a new nickname – the Mighty Young Qin.

But right now, comrade Mighty Young Qin wasn't happy at all. His previous feeling had been correct. The feeling of weariness that spread through his soul wasn't simple at all. The reason that spiritual

objects were so precious was because within the heavens and earth, they had bred their own spirit. And if one had to simplify how the concept of a spirit worked, then it would be that they had their own consciousness.

With consciousness came memories. After refining, these memories entered Qin Yu's soul, becoming a part of him. The birth of spiritual objects required an incredibly long period of time. In other words, it meant that spiritual objects contained an extremely long memory, a massive amount of information.

The potency of Qin Yu's soul far surpassed other cultivators' of his level. Even so, after refining two spiritual objects of wood and water, he found it increasingly hard to sustain this with his soul. He couldn't continue to refine them; it was too risky. Once his soul fell into illusion he would drown in the memories of the spiritual objects and lose his own individuality.

Or, to be more honest, his body would be seized by the spiritual objects.

Of course, this was different from ordinary instances of having his body seized. Even so, the end result was the same. Qin Yu's memories would become a vassal in his body, and the memories of the spiritual objects would rise to the dominating role. After hesitating for days, Qin Yu finally decided to stop refining the spiritual objects for now. As he thought about how much his strength would have risen after refining all five of the spiritual objects and how far away that goal seemed now, he felt depressed.

But soon, he took in a deep breath and composed himself. Since things had already happened, he should try to find a method to fix it. Needless worry would only waste his time.

If his soul wasn't able to hold all the memories of the spiritual objects, then he could solve this by increasing the intensity of his soul. But, although this sounded simple to do, it was actually exceedingly difficult. The soul was the most important aspect of a cultivator, and this was especially true for Nascent Soul cultivators and above. Qin Yu had no idea how many pills he had eaten to reach his present state, but his current soul force was only able to hold the memories of two spiritual objects. If he purely relied on taking pills to increase his soul force, he had no idea how long it would take him to achieve his goal.

The Soul Mushroom was a cheat device used to accelerate growth of the soul. But, it was clearly different from other spiritual plants. Ever since he obtained it from Immortal Eclipse Valley, he had bathed it in a foot of sea blue light every day. But even so, it had never turned blue, meaning that it hadn't yet reached a hundred years of age. It was clear that the little blue lamp's growth accelerating abilities were greatly reduced on this plant.

Even taking a step back, unless there was a moment of life or death, Qin Yu wouldn't swallow the Soul Mushroom even if it reached a hundred years of age. What he wanted was the thousand year Partner Soul, not the so-called inextinguishable soul.

As things fell into a dead end and Qin Yu was at a loss for what to do, it was at this time that the guard subordinate sent by Meng Li arrived. He politely knocked, and after the courtyard doors opened, he greeted Qin Yu with a bright smile. He explained that the lord captain was busy with official business and was fully apologetic that he couldn't personally come. It was only after a long period of small talk that he segued into the main topic.

The guard said with an embarrassed expression, "Fellow daoist Ning Qin, you are the lord captain's friend so you should be well taken care of. However, in recent days some people have charged the lord

captain with accusations of bribery and corruption, and it just so happens that there are some questionable points about the origin of this residence. Right now, there are many people paying attention to this place. If possible, could you temporarily move out? Once this matter is over, this residence can be given to you and you can live here as long as you want.”

Qin Yu’s face filled with amazement. “I never expected something like this to occur. I don’t want Big Brother Meng Li to experience any problems because of me. Tell him that I will immediately move out.”

The guard was overjoyed. He repeatedly praised that fellow daoist Ning Qin was an understanding and righteous person, and after returning to the guard division he would spread word of this so that they would become closer to him in the future. But as soon as the guard turned and left the narrow lane, his smile disappeared to reveal disdain instead. Who said that the humans were all intelligent? This person was completely brainless. He had been completely played with, and even after being driven out he was still so grateful.

At the courtyard doors, after watching the guard leave, Qin Yu’s expression became indifferent again. As a noble and solemn guard division captain of the sea race capital city, if Meng Li were to be framed and accused just because of a small courtyard at the edge of the city, then he might as well buy a block of tofu and smash his head in with that. However, even though he was being driven out, everything had been done so tactfully. This Captain Meng Li was a truly outstanding individual.

However, this also gave Qin Yu another important piece of information – the old turtle really had forgotten about him. This relaxed the final knot in Qin Yu’s heart. He had to hurry and leave. Even if the old turtle remembered him in the future, finding him in the incredibly vast capital city wouldn’t be easy.

The Hundred Nether Sword needed to stay behind. This was a treasure-like land that it wished it could stay in for the rest of its life; if Qin Yu tried to take it away, it would absolutely turn against him. After a short negotiation, the Hundred Nether Sword simply dove into the well. As long as it was a bit more careful, it would never be discovered here.

There wasn’t much to clean up. Qin Yu spent some time to reclaim the array formation and erase any traces he left behind. Then, he pushed open the courtyard doors. At this time, a sea race boy just happened to see him. The boy was startled for a moment before he smiled and greeted, “Big Brother Ning.”

After his plan of refining the five elemental spiritual objects had been hindered, Qin Yu hesitated for several days. He took a walk around to relax his mind, and casually inquired into information about the well. It was impossible that such a rich spectral energy would appear in the well without reason.

