

Refining 151

Chapter 151 – You, Today

Just as he finished speaking he was immediately drowned out by Grandmaster Wu Zetian's roars. "Struck himself? Are you trying to say that in this competition, Jing Guanjin gave himself a heavy wound without any reason at all? Are you saying that a noble Golden Core realm master would slip like this?"

The grandmaster's eyes were cold and dark, as if he would eat anyone who stepped in his way. "I don't care just what sort of bribes you received. I will definitely investigate this matter. Anyone who dares to cover up the perpetrator will be my enemy!"

Committee member Goodra was pushed to the point of tears. He was someone who had a bit of status, otherwise it would have been impossible for him to become one of the committee members in something so important as the great sea spirit teacher competition.

But in terms of wealth, status, or strength, he was nothing but a speck of dust to a Purple Card sea spirit teacher. A casual flick of the finger could grind him to bits.

"Grandmaster Wu, no matter how much courage I have I would never dare to lie to you. Jing Guanjin really did hit himself..."

Bang –

Before he could finish speaking, committee member Goodra was sent soaring backwards. His thick shell crashed into the hard surface of Prosperity Square, producing a series of sparks as he skidded along the ground.

Crack –

Following that, in the thick and protective shell that the turtle race was famous for, countless small cracks begin to appear as they spread out like a web. This horrified the other committee members, leaving them pale white. All of them gulped. Each of them thanked the heavens that they hadn't been the one to speak, otherwise they feared they wouldn't be alive right now.

Grandmaster Wu Zetian's anger soared to the heavens. "Where is Chairman Xu? He must give me an explanation!"

After Goodra had been sent flying away, the intelligent Chairman Xu finally came up with an explanation.

He produced a health examination proving that Jing Guanjin had overdrawn his strength, as well as proof that his blood loss had come from a singular impact of external force.

Besides these things, there were no other injuries.

Chairman Xu held up a bloodstained spirit shell that was clearly of high quality and solemnly said, "Grandmaster Wu, we have made a comparison. The wound on Jing Guanjin's forehead completely matches the shape of this spirit shell. Moreover, the competition was carried out upon the altar and everything occurred in a completely sealed area. I have personally inspected the spells and found that there isn't a problem with them.

“So, I ask that Grandmaster Wu take a look...”

Wu Zetian was shocked silly. As he thought of Jing Guanjin’s last response, the powerful strike that had been filled with confidence and vigor, he realized that it hadn’t been a finger tap at all, but a smash from the forehead!

This difference was rather large...

His face darkened as if it would rain soon. After a long moment of silence, Grandmaster Wu grabbed the spirit shell, clenched his jaws, and then crushed it to powder. He turned and left.

A committee member squeaked out, “That is evidence...”

Chairman Xu interrupted him. “That’s enough. It can be understood that Grandmaster Wu was momentarily overcome with anger. It’s fine as long as we can explain it.”

That spirit shell was just far too volatile!

Once others learned of it, it would surely raise up a storm. He didn’t want to bring trouble upon himself so he had deliberately brought it here so that someone else could destroy it for him.

What happened was just what he hoped for.

It was unknown whether or not Jing Guanjin would live. It was already clear what the result of the competition was. Grandmaster Wu Zetian was brimming with a furious rage. His heart, liver, lungs, kidney, every organ in his body seemed to burn with anger. In this state, the cheers that entered his ears were especially grating and hateful. He looked up. As expected, it was people from Sea Spirit Pavilion.

A black-robed figure was being surrounded by a crowd of people and congratulated.

What an eyesore of a scene!

Grandmaster Wu Zetian’s complexion became even uglier. He walked away.

Chief Manager Wu was ecstatic. At the same time, he was also ashamed of the previous suspicions he had. He swept his eyes around and immediately tensed up.

“Greetings, Grandmaster Wu!”

For the chief manager of Sea Spirit Pavilion to give such a respectful greeting to someone named Grandmaster Wu, there was of course only one such person in the world.

The cheers quieted down and they all lowered their heads in greeting. Seeing this person’s purple robes and the Purple Card at his waist, they all felt anxious within.

After all, this figure that existed on the highest heavens was Jing Guanjin’s teacher. And, he had many negative opinions of their Sea Spirit Pavilion.

He shouldn’t have come to pick an argument, right?

And as they thought, Grandmaster Wu didn’t disappoint anyone at all. He sneered and glared at Qin Yu. “I don’t know what sort of methods you used to win, but I will surely investigate this. You had best make sure I don’t grab ahold of any weakness of yours!”

To maintain a constant high influx of energy for several hours on end, this was something that even a Purple Card couldn't accomplish. Yet, this Ning fellow had done all of that and seemed completely relaxed at the moment. If someone had said that there wasn't some sort of trick involved, Wu Zetian wouldn't believe it even if he were beaten to death.

And even if there hadn't been any problems, with his status, this Ning fellow could only eat the insult and be suspected by others. Though this might not do anything, Wu Zetian could still feel a bit more comfortable in his heart.

It wasn't that Wu Zetian was bored, but because he was suffocating on rage and anger. If he didn't vent some of it, he feared he would choke to death on his fury. Only he knew what Jing Guanjin's defeat meant and what he had lost because of it.

The Skyspirit power!

This was a dream he had chased after for countless years. It had been so close to becoming reality, but all of a sudden it had become an empty illusion. Wu Zetian already believed that he was being very civilized and self-controlled to maintain his sanity and not tear this mysterious black-robed little boy to shreds.

Just what kind of status did the ten Purple Cards possess? To the common seafolk, they were like living gods.

Thus, when Grandmaster Wu Zetian appeared with a gloomy face, the audience had earnestly quieted down. Even those who were overjoyed to see a frivolous young master like Jing Guanjin suffer had restrained themselves. Their silence was a show of respect towards Grandmaster Wu.

The audience was too far away from Grandmaster Wu, so they shouldn't have been able to hear him. But, this final competition was too important and multiple spells had been put in place in case anyone tried to interfere with the match. Later on, inspectors would find that one of the sea spirit priests had upped the power of a sound amplifying array. It was unknown whether it was because his hand slipped or not, but it had activated at this exact time.

Thus, everyone could hear Grandmaster Wu Zetian's voice clearly echoing through Prosperity Square.

In an instant, everyone's eyes gathered on him.

Wu Zetian was startled, as if he didn't expect his voice to spread out. But, he soon composed himself.

With his status, he didn't need to care about such things. Rather, the more people heard him, the more that Ning fellow would be shamed.

His heart felt a trace of joy.

Chief Manager Wu squeezed out a smile. He took a step forwards. "Grandmaster Wu, you must have mistaken something. Mister Ning..."

Wu Zetian said without expression, "Just what are you? When I am speaking, do you think you can interrupt?"

Chief Manager Wu flushed red. He drew in several deep breaths, his smile becoming even more forced.

Yes, even in the face of relentless taunting, he still maintained his smile.

This person was still the third ranked of the ten Purple Cards. Even if he knew that this person was hostile to Sea Spirit Pavilion, he still didn't dare to provoke him.

This was an instinctual awe and reverence that the countless sea races of the sea region held towards the Purple Cards, a feeling that was produced from their inheritance over the endless years.

Chief Manager Wu was a member of the sea races. So even if he had a high status, he was also no exception.

Leon was infuriated for his teacher and his eyes popped open in anger. But even so, he could only suppress all his thoughts in his heart.

Everyone from Sea Spirit Pavilion bowed their heads with fear and panic.

But there was an exception here. This person wasn't one of the sea races so he indeed didn't care about the Purple Card sea teachers. He stood tall with his hands held behind his back, possessing an unparalleled iciness and disdain. Facing this person, the proud Grandmaster Wu Zetian seemed as if he had been struck by a rock.

Qin Yu lightly said, "Chief manager, may I ask who this person in front of you is?"

Chief Manager Wu was stunned silly. Old Sea had personally visited Qin Yu, so he should be well aware of what Grandmaster Wu's clothes and accessories meant. In addition to this person's aura and how he had referenced him, how could he possibly not recognize who he was?

His first thought was that Mister Ning was also angry so he wanted to be unruly again.

He began to panic. To insult a Purple Card in front of so many people was an extremely grave matter. But there were some words that shouldn't be said. He turned and gave Qin Yu a meaningful look. "Mister Ning, this is the third ranked Purple Card, Grandmaster Wu Zetian. You absolutely cannot be disrespectful to him."

The hidden meaning was: Brother, please don't make this mess any bigger. Just hurry and lower your head!

Qin Yu nodded, seeming to suddenly understand. "So it was Grandmaster Wu. Luckily the chief manager reminded me of who you are, otherwise I would have thought you were an ignorant old fool who has no sense of etiquette. I was just about to curse you out." He cupped a hand across his chest as he spoke. "Grandmaster Wu, I don't really understand what you said just now, but it doesn't matter much. However, shouldn't you be hurrying over to check up on Jing Guanjin? How come you're here wasting our time?"

Chief Manager Wu covered his face and groaned. He knew it would be like this!

The entirety of Prosperity Square fell into a deathly silence. All of the seafolk stared with wide eyes, disbelief clouding their expressions. All of their gazes sent the same message: how dare you!

But asking if he dared to or not no longer mattered. After all, this person had already done it, so of course he dared to.

An ignorant old fool who has no sense of etiquette...

I don't really understand what you said just now, but it doesn't matter much...

How come you're here wasting our time...

These words seemed calm and measured, but there were too many barbs contained within. And, it was that calm and measured tone which signaled that he simply didn't place this person in his eyes.

Since when had anyone dared to provoke him like this!?

Grandmaster Wu Zetian suddenly calmed down. He said, "Mister Ning, you have truly angered me."

Hearing these words, the countless seafolk fell into a cold sweat. An electric current seemed to pass over their bodies, leaving them shivering inside.

Following that, besides the Sea Spirit Pavilion people who were paper-white, everyone else's eyes brightened.

They seemed to have already expected that a lively scene would occur. At the very least, Mister Ning who had offended a Purple Card would be punished. No matter what it was, everyone thought his final outcome would be sad.

In fact, even those from Sea Spirit Pavilion were thinking this. It was just that although the seafolk had guessed the beginning, they were able to guess the end. Everything they expected seemed to have reversed, from north to south, from east to west.

Because at this time, Qin Yu also calmly responded.

"Grandmaster Wu, you have already angered me long ago."

What did this mean?

Just what did this mean?

To say such ruthless words in the face of a Purple Card?

Following this, the audience learned that Qin Yu not only dared to speak such ruthless words, but even dared to put them in action.

He turned around and looked at Chairman Xu, who had been standing and watching for a long time but had no desire to get involved. "Have the results of the competition come out yet?"

Chairman Xu frowned. He thought that Qin Yu wanted to use this to humiliate Grandmaster Wu, and immediately regretted standing so close to the front. But, he couldn't avoid the situation. He could only maintain his composure and say in a low voice, "According to the final judgment, Mister Ning, you have won the competition."

You won, he lost.

But he didn't mention Jing Guanjin's name; he still needed to be a bit tactful. He hoped that Grandmaster Wu would be a bit open-minded and wouldn't bear a grudge because of this.

Qin Yu didn't know of Chairman Xu's worries and also his vivid desire to flee the scene. He continued to ask, "So in other words, I already possess the rights to challenge a Purple Card."

"That is correct. In half a month, you may choose the time..."

Qin Yu interrupted him. "No need!" He lifted a hand and pointed a finger. "You old thing, this young master has found you an eyesore for a long time already. I choose you and I choose today!"

Chapter 152 – Cultivating the Lotus Seed

Whether it was competing against Jing Guanjing or challenging a Purple Card, it wasn't any different to Qin Yu...after all, he believed he would win in the end. To become a Purple Card was an extraordinary event. Qin Yu had underestimated it before. The status and attention a Purple Card brought with it was enough to make him the focus of all attention.

Since he was going to win no matter what, he might as well act a bit lofty and arrogant and look down on everyone else in a disdainful manner. This was so that others wouldn't be suspicious of him once he became a Purple Card.

In simpler terms, he wanted to use this high-profile approach in order to add another layer of camouflage to his disguise. This was because a person who was using questionable methods definitely wouldn't do this.

Of course, him not liking Wu Zetian was also another one of the reasons.

The power of inspection, huh? My apologies...but I won't give you that chance!

If Prosperity Square had fallen silent when Qin Yu had taunted Wu Zetian, then right now one couldn't even hear any quiet gasps throughout the audience.

The seafolk seemed to have been shocked so deeply that they forgot to breathe. It lasted until someone wasn't able to hold it in, and once he took a deep breath, this created a chain reaction that tumbled down into a roaring avalanche.

Almost one million people sucked in a deep breath at once. With a loud rumble, it brought with it a dreadful momentum!

Chief Manager Wu choked on himself, gurgling sounds coming from deep in his throat. If someone like him who could hide his emotions so well was actually startled to such a degree, it could be imagined how shocked and panicked everyone else was.

For instance, Chairman Xu.

Chairman Xu was a high ranking man who stood amongst the peak of the capital city. He had close connections to the royal palace and in his life he had experienced countless twists and turns. He had even been alive and bore witness to the struggle of royal authority when the throne had been changed. Perhaps it was a bit exaggerated to say that the collapse of a mountain couldn't produce any reaction from him, but his calm serenity wasn't something that an average person could match.

At this time, he was left slack-jawed, his mouth hanging slightly open. Although he instinctively knew that this appearance was very ugly, he still couldn't form a thought of closing his mouth.

Old thing...

In the entire recorded history of the sea races, there might have never been a scene where a Purple Card was pointed at and challenged in such a matter. Of course, regardless of what today's outcome was, this would surely be an event recorded for posterity.

To be recorded in the annals of history in such a manner, it could be imagined just what Grandmaster Wu Zetian was feeling at this moment. If anger could really burn, then Old Wu would definitely be a sun, and amongst the hottest and brightest kind!

His face flushed red, purple, and finally blue, before reverting to normal. His eyes seemed as if they could devour others whole. "Junior, I guarantee that you will regret this!"

Qin Yu faintly said, "You pair of master and disciple are quite similar in attitude. You keep flapping your lips and spouting nonsense; how annoying."