This was the capital city’s edge as well as a remote and narrow alley. Those that lived here were correspondingly the lowest echelons of the sea races. Perhaps it was because they had been suppressed too much or discriminated against too much, but all of this had distorted their mindsets, and when these low level sea races faced Qin Yu, they finally found someone they could look down upon. They didn’t answer or even acknowledge his questions, simply turning away and pointing their noses towards the sky. If it wasn’t because they saw him living alone in the entire courtyard, their curses of being an ugly, shameful, vile, and despicable human would have already drowned him to death.

This young boy that greeted Qin Yu was his neighbor. He lived in the courtyard next door. To be more accurate, he was one of the several dozen neighbors that lived next door. His name was Leon. He had a single name, no surname – a distinctive feature of the low level sea races that didn't possess a clan name. Leon was a bright and sunny young sea monster. He lived together with his mother and little brother and was the only one willing to speak to Qin Yu. They got along rather splendidly.

This was the explanation. When asked about the spectral energy in the well, Leon gave an answer – the source was the Sea Mausoleum. The Sea Mausoleum was a place where only the sea race royal family or those who had made incredibly important contributions had the qualifications to be buried. It represented the highest proclamation of honor. At first, the Sea Mausoleum was normal and peaceful, but as time passed, more and more powerful specters appeared there. Slowly, it became a nation of specters. As the endless years passed, the spells binding the Sea Mausoleum weakened, and a powerful spectral energy began to leak out.

At the very start of this incident, it caused great chaos and turmoil within the capital city. At least 100,000 sea race members had been influenced by the spectral energy and died as a result. The sea race ruler at the time has sacrificed a thousand years of their life as well as the flesh and blood of 100,000 sea race members as the price to reinforce the spells of the Sea Mausoleum.

The spectral energy was sealed away, but not completely. Within a certain range of places closer to the Sea Mausoleum, there was a chance that spectral energy could leak out. Over time, all of the upper class sea races moved away from the scope of the Sea Mausoleum. This even affected the direction that the capital city grew towards, and that area eventually became the edge of the capital city.

In other words, where Qin Yu was living right now.

Qin Yu smiled, "Leon, did you just get off work?"

Leon nodded. His smile wasn't able to cover up all the weariness he felt. But still, he was happy every day and his smile was warm and affable. He forcibly nodded. "Teacher worked for over a month and finally managed to save the precious Sea Heart Orchid. He let us leave early." He raised a paper bag in his hand, "I bought some desserts on the way here. Would Big Brother Ning like to have some?"

Qin Yu had a thoughtful look. "I'm not hungry. You eat it."

Seeing his pensive look, Leon thought that Qin Yu assumed the sea races had ill intentions towards him. He awkwardly smiled and blushed red. "Then, I'm going home first Big Brother Ning."

"Wait!"

Chapter 128 – Supreme Book

Leon turned around, puzzled.

Qin Yu honestly asked, "Leon, you once said that you worked at a place called Sea Spirit Pavilion, right?"

Leon nodded and unconsciously puffed out his chest, a prideful look in his eyes. "That's right, it is the Sea Spirit Pavilion." For this lowly and humble sea race youth, this was his only point of pride. But as he recalled that Qin Yu was a human who had just come to the capital city, and who likely wouldn't know about the renowned reputation of Sea Spirit Pavilion, he immediately felt a bit dispirited. Luckily, Qin Yu

had asked about the Sea Spirit Pavilion at the right time. The youth had an urgent desire to tell Qin Yu, as if wanting him to understand just how fierce he was.

“Sea Spirit Pavilion is tyrannically powerful. Within the sea region, they are the largest chain of sea spirit stores that sells a comprehensive variety of items, collects cultivation methods, gathers resources, provides treatment, recycles, and engages in all sorts of other industries. After I obtained the initial qualifications to be a sea spirit teacher, I worked hard for three years before I barely managed to become an assistant to a sea spirit master at Sea Spirit Pavilion. And with Sea Spirit Pavilion’s reputation and status, as long as I work there for five years, I can then transfer to another place where I can have my own work room as a sea spirit teacher...”

On and on, all sorts of things related to sea spirit teachers and their work was explained by the youth. It was clear that he rarely found someone he could show off to, and now that he had, he simply couldn’t stop.

Qin Yu listened attentively, constantly summarizing the information until he had a comprehensive understanding of what sea spirit teachers were. In short, they were sea race members that treated and cultivated sea spirit plants.

No...to be more accurate, they were incomparably rich sea races members that treated and cultivated sea spirit plants.

Sea spirit teachers charged an extremely high price, and the income they received when treating high level sea spirits (spiritual treasures of the sea) was astonishing. And, the most mind-boggling, heaven-shattering thing was that even after charging their fee, they still didn’t guarantee a cure. It wasn’t just a single person that did this; this was the custom within the entire sea spirit teacher profession.

And if you didn’t agree? Then screw off somewhere else.

And if you want to retaliate afterwards? Then my 100,000 sea spirit teacher colleagues await you!

In summary, sea spirit teachers possessed a high status within the sea races. Of course, this was limited to high level sea spirit teachers. For those like Leon who were at the most basic level and didn’t possess any potential to improve or progress, they could only continue struggling at the ground.

Qin Yu revealed a strange expression. This wealthy and respectable sea spirit teacher profession seemed extremely suited for someone like him. Although he had never obtained a clear understanding of the sea spirit teacher profession until now, this didn’t hinder his confidence. With the little blue lamp in hand, treating or cultivating any type of sea spirit plant was far too easy.

If he could become a high level sea spirit teacher, then he might be able to find the things he needed from the wealthy high level sea races.