Wu Zetian grinned in rage. "Good, very good! Chairman Xu, since this junior challenged me, then according to the rules I will come up with the topic."

Chairman Xu didn't know how to respond. "As it should be."

Wu Zetian flipped his hand and two lotus seeds appeared atop his palm. "These two lotus seeds are something I obtained long ago from a withered Blue Sea Lotus. The lotus itself had died before these two seeds could reach maturity, and they suffered tremendous inherent damage, leaving them extremely difficult to germinate. Then, the topic will be to cultivate these two lotus seeds."

Chairman Xu and the committee members personally inspected both lotus seeds. After determining that they were nearly identical, they also left behind a mark.

"There is no problem. Mister Ning, do you have any objections towards this topic?" In truth, these words were unnecessary. This was because it was a long established rule that the Purple Card sea spirit teacher would be the one to designate how the challenge was carried out. If there were any objections then that would be no different from forfeiting.

Grandmaster Wu Zetian didn't have an expression. "Junior, if you have any worries then I will allow you to choose from the two lotus seeds first." Old Wu was incredibly angry. Though he wished he could tear Qin Yu to shreds, he still maintained his reasoning.

Jing Guanjin possessed the Skyspirit power and yet he had been forced into such a miserable state. It was clear that this Ning fellow had some skills in treating and strengthening sea spirits.

Luckily, the work scope of sea spirit teachers was far more than that. For instance, cultivating something like these lotus seeds. There weren't many sea spirit teachers who specialized in cultivating sea spirits to begin with, because doing some required one to expend a tremendous amount of time and effort. The investment required compared to the harvests simply wasn't worth it at all. Besides a small minority of sea spirit teachers that loved this subject and thus had some skills in it, most ordinary sea spirit teachers only possessed the most basic skills.

And as it happened, because of some reasons long ago, Wu Zetian had been wildly obsessed with cultivating sea spirits for a period of time. Even afterwards he still couldn't let go of it.

When he became a Purple Card sea spirit teacher and gained wealth and status, those things were no longer shackles that held him down. He began to secretly study cultivating sea spirits and tried to further his research into enhancing them.

Because of this, Grandmaster Wu Zetian was fully confident in himself.

This junior wanted to challenge him?

This junior only had himself to blame!

Beneath his black robes, Qin Yu lightly said, "No need."

Chief Manager Wu wanted to speak but hesitated. With things having come this far, there was nowhere where he could intercede.

A bit of gratitude shined in Clearwood's eyes. Her lips moved as she quietly said, "You can do it!"

But even though she was the one who said these words, she still found them lacking in energy.

Since Wu Zetian had chosen the topic of cultivating sea spirits, he was definitely skilled in this specialized field. As for Qin Yu, he had never revealed any abilities in this aspect.

Leon flushed red. "Teacher, you will definitely win!"

Wu Zetian coldly sneered. He flicked his sleeves and walked away.

He didn't have any interest in speaking further. These people were nothing but frogs in a well, incapable of understanding how high up the heavens were. He would let the facts speak for themselves!

Qin Yu smiled and patted Leon's shoulder. "Wait for teacher to win. Then you'll need to try just a bit harder and you'll succeed in chasing after Miss Qingqing's hand."

He blinked an eye as he spoke.

Leon blushed red. He mumbled to himself, unsure of what he should say.

As everyone from Sea Spirit Pavilion saw he was still able to joke around with his student at such a time, they stared at each other, unsure if they should laugh or cry. Even so, they couldn't help but feel a secret admiration towards him.

Mister Ning was truly worthy of being Mister Ning! This courage wasn't something that the average man could compare with!

Unfortunately, something like courage didn't give someone strength...

From inside and outside Prosperity Square, countless seafolk shouted in excitement. The match between Qin Yu and Jing Guanjin had been rather boring. In particular, that cold and overly arrogant Young Master Jin hadn't shown off any skills at all. Instead, he nearly fell to his own death. It was just disgraceful.

Luckily for them, Grandmaster Wu Zetian was about to make a move. He was a Purple Card sea spirit teacher, the living incarnation of the sea spirits in the world!

And really, Grandmaster Wu Zetian didn't disappoint them.

"Chairman Xu, as a Purple Card sea spirit teacher, not only should I further the faith of the sea spirits in the world, but I should also shoulder a corresponding responsibility. Thus, for this challenge, I will work in public view of all. I hope that in doing so I will be able to help some sea spirit teachers and give them some harvests."

The cheers shook the earth!

In the crowd, countless sea spirit teachers watching began to shake with excitement. Several of them started to cry copious tears.

To observe a Purple Card sea spirit teacher in action, just what sort of lucky chance was that!

Chairman Xu followed the flow. He first expressed his thanks on behalf of all the sea spirit teachers watching and then spoke several words of profound meaning, expressing how Wu Zetian was a role model for the younger generation. He glanced over at an attendant, who immediately left. He wanted the two lazy young bastards of his family who were living far too comfortable a life to hurry up over here!

A Purple Card sea spirit teacher personally showing off his skills was an opportunity hard to find even in a hundred years. Even if one couldn't learn anything, they could still brag to their friends in future conversation about how they had been able to observe Grandmaster Wu Zetian working!

A teacher of one day was still a teacher. Even if Grandmaster Wu Zetian didn't know who they were, it was fine as they themselves knew!

Grandmaster Wu Zetian restored his calm. He lifted his hand, looking entirely like a great expert, and the crowd fell silent. A cold light flashed in his eyes. "Junior, do you dare follow me and work in public view of all?"

Qin Yu shook his head.

Wu Zetian taunted, "Do you not dare?"

Qin Yu said, "Indeed I do not dare. This involves secret inheritances of my teacher's legacy. Although I am unworthy, I still cannot reveal them without being given permission first."

Wu Zetian had been poked apart once more. He coughed, hiding his disappointment. He was originally thinking that this young man would be overly proud and confident in himself and accept, but who knew that his goading would fail. In any case, his original intention had been to improve his image. As long as he could utterly demolish this junior, then all the humiliation he received would vanish into thin air.

And, his reputation might rise even more.

Wu Zetian flicked his sleeves. "Then let's begin."

Qin Yu said, "Wait."

Wu Zetian sneered. "Are you afraid?"

Qin Yu responded. "You decided what the topic is, and I will decide when the match begins."

Grandmaster Wu Zetian snorted.

Chairman Xu coughed. He said, "Mister Ning does possess this right. When would you like the competition to begin? And how long would you like it to last?"

Qin Yu said, "Since someone wants to work in the open, I should at least give him a chance to perform. The match duration will be three days. We can begin as soon as I take a brief rest."

Chairman Xu revealed some hesitation.

"Don't worry, I only need to rest for a day at most."

Chairman Xu nodded. "Good, then we will prepare the location first."

Grandmaster Wu Zetian chose to work on the altar. The highest quality worktable was quickly assembled and even the supporting tools were the latest and best models. Then, the cultivators that arranged the match began to lay down an isolating array formation to prevent any outside disturbance.

Of course, the isolating array formation only went in one direction. Grandmaster Wu Zetian's voice could pass outwards and those outside could clearly see him working in sharp detail.

Outside Prosperity Square, at the fervid request of the seafolk, the broadcasting array formation was aimed towards Grandmaster Wu Zetian. With permission from the royal palace, the transmission signal was expanded and sent all around the capital city.

Qin Yu chose to work below the altar. This was because he always felt a bit of discomfort working on the altar. There was no basis for this and there didn't seem to be anything wrong. Perhaps it was only a psychological trick.

The coral house was moved. The staffers bustled about, cleaning and rearranging.

Qin Yu turned and stepped onto a carriage. After a moment of hesitation, Chief Manager Wu chose not to follow. With things having come this far, then he might as well give Mister Ning more time to rest.

Who knew? Perhaps he might also win this challenge.

Thinking of this, Chief Manager Wu wryly smiled.

This was a truly infinitesimal hope!

Clearwood suddenly stepped forwards. She respectfully bowed, "Greetings, teacher."

Old Sea nodded. "You may rise."

Chief Manager Wu watched this happen and his heart shook as he finally understood Clearwood's background. No wonder she had vanished for several days; she had been taking care of Old Sea. He hurried over and bowed in greeting.

Old Sea waved his hand, dismissing those following him. "Where is little friend Ning?"

Clearwood said, "Mister Ning is currently resting in his carriage. Teacher, what do you think of this challenge?"

Old Sea coldly sneered. "Old Wu knows how to bear a grudge and is narrow-minded. It's good that little friend Ning chose him, otherwise even if he won, he would still be suppressed with the power of inspection. As for what the result will be..." He paused for a moment. "I certainly hope that little friend Ning will win, but when it comes to cultivating sea spirits, I have to admit that he might lack in skill in that aspect. Humph! That Old Wu is actually quite clever. I thought he would lose his mind in a fit of anger."

Chief Manager Wu forced a smile. "Old Sea, do you also not favor him?"

Old Sea didn't directly reply. "Concerning my matters, what is Sega City going to compensate him?"

The 'him' was naturally referring to Qin Yu.

Chapter 153 – The Confident Grandmaster Wu

Chief Manager Wu explained the situation with the 30 million spirit stones.

Old Sea waved his hand. "That is far too petty. Tell Madame that little friend Ning is worthy of her investment. There will surely be a great repayment in the future." He paused for a moment then continued, "I heard that little friend Ning has been purchasing a massive number of soul strengthening items. Inform Madame that she can begin from there."

Chief Manager Wu respectfully bowed.

Clearwood signed inwardly. Since her teacher said this, this must mean that he didn't have much faith in the outcome of this challenge.

She had followed her teacher for many years, and she could approximate just what he was thinking.

A sea spirit teacher needed to slowly accumulate experience, and with this they would improve, growing stronger over time. While Mister Ning originated from a prominent background, he was simply far too young. If he possessed such mind-boggling abilities in strengthening sea spirits, then correspondingly his skills in other fields would be lesser.

Not only was his enemy far older but he was also the third ranked Purple Card. Even if Qin Yu originated from the Skyspirit Sage lineage, there didn't seem to be any plan that could ensure his victory.

When Qin Yu felt the dim red light completely scatter from the corals, he pushed open the door. Countless eyes swiveled to him, startling him for a moment.

The competition staff were already waiting to the side. They hurried forwards, and after confirming with Qin Yu, then hurried away.

The bell rang out, echoing through the square.

Let the challenge begin!

Grandmaster Wu Zetian's eyes flashed, a brilliant light exploding from his pupils. His robes fluttered about him, the Purple Card hanging from his waist on clear display. Whether it was appearance or momentum, everything was perfect.

Cheers surged like a tide!

He stood high above, his gaze regal and dignified. "Junior, I will teach you just what a Purple Card is!"

Qin Yu looked up, meeting his eyes. With a bored expression he said, "How mouthy."

How could such overwhelming words be met with such a ridiculous response? Countless seafolk thought that this was the greatest shame a Purple Card could receive. Grandmaster Wu Zetian should be frothing with anger...but why, why did he seem inexplicably happy?

Old Sea said with a helpless look. "Doing this will stir up public anger."

Qin Yu smiled. "I don't care."

Old Sea shook his head. "Brat, has anyone ever told you that your current actions make anyone want to punch you?"

"It's more than punching. I think Grandmaster Wu wishes he could eat me right now."

Old Sea laughed. "At least you are self-aware. Little friend Ning, this time you have offended him to death." He stopped laughing, "But, I like it." He took a step back and cupped his hands together. "I, Sea Lingdao, will always remember little friend Ning's graciousness today. If you have any problems in the future, then they are my problems too. I want to see just who dares to touch you."

These words weren't concealed at all. To speak them out loud in such a situation was the equivalent of giving Qin Yu the deepest vow.

In the future, anyone who wanted to harm him would be the enemy of Sea Lingdao!

Qin Yu smiled, "Thank you, Old Sea."

Qin Yu cupped his hands together and turned to leave.

Old Sea looked at Qin Yu's back and sighed. "It seems that you never planned on staying!"

Chief Manager Wu's complexion shifted. "Old Wu, you mean..."

"Little friend Ning is a smart fellow, so how could he not see what he is doing? Although his words and actions are aimed towards Wu Zetian today, in reality he is questioning the status of all Purple Cards. The ten Purple Cards themselves don't mean anything, but what stands behind them and represents them are nearly all the powerful influences in the sea region. Their status has been established over countless years, so how could they possibly be shaken by someone?"

Chief Manager Wu bitterly smiled. He finally understood that Mister Ning must have had the thought of leaving, so that was why he was able to act how he wanted today, based entirely on his heart and conscience.

His face was dark and dreary. Although it was unknown what he was thinking, a bit of hesitation lit his eyes.

Old Sea said, "You may inform Madame about this. She will make the right choice."

Chief Manager Wu lowered his head in shame. He nodded, no longer speaking.

In the coral house, Qin Yu sat down cross-legged. With a flick of his sleeve he received the Blue Sea Lotus seed into his storage ring. Within, the thumb-sized lamp started to bloom with light.

This light wasn't instant. Rather, it flowed like water, slowly spreading out. It circled around and around before finally covering a foot distance.

The Blue Sea Lotus seed gently trembled, seeming as if it were leaping with joy. It absorbed all the deep blue light it could, or perhaps it could be said the power hidden within the light.

One breath of time, two breaths, three breaths...time slowly passed. After an unknown period, markings began to appear on the surface of the lotus seed, twisting and winding like waves of water.

After determining that there wasn't a problem, Qin Yu withdrew his divine sense. He took out a soul-strengthening treasure and started to refine it. The 3000 year old bellvine flower that Old Sea had given him was far more effective than he thought. If it weren't for it being the wrong time right now, Qin Yu believed he could attempt to refine the fourth of the five-element spiritual objects. He thought of the sea spirit baptism and smiled. Perhaps it wouldn't be much longer before all five-element spiritual objects were gathered in his dantian sea!

On the altar –

Grandmaster Wu finally made his move. He revealed all the strength of a Purple Card, leaving nothing hidden. Every action and every movement was like a textbook. No, it could even be said to be more elegant and classic than a textbook. His actions were like passing clouds and flowing water, every single thing he did linking together just right.

The Blue Sea Lotus seed floated in the air, shrouded with circles of light. Grandmaster Wu brandished his hands, gently swinging them about.

Countless sea spirit teachers watched, intoxicated by the sight. They sighed inwardly over the great strength of a Purple Card, and while their minds were completely immersed, they lost track of time. As for the ordinary seafolk, while they couldn't understand Grandmaster Wu's actions, they still found his actions pleasing to the eyes.

As time passed, changes began to appear on the lotus seed. It seemed to grow, and the withered lotus seed started to fill out. Then, on its surface, beautiful markings appeared. With more and more appearing, they connected together into a single stretch. The sound of rustling waves appeared in the void.

This left countless seafolk crying out in astonishment.

Finally, Grandmaster Wu stopped and closed his eyes in meditation.

The quiet sea spirit teachers seemed to regain their senses, one at a time. Many of them were excited; it was clear they had obtained harvests. While they wanted to immediately leave and confirm their thoughts, they actually weren't willing to as none of them wanted to miss out on what happened next. A struggling expression appeared on their faces.

“Mister sea spirit teacher, why would Grandmaster Wu’s lotus seed emit the sounds of waves?” A young miss from the capital city asked. She had a maid beside her, and looking at her clothing and jewelry, it was clear she came from a good background.

And of course, this young miss had a fresh and beautiful appearance, thus while the sea spirit teacher who had been disturbed did frown, he suppressed his anger and explained, “The Blue Sea Lotus isn’t a particularly high ranking sea spirit, but when the lotus opens, the phantom of a blue sea will appear. Because of this reason, it is well known within the sea region and is considered a special type of precious sea spirit. This lotus seed was damaged during formation so it should be extremely difficult for it to take root and germinate. With Grandmaster Wu’s exquisite skills, he was able to make up for the defect and sharply increase the strength contained within. The reason for the sound of waves to appear is because the strength from within the lotus seed is emanating outwards.”

The sea spirit teacher’s face was full of adoration and worship, “To make up for a birth defect like this isn’t easy to begin with, but Grandmaster Wu was actually able to increase the strength it contains, even causing that strength to voluntarily dissipate. Such skills are extraordinary and simply unbelievable.”

The surrounding people listened in a trace. Although they weren’t clear on what was occurring, everyone tacitly understood that they had to have appearances that made it seem that they understood so that others wouldn’t think they were useless. So, as the seafolk looked at the altar, their eyes were filled with an even deeper awe.

At the Sea Spirit Pavilion area, Old Sea watched with a dignified expression. He watched for a long time before finally sighed. Originally, he had a trace of hope in Qin Yu, but now he had thoroughly given up. Although he disdained Wu Zetian’s character, he couldn’t help but acknowledge that he was truly powerful. In the aspect of cultivating sea spirits, he had actually been hiding such shocking strength.

At the same time, he felt pity towards Qin Yu as well as a bit of guilt. If it weren’t because of him then Qin Yu wouldn’t have come up with nothing in the end. According to what Chief Manager Wu had told him, it seemed that Qin Yu hadn’t had any interest in the sea spirit teacher competition to begin with. The only reason he chose to participate was because of the sea spirit baptism.

Sea Spirit Pavilion’s compensation was managed by Sea Spirit Pavilion; it wasn’t up to him to decide. Old Sea took a deep breath and then turned towards Clearwood. He whispered some words to her.

Clearwood nodded without hesitation.

“Aiya, I have wronged you. This thing is something I was planning on leaving to you.” Old Sea said with a guilty look.

Clearwood shook her head. “Teacher speaks too seriously. This disciple has never paid attention to something like that.”

Old Sea felt a bit more comforted in his heart. He thought that he would definitely need to find some good things in the future to compensate this smart and well-behaved disciple of his.

After resting for some time, Grandmaster Wu opened his eyes. His expression was serene. He completely disregarded all the eyes on him and continued to cultivate the lotus seed.

More smooth and simple movements, more entranced eyes.

One day passed.

The second day passed.

In the blink of an eye, it was the third day.

On the altar, Grandmaster Wu flicked his sleeves. The lotus seed in front of him trembled. The light that shrouded it all around suddenly reversed and flowed into it like a hundred rivers.

Hum –

Hum –

The lotus seed cried out, the sound of vast waves filling the air!

Grandmaster Wu lifted a hand and all sounds dispersed. The lotus seed slowly fell into a jade box. Though he looked a bit weary, a happy smile lifted the corners of his lips.

Perhaps it was because of his shock and anger, or perhaps it was because of his tumultuous mood, but his performance this time was a completely unprecedented display of his skills. The lotus seed in front of him didn't have any signs of its previously withered appearance. It was bright and full of light, as if carved from jade. Markings wove around it like fog above the sea, and it sparkled with dazzling translucence.

Grandmaster Wu sighed. As he looked up, his eyes seemed as bright as stars. He looked all around, utterly fearless and fully confident in himself. While the results for this challenge hadn't been revealed, he knew that he had won.

At the edge of his eyes, he found the figures of the other Purple Cards. They had laughed when he had been called an old thing, but now they all had solemn expressions and each one cupped their hands towards him in the distance.

Jing Guanjin might have lost, but he, Wu Zetian, would not!

The prestige of the Purple Cards existed atop the highest heavens. No one could question them.

Mister Ning?

What is that? Is that something he could eat?

...Indeed, to become master and disciple, their character and personality traits were extremely similar.

Even their thoughts were the same.

If Grandmaster Wu Zetian had known that his overly prideful disciple had the same thought as he did before being reduced to such a miserable state, then it was unknown whether or not he could have maintained his confidence.

Of course, there were no ifs in the world, so what was destined to happen would still follow quietly along a fixed path before erupting.

The committee quickly responded. Chairman Xu and the others were personally accompanied by a priest as they walked up the altar. They greeted Grandmaster Wu and then began their inspection. They took out their marking and contrasted it. After finding there was no problem, they all lit up with praise.

In order to have become committee members, forgetting all else, they still had good eyesight. This Blue Sea Lotus seed was now in a simply impeccable state. It was the top quality of all top quality.

“Congratulations Grandmaster Wu!”

“With Grandmaster Wu taking action, it is truly phenomenal!”

Congratulations filled the air and smiles bloomed like flowers on their faces. Although no one said anything specific, their meaning was clear.

They were optimistic of Grandmaster Wu’s chances! Very, very, very optimistic!

None of them were blind and none of them were fools. Almost all the sea spirit teachers watching were shouting out praise in their hearts.

Grandmaster Wu Zetian, third ranked amongst the Purple Cards. He was truly deserving of this title!

Chapter 154 – Would You Like To Make a Bet?

Old Sea fell silent, not saying a word. Chief Manager Wu had an ugly complexion and Clearwood watched with a bit of helplessness. They also thought that this would be the final result. When Wu Zetian had finished his task, this challenge was doomed.

Right now, there was still some time before the competition ended. But was there any need to wait? More than one person had this thought. Slowly, eyes began to gather towards the committee members.

Chairman Xu coughed, maintaining his calm. “The three day limit still hasn’t arrived. Mister Ning may still continue. I believe that Grandmaster Wu wouldn’t mind this.”

Old Sea had stated that whoever dared target Mister Ning would be the same as kicking him. The ever-intelligent Chairman Xu didn’t want to stir up any trouble for himself. In any case, what he said now was completely correct.

Grandmaster Wu Zetian had an indifferent look. With a look of grace and benevolent mercy, he faintly uttered, “It’s fine. Give the junior some time.”

But before he could finish speaking, he was interrupted by a yawn. The door to the coral house was pushed open and a black-robed figure stepped out. “As I thought, the older you are the slower you are. I slept for a long time but now I’m finally out.”

At this time, many seafolk were left speechless. How could you always talk about sleeping like this? Moreover, to say that at such a time, do you think we will believe you? What hollow boasting! Many eyes turned cold and started to look at Qin Yu with contempt and gloating. As they saw Qin Yu’s arrogant demeanor, they couldn’t wait for him to cry.

In front of Grandmaster Wu, could you still take out your Blue Sea Lotus seed?

Hehe, they were really looking forward to it!

Boos reverberated like an endless tide.

A thought suddenly formed in Qin Yu's mind. His lips crooked and he lightly said, "It looks like many people aren't satisfied with me. Then, how about we make a bet?"

Chief Manager Wu covered his face. This stream of conscious thinking had made a return!

Just what time was it that he actually had the mind to say such things?

Beside him, Clearwood also had a shocked expression.

Old Sea asked a question. After obtaining a response, he shook his head and bitterly smiled. His thoughts couldn't help but begin racing.

This little friend Ning seemed to be quite confident in his words.

Chairman Xu lightly coughed. "Mister Ning, this doesn't seem to align with the rules."

Grandmaster Wu waved his hand. "It's no problem. I also want to know, just what sort of bet would Mister Ning like to make?"

"It's very simple. I think I will win, and those who don't believe me can bet on Old Wu. If I win, then all bets are mine. If I lose, then I will compensate accordingly." Qin Yu smiled. "Old Wu, would you like to make a bet too?"

Grandmaster Wu smiled, not seeming angry at all. In fact, his eyes were quite gentle. "Very well. Since a junior like you dares to open a bet, it would be unfair to you if I didn't join in."

He turned around and beckoned. Several people immediately flew forwards from the square and arrived at the altar.

"Calculate how much in assets I have and just how much money I have on hand." Grandmaster Wu Zetian was a Purple Card so it was natural for him to be incredibly rich. It came as no surprise that he had people who specially managed his finances.

Soon, the chief accountant replied, "Grandmaster, you have 75 million spirit stones you can use. If it isn't enough, we can find more capital."

Grandmaster Wu Zetian turned and faintly smiled. "Junior, did you hear that? Can you accept that amount?"

Whoosh –

From inside and outside Prosperity Square, there was an uproar!

75 million spirit stones would be a horrifying amount of wealth to anyone. Perhaps only the royal palace and peak sects and families would be able to produce such an amount.

The sea races were wealthy and loved gambling. It was one of the most popular pastimes in the capital city, and there were always many high rolling players.

But 75 million spirit stones...that was completely unprecedented!

Qin Yu smiled. "I'll accept, of course I'll accept. If Old Wu wants to give me money, how can I refuse?" His eyes turned around. "Then, is there anyone else that would like to join? Everyone else can also join in; I will accept all bets."

"Will you really accept all? Can we also join in?" An old man in the audience suddenly spoke up. He was surrounded by a bevy of beautiful women and had a large gem-adorned ring on his finger.

Qin Yu raised a finger. "Of course. I will accept every bet!"

"Then put down a million for me!" The old man was also quite interested. He pulled out a spirit stone card.

"I will also join in!"

"Record down 100 thousand for me!"

"50,000!"

"I'll also bet 30,000!"

The capital city never lacked the rich. Although there wasn't anyone who placed such a colossal bet, the amount of arms that thrust out and waved spirit stone cards was like a dense and dreadful jungle.

This was an almost guaranteed chance to win money! Of course no one wanted to miss out on it!

Grandmaster Wu grew increasingly happy with every additional bet. He seemed to already be imagining the horrifying lifetime of debt that Qin Yu would suffer with for the rest of his life. However, this still wasn't enough. His eyes brightened and his smile widened. "Junior, today's amount will be astronomical. How can you guarantee that you will be able to compensate everyone?"

Qin Yu nodded. "Old Wu is right. Since I opened the bet, I should at least give a guarantee."

But before he could continue speaking, Old Sea's voice sounded out. "I will act as a guarantor for little friend Ning."

Chief Manager Wu clenched his teeth. "My Sea Spirit Pavilion branch division will also act as guarantor for Grandmaster Ning!"

A fierce light flashed from deep within Grandmaster Wu Zetian's eyes. "Sea Lingdao along with Sea Spirit Pavilion is just enough. I also have a large dwelling within the capital city, with a market worth of 30 million spirit stones. I will lower it to 25 million for a total of 100 million. If I win, I want Sea Lingdao's eastern courtyard."

Old Sea lightly said, "Alright, I agree."

Grandmaster Wu Zetian was finally satisfied. "Everyone, you can place your trust in me. You can begin placing bets again. The seventh ranked Purple Card Sea Lingdao as well as Sea Spirit Pavilion are acting as guarantors for compensation!"

"I want to bet!"

"Hurry up and help me record 10,000 spirit stones!"

“I will also bet 10,000!”

Chief Manager Wu sucked in a deep breath. He ordered people to start collecting spirit stones. The capital city loved to gamble, thus tools to facilitate gambling were in ample supply. After paying spirit stones, specialized betting tickets would be drawn up. These betting tickets were specially refined and were quite expensive themselves. This was to ensure that no one could copy them.

The various sea spirit teachers that had temporarily been assigned to work as bookkeepers didn't have low standards to begin with, but as the more time passed, their faces slowly turned paper white. As they watched the bets continue pouring in, their bodies started to drip with a cold sweat. Soon, several horrifying bets were placed. The sea spirit teachers panicked and didn't dare to accept them before gaining authorization from Chief Manager Wu.

As Chief Manager Wu saw the betting amounts, his field of vision flashed black for a moment, but he steadied himself and remained calm. He clenched his teeth, saying, “Accept it, accept everything that comes!” Since he had stood out, it was impossible for him to hide. He began to cry bitterly in his heart. Old Sea, Old Sea, your gamble is too great this time, please save me!

An hour later, all of the bets had been received. As Chief Manager Wu saw the total amount, he felt the breath catch in his chest. When the sea spirit teacher responsible for recording was handed the account book, he glanced at it and immediately fainted. No one looked down on him. Rather, they felt a bit of envy. At the very least if he fainted he wouldn't need to be so scared anymore.

At this time, many sea spirit teachers couldn't help but all develop the same thought: perhaps it was time to consider changing jobs...

Chairman Xu watched all of this without expression. His silence carried with it a bit of helplessness, as if there were nothing he could do about the scene occurring all around him. No one knew that he had secretly told someone to bet half a million spirit stones just now. Of course, he had bet on Grandmaster Wu.