For instance, treasures that could increase his soul force!

Seeing the weird expression on Qin Yu’s face, Leon suddenly stopped talking. He revealed a shy look. “I’m sorry Big Brother Qin. I spoke too much.”

Qin Yu smiled. “You didn’t. I am very interested in what you said. Moreover, Leon, it seems I will have to move away.”

Leon's eyes widened. "You're leaving? Will we ever see other again?"

Qin Yu mysteriously smiled. "Of course. Perhaps we'll meet again sooner than you think."

Leaving behind the dazed sea race youth, he turned and floated away.

A moment later, Qin Yu found a corner where no one was and put on a black robe. After restraining his aura, he blended into the streams of people walking through the capital city streets.

As the saying went, in a forest, you could find a bird of any size; all kinds of people could be found in a large enough land...in truth, these words could be applied to any intelligent race. As the center of culture, economy, and politics, all sorts of people gathered at the sea race capital city, each one with their own quirks.

A man walking around in a black robe wasn't strange at all. In fact, just a few days ago Qin Yu had seen someone walking down with a massive coral covering their head. What had these sea race people of the capital city not seen before? If he were to look for a black robe, he'd probably find ten of them in a minute if he tried! As long as he didn't lift his robes and completely restrained his aura, no one would know that he was a human man.

....

The Sea Spirit Pavilion branch division within the capital city was indeed only a branch division. No one knew why this chain store that operated throughout the entire sea region, that plundered endless wealth and had an immeasurably deep background, would place their headquarters so far away from the capital city, in the bitterly cold and distant Sega City. This was a riddle that innumerable sea race members had tried to figure out. But, all they could come into contact with was a deep and vast fog. Those that had the qualifications to discover some traces of clues would immediately stop without hesitation and strictly prohibit anything from being leaked out.

When all of these things were joined together, Sea Spirit Pavilion appeared even more mysterious.

Although this was only a branch division, they had been established in the capital's Double Yang Main Street for a long time, and also occupied the best Nine Layer Building. In terms of grandeur, they were no less than anyone else. According to their chief manager, although their headquarters weren't located here, they couldn't lose face in front of the people from the capital city. It was said that when Sea Spirit Pavilion had first requested construction of the Nine Layer Building that overlooked the walls of the royal palace, this was the reasoning that the chief manager gave. It was obvious that the request had been accepted, otherwise this grand and majestic Sea Spirit Pavilion branch division wouldn't have existed.

Standing in front of the Nine Layer Building, Qin Yu looked up at the three 'Sea Spirit Pavilion' characters that were written in a flowing script atop the storefront. The characters exuded an endlessly overbearing aura. He smiled. The more overbearing it was, the better. As a fake sea race member, he had to come up with a deep enough background to shake the scene. As for why the sea race used the human writing system, that was also a question and answer that could be disputed over and over. Of course, in the eyes of the sea races, it was the shameless and despicable humans that had stolen the noble writing of their sea races.

This sort of question of historical legacy was long lost to time. Qin Yu didn't care much about it. He followed the stream of people and entered Sea Spirit Pavilion.

In truth, walking itself was a form of art that was studied by businesses all over. According to a person's manner and how they comported themselves, one could make an inference of how high or low their status was. From this, a business could approximate just how wealthy a person was and whether they were worth attending to or not. At this moment, mixed within the crowd, this simple and common black-robed figure was like a crane amongst chickens.

His steps were neither too slow nor too fast, but seemed incredibly natural and casual. His shoulders rose up and down slightly as he walked. This wasn't a loose posture, but rather an unrestrained and free manner. For those that worked in this buying and selling industry, what they tempered the most was their eyesight. As long as they worked for several years and weren't stupid to the point of being unsalvageable, they would inevitably develop a keener eyesight.

At the entrance of Sea Spirit Pavilion, the eyes of several neatly-dressed guest consultants immediately brightened. One of them, a handsome and affable youth, stepped out. He was thin with long legs, and arrived in front of Qin Yu in just several steps. He smiled, "Welcome, guest, to Sea Spirit Pavilion. Is there anything I can help you with?"

His eyes swept side to side, a bit proud, a bit arrogant! The other consultants sighed inwardly, but didn't reveal anything on their faces. Their feet turned and they each chose different guests to greet, without any appearance of rudeness at all. It was clear that Sea Spirit Pavilion managed their workers strictly.

Qin Yu lightly said, "I have a sea spirit. It's been a bit down lately, so I came here to seek help."

The consultant's eyes brightened. This sort of faint and apathetic manner of speaking naturally seemed a bit distant, but the tone was gentle and polite, not seeming rude at all. This was the manner that only a genuine noble or great customer would have! His smile widened, becoming warmer. He gestured, "Guest, please come in. We have the best sea spirit teacher grandmasters that will do everything they can to help solve your problem."

Sea Spirit Pavilion was composed of nine floors. The first floor was responsible for registering and screening guests. According to a guest's inquiry, one would calculate the approximate difficulty level and amount to be charged.

Qin Yu sat down in a purple coral chair. With a stiff posture, he took out a jade box and placed it on a table.

The consultant stood behind, awe in his eyes. This jade box was definitely a human product, and the materials and style were both high quality. It was absolutely a high grade good that was extremely valuable.

The rarer something was, the more precious it became. Although the sea races looked down upon humans and called them low and pathetic beings, human goods were actually considered superior goods within the sea race. Only aristocrats and the truly rich and powerful could afford to use them.

This consultant praised himself for his own eyesight!