Chairman Xu coughed. “Grandmaster Wu, Mister Ning, if there are no objections, please take out your lotus seeds.”

The entirety of Prosperity Square fell silent!

Everyone stretched out their necks and widened their eyes, keeping their gazes glued on the two.

This was no longer just a challenge against a Purple Card, but was also a heaven-shaking gambling event! It involved a mind-boggling figure, one that involved the vital interests and fortunes of countless seafolk!

Wu Zetian's lotus seed had already been examined. So, only Qin Yu's needed to be inspected. Seeing him nod in agreement, Chairman Wu waved his hand in invitation.

Qin Yu flipped his hand and took out a jade box. Everyone watched, their eyes wide like moons. In the next moment, everyone watching felt their hearts skip a beat. The seafolk who had made bets were all hopping with joy, and those who had hesitated were wracked with pain.

They saw the Blue Sea Lotus seed within the jade box. Although it was full and plump, the markings on it were quite simple and superficial, without any mysterious aura at all. At this time, as the committee

inspected it, there was no phenomenon that occurred. No one could even hear the sounds of splashing water.

It was decided!

Countless sea spirit teachers also made their own judgment. They glanced at the black-robed figure, pity in their eyes. They thought that perhaps this Mister Ning would have to carry this debt on his shoulders even until the day he died.

How pitiful!

There were also sea spirit teachers that glanced at Old Sea and Chief Manager Wu. Old Sea was one of the ten great Purple Cards. With his lofty status, it was impossible for them to judge him. But Chief Manager Wu was another matter. Normally he was cautious and discreet, so how could he suddenly be so impulsive today?

This time, they feared that Sea Spirit Pavilion's capital city branch division might exchange for a new chief manager!

"Old Sea..." After being judged with the 'death penalty', Chief Manager Wu's face was deathly white.

Old Sea didn't have any expression. "Don't worry. I will clear you of responsibility for this matter."

It was just...as he thought of all the wealth he had accumulated over his lifetime and the courtyard he loved the most, the corners of his lips couldn't help but twitch.

Grandmaster Wu Zetian stood tall with his hands folded behind his back. His expression was serene and distant. Even facing such a great victory, he still maintained his composure. Countless seafolk quietly admired him. As they thought, a Grandmaster was a Grandmaster! Incredible!

To judge the quality of a seed, the most direct and powerful evidence was to have the seed germinate and grow, and then compare them.

The committee staff had already prepared nutrient fluid needed to hasten growth. The quality was exactly the same and it was placed on two worktables. What occurred on the projection screens next was sure to excite everyone. It was destined to be reviewed countless times in the future and be praised by innumerable people, so it had to be recorded in clarity.

Chairman Xu saw the lotus seeds and coughed. "Grandmaster Wu, Mister Ning, would you two like to go together, or...?"

On the stands, it was unknown who shouted out first. "Grandmaster Wu!"

Roars instantly followed like a surging tide!

Perhaps it was to thank Grandmaster Wu for helping them win so much money, but everyone cheered with all their heart. Their billowing voices seemed as if they would flip over the entire sea.

Chairman Xu was also in a very good mood. He didn't mind doing everyone a favor. Moreover, this was something that was suggested by the people, and he was only complying with public opinion.

"Grandmaster Wu, what do you think?"

Wu Zetian smiled. "Since everyone is so gracious, then allow this old man to embarrass himself first."

Everyone smiled. While the grandmaster was being kind, they feared that after this 'stone' was tossed out, there would be someone who wouldn't even have the face to take his turn.

The committee staff moved. They carefully took out the lotus seed and placed it in the nutrient fluid.

In the next moment, the nutrients within the jade box began to bubble like boiling water. The power contained within was absorbed by the lotus seed, and light crackling could be heard.

The lotus seed had broken out of its shell!

Tiny roots drilled out at a speed visible to the naked eye. It rapidly grew, extending outwards. At the same time, thin and young buds grew out, swaying about.

One leaf, two leaves, three leaves...

Countless seafolk watched, completely absorbed, watching all of this occur like a miracle...

Chapter 155 – Do I Win?

The entire growth cycle of the Blue Sea Lotus seemed to have been shortened to this, all of it occurring in a dozen some breaths of time.

Grandmaster Wu had a light expression. He reminded, "Do you have more nutrients for the nutrient fluid?"

Everyone was startled. And sure enough, the originally pale blue nutrient fluid was now completely clear like pure water.

Chairman Xu waved his hand. Immediately, someone rushed up and poured in more nutrients.

But this wasn't enough!

Not too long after, the nutrients poured in were completely exhausted. Without needing Chairman Xu to remind them, someone ran up to add more.

Then a third time...

A fourth time...

Until the fifth time!

Everyone looked with shocked eyes at the Blue Sea Lotus atop the work table.

It had grown to the height of a person, and its leaves were vibrant and lush, verdant and gorgeous. The lotus leaves seemed to sway around, cheering, and the loud sound of crashing water resonated in the air. But at this time, the most amazing thing was not this, but the massive bulb between the circle of lotus leaves.

It moved, moved, moved, and finally began to slowly bloom. A deep blue color stretched out, like the sea level beneath an endless horizon. The tender and delicate petals gently shivered. Like this, atop the lotus flower, a soul-stirring scene occurred.

Like space distorting, like light twisting, like fog rolling, the phantom of a boundless blue sea appeared, with endless waves tumbling atop its surface. This sight was so realistic that everyone watching truly believed that this sea existed in the real world, and the Blue Sea Lotus's strength was only revealing a picture of it.

The Blue Sea Lotus – the lotus would open into a blue sea; this was what it was renowned for!

The lotus seed cracked open in a breath of time; lotus leaves appeared in a breath of time; the stem grew in a breath of time; the lotus flower bloomed in a breath of time...this was the first time anyone had seen or heard about such a scene.

There was a long silence. Then, it was broken by earthshaking cheers. Countless seafolk cried out Grandmaster Wu's name. They all wanted to express their highest respect and reverence for this living incarnation of the sea spirits in the world.

At this time, Wu Zetian was like the center of the world, accepting praise and attention from all! With a tranquil demeanor, he faintly smiled and nodded, thanking everyone. Because of this, the cheers grew louder, so loud that they could even be heard deep within the royal palace.

In that inconceivably luxurious hall, atop the dragon throne, the sea race ruler opened his eyes slowly, a thoughtful look deep within them.

"This Wu Zetian fellow, he has some strength. If he hasn't fallen too deeply, he may stand behind."

Though there was no one in the hall, a respectful voice still sounded back. "Yes, Your Majesty."

This performance had caught the attention of the sea race ruler and might have even changed his opinion of him; it could be imagined just what strength Wu Zetian had revealed at this moment. It was formidable to the point that everyone forgot this was a challenge, and made them all think this was his own individual performance.

But in the end, not everyone would forget this.

For instance, Chairman Xu.

After a moment, once Grandmaster Wu had received enough praise and adulation, he turned and said, "Mister Ning, it is your turn."

Grandmaster Wu put on an understanding expression. He raised his hands and pressed them down, causing the cheers to quickly fall silent. All eyes gathered on him.

"Junior, at this point you should know what regret is now."

The black-robed figure was silent. As everyone was thinking Qin Yu was paralyzed with fear, a cold sneer came from below his hood. "You old thing, you really speak too much!"

Whoosh –

Countless seafolk rose up in anger. They couldn't imagine that this person could still be so rampant at such a moment. Boos flooded out like a tide...followed by countless curses.

Beneath his black robe, Qin Yu's gaze was calm. He thought that if these people wanted to curse him, then they should go ahead and curse him. At the very least, it would give them some measure of comfort ahead of time. As he suddenly thought how his quick and smart move would earn him an immense amount of wealth, his mood soared and all of these curses and boos suddenly sounded cute and lovable.

Chairman Xu waved his hand. A staff member coldly snorted and tossed the lotus seed into the nutrient fluid, enraged that this person would dare to offend Grandmaster Wu so deeply. He wanted to see just what sort of expression Qin Yu would have after being defeated! Of course, this staff member had also placed a bet of 50,000 spirit stones; it was all of his savings that he had accumulated in these past years.

If he won, then not only could he solve his housing problem, but he could also buy a high quality carriage. His life would be perfect.

He didn't have the slightest bit of a favorable impression towards Qin Yu.

Unfortunately, the course of the world was not determined by likes and dislikes. So, when the lotus seed fell into nutrient fluid and suddenly erupted with a powerful absorbing strength, causing it all to bubble and seethe, this performance was the true reality.

That's right, don't rub your eyes! You thought this, so no matter how much you rub your eyes, it will still be true!

Thump –

Thump –

As if it had been starved for countless years, the lotus seed swallowed and swallowed, so fast and so much that it seemed as if it could devour mountains and seas and shake the earth.

Pa –

The lotus seed broke apart. It took root and began to germinate.

Everything seemed to replicate what happened a moment ago.

No...

There were sea spirit teachers with sharper senses and a more accurate grasp of time. As they contrasted what was happening to what had happened, their eyes flashed dark.

The growth speed of this lotus seed was actually a point quicker than Grandmaster Wu's lotus seed!

One sea spirit teacher who had bet 10,000 spirit stones suddenly felt as if a knife had pierced through his heart. He hurried to comfort himself.

This was only temporary, this was only temporary. This lotus seed would soon slow down.

Then, his eyes popped open and he stared stubbornly at the nutrient fluid and the Blue Sea Lotus growing within. His face grew increasingly white until there wasn't the slightest trace of red. A giant stone seemed to press down on his chest and breathing became increasingly difficult. Every time he

took a breath, a cold chill spread through his body and into his bones, as if he would become a block of ice.

The Blue Sea Lotus continued to grow, grow, and grow.

The committee staff watched, seemingly frozen in shock. They completely forgot to pour in additional nutrient fluid. The black-robed figure reminded them, but in the end he could only personally pick up the bucket of nutrient fluid to the side and fill it himself.

“In this world, there are some people born with an unreasonable sense of self-confidence. And, I’ve always wanted to ask – why?” In the still quiet, this voice was especially grating to the ears. “You know, originally I didn’t want to suggest a bet. After all, I have no enmity with those here nor do we share any injustice, so how could I just plunder your belongings? But, there are always some people who are just too irritating to the eyes. So, those who bet for me to lose are innocent and were simply dragged into this mess. I really must apologize.”

Wu Zetian’s complexion paled. He gnashed his teeth and roared, “Junior, don’t be so rampant! You haven’t won yet!”

Qin Yu stood tall. He turned around and looked straight ahead. “I will win.”

Then, as if to confirm his words, the bud within the Sea Blue Lotus began to quietly bloom. A similar projection of a blue sea appeared in the void.

It roared, it raged, as if coldly laughing and mocking the cheers that came from the audience not too long ago.

In that moment, within Prosperity Square, countless people held their hands against their hearts. This wasn’t because they were trying to act cute and lovable, but rather because their hearts were really breaking.

Their spirit stones!

Spirit stones...

They seemed to be drifting so far away...

Wu Zetian clenched his fists and his pupils shrank into dots. He tightened his jaws so hard that his teeth grinded together. He never imagined he would be forced back to this stage.

It was just like Jing Guanjin.

Stop!

Stop!

Stop for me!

The heavens seemed to hear Old Wu’s roaring plea. After the lotus flower bloomed, the wildly growing Blue Sea Lotus slowly calmed down. Those people that were drowning seemed to have found a breath of fresh air. Wu Zetian gasped, feeling as if he had obtained a new lease on life.

He had never felt such tension and oppression. Just a little bit more and his Purple Card would have been taken away. The consequences of that were so terrifying that he didn't even want to imagine them.

Luckily, he had been a single point away from winning! With this, the result would be a tie.

Wu Zetian glared at the black-robed figure with venomous eyes. This junior was truly ruthless! Not only did he want to win his Purple Card, he also wanted to plunder his wealth!

That was 100 million spirit stones! Even his wealth would shrink massively!

Inside and outside of Prosperity Square, everyone sucked in a deep breath together, producing a loud rumbling once again.

This is what it feels like to survive a disaster...my purse has been saved...my spirit stones...

Countless seafolk had teary eyes. They all felt as if this world was truly wonderful!

Chief Manager Wu heavily clapped his hands, looking as if he couldn't wait to rush up. He repeated again and again, "Just a little bit more, just a little bit more!" As he thought of the massive amount of wealth that he had slowly gathered up in a storage shell, he felt as if his heart would explode!

Clearwood took a deep breath. "It's good he didn't lose!"

Old Sea laughed. "You're right, at least he didn't lose. Little friend Ning, little friend Ning, I never thought that you had hidden yourself so deeply. It seems I underestimated you!"

Chief Manager Wu scratched his head. "Hah, I'm so unwilling!"

Clearwood lightly said, "Think of what would have happened if you lost."

Chief Manager Wu was finally enlightened.

He had gone into this thinking he would be defeated. Then, if he didn't lose...that meant he won!

Chairman Xu's complexion shook. He looked deeply at Qin Yu. "Mister Ning, as it stands, you and Grandmaster Wu are even. Of course, we will immediately send out people to inspect the two Blue Sea Lotuses and decide which one is better."

In addition to his words, there was a bit more respect contained within them.

No matter where it was, powerhouses could earn respect. And in his opinion, Qin Yu was now strong enough to roam through the highest heavens.

The committee members looked at each other and each one made a decision in their hearts.

If Grandmaster Wu's Blue Sea Lotus was superior, they would judge him as winning. If it was about the same, they would call it a tie. In short, they couldn't judge him as having lost. What nonsense; who here hadn't been secretly thinking of earning a fortune? And although the committee members weren't poor themselves, who wanted to bow and hand over all their hard-earned white and shiny spirit stones?

A light voice came from beneath the black robes. "No need."

Grandmaster Wu's heart shrank. A grave foreboding feeling suddenly rose up in his heart. He saw the black-robed figure raise a finger and point towards the Blue Sea Lotus.

"I believe I have already won."

As his voice fell, the gorgeous lotus flower rapidly withered to reveal a seed pod. The blue sea floated in the void like mist as it slowly poured into the seed pod. Then, with a crack, the seed pod split open and a lotus seed slowly floated up. It sparkled with extraordinary brilliance, as if formed from the most exquisite jade in the world. As it floated in the air, a faint purple light sprinkled down from it.

This was because the lotus seed was purple.

Qin Yu raised a hand and waved at the lotus seed. After a brief hesitation, it flew into his hand.

This sight left countless seafolk utterly dumbfounded. A storm seemed to rise in the depths of their subconscious, rumbling and overwhelming their senses.

In the legends, the sea spirit was invisible and intangible; it was one with the sea. Because of its mercy, the sea races were born. In other words, the strongest ability of the sea spirit was to impart spiritual knowledge and develop spiritual wisdom.

The ten great Purple Cards were known as the incarnations of the sea spirit. But through the countless generations, there had been far more than a hundred of them. Even so, only the smallest number of them had been Spiritual Bestowers.

Each one of these was amongst the strongest powerhouses of the Purple Cards. They were said to be able to communicate with the sea spirit, and their status was a level higher than that of other Purple Cards.

In the records of history, it had been over a thousand years since a Purple Card sea spirit teacher had appeared who possessed the power of Spiritual Bestowment.

And today, in Prosperity Square, countless seafolk witnessed the birth of a Spiritual Bestower.

Qin Yu had no idea what sort of mess he had created. But as he looked at the pale expressions of Chairman Xu and Old Wu, he guessed that it wasn't bad.

Thus, he turned and asked in a soft tone. "Then, do I win?"

Chapter 156 – Sea Spirit Baptism

Chief Manager Wu was a man with a deeply embedded sense of self-respect. He always chased after the image of being a calm person who possessed a thunderous aura. Normally, he treated people with gentle indifference. It was only after Qin Yu appeared that this exterior of his was repeatedly broken, the most visible manifestation being when he smashed committee member Goodra with a chair.

He had thought that was the most out-of-character he had ever been, but now, as he looked at the calm black-robed figure, great waves rose up and down in his heart. And as he recalled the massive amount of wealth involved in this challenge, he wasn't even able to take a breath. His legs softened and he slumped down on his rear, but he wasn't even aware of this occurring. His eyes were wide and he began to gasp in heaving breaths.

This wasn't fear; it was far from it. Rather, as he thought of the storage shell and the contents within, he felt overjoyed as if he were being pressed down on by a mountain of gold. The corners of his lips curled up, slightly open, and a bit of drool leaked out.

To the side, Manager Clearwood was completely unable to respond. The normally calm chief manager had already made a fool of himself. As she looked dazedly at that tall and straight black-robed figure, she didn't know why but her heart began to race, a completely unprecedented occurrence. She flushed red and quickly lowered her head. It was just that in her mind, Qin Yu's figure kept rolling around in her thoughts. It took her a great deal of effort before she was able to forcibly calm herself.

"Hahahaha!" Old Sea bellowed, laughing so hard that he triggered his injuries. He coughed and said, "Little friend Ning, little friend Ning, this game you played is just..." He thought for a time but couldn't find the right words to say. He could only vaguely follow with, "...Incredible!"

The countless seafolk were awakened by this laughter and their eyes subconsciously widened. What the old man said wasn't nonsense; this game involved at least 200 million spirit stones, a truly mind-boggling amount. But soon, they began to react as they remembered they were all involved in contributing to this massive amount. Their expressions suddenly broke down and they cried tearlessly.

There were those who had the courage to bet a tremendous amount, and perhaps it was because they were thinking of the miserable fates they were about to suffer, but their eyes rolled back into their heads and they fainted in the stands, immediately setting off a panic all around them.

There were certainly those that were filled with resentment, but after reflecting upon it, these seafolk would never dare to place any blame on Qin Yu. After all, he was a true Spiritual Bestower and in the future...no, right now, he could become a great figure that roamed amongst the highest heavens.

There was no way they could offend him. In fact, even in the future they couldn't casually mention the bets they made, otherwise other people would laugh at them and say that they were being disrespectful to Mister Ning. Still, this resentment had to be vented somewhere, so the seafolk suddenly remembered Mister Ning's words.

...Originally, I didn't want to suggest a bet. After all, I have no enmity with those here nor do we share any injustice, so how could I just plunder your belongings? But, there are always some people who are just too irritating to the eyes. So, those who bet for me to lose are innocent and were simply dragged into this mess. I really must apologize...

They were innocent, they had been dragged into this mess...

Countless seafolk were filled with indignant grief and anger!

Grandmaster Wu Zetian had a deathly pale face. He suddenly trembled as countless cold and merciless eyes gathered upon him, leaving him dripping with sweat. His mood was horrified and shocked, but most of all, he was in full disbelief, utterly unwilling. How could this junior Ning be a Spiritual Bestower? He wasn't that old! He clearly wasn't that old!

There must be a problem, there had to be a problem!

Grandmaster Wu Zetian screamed like a banshee, trying to grab the final straw of hope. His pale face flushed red. "You cheat! You cheat!" It was like he had gone insane. "That must be it, I will catch you and find out the truth!"

Shua –

A figure suddenly appeared, blocking Wu Zetian. Chairman Xu stood there, his back straight and steady. His complexion was cold and dignified. "Grandmaster Wu, please calm yourself."

But at this time, only Qin Yu existed in Wu Zetian's eyes. That black robe was like the pall of night covering the world, leaving his eyes bloodshot.

"Xu She, step back!" With a shout, he strode forwards.

Pity flashed in Chairman Xu's eyes before they immediately turned heartless. "Grandmaster Wu has lost his mind. Hold him down."

Shua –

Shua –

Over a dozen figures flashed out like bolts of lightning, followed by a thunderous roar. The previously proud and majestic Grandmaster Wu had now become a prisoner, struggling against his bindings and growling. His hair and clothes were loose and disordered, and his entire face was twisted with vicious abandon. Any grace and elegance he showed before had disappeared.

Chairman Xu spared him one last glance and turned around. He cupped his hands across his chest, "Mister Ning, I must apologize. Our mistake must have frightened you."

Without him needing to speak, a committee member forwards, carrying a Purple Card in both hands. He squeezed out an ugly smile through his stiff face, and it seemed as if he wanted to cry. 50,000 spirit stones had been lost and there was also the chance that he had offended Mister Ning this time. If he could cry, his sorrowful tears might turn into a river.

Chairman Xu glared over and hinted for the idiot to back out, lest he stir up unpleasant memories in Mister Ning. The other committee members also stood to the side, all of them respectfully bowing.

"This jade card should have been personally handed to you by Grandmaster Wu in an orderly procession of inheritance. But, Grandmaster Wu is not in a good situation right now so we can only do this in such a hasty and crude manner. It really is shameful.

"If Mister Ning doesn't mind, I can hold a grand meeting later and gather high ranking figures from all the great influences in order to correct Mister Ning's name."

Qin Yu received the jade card. He looked over at Wu Zetian who was glaring at him with incomparable hatred burning in his eyes. He shook his head and softly said, "It's fine, there is no need to cause any more problems. Moreover, take Wu Zetian away – don't make a mess."

Chairman Xu went with the flow. With his cautious thoughts, he certainly wouldn't ignore this point. But, he just couldn't understand Qin Yu's thoughts – did he want to embarrass Wu Zetian in front of everyone?

Looking at the calm figure beneath the black robe, Chairman Xu's heart filled with admiration. From the recording session to when Wu Zetian had spoken such harsh words during the interview, who could imagine today's result?

First was Jing Guanjin, followed by Wu Zetian. This pair of master and disciple could be called a formidable duo, but unfortunately for them, they had provoked someone that they shouldn't have provoked, thus they ended up in such a state.

Without a word, Mister Ning had stepped on this master and disciple. Not only did he leap up into the highest heavens, but he also carried away an incredible amount of wealth.

What was even more amazing was that with his current status and the words he had spoken before, he had almost completely removed himself from any sort of blame or resentment. After all, those that made bets had done so willingly. If they wanted to blame someone, they could only blame themselves and how blind they had been...or, they could blame Wu Zetian and Jing Guanjin.

Mister Ning's methods were truly meticulous and wonderful!

Old Xu sighed. He thought of the 500,000 spirit stones and his heart twitched. But in the end, he simply bitterly smiled. He would simply consider this an expensive lesson. The more important task at hand was to restore Mister Ning's impression of him. He cupped his hands across his chest and said with gusto, "From this day on, Mister Ning is the third ranked amongst the Purple Cards. Allow me to take advantage of this moment and be the first one to congratulate Mister Ning!"

He bowed deeply.

The other committee members cursed Old Xu inwardly for being two-faced. Still, they hurried behind and their flattery came out like a tide. Didn't they see how blindingly bright Chairman Xu's smile was? This was just how things were. Even if they lost so much money that they wanted to fall over themselves, they still had to smile, they still had to put everything into smiling!

Those from Sea Spirit Pavilion finally responded. They all hurried over. Old Sea walked in the front, his prestige and aura completely uplifted by Wu Zetian being carried away, and he didn't even spare him a glance. They had fought for a lifetime and today he had been able to witness that old thing fall into a deep pit; perhaps he might never be able to crawl out for the rest of his life.

It was true that Sea Lingdao was a bit disappointed he couldn't do it himself, but he was even more refreshed and ecstatic. And, he had to show his disdain, otherwise he would be too cheap compared to this young boy Ning.

"Old Sea!"

"Greetings, Old Sea!"

The committee members hurriedly bowed before drawing back.

Qin Yu smiled and cupped a hand across his chest. "Everyone, fortunately I didn't fail!" His gaze fell on Leon. "Brat, your teacher has already won. As for Miss Qingqing, this is the most I can do to help you."

With this joke, the atmosphere was restored to a casual and joyous state. The shocked people from Sea Spirit Pavilion all laughed along. However, as they looked at the blushing Leon, they couldn't help but feel envy in their hearts.

They certainly didn't dare to reveal their jealousy!

What utter nonsense. As Mister Ning's only and most valued disciple, Leon was destined to have a brilliant future. Everyone was tripping over themselves to be closer to him, so who would be dumb enough to provoke him?

After exchanging several words, Qin Yu turned around. "Chairman Xu, when can the sea spirit baptism begin?"

...

Deep within the royal palace, in that opulent hall, the Sea Sovereign had an expression of surprise. "Spiritual Bestower, this is quite unexpected."

He thought about it and the trace of a smile appeared at the corner of his mouth. He calmly said, "It looks like someone is destined to sleep poorly tonight."

In the wide hall, a respectful voice sounded back. "Your Majesty, it is only that if things go this way, the plan will be disrupted."

The Sea Sovereign lightly said, "It's fine. Since they have the intent, even if they are suppressed for a moment, they will eventually come back out. But this Mister Ning..."

"Does Your Majesty wish to give him a try?"

The Sea Sovereign shook his head. "That junior cannot help this Solitude. Observe him first."

"Yes."

With a single word, countless pairs of hidden eyes fell on Qin Yu's body, recording his every move and action.

...

Chairman Xu was full of smiles. "Mister Ning is already one of the ten great Purple Cards. You only need to pour your energy into the identity card and you will be able to use the Purple Card to quicken the sympathy of the sea spirit and open the baptism." He quietly reminded, "During the sea spirit baptism, your own condition is important and will greatly affect how you attract the strength of the sea spirit. So if mister isn't in a particular hurry, you may open it up after resting."

The other committee members nodded together. Even the miserable committee member Goodra leapt out of his bed after hearing of the great reversal in the challenge and how Wu Zetian had ended in a pitiful state. He hurried to join everyone else in laughing and celebrating. The doctors that had been treating him sighed; the turtle race possessed a truly tenacious vitality.

Right now, he stood in the crowd and smiled brightly. Whether it was good or bad, how could he miss this chance to become closer with Mister Ning?

Committee member Goodra observed everyone's mood. As he saw that dog Xu and Mister Ning's silence, his heart quickened. He grasped the chance to say, "In truth, you don't need to do that."

Seeing Mister Ning turn to him, committee member Goodra's smile widened. He said, "My family has some records that disprove the myth that resting will benefit one in absorbing the strength of the spirits. Rather, if the body has some loss, only then will there be an advantage in absorbing more."

Chairman Xu's face stiffened. He dimly said, "Committee member Goodra, the sea spirit baptism is an important event; do not speak recklessly."

Committee member Goodra sneered, "What I speak of is recorded research that my family has gathered over the years. Or, does Chairman Xu think that your family has a longer history than my family, and that your information is more accurate?"

These words left Chairman Xu paper-white.

On the side, the other committee members had strange expressions. Thinking about it, it was indeed hard to find a race in the sea region that lived longer than the turtles. These words were simply sharp and stinging to an amazing level. They didn't expect this old fellow Goodra to be able to play such a hand.

Chapter 157 – Two Hours

Humph humph!

Committee member Goodra sneered inwardly. Dog Xu, did you seriously think I would forget how you pushed me to the front so that I got punched in the head? Mister Ning is right in front of us! Once I hug onto this giant thigh, there will be nothing you can do against me!

Qin Yu said, "If that's so, then let's begin today."

Eliminating Wu Zetian, taking the place of third ranked Purple Card, and simultaneously taking in a great deal of wealth from everyone, these actions had already drawn suspicion. Perhaps this attention might serve as a layer of protection, but if he delayed for too long he feared that other problems would begin to arise.

In simpler terms, Qin Yu had decided to flee. Of course, if he were to flee, he would do so in a casual and magnificent manner. With the status of a third ranked Purple Card, he could casually come up with a reason to leave the capital city.

After that...he would flee as far as he could!

So it was better to begin the sea spirit baptism as early as possible.

The tearful seafolk who lost a tremendous amount of wealth finally obtained some good news. Mister Ning wanted to open up the sea spirit baptism in Prosperity Square today.

The sea spirit baptism was focused on one person, but when the power of sea spirits came falling down from all over, a small amount of it was bound to dissipate outwards, allowing others to absorb it. Over the years, whenever a new Purple Card ascended and the sea spirit baptism arrived, there were always other people who had profited. Of course, the majority of Purple Cards made the choice to open the sea

spirit baptism in private, only allowing a small number of people they were close to or other people with amazing status to participate and obtain the power of the sea spirits.