Across the table sat a sea race woman with a particularly voluminous chest. Her smile widened, becoming brighter and more beautiful. She tossed over a shy wink, but after receiving no response, she composed herself and got down to business. She carefully opened the jade box and was immediately stunned.

From color and taste, this could be judged to be the most superior type of seabed nutrient liquid. The tiny layer within the jade box was already incredibly valuable, but strangely, what floated inside was a plain red coral. While this coral wasn't seen every day, its value was actually limited. It was unknown why this uncommon guest would place so much importance on this red coral.

Seeming to sense her thoughts, Qin Yu lightly said, "This coral was left behind by an Elder before he passed away. As long as you can treat and cure it, you can open with any price you want." His tone was low, as if a bit sad.

The sea race woman immediately revealed a sympathetic look. But, the eyes of the consultant behind him immediately brightened. He signaled with his eyes again and again; this sort of fat sheep was rarely seen!

"Guest, please rest assured that Sea Spirit Pavilion will not leave you disappointed." The sea race woman spoke some words of comfort and then looked down to inspect the red coral. There were some marks on the surface; these should be made by pests. The color was dark, meaning it wasn't absorbing well. But besides that, there didn't seem to be any problems overall.

She assumed that Qin Yu was a nervous young noble sea race youth that didn't find it convenient to reveal himself. Her thoughts raced as she rapidly calculated numbers in her mind. She pulled open a drawer and took out a purple book from within. The cover shined with a faint spiritual light; it was clear that this wasn't any ordinary item.

"Guest, you have arrived at the perfect moment. According to your status and the importance you place on this sea spirit, I advise that you sign this Supreme level Sea Spirit Treatment Book. The threshold price is 5000 spirit stones. Our Sea Spirit Pavilion will do everything in our power to help you cure this sea spirit. If we fail, we will refund you ten times the fee."

Sympathy was sympathy and business was business; she couldn't allow her knife here to be soft. This was the most basic principle of negotiation. The consultant sent over an appreciative look and said, "This is an insurance book launched by my Sea Spirit Pavilion. Although the cost is high, we will definitely use the highest level sea spirit teacher to ensure treatment efficiency and success. If guest isn't comfortable, you can also increase the payment." He smiled, "You should understand that the higher the price, the more importance that Sea Spirit Pavilion will treat this matter with. This is because it is impossible for us to withstand a ten times refund that is too high."

The sea race woman revealed a trace of admiration. She thought that her offer was already black enough, but this fellow here was making it even blacker. It seemed that she really wasn't suited to being a consultant. But as long as she could make this transaction, her commission fee would be substantial. "Of course, everything follows your will. If you don't want to, you may sign an ordinary treatment agreement. Sea Spirit Pavilion will similarly try, but it might take a bit longer and we cannot guarantee success."

To retreat to advance: this was her specialty move. Of course, this all depended on who she was speaking to. When it came to local and wealthy guests, this was often a killing move. And as she thought, the black-robed figure spoke up, "Then I will sign this Supreme Book. I want to raise the payment amount."

The sea race woman's smile brightened. "Guest, please feel free to speak."

Qin Yu calmly said, "300,000."

Chapter 129 – Grandmaster Goldrune, Who Fell Down

The sea race woman's eyes widened. She took a deep breath to steady herself but couldn't stop the shock that spread through her heart. She squeezed out a smile and said, "Guest, are you sure that you want to pay...300,000?"

Qin Yu placed a storage bag on the table. "It's in here. I'll sign."

The consultant began to drip with beads of sweat. He hurriedly said, "Guest, please wait a moment; this payment amount is too high, so we need to ask for permission."

"Of course."

The consultant relaxed. He glanced over at the woman.

The sea race woman immediately began to move. She took out a round glass-like cover and placed it over the jade box and red coral.

A faint light flashed and she picked up the cover. "Very good. There will be a reply soon."

...

Within the ninth floor of Sea Spirit Pavilion, in a peaceful chamber, several experienced sea spirit teachers were sitting and processing messages they received from below. Many of them were seated at a counter, judging the items sent up for appraisal so that they could determine the amount to charge as well as the agreement contract. On the table, a curtain of water flashed and another piece of information was sent up. The purple mark indicator caused the sea spirit teacher in charge to be more prudent. As he looked over the information, he soon frowned.

The image in the water curtain was extremely clear; one could see each and every corner of the red coral. There weren't any major problems with it. He considered it over and over again, and after deciding that there wasn't anything wrong, he scoffed inwardly. Some wealthy local idiot was actually willing to sign the Supreme Book just for an ordinary red coral.

Although this sort of thing didn't happen often, in the several months since the Supreme Handbook had been launched, it had indeed made a considerable amount of income for them in the capital city. On one hand, he praised the Chief Manager for knowing how to make money, and on the other hand he quickly approved the transaction. But as he did, he lifted an eyebrow, faintly thinking that something was missing from the message.

Shua –

Another message arrived. The sea spirit teacher quickly suppressed these thoughts and started to carefully review it.

Sea Spirit Pavilion treated its workers well. Since he was benefitting from them, he certainly had to be careful in everything he did.

....

The glass cover flashed with a green light. The sea race woman smiled. "It's been approved."

The process was simple. The quantity of spirit stones was checked and the contract agreement was reviewed. After signing, Qin Yu received a copy. He left behind the jade box and red coral and left.

The consultant quickly ran over to send Qin Yu out, a comforting smile on his face. He also told Qin Yu not to worry and that they would absolutely hasten his sea spirit treatment with the highest priority possible, and that a result would be obtained in three days. As he walked out of Sea Spirit Pavilion and watched the black-robed figure vanish from sight, he sighed inwardly. This mysterious person had been so decisive and firm. He had tossed down 300,000 spirit stones and left without even batting an eyelash.

Would there ever be a time when he could mix in with such a crowd of people? He calculated the possibilities in his heart, and soon discovered that there would never be a single chance in his entire life. He sighed in frustration as he told himself to forget about it. But soon, he pushed aside his sadness and walked back into Sea Spirit Pavilion, excited. Several of his colleagues saw his expression and cursed inwardly at him, their eyes turning red with envy.

One of the counters had been temporarily suspended from business. The sea race woman held the signed Supreme Book high, her chest wildly fluctuating as she looked at it. As she saw the consultant come back in, she quickly rose up. Her actions were loud and grating, and several guests nearby who were doing business immediately frowned in dissatisfaction.

A lobby manager hurried over to apologise. He stared daggers at the woman and dragged her to the back to scold her. "What are you doing? You are not a new worker here, so how can you still be so rash!" He straightened himself. "Just what is going on?"

The sea race woman handed over the purple book, "Manager..."

The manager's eyes brightened. "Supreme Book, not bad, not bad, Little Li, you've made a considerable commission this month." He took the book and started flipping through it. He immediately froze, his eyes blinking and his expression turning serious. "A payment of 300,000 for a red coral?"

The consultant hurriedly said, "We didn't dare to decide this for ourselves. We asked for permission from above."

The manager relaxed. Since everything had passed inspection, this proved that nothing was wrong. He smiled and nodded, "That's good. Brat, you have a good future ahead of you. Keep working hard and one day you'll be able to climb to where I'm at."

The consultant smiled. "Everything is because of manager's skill and leadership."

The manager smirked with satisfaction. After giving a bit of advice, he took the Supreme Book and walked away. This sort of massive contract needed to be specially archived in preparation for future

audits. The jade box and red coral were quickly sent to the upper levels where the true sea spirit teachers would be able to carefully diagnose it and treat it. No matter how valuable it actually was, after Qin Yu sighed the Supreme Book and paid 300,000 spirit stones, its worth was placed at that point.

The sea race woman returned to her counter. She put away the busy sign, and then treated all guests with perfect manners and poise. This was because the meat pie that fell from the skies could disappear at any moment.

Thinking of the black-robed figure and his youthful voice, the woman gently stroked her thigh, secretly regretting that she didn't try hooking that giant fish herself. Otherwise, she was confident that as long as she had a single night, she could make sure that that giant fish was lost in her depths, never to return.

....

Right now, Big Fish Qin Yu was walking down the street, completely unaware that some sea race woman had marked him as a target of love and was wildly ravaging him in some imaginary bed.

He casually found an inn and paid for a room for three days. After sending away the servant, he sat down in meditation. If things happened quickly, he might have to welcome guests from Sea Spirit Pavilion tomorrow.

...

As Grandmaster Goldrune saw the jade box, his eyes brightened. He lifted the cover a little, and as he smelled the fragrance of top tier nutrient liquids, his expression immediately turned earnest. A bit of happiness lit up his face. He had been in Sea Spirit Pavilion for half a year now, and after effortlessly putting in his strength and time, he had proven his own worth. This was the first precious spirit plant that Sea Spirit Pavilion had handed to him, and he certainly had to try his best to display his peak skills.

He took several deep breaths, composing his thoughts. Then, Grandmaster Goldrune fully opened the jade box. But in the next moment, his complexion darkened and blue veins popped up on his forehead.

Where was the most basic amount of trust between people? Where was the precious spirit plant?

Clenching his teeth, he picked up the introductory jade slip. Detailed information about the sea spirit was listed within. As the first line entered his eyes: Red Coral [ordinary], he immediately felt his heart shatter to pieces as he started to curse out loud.

Just which bastard had used such a precious jade box, such valuable nutrient fluid, and had even been so abnormal as to sign the Supreme Book, just for the sake of an ordinary common red coral! And, the most important part was that he had been tricked into being entirely enthusiastic about this task, and he had even been incomparably sincere about his work!

Tossing down the jade box, Grandmaster Goldrune paced up and down through the work room. It was only when he managed to suppress the anger brewing in his heart that he stood in front of the work table once more. His eyes were calm and focused. Controlling one's temper was a skill that any high level sea spirit teacher needed to master.

In a short period of time, he was able to go from a completely enraged state to a perfectly composed state. Grandmaster Goldrune secretly applauded his own professionalism. His gaze fell down on the red

coral. He originally excelled in treating coral spirit plants, and soon he figured out just what problems this coral had.

Excessive nutrition led to malnutrition. An overabundance of care led to a poor level of care. Moreover, this type of top level nutrient fluid far surpassed the absorption limits of the red coral. It had to be known that sometimes, too much nourishment actually led to injuries. Combined together with malnutrition, this led to the current exhausted condition of the coral. As for the traces of pest markings on the surface, as long as these problems were solved and some appropriate nutrient fluids were provided, it would soon be growing well.

He flourished his hand and wrote down a detailed treatment plan, step by step. After looking over it and making sure that nothing was wrong, he rang a bell. An assistant soon came in. With a few commands, the assistant left with the red coral. A high level sea spirit teacher's time was precious, and it was natural for an assistant to deal with simple matters like this. Of course, in order to be chosen as an assistant to a high level sea spirit teacher, one had to have the abilities of a middle level sea spirit teacher. In other words, they were more than competent enough to handle these things.