But as they thought about it, they began to realize just how many people were inside and outside of Prosperity Square, and this left them feeling helpless. Even if the power of sea spirits dissipated outwards, this amount would be divided amongst everyone. Still, it was better than nothing. So after everyone was happily surprised for a moment, they all held onto the thoughts of only watching for fun.

At the very least they would be able to personally witness the sea spirit baptism for themselves. In addition, they had seen the birth of a Spiritual Bestower, so this was enough for them to brag about for the rest of their lives.

It was only that the ticket price was truly, truly high...there were also some seafolk with red eyes. I'm not crying, it's just something got into my eyes. Look, I really am smiling, and I'm smiling so brightly.

Boohoohoo...

My spirit stones!

In the chaos, Qin Yu stepped onto the altar. Everyone quietly quieted down as all eyes filled with envy and awe gathered onto him. His expression was earnest and his footsteps were calm and strong. This left the four priests surprised, a bit of gratitude on their faces. They thought that while Mister Ning was arrogant and reckless in his actions, at least he felt suitable reverence towards the sea spirits.

But in reality, what filled Qin Yu's heart this time was dread and helplessness. He had always felt that there was something strange with this altar and he didn't want to approach it.

It was hard for the priests managing the sea spirit baptism to find someone willing to open it atop Prosperity Square. Only by undergoing the sea spirit baptism atop the altar was sufficient respect towards the sea spirits demonstrated.

Walking up the steps, the pure white altar was so smooth that one could clearly see their figure reflected in the stone. In the quiet, the sound of falling footsteps was particularly clear.

"Mister Ning, please pour your aura into the Purple Card. You can leave everything else to us." A priest lightly said. His expression was careless and light, with several points of regality.

Qin Yu cupped his hands together in thanks.

The priests were a very lofty and haughty group of people. They possessed an extremely high status and in some remote areas and in some of the tribes with long inheritances, they were considered the spiritual leaders of their people. However, due to the rise of royal power, they could only maintain their status in the capital city and other large cities, and could no longer be as imperious as they were before.

Qin Yu's courteous manners left the four priests obviously satisfied. Their smiles turned warmer and they whispered several words of prayer, such as wishing that the sea spirit would grant him shelter and so forth.

Qin Yu lifted his hand and carefully poured his energy into the Purple Card, keeping his expression calm. In truth, he was very anxious at this moment, because the sea spirit was a transcendent existence that the sea races believed in, and he was a true and genuine human. If the sea spirit really did have mystical

powers then perhaps it would choose to strike him down to the ground in his most magnificent moment, leaving him in a pitiful state.

But the fact was that Qin Yu's guess was right. The so-called sea spirit really might exist, but it also might be a gigantic mass of energy that existed without subjective will. It smoothly revolved in an orderly manner, similar to something that existed under a strict set of rules, and wouldn't interfere with how the rules operated.

For instance, Qin Yu being a human and taking advantage of the loopholes in the rules. Or, it also might be that while the sea spirit realized this, it simply disdained to pay attention to him, to something so small and supremely insignificant.

So, the Purple Card began to tremble. It floated up from Qin Yu's hand, flying higher and higher until it hung above the altar.

The four priests had solemn and respectful eyes. They surrounded Qin Yu, moving in a strange series of steps. Sometimes they would shake their shoulders and sometimes they would tilt down and waggle, as if they were all participating in an ancient dance. Syllables echoed from their lips, sometimes short, sometimes deep, but without exception every one seemed ancient and boundless.

These syllables sounded simple, but when combined together with the ancient dance, they seemed to possess a strength that shook the hearts of the people. Countless seafolk watched with devotion, awe gushing out from their basest instincts. Some of those whose wills weren't as firm fell down in prostration before the altar.

Hum –

Hum –

A faint quaking spread out. It started weak and rapidly grew in strength. Tremors began to shake the earth, so much that ripples gradually appeared in the air.

Following this, the 'sky' above the altar seemed to become a circle of seawater that spun in a unique rhythm.

Qin Yu looked up. Within this rhythm, he could see motes of blue light fall down. He didn't know whether others could feel it, but the moment Qin Yu saw these motes of blue light appear, an earnest hope spread out from his body and soul.

This was the feeling of being left hungry for numerous years. If it weren't for his strong will, then he might not have been able to hold himself back and would have rushed into the air to devour them.

At some unknown time, the four priests had already stopped. With weary gazes, they looked at Qin Yu, a bit of appreciation in their eyes.

A priest smiled. "Mister Ning, please do not do anything so you don't affect the process of the sea spirit baptism. You only need to wait quietly for the power that the sea spirit will grant you, and it will automatically fuse into your body. Please receive the gift of the sea spirit, and we wish you good luck."

The four priests lowered their heads and bowed, offering their deepest reverent piety towards the sea spirit in the darkness. Then, they turned and flew away.

Even they didn't possess the qualifications to approach the sea spirit baptism. They were doomed to only help a single person open up an unsurpassed lucky chance, to allow that person to communicate with the sea spirit and obtain its gift.

In the rumors, it was said that the power of the sea spirit contained the will of the sea spirit. And by absorbing enough, one could obtain the protection of this will.

Perhaps this protection might be the sudden strengthening of the body, perhaps it might be an enhanced soul, or perhaps it was some supernatural power that didn't exist in this world.

When the priest had wished Qin Yu good luck, this was what he was referring to. But, he had managed many sea spirit baptisms and said these words just as many times. Yet, there had never been anyone who had truly obtained this lucky chance.

Beneath the altar, on the humble and calm face of the priest, an imperceptible trace of gloominess appeared. Could the master they had dedicated their life to really have fallen?

The first mote of blue light touched upon the black robe. Then, completely disregarding all barriers, it integrated into Qin Yu's body.

Qin Yu subconsciously closed his eyes. A feeling of weariness overcame him. He tried hard to maintain his consciousness but he soon fell into a half-asleep and half-waking state.

This was a wonderful feeling. It was like soaking in warm spring water with the waves gently moving up and down, leaving one completely relaxed.

Like this, Qin Yu fell asleep.

Because of this, in a situation where he was completely unaware, he would stir up waves that swept through the entire capital city, even affecting the entire sea region!

In the eyes of countless seafolk, the sleeping Qin Yu was slowly raised up, his body wrapped in countless motes of blue light. They gleefully poured into his body. The air resounded with vague sounds, similar to the chanting of the priests. But, these vague sounds were even more grand and awe-inspiring, carrying with them an unsurpassed dignity.

The four priests fell to their knees, their hearts and souls overflowing with admiration. Tears dripped down from their eyes.

At this moment, the sea spirit baptism had officially begun.

...

Old Sea's face was full of envy. "The sea spirit baptism, is it? What a pity, but it is impossible for me to obtain the favor of the sea spirit once more."

His careless comment left Chief Manager Wu and the others speechless. For better or worse, at least you experienced it once before, so why brag about it in front of us now!?

Clearwood said in a soft voice, "Teacher, I have never seen the sea spirit baptism. How is it carried out?"

A look of remembrance crossed Old Sea's face. "It was like I lived a dream. I experienced many things in the dream, but after waking up I didn't remember anything at all, only some faint memories. Of course, this is only my experience. It is said that the communication with the sea spirit is different for every person, and they will all have different encounters."

This was the equivalent of saying nothing. Many people felt even more perplexed.

Chief Manager Wu coughed lightly, "Old Sea, you should at least know how to judge how many harvests one obtained in the sea spirit baptism, right?"

Old Sea turned around, looking as if he hadn't thought of this question. He sighed and said, "Little Wu, you have so much experience, so how come you haven't regained your senses after all this time?" He raised a finger, "The harvests of the sea spirit baptism will certainly depend on how much time passes. The more time passes, the more harvests there will be."

Before Chief Manager Wu could be embarrassed, he continued saying, "One hour can be considered the standard. Two hours is considered extraordinary. In the past, I was only a quarter hour from achieving two hours. Amongst the Purple Cards at the time, my result was considered one of the better ones."

Clearwood pursed her lips. "Then teacher...how long do you think Mister Ning...how long can he last...?"

Everyone widened their eyes and pricked up their ears.

Old Sea fell silent for a moment before shaking his head. "I can't say. But little friend Ning often goes beyond our expectations. He should be able to surpass me and achieve at least two hours."

This was Old Sea's judgment, as well as the judgment of all those who had the qualifications of knowing about the sea spirit baptism. Two hours was already quite difficult.

But as time passed, some people couldn't sit still anymore. It was like pimples had grown on their butts as they moved back and forth.

One hour.

One and a half hours.

Almost two hours.

Two hours!

The 'sky' above the altar continued to flow at a steady pace. Countless motes of blue light continued to sprinkle down. It was like rain in autumn, continuing without end.

It continued.

Continued.

And still continued.

Thus, countless eyes looked towards the altar. As they saw the figure partly visible within the layers of blue light, they couldn't help but feel envy.

“He is truly worthy of being a Spiritual Bestower...” Countless sea spirit teachers sighed. But, what they didn’t know was that this was only the beginning of their sighs.

This day was destined to be marked deep in the hearts of countless seafolk. It would be an event they would never forget, even until the day they died.

“Two hours...” Old Sea muttered to himself. He couldn’t help but finally reveal a trace of envy deep within his eyes.

Chapter 158 – The Way of a Freeloader

Clearwood noticed her teacher’s reaction. Her heart stirred. “Teacher, are there extra harvests past two hours?”

Old Sea thought for a moment and smiled, “It’s not much of a secret, so I don’t mind telling you, but don’t go casually spreading it.” He continued, “The truth is that the sea spirit baptism is a gift granted from the sea spirit. This gift is dispersed in the strength of the sea spirit.

“Because it is dispersed, only by absorbing enough of the sea spirit’s strength can you begin to piece together this strength, or at least piece together a part of it. Two hours is a boundary. After surpassing it, there is an incredibly high chance that one can obtain the gift granted by the sea spirit.” While Old Sea’s face seemed calm, he was actually overflowing with envy.

After two hours of absorption, Qin Yu’s body and soul gradually began to weaken. It wasn’t that he couldn’t absorb more, but that a deep feeling of weariness welled up from deep in his instincts. He couldn’t keep catching those blue motes of light.

For a simpler explanation, it was like a person that was very hungry but had chewed for so long that they couldn’t open their mouth. Unless some people opened their lips and directly fed them food, they could only look on at the food, unable to do anything at all.

This was the limit.

Qin Yu’s consciousness had yet to awaken, but the comfortable spring water-like feeling began to shake around him. He wanted to remain, but the shaking feeling grew stronger. Without accident, Qin Yu would soon wake up and his sea spirit baptism would come to an end.

But, before Qin Yu awoke, in a corner of Prosperity Square, several large decorative corals began to turn a deep dim blue.

Within his storage ring, the quiet little blue lamp emitted layers of blue light that spread out for a foot.

Then, everything changed.

In the ‘sky’ above the altar, extremely small changes appeared in its rhythm. Then, the speed at which the blue motes of light fell down began to accelerate.

At this time, if someone could open Qin Yu’s storage ring, they would find that the vast majority of these blue motes of light would merge into it and fall into the foot of blue sea radiance. Thus, this quiet and pure blue, as if it were a foot of the deepest blue sea in the world, began to emit light ripples.

It was like a small pool that was taking in rain.

Since it was taking in rain, the surface of the pond would naturally rise. So, as time passed, the scope that it covered began to quietly expand past that one foot.

The vast majority of the sea spirit's strength was taken by the little blue lamp. However, a small portion was diverted away into Qin Yu's body.

And with this, just as was said before, while Qin Yu was too tired to open his mouth, there was actually food being fed to him.

His soul cheered and his body groaned with ecstasy.

Eat eat eat...

Using the road of a freeloader, he would walk all the way to the end!

The seafolk who didn't know that the main character had changed and gradually began to calm down, their faces becoming increasingly earnest. Even the calmest sea spirit teacher found their fingers trembling.

Three hours.

Four hours.

Old Sea mumbled, "How is this possible..."

This was his thought and also the innermost cry of countless sea spirit teachers.

Four hours. The sea spirit baptism had continued for an entire four hours!

Chairman Xu had a blank look. He wracked his memories and tried to recall the ancient texts. Had such a record ever existed in the history of the sea races? But, the crucial issue at hand was that even now, the sea spirit baptism didn't seem as if it would stop. Who knew how long it would last?

A complex light filled his eyes. Mister Ning, Mister Ning, may I ask just who you are and where you come from? Why does the sea spirit favor you so much? Certainly, this was an elegant use of words. If one had to be a bit cruder, it would be asking how this Ning fellow had accomplished this!

But before Old Xu could think it through, a committee member ran to his side. After a hurried whisper, Chairman Xu's face darkened and turned pale in the next moment. A flustered panic began to rise in his eyes.

He hesitated for a moment. He stamped his feet and ran over.

Old Sea frowned, "What's the problem?"

Chairman Xu anxiously said, "Reporting to Old Sea, we have just obtained news that the energy reserve used to maintain the sea spirit baptism will soon run out."

As a Purple Card who had personally crossed the sea spirit baptism himself, Old Sea knew exactly what this meant. He roared out loud, "What do you mean!?"

Chairman Xu cried without tears. In truth, the committee had made more than enough preparations. It was just that no one ever imagined there would be someone so abnormal that the sea spirit baptism would continue past four hours.

Old Sea took in a deep breath, his thoughts racing. "It absolutely cannot be allowed to stop. Whatever you need, I will instantly prepare it!"

Chairman Wu wiped a cold sweat off his forehead, expressing his thanks again and again. Just what was happening now? If the sea spirit baptism was actually interrupted because of insufficient preparations, then that was the same as severing Mister Ning's heaven-startling good fortune. This would be no different from a life-or-death blood grudge!

The committee staff were sent into a frenzied panic with everyone bustling around. No one noticed the four priests gazing at the altar and the looks of shock and wonder gradually rising in their eyes. They could faintly feel that there were changes occurring. But as they carefully sensed the situation, they couldn't find out the reason why and they were left perplexed.