Grandmaster Goldrune dove into the work he had put down. He had been treating this Seasnake Grass for ten days and it was finally showing signs of improvement. However, a part of the roots were still withered, so he needed to consolidate the treatment plan a bit.

Just as he was lost deep in thought and about to come up with a clue, someone knocked on his door. His thoughts immediately became jumbled.

Grandmaster Goldrune called in the person with a gloomy face. He wiped away his scattered hair, completely intent on reprimanding whoever came in. If it weren't for the fact that the person who entered was his most favored assistant, he definitely wouldn't have allowed things to end here. It had to be known that the number of people who wanted to become an assistant to a high level sea spirit teacher of Sea Spirit Pavilion could line up from here all the way to the city gates.

"Assistant Xia, you know that I heavily dislike being interrupted during moments of contemplation. So, just what is it that you are bothering me for?"

Assistant Xia had a dreary expression. "Teacher, something is wrong with that red coral. You should come and take a look yourself."

Being called teacher was simply a polite term of respect; it had nothing to do with the relationship of master and disciple.

Grandmaster Goldrune was startled. As he thought of the events from a moment ago, his face clouded over. "I already wrote a clear and detailed list of instructions. All you needed to do was follow them to the word. Can you not even handle something so simple?"

Assistant Xia bitterly smiled. "I only dared to interrupt you because I had no other means. It is now in very poor condition. Teacher, it is best if you hurry up a little."

Grandmaster Goldrune coldly snorted. He quickly hurried out. He didn't care about an ordinary red coral, but if it died it would affect his rating. Moreover, what the other party signed was the Supreme Book. According to the contract, if he failed he would need to pay for a fifth of the losses.

Outside his work room was a large workshop. Over a dozen assistants were present. Normally, they would be busy working, but at this moment they were all gathered around a work table, their complexions ugly as if they had eaten flies.

“Teacher has arrived!”

Everyone hurriedly drew back, lowering their heads in deference.

Grandmaster Goldrune coldly coughed, not caring to scold them. He walked in front of the work table and looked down. The red coral was placed in ordinary nutrient fluid, and the specifications were exactly in the range he had prescribed. But at this time, the red coral was incomparably listless and dull.

Grandmaster Goldrune frowned. He reached out a hand and placed it on the red coral. After several breaths of time, his face darkened. This red coral was emitting a death aura; it could no longer be saved.

Pa –

He slapped the work table. “Just who did this? Do you have no idea how to follow instructions? I clearly diagnosed the condition, so how could an accident occur?”

An assistant trembled and stepped forwards. “Teacher, I followed the treatment you prescribed completely. There is phantom image monitoring that can verify my words.”

Assistant Xia vaguely nodded. This indicated that he had examined the situation and knew this to be true.

Grandmaster Goldrune’s complexion became even gloomier. If the red coral died because of his instructions, wasn’t that the same as saying that his level was very low, so low that he couldn’t cure an ordinary red coral? But now, the more he spoke the more face he would lose. “Treat this red coral as if it has died. Send out a report and have Sea Spirit Pavilion process it.”

He turned and left.

Assistant Xia’s eyes widened. “Teacher, you won’t try to revive it?”

Grandmaster Goldrune wished that he could smash open this assistant’s face. Didn’t he already shame himself enough? This was only an ordinary red coral; what need was there to save it?

Facing the ferocious eyes of Grandmaster Goldrune, Assistant Xia weakly said, “Teacher, the other party signed the Supreme Book...”

Grandmaster Goldrune clenched his teeth. “It’s fine to compensate him. The funds I have left in the work room should be enough!” Just as his voice fell, the eyes of the assistants lit up, filled with worship and admiration.

Grandmaster Goldrune was truly worthy of being a high level sea spirit teacher. He didn’t even bat an eyelash at paying such a steep compensation sum.

But as Assistant Xia looked at Grandmaster Goldrune’s eyes which seemed to tell him to shut up or he would eat him alive, he could only put on a sobbing expression and say, “It’s not enough.”

Grandmaster Goldrune was stunned. It was only then that he recalled that when he was diagnosing the red coral, he hadn't paid any attention to how much the payment amount had been.

Looking at Assistant Xia's complexion, unease began to rise up in his heart. "How much was the initial payment amount?"

"300,000."

Thump –

Grandmaster Goldrune's eyes rolled back into his head as he toppled to the ground!

Chapter 130 – But I can

A payment of 300,000...

According to the agreement signed in the Supreme Manual, Sea Spirit Pavilion would have to compensate three million spirit stones. It wasn't that they couldn't afford this, but once they paid, this was no different from acknowledging that Sea Spirit Pavilion was at fault. Sea Spirit Pavilion's upright and honorable reputation had allowed them to constantly develop these past years, but while they did so, many people had begun to eye them, and all sorts of moves were being made in the shadows. These people would absolutely not let go of such a prime opportunity. They would inevitably spread propaganda recklessly to attack Sea Spirit Pavilion's reputation. This sort of invisible loss was the most terrifying of all.

The chief manager was surnamed Wu. No one knew his true name. His normally warm and kind expression was dark and gloomy. If he had the qualifications to oversee the capital city's branch division, it was natural that he had an extremely high status within Sea Spirit Pavilion's overall hierarchy. While he stood at the peak of the wave, there were countless people targeting him from below. Each one of those people was waiting for him to make a mistake so that they could take advantage of him while he was down.

The Supreme Book had been proposed by Chief Manager Wu. After the idea had been discussed at headquarters, it had been agreed that it would first be implemented in the capital city's branch division. The feedback for the last several months had been good. Creating profits was one thing, but the most important aspect was that it increased their renown and faith and was something that Bluesky Tower and Earthfault Spire could not control, allowing Sea Spirit Pavilion to obtain an even higher reputation.

Headquarters had begun to consider promoting the Supreme Book through various large cities in the sea region. If this were to smoothly succeed, then Chief Manager Wu's fame would rise precipitously and his position would be impregnable. But, at such a critical moment, a dramatic mistake had occurred with the Supreme Book. It was already a great testament to his training and poise that he was able to sit down while suppressing his anger.

"Could it be that someone deliberately set up a trap and led us into it?" A branch division manager frowned as he spoke. It was clear that everyone had considered this possibility already. She looked forwards. As the second in command of the branch division, it was her responsibility to fully investigate this matter. Her name was Clearwood and she came from a mysterious background. In fact, many of the other sea race managers didn't know where she came from. But, after arriving at the capital city branch

division over a year ago, Clearwood had used her incredible skills and methods to obtain everyone's approval.

"I've already personally questioned the people involved in this. The guest didn't mention the Supreme Book on his own initiative, rather, it was the counter worker who introduced it after considering the possible commission, and it was the guest who chose the payment amount. Because the payment amount was too high, the worker confirmed with the ninth floor to make sure it was acceptable. However, because she was too nervous, she forgot to attach the amount involved and after the ninth floor examined the object and didn't perceive anything wrong, they signed it as passing."

Clearwood's voice was cold, just like her expression. "On the other hand, I urgently gathered five high level sea spirit teachers to work together and diagnose the red coral. It was determined that nothing was done to tamper with it. It was dying under normal conditions through having its life depleted, and it was only barely managing to live on with the powerful potency of the high quality nutrient fluid. The rest of the symptoms were only a sign of its weakness. When the sea spirit teacher initially in charge was diagnosing, he didn't discover that replacing the nutrient fluid with a lower quality version would lead to the death of the red coral."

Closing the text in her hand, she looked around at everyone. She faintly said, "In summary, I judge that this matter is a coincidence completely caused by neglect of the staff."

Everyone looked at each other with blank dismay. The vast majority of them had conspiracy theories and plots racing through their thoughts, but now they finally discovered that this problem was entirely their own fault. Even though they didn't want to believe it, the truth was placed right in front of them. If they tried to pretend that it didn't happen, their skin simply wasn't thick enough to do that. Moreover, if this matter were to be exposed, the reputation that Sea Spirit Pavilion had garnered over the years would be utterly ruined.

Chief Manager Wu glanced at everyone and said, "Clearwood was in charge of investigating this matter. Since this is a mistake of my capital city branch division, there is no need to discuss it further." He paused, and everyone could feel how heavy his words were. "Right now, what we need to do is figure out how to solve this while minimizing the possible fallout."

An awkward silence followed.

Everyone knew that Chief Manager Wu was in a critical period right now, and this was no trifling matter. If someone used this as a pretext to move against him, it would be good if he could keep his position within the capital city branch division. But after that, he wouldn't be able to take another step upwards. Because this matter was so important, no one dared to speak out; the consequences were too serious.

Chief Manager Wu frowned. He began to call out names, "General Affairs Manager Shen, you are always wise and crafty. Let's hear your thoughts."

General Affairs Manager Shen secretly complained about this, but he remained calm on the surface. He coughed and pushed up the crystal glasses lying on his nose, saying, "I'm sorry, it's a bit embarrassing but I must urgently use the restroom."

Chief Manager Wu said without expression, "Then go."

General Affairs Manager Shen rose up, nodded, pushed up the door, and left.

Looking around, everyone had their heads down. Chief Manager Wu sighed, knowing that none of them had a good plan. Of course, even if they did, no one would be willing to say it out loud. The several managers present all had complex backgrounds that represented a variety of special interest groups. In fact, some of them might even be hoping for him to fail.

“If you want to control the fallout as much as possible, then the key will be the guest. As long as he is willing to settle this matter quietly, then there will be a chance for us to resolve matters amicably and with the smallest amount of trouble.” As the cold voice rang out, Chief Manager Wu’s eyes flashed with surprise. He never thought that the first one to say something voluntarily would be Clearwood. It was a bit surprising, because if an accident happened, Clearwood was next in line to replace him. Chief Manager Wu always held a bit of fear towards her, but he never thought she would be so open-minded and gracious. He sighed inwardly.

As long as a knife didn’t appear at his back, Chief Manager Wu had some assurance that he would be able to overcome this hurdle. He sucked in a deep breath, “What does Manager Clearwood suggest?”

Clearwood lightly said, “I’ve already sent some people to investigate and look through the image monitors at the capital city’s streets. As long as he isn’t deliberately hiding from us, we should be able to find him.”

The hearts of several managers who held their heads down like ostriches skipped a beat. They didn’t know what this mysterious Clearwood was thinking of that she would actually let go of such a prime opportunity, and not just that, but even help on her own initiative. Could there be some hidden feelings involved? As soon as several people thought this, they felt their hearts shake. They originally had some minor plots they wanted to hatch, but now they didn’t dare to try them anymore.

What nonsense. Once the second and first in command joined forces, anyone that jumped out first would immediately be cut down.