Looking at the sea spirit strength that was rapidly pouring out and how it had continued for over four hours without end, the four priests had looks of disbelief etched on their features. Still, joyous surprise lit up their eyes. They glanced at each other and simultaneously lowered their heads to hide their expressions. It was just that their hearts and minds were tumbling all around!

The opening of the sea spirit baptism was not simple by any means. The preparation required was complex. Having sufficient spirit stones wasn't enough to replenish the energies needed. There were many treasures involved, and even with Old Sea's status it would be difficult for him to collect it all so soon.

As Chairman Xu was sweating all over, his face gradually turning whiter and whiter as he thought of the inevitable doom about to befall him, the doors to the royal palace opened and a carriage howled out.

His Majesty had taken action.

The royal palace's treasury was said to contain over half the wealth in the sea region. Although this might have been exaggerated, it was true that the amount of treasures contained within was second to none. Taking a mere moment was enough time to collect enough treasures to maintain the sea spirit baptism for another four hours. The spirit stones and other treasures piled up into a hill and were simultaneously poured out.

Letting out a deep breath of relief and making sure that the sea spirit baptism hadn't ended and there wasn't also any problem, Chairman Xu finally let out a sigh of relief. Only then did he discover that the back of his robes were entirely soaked in sweat.

Old Sea was speaking with a white-faced man. The other person had a luxurious image and his smile seemed kind. If this person could chat and laugh with Old Sea, his status was naturally not low.

"Soupman, this act of His Majesty..." Old Sea probed.

Soupman was called Soupman. Although his name was weird, it wasn't up to others to interfere with one's freedom of choice.

There were those of sufficient status who were able to recognize him. Before they even had time to be awed, they bowed, none of them daring to be the least bit disrespectful.

“His Majesty loves the talented. Lingdao, you should be well aware that a Spiritual Bestower, someone who hasn’t appeared in a thousand years, and someone capable of spurring the sea spirit baptism to last for over two hours, well, regardless of what it is, they are more than worthy enough for His Majesty to take action.” His smile was warm. “Don’t worry, there aren’t any problems.”

Old Sea nodded and cupped his hands together in farewell. After taking several steps, a dignified light rose in his eyes.

“Teacher, who is he? Why were you so...?” Clearwood quietly asked.

“Why was I so respectful, right?” Old Sea wryly smiled. “He is an honored and distinguished man, and even His Majesty in the palace treats him politely. Moreover, with his age and rank, it is normal for me to lower my head to him in respect. Take a look, many people are already gathering around him.”

Clearwood glanced over and indeed, that Soupman was surrounded by people. Even the other Purple Card sea spirit teachers had made an appearance.

Looking over them, the one with the lowest status amongst them was still one of the top ranked dignitaries in the capital city. Those previously haughty and prideful nobles were now smiling like a field of blooming flowers.

Clearwood was startled. She thought that this Soupman really was a peak character.

The Qing Family Patriarch and Madame Qing stood in the crowd. Even though they were also in the limelight, they didn’t have any thoughts of going over. They merely stood to the side and smiled.

A light flashed in Soupman’s eyes. He suddenly said, “Are those the descendants of Qing Jugong? I used to be old friends with Jugong. It’s just that I’ve been too lazy these past years so I haven’t been on walks out often.”

Qing Jugong was the most important ancestor in the history of the Qing Family. He had single-handedly led a small family into the circles of the most powerful families of the capital city. Unfortunately, with his passing, no such character appeared in the Qing Family to replace him. After a few troubles, the Qing Family began to wane and wither. Up until now, the Qing Family had barely been able to maintain their strength, and their background was now severely lacking.

The Qing Family Patriarch was pleasantly surprised. He respectfully bowed. “I once heard Father mention that my grandfather was a close companion of Soupman. I never thought that this would actually be true.”

The powerful figures around smiled but were actually cursing in their hearts. This Qing fellow really didn’t care about face at all. Soupman had only said they were old friends, so calling them close companions was simply an attempt to make himself look better.

But no matter how much they cursed in their hearts, they couldn’t reveal this at all. While the Qing Family wasn’t anything at all, they managed to raise a good daughter. Her vision was sharp and correct

and she managed to catch Mister Leon before he had grown. Leon had the status of being Mister Ning's only disciple and was close to him. His future was bound to be limitless.

They never thought that even someone like Soupman would begin to show good intentions towards the Qing Family. If the Qing Family held tightly onto Mister Ning's thigh, then perhaps they might rise again soon.

Madame Qing courteously smiled. Her gaze slowly went over the crowd and towards the altar. As she saw the figure wrapped in motes of blue light, she sighed inwardly.

He had actually succeeded...

In a daze, Leon's figure appeared in her mind. She seemed to be worrying over something, or even unhappy about something.

A trace of bitterness touched Madame Qing's smile, but she was even more calm and relaxed. She believed in her own judgment of others. That child was stubborn and block-headed, but he was true and sincere towards Qingqing. As long as this fact didn't change, she could naturally rectify his impression of her.

She swept her eyes around. Everyone laughed as if they were close and friendly, but the truth was that deep envy filled their hearts. Madame Qing straightened her back. If they thought that her daughter would give any of them even the tiniest chance, they might as well give up now.

After several more words, Soupman waved his hand. "The sea spirit baptism is still continuing. Having too many people together might disturb Mister Ning. Disperse yourselves first."

The powerful elites naturally bowed and drew back.

The Qing Family Patriarch was still flushed red with excitement. As he heard his wife whisper into his ears, a trace of hesitation colored his face.

"Wouldn't doing that be too hurried? I only fear that others will laugh at my Qing Family..."

Madame Qing lightly said. "If they laugh, they will be laughing because of envy. But if we are too slow because of that, I fear others will use certain methods to get ahead of us."

The Qing Family Patriarch's thoughts raced. As he thought about how the capital city's powerful elites operated, he determined that there was nothing they wouldn't do. He gently sighed. "Then let's do that."

Madame Qing patted his hand. "Don't worry, I will handle this matter. That child Leon has a decent character; he won't make anything difficult for us."

On this side, a few words seemed to settle an important matter. Not too far away, Old Sea looked at Soupman who was waiting beneath the altar with great interest. He mumbled to himself, "Hah, little friend Ning, little friend Ning, I really don't know if this is good or bad for you..."

Chapter 159 – The Attention From the Royal Palace

Soupman's arrival caused a momentary stir. But soon everyone's attention turned back to the altar.

Gradually, many seafolk began to whisper to themselves. This Mister Ning, he could really keep going!

How could this be? Can't he be a normal person every now and then? How come he had to surpass everyone's expectations all the time!

Of course, their thoughts were a bit jealous.

And as everyone continued to watch with their heads held high and their necks perked up, their jealousy began to increase. Thinking about it, nearly three hours had passed.

Prosperity Square was utterly silent.

Perhaps the record had long since been broken.

Soupman's smile slowly darkened. True joy lit up the depths of his eyes, but there was even more urgency in them. So, at the sixth hour, when Chairman Xu braced himself to inform him that the energy reserves were nearly depleted once more, Soupman was in an incredibly good mood. He smiled and waved his hand for others to bring more supplies, not even bothering to ask why the speed of consumption was increasing.

As the supervisor of the royal palace's treasure, Soupman loved wealth. But, he had already become accustomed to seeing wealth, so what did it matter if he needed to consume tens or hundreds of millions of resources? After all, it was highly possible this Mister Ning was who he was looking for. Even if he couldn't determine it now, just a slight chance was more than enough.

Chairman Xu let out a long breath before he turned and hurried away. He could faintly guess the reason why Soupman had come here, so he worked even more earnestly than before. But in just half an hour, as he was watching the energy reserves falling even faster, he glanced to the side with stunned dread.

The man sent by Soupman gently frowned before straightening himself. "Soupman has instructed that if reserves are insufficient, supplies can be directly used."

Thus, the third batch of supplementary treasures were poured in.

Chairman Xu wiped the cold sweat off his forehead, his complexion paling. The amount of resources needed to supply the energy reserves for the ceremony three times left him mind in a blurry haze.

The great sea spirit teacher competition was owned by all organizers, thus all organizers had to contribute a corresponding amount of resources. The amount of wealth that the royal palace's treasury poured out would eventually need to be returned one day. Moreover, it could only be more, not less; there was already interest in borrowing. And, since it was His Majesty who had taken drastic measures to save them from disaster, repaying a small amount would be considered a dire insult...and in this aspect, that respected Soupman had an extremely well known reputation in this manner!

Chairman Xu calculated his total wealth and clenched his teeth again. In the end, he wasn't able to hold on, so when it came for the fourth time to supplement for energy for the ceremony, his legs caved in beneath him and the situation turned chaotic once more.

At this time, eight hours had passed.

...

Qin Yu felt as if he had rested for a long time. He was comfortable and satisfied, and his consciousness was faint and hazy. Originally, he didn't want to wake up, but in that instant, the warmth that wrapped around him was stabbed with an icy coldness. A sharp and dense aura locked onto him, passing into the depths of his heart and nearly freezing his soul.

It was like some dark existence had opened its eyes at that moment and had casually glanced at him.

Within the storage ring, the little blue lamp gently trembled. The blue sea trembled around it and an invisible aura spread out, covering Qin Yu.

Following that, the chill in the air suddenly dispersed.

...

Qin Yu's eyes opened, his gaze a bit vacant. Something seemed to struggle in his mind before blossoming.

Hum –

The void shivered. An image of the sea region appeared above his head, rolling out like waves, the islands dotting the sky like stars. It continued to spread until it occupied the entire space above the altar.

It was extremely real, so real that one could even see the capital city in this sea region image.

Countless seafolk cried out in shock as they watched this miracle!

A breeze came rolling along and the image of the sea region disappeared with it. Although it had been like an illusion, it had actually existed.

All eyes gathered towards the altar. As they saw the black-robed figure slowly being lowered down, endless envy and awe filled their hearts.

The gift of the sea spirit!

Mister Ning must have had a heaven-shaking harvest. This was the belief of all the seafolk.

But while Qin Yu was being envied by all, he was actually in a muddled state of mind. He carefully sensed the changes in his body, sensing, and sensing again...

That was right, this was the harvest he had received, the gift of the sea spirit.

A sea map!

It was that endless and boundless sea region map that had covered the void above him just now.

Qin Yu's lips twitched. He felt that this sea spirit was far too stingy and mean-spirited. He could only try to comfort himself with the positive side of things. For better or worse, at least he wouldn't need to worry about being lost in the future.

And maybe he could even sell this sea map later.

The purple jade card fell down from the air and Qin Yu reached up, unconsciously grabbing it. With a loud crack, numerous fissures spread through the jade card that represented the status of a Purple Card sea spirit teacher.

This...

The four priests flew down from the altar and bowed. "Congratulations Mister Ning for obtaining the great gift of the sea spirit." Their manners were still gentle and soft, but deep in their eyes, excitement brewed along with a touch of inexplicable closeness.

Qin Yu cupped his hands in return. As he stepped onto the ground and landed, there was a loud bang. Luckily the altar was made of extraordinary materials so it wasn't damaged at all. He awkwardly smiled, a bit embarrassed.

Of course, this was only what it looked like from the outside. In Qin Yu's heart, he was actually pleasantly surprised. The thoughts of the sea spirit being stingy had been flung far away. Although he hadn't carefully sensed just what it was, it appeared as if this harvest had surpassed his imagination!

A priest smiled reassuringly. "It's no problem. It is just that mister's strength has risen too quickly so you are unable to control it momentarily. Everything will be fine with a little time."

The priest was about to say something else, but many others flew forwards at this moment. He swallowed his words and turned to leave.

Old Sea was the first to come down. He glanced at the jade card in Qin Yu's hand and forced a smile. "Little friend Ning, today you really...leapt into the heavens with a single move!" His eyes were full of envy and admiration.

With a sea spirit baptism that had lasted almost 10 hours in addition to the sea map that had suddenly appeared, one didn't need to be a genius to know that Qin Yu must have obtained horrifying amounts of benefits. Hehe, didn't he see that even the jade card representing his status had been conveniently broken? Old Sea was well aware of just how solid the material was.

Qin Yu was puzzled. "What happened?"

Chief Manager Wu spoke up, stunned. He cautiously said, "Mis...mister...you don't know...?"

Qin Yu nodded.

The smiling seafolk who came forth to express their congratulations and try to be closer to Qin Yu suddenly felt their lips twitch. They thought that even though Qin Yu had caused such a stir, he didn't know anything about it at all. This was unbelievable!

At this time, someone opened their mouth. Countless words of flowery flattery gushed out, as if he were going to sing hymns of praise.

But just as the flattery began, the man was interrupted by a wave from Old Sea. "Enough. Everything else can be left for later. Little friend Ning needs to rest first." He tossed a side-eye at Qin Yu. Qin Yu's thoughts raced and he nodded. "I am slightly tired right now, and it's a bit difficult for me to move. I'll have to bother Old Sea with helping me." He cupped a hand across his chest to express his apologies towards all the smiling seafolk elites around him.

Mister Ning was tired and naturally no one dared to object. The reason they came forwards now was only to make their presence known and familiarize themselves with Qin Yu. None of them were really thinking of seizing this moment to develop further relations with Qin Yu. Traditionally speaking, they should let Mister Ning rest first and prepare a thick gift envelope before personally visiting to show their sincerity.

Old Sea flicked his sleeve and wrapped up Qin Yu. Although he was injured, his cultivation was more than enough to allow him to fly over the altar and into Sea Spirit Pavilion's carriage. Without stopping, the carriage raced out of the square.

It was unknown who was the first one to shout, "Congratulations, Honorable Ning!"

Then, more voices rang out like thunder.

"Congratulations, Honorable Ning!"

This was the respect that the seafolk gave to Qin Yu.

Those that lost more money in the bet had to shout even louder and with greater sincerity. This was to prove that they didn't care about it at all. Some sea spirit teachers started to leave the square and hurry outwards. They looked at the carriage as it faded away. They wondered: was Sea Spirit Pavilion still hiring?

In the bustling square, Soupman smiled as he watched the carriage leave. He didn't say anything, because he would eventually learn anything he wanted to know.

With a wave of his hand, he returned to the royal palace. He didn't report to His Majesty but instead strolled into the dwelling he had constructed in the treasury. He sat down comfortably and after thinking about the immense amount of wealth he had spent today, he frowned and said, "Tell someone to hurry up the competition committee. Make sure to ask them when they will return the spirit stones they owe us."

The unconscious Chairman Xu twitched, tears beginning to leak out from his eyes.

The carriage drove far away from the square, but one could still hear the sounds of 'congratulations'. Qin Yu lay down on a soft bed, trying not to move.

"Old Sea, it seems that I have done something remarkable again."

The corners of Sea Lingdao's eyes twitched. "You really don't know?"

"I don't know."

Old Sea was left speechless. He opened his mouth but didn't know what to say. Did you want to frighten this old man until he peed? He angrily waved his hand, a bit annoyed. "Just wait until someone else tells you. I am tired!"

Qin Yu coughed into his hand. "Old Sea, did I make you tired?"

Old Sea's eyes widened. "Brat, you don't know what's good or bad. Luckily I led you out immediately otherwise things would have become troublesome." As he spoke, he frowned and contemplated for a

time, seeming a bit helpless. "But while you can avoid it for a while, you cannot evade it forever. It will come sooner or later."

Qin Yu's thoughts stirred. "What do you mean?"

Old Sea immediately described how Soupman had come and helped Qin Yu. As he spoke about that person, his words were cautious and discreet. "Your performance today was far too amazing; it is bound to arouse the interest and concern of others. There are some matters that I cannot speak too much of. Just remember that if they really come looking for you in the future, make sure you do not refuse."

His words were vague and ambiguous. But, it was exactly this that made things seem unusual. With Old Sea's status, if there were something that made him so discreet and it also involved that person in the royal palace, there had to be something else at work here.

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows together.

If he was a member of the sea races and his reputation drastically shot upwards, even earning him the attention of the royal palace, then he might be pleased with this or even looking forwards to it with intense anticipation.

But, the key point here was that he was a human, and that was the sea races' royal palace. Anyone could tell that the guards there were stern and strict and powerhouses existed like trees in a forest. Entering would be easy, but if he was careless and there was the slightest slipup, he would surely expose himself.

New complications just kept rising up!

If that person in the royal palace was paying attention to him, that meant from now on, his every action would be monitored. He didn't even have time to implement his plan of quietly leaving the capital city before it had turned to dust.

Qin Yu bitterly smiled. Indeed, in this world, gains and losses came together.

The carriage entered Sea Spirit Pavilion. The employees that stayed behind had already seen everything that happened through the phantom image projection and knew that Mister Ning had won. Exhilarating joy spread throughout Sea Spirit Pavilion, and the entire place was decorated in the shortest time possible.

When Qin Yu stepped down from the carriage, what he saw first were countless eyes full of awe. Some beautiful female seafolk batted their eyes at him, their gazes lingering on him.

At this time, he wasn't in the mood to pay attention to these things. He tossed down several quick words, hurried to his workshop, and closed the door.

Chapter 160 – Rich Harvests

Leon's face was flushed red, and it remained this way even after a long time. Now that his teacher had left, he was the center of everyone's attention and was being congratulated and envied by all.

Qingqing clung tightly to his side, the white nape of her neck like a little proud swan. She used her vicious glare to scare away the women around her who had ill intentions.

Once the crowd dispersed a little, Qingqing grabbed Leon and pulled him to the side. She quietly asked, "Where's Mister Ning?" As she mentioned this name, she had an upbeat expression and there was even more respect and awe in her voice than there usually was. She had been informed by her mother about what had occurred and since she knew what status Mister Ning now possessed, it was natural for her to do this.

Leon wiped away his sweat. "Teacher went back to rest. He probably wants to further digest what he obtained from the sea spirit." As he spoke, he did so with deep reverence and worship. Still, he couldn't hide his growing pride.

Although he didn't think about it too much, his teacher was now the third ranked of the ten great Purple Cards, a legendary Spiritual Bestower, and also someone who had managed to spur the sea spirit baptism for almost ten hours. Even if he didn't want to, it was hard not to think about having such a teacher and be arrogant about it!

Qingqing bit her lips and whispered. "Leon, Mister Ning is now at the height of prestige and is bound to be a mighty figure in the future. From how some of these women are looking at you, I think they wish they could swallow you whole."

Leon blushed. He hurriedly waved his hand. "No, no, everyone is just congratulating teacher. It has nothing to do with me."

"Humph! You are well aware of whether or not it has any relation to you!"

Leon had a bitter expression. "Qingqing, just what do you want?"

"Great, now you are getting impatient towards me. I know that Mister Leon has high standards now so how could you possibly take a liking to a little girl like me!"

Leon almost cried. "Qingqing, that would never happen! Whatever you want is whatever I want, I have absolutely no opinion at all!"

Qingqing wrinkled her nose. "Is that the truth?"

Seeing her attitude soften, Leon immediately swore an oath. Sure, while he wasn't a true blockhead when it came to the relations between men and women, he was still a naive and pure boy who hadn't been taught by anyone how to deal with a girl's finishing move.

Qingqing smiled and her face blushed red. She quietly said, "My mother wants me to bring you home..." As she spoke, her voice became increasingly quiet.

"Ah!" Leon cried out loud and smiled in silly joy.

Qingqing chuckled as she rolled her eyes back. But, she was actually overjoyed in her heart. She suddenly felt this world become far wider and freer.

...

With his only disciple having obtained the necessary approval and soon about to win the beautiful girl he loved, Qin Yu was currently sitting down cross-legged in his workroom. Through the video and audio recordings being replayed over the shells, Qin Yu learned about what had occurred.

Old Sea had once mentioned the sea spirit baptism to him, thus Qin Yu's complexion was quite strange at this moment.

He was well aware of himself. Perhaps his soul was a bit more powerful and perhaps his body was a bit more powerful, and in a situation where the sea spirit didn't sense anything, it was really possible that the sea spirit baptism could continue longer.

But for it to last nearly ten hours...that was impossible!

At this time, as he was sitting down cross-legged, he frowned, losing himself in thought. He seemed to faintly recall some indistinct memories of what occurred during the sea spirit baptism.

He estimated that he reached his limit at a bit more than two hours. After all, while his consciousness was awake, there was still some awareness of his surroundings. And it was during this period of time that something unknown occurred, which allowed him to maintain that condition.

This was the reason why there had been such an exaggerated result.

Qin Yu fell silent for several breaths of time. He flipped his hand and a brilliant light flashed. The deep blue light in his palm was as peaceful as the deep sea. As he looked at it, his pupils suddenly shrank.

Qin Yu had always considered the little blue lamp as the fundamental basis for his current life. Thus, there was no need to explain just how much he valued it.

Now, it seemed as if...that foot of blue sea...had grown.

Qin Yu had a serious expression. He raised his hand and looked carefully. After a long time, he was finally sure that his judgment was correct.

It had indeed grown larger.

Now, the area that the blue light covered was probably the surrounding 1.2 feet.

There had been countless times when he had grieved and felt helpless over how the range of the little blue lamp was so small and narrow. But, he never expected that in a situation where he had been completely unprepared, things would change so suddenly.

It seemed as if the change in the sea spirit baptism had been caused by the little blue lamp.

Qin Yu fell silent for a long time, but slowly, a bit of relief began rising on his features. Although this had caused him to enter the attention of that person in the royal palace, making it difficult for him to leave, if he were to consider his own harvest as well as the changes in the little blue lamp...then it was all worth it! In particular, he had finally been able to determine that the little blue lamp's strength was in no way unchangeable.

It could grow.

This vaguely pointed a road for Qin Yu. Although there might not ever be a way for him to obtain the strength of the sea spirit again, there was still heavenly tribulation. The little blue lamp was able to swallow tribulation thunder, and this surely had a profound meaning behind it. Now, with the changes that had occurred in the little blue lamp, he might be able to face this matter head-on.

He temporarily pushed these thoughts to the side. He immediately thought of the sea map that the sea spirit had granted him, and revealed a helpless look. He was sure during the time when he felt that piercing cold and awakened, that had been a warning from the sea spirit. The little blue lamp's actions should have been discovered.

So, this sea map that he thought would allow him to never get lost again, had definitely been replaced...

Disappointment rose in his heart. After all, according to Old Sea, the gift of the sea spirit was often incredibly strong. However, his disappointment soon turned to joy. After all, even though he had been discovered cheating by the sea spirit and even though his status as a human might have been noticed, he was still alive and moving. This was already great!

After organizing his thoughts, Qin Yu closed his eyes in meditation and started to carefully sense just how many harvests he obtained during the sea spirit baptism.

An hour later, he opened his eyes. He tried to hold it in but finally laughed out loud. No wonder the sea spirit had warned him; it had been helpless to do anything else after being a target of the little blue lamp's insatiable greed. This harvest was indeed larger than he thought. No, it was even larger, far, far larger than he had hoped for!

His soul force had nearly doubled. It had already been quite powerful amongst the Golden Core level, but now it was somewhere comparable to between that and that of a common Nascent Soul. Every inch of flesh and blood of his mortal body had been tempered through the baptism, becoming more potent and tenacious. Not only had he fully mastered the strength he absorbed from the strange tumor monster, but his overall power had risen to a new level.

Qin Yu even believed that with his mortal bodily strength alone, he could directly face off against common mid and late Golden Core cultivators.

This time the risks had been worth it!

He suppressed any thoughts about the attention from the royal palace. Right now he impatiently wanted to control his growing strength. Then, with the intensity of his soul force, it should be possible for him to smoothly refine all of the five-element spiritual objects.

...

News of Mister Ning completely rolling over Wu Zetian and becoming the third ranked of the Purple Cards should have been an explosive event. But, with news of the sea spirit baptism continuing for almost ten hours and him being a Spiritual Bestower also spreading out, that news seemed a bit too ordinary.

Perhaps in the eyes of the countless sea races, today's Honorable Ning didn't need to brandish his status as a Purple Card. This was because he had surpassed the Purple Cards and was considered a higher level of being.

Sea Spirit Pavilion profited off of this. Countless sea spirit teachers flocked in like rabid swarms, all of them asking whether they could join. This set off a raging wave of hopefully job hopping. As for Bluesky Tower and Earthfault Spire, while they had once been in sharp opposition with Sea Spirit Pavilion, now

they no longer had any strength to fight back. They lost almost half the strong sea spirit teachers in their employment and their prestige fell precipitously.

Correspondingly, Sea Spirit Pavilion's business blew up to a whole new level, and this was especially true with the capital city branch division. Countless seafolk waved their spirit cards around, all of them requesting to sign the special edition Supreme Book no matter how high the price was raised. Even a starting price of 300,000 did nothing to dampen their enthusiasm.

To use their words, if they could spend this money and form some tenuous relationship with Honorable Ning, that was something they could all brag about. Without any other way, Sea Spirit Pavilion could only accept the spirit stone cards of these frantically wailing people. Chief Manager Wu's expression was light and carefree as he laughed heartily within.

Who didn't like to earn money? Although he possessed a mind-boggling amount of wealth in his hands, this money belonged to Mister Ning, and he didn't dare to have any thoughts on it.

At that same time he secretly admired Mister Ning. Mister Ning was truly worldly. Even after returning he hadn't asked about the bet money and had just left it with him.

However, he really did need to find some method to give this wealth back to Mister Ning as soon as possible. Otherwise, he might stay like he was now, too scared to leave. Even when he casually strolled through Sea Spirit Pavilion, he did so with the four praying mantis swordsmen shadowing him. It was best to be careful. If there was an accident, he couldn't make up for it even if he sold himself!

He comfortably sat down in a chair and took a sip of tea. He sighed. He had fallen in love with Honorable Ning's preferences; it was truly a good way to relax.

He glanced up at the seventh floor. He thought of Honorable Ning's invitations and how high they had piled up. He had no idea when he would come out.

...

"Honorable Ning still hasn't come out?" Soupman faintly frowned.

The magnificent hall was packed with colors of purple and gold. There wasn't any sense of aesthetic beauty here and it even seemed a bit tacky.

But as long as one arrived here, they would be filled with awe. When would they be in the mood to judge how beautiful or ridiculous this hall looked?

Four black-robed figures knelt on the ground. Their auras were completely restrained. If one didn't see them with their own eyes, they wouldn't have thought anyone was there.

"Reporting to Soupman, we have investigated through various channels already. Ever since the sea spirit baptism, Honorable Ning has gone into seclusion and hadn't left. This was confirmed with Honorable Ning's disciple, Leon."

The four were completely motionless. It was hard to tell just who was the one speaking.

Soupman had a thoughtful look. "It seems that this time, Honorable Ning has quite the harvests..." He smiled and muttered to himself. "The more the better, the more the better..."

After several breaths of time he waved his hand. "You may all leave. Pay attention to news concerning Honorable Ning. I want to be immediately informed when he leaves his workroom."

"Yes, Soupman."

The four black-robed figures stood up and left. They didn't walk through the entrance but simply vanished from where they stood. It was unknown where they went.

...

Qingqing kicked the gravel, bored. She wondered out loud, "Just when is mister coming out of seclusion?"

Madame Qing sighed. "Is my family's little miss in such a hurry to be married? The humans really do have a good phrase that fits this. A daughter will always favor outsiders rather than their own!"

Qingqing never thought that her unintentional words would be heard by her mother. She blushed fiery red and stammered, "I...I never..."

"Then there is no need to be so anxious. You might as well accompany me and your father for a few more years. In any case, right now is the time for Leon to be building his future career. It isn't a good time to divert his attention to forming a new family." Madame Qing teased.

Qingqing stamped her feet. "Mother! You're laughing at me!"

Madame Qing hugged her daughter, her smile warm and calm. "Mother is happy for you. Just be patient. With Mister Ning helping to manage your wedding with Leon, your future road will be much easier to walk down. Qingqing, you judged well. Leon is a good child. I hope you will live happily later."

Qingqing blinked. "If I grab onto Leon then our Qing Family will have a great backer, right?"

Looking at her strange and funny daughter, Madame Qing tapped her forehead, "You!"