Chief Manager Wu’s heart relaxed. He sent her a thankful look, and nodded, saying, “Manager Clearwood’s words have really opened my mind. Since this is the case, let us wait for further news.”

Besides the General Affairs Manager Shen who had supposedly gone to pee, no one else could leave, meaning that no one else could go out and try to interfere. As they all sensed Chief Manager Wu’s icy gaze, all of them sat down respectfully, sighing in their hearts. It seemed that they wouldn’t be able to benefit from this incident. They also cursed in their hearts. Just what was this Clearwood woman trying to do?

Sea Spirit Pavilion made full use of their prestige and power. Good news soon came back. The guest was staying in an inn and hadn’t taken a step out yet.

Chief Manager Wu stood up. He looked around. “Everyone, this matter involves not just me, but also the reputation of the entire capital city branch division. So, I ask that everyone follow me for a visit.”

It was obvious that he wanted to completely crush the possibility of anyone making moves in the shadows. Moreover, there was an implicit threat in his words, saying that if he were to suffer, no one else would be better off.

Several high level figures forced a smile and nodded.

Moments later, an inconspicuous carriage drove out from Sea Spirit Pavilion. After meandering around in circles several times and making sure that no one was following, the carriage snuck into the flow of people and disappeared.

When Qin Yu heard the young servant knock on his door and say that some people wanted to see him, a trace of astonishment flashed in his eyes. He hadn't thought that Sea Spirit Pavilion would respond so quickly.

"I understand. Allow them in."

Several breaths of time later, there was a knock on his door. It was clear that by the time the young servant responded, they had already arrived.

Qin Yu said, "Please enter."

With Chief Manager Wu at the head, six people walked into the room. Even the peeing General Affairs Manager Shen had been dragged over. Seeing Qin Yu so calm, Chief Manager Wu's heart shrank, and the smile in his eyes turned a bit colder. "It seems that our guest knew we would come?"

Qin Yu didn't immediately reply. He gestured, "Please sit." The room he reserved was extremely large. There was a spacious living room and the chairs of woven seaweed were wide and spacious. Chief Manager Wu stormed over and fearlessly took a seat. Since this other party didn't deny it, that was already an answer.

"You all have come for the red coral, right?"

A manager responded with an icy look. "If so, then you acknowledge that you deliberately trapped us?"

Chief Manager Wu lifted a hand. "Just what do you plan on doing?"

A serene voice came from beneath the black robes. "That red coral, did you bring it here?"

Clearwood turned a hand and took out the jade box. She had an indifferent expression.

Qin Yu lifted a hand and the jade box fell in front of him with grace and ease.

Chief Manager Wu's eyes shrank.

To move objects through space. This was something that even a Foundation Establishment cultivator could do and wasn't considered anything at all. But, what was strange was that not even a bit of aura came from Qin Yu while he did so.

This sort of wonderfully skilled control of strength was something only the truly powerful could accomplish.

Qin Yu opened the jade box, revealing the nearly dead coral within. "I presume that you all have already assigned someone to carefully investigate the coral, and perhaps have even looked over it yourself? Then, I only have one question. Does Sea Spirit Pavilion have the means to revive it?"

As this question entered the ears of those present, it was simply openly taunting them. If they had a method to revive it, why would they all come here!? The complexions of several managers darkened as they all had looks as if they wanted to eat Qin Yu alive.

Chief Manager Wu said, "Why do you ask something you already know?"

Qin Yu smiled. He stroked the red coral. "Because I can."

These words came without explanation, leaving several people stunned. But as they remembered the earlier conversation, their complexions changed. They looked at Qin Yu, their gazes incomparably sharp as if they could pierce through his body with looks alone.

Chief Manager Wu took a deep breath, "Just what do you want?"

Qin Yu stood up and gestured. "Tomorrow at this time, I ask that you all come visit again. At that time, I will explain everything."

Clearwood suddenly said. "Alright. Then we'll bother you tomorrow."

Chief Manager Wu had a thoughtful expression. He looked deeply at Qin Yu. "Then, we won't bother you anymore."

Everyone left the inn and boarded the carriage. After driving out a long way, a manager suddenly sneered. "Everyone, you don't all really believe that this person can revive the red coral, right?"

General Affairs Manager Shen shook his head, "I've personally looked into it; its life vitality has indeed been exhausted through natural means, and unless there are some heaven-defying treasures extending its lifespan, the coral will die. Moreover, just how rare and precious are these kinds of heaven-defying treasures? Even if this person has something like that, he would be insane to use it on the coral."

The meaning behind his words was that he didn't believe Qin Yu.

Clearwood lightly said, "It's only a day after all, so why not wait?"

The atmosphere turned a little bit colder.

Chief Manager Wu said, "Order people to blockade the inn. Until tomorrow, do not let even a fly escape. I want to take a good look and see just what trick that black-robed guest will try to play tomorrow."

With everyone involved temporarily isolated and with timely handling of affairs, the incident with the Supreme Book hadn't yet spread out.

Everything calmed down for the moment.

But, when the coral changed from dark blue to red, this sense of calm was suddenly broken.

Bluesky Tower and Earthfault Spire held a joint conference, clearly stating that an incident occurred with Sea Spirit Pavilion's new Supreme Book and that they attempted to cover the truth. Not just that, but they had placed the guest under house arrest and had locked away all essential evidence.

As Chief Manager Wu looked at everything occurring from an imaging mirror and saw the two solemn and respectful expressions of his enemies, he smashed his favorite teapot to the ground, his face as hard as iron.