

## Refining 171

### Chapter 171 – Crossing Tribulation

The troop of five killer whales stopped far from the capital city. From where they were, they could see the column of black light that shot into the heavens. The woman's face was dignified as she watched this.

"Seventh Aunty, what is this?" The little girl had just woken up and hadn't even had time to wash her face. She seemed a bit sleepy still and her eyes revealed a faint trace of excitement.

The woman seemed a bit helpless and couldn't bear to scold the little girl. She simply sighed and said, "Miss, this is not a laughing matter. If I haven't misread, that black column of light should be related to the Sea Mausoleum."

"Sea Mausoleum?" The little girl blinked her eyes.

"Mm. It is a very sacred place and also a very evil one. If there really has been an accident with it, then there is likely to be a disaster in the capital city." The woman had a solemn complexion. "At that time, I have no idea how many innocent lives will be lost."

Seeing a bit of fear appear in the little girl's face, the woman smiled and patted her hand. "Miss, there is no need to fear. If there is a problem then we will turn back towards Sega City; there won't be any problems."

A scout came rushing back with a flustered look. The woman's heart sank as she prepared herself for bad news, but the truth was actually quite unexpected.

The little girl was stunned. She turned and said, "Seventh Aunty, this Honorable Ning is the person you spoke of? He seems like a bad person, right? He actually ruined our Sea Spirit Pavilion's capital city branch division."

The woman reluctantly smiled. "Miss is right. Once we meet, I will definitely ask him why he decided to make a mess of our Nine Layer Building."

After a few comforting words, the woman sent the little girl away. Then, the woman's face darkened and a cold chill began to flow in her eyes.

The guard captain walked over. He sighed and gently said, "There's something not quite right about this."

The woman sneered. "Honorable Ning shouldn't have any malice towards my Sea Spirit Pavilion. It is likely there is someone who wants to use this accident to move against our Sega City."

The guard captain shook his head. "It's too early to assume that. And, since it involves the Sea Mausoleum, I don't think anyone would dare to start something using that."

The woman thought for a moment. "Your words make sense. Very well, we will take a look first. But, if it's as I thought it was, then don't blame me for being impolite!"

The killer whales had massive bodies, and as expected, their speed was astonishing. They soon arrived at the capital city and faced the questioning of the city guards. The guard captain took out a token and the city guards respectfully bowed.

Because the killer whales' bodies were too large, it was a hassle for them to enter the capital city, thus they were left outside. They were placed in a specialized sea pasture for oversized mounts.

The guard captain took out a rose-colored carriage from a spatial shell. The young lady and woman mounted the carriage and drove into the capital city, escorted by the many guards.

At this time, another team of people silently arrived from the opposite direction. The wolf rider warriors were incomparably weary but their eyes were still cold and hard. With a single glance, one could feel a great pressure billowing out from them, as if a real giant wolf was pouncing!

The city guards subconsciously tightened their grip on their weapons. Although they maintained their composure, the capital city guards that were renowned for their calm and stoic demeanor actually paled a bit.

The ones in front of them were definitely warriors with terrifying combat potential who had also undergone hundreds of battles. Though they appeared exhausted, none of the guards doubted that in a battle, they would be completely slaughtered in a few moves.

Xue Zheng stood straight up. His cruel and callous face was without expression, "Moon Praying Shrine's wolf rider warriors are escorting the Vice Priest to safely arrive at the capital city. Please allow us to pass."

As he spoke, the guards across from him began to shiver. Just now, that feeling was like a dark and vicious beast had locked onto them and was ready to rip them apart in the next moment. And, what was terrifying was that they knew this person hadn't intentionally threatened them, but that it was an aura he naturally exuded.

The city guard deputy captain let out a long breath. He braced himself and said, "The capital city does not allow unknown combat troops to enter. I need to confirm your identity..."

Before he could finish, his lips were sealed by Xue Zheng's stare. Xue Zheng slowly said, "The wolf riders are themselves evidence, so why must we prove ourselves?"

He slapped his mount. The giant sea wolf swept a contemptuous glance around, forcing the guards backwards. Then, it marched forwards. Behind the wolf, the other wolf riders and the carriage slowly followed.

To the other tribes, the capital city might possess an unsurpassed authority. But many years ago, Moon Praying Shrine had already come into conflict with the capital city numerous times. For them to still exist today proved just how strong they were and was also the reason why they were able to maintain their lofty pride and confidence.

The city guards were suppressed by the wolf riders' momentum. Although they wanted to stop them, their feet seemed rooted in place. They could only look on helplessly as the troop of people marched into the capital city.

The deputy captain flushed red. He suddenly roared out, "So what if they are Moon Praying Shrine? This is the capital city! Hurry and pass on the news so that the higher ups can decide!"

Xue Zheng glanced at the black column of light and then moved towards the approaching carriage. "Vice Priest, is there any need to rest first?"

"No need. Head directly to Sea Spirit Pavilion."

Moon Praying Shrine had no respect towards the capital city, but they still had no choice but to acknowledge that this place was the center of the sea races. So, they were still somewhat familiar with the map of the capital city. Of course, if one had to ask whether this familiarity involved any dark thoughts or plots towards the royal family, then one could only make their own decision based on their own extrapolations of the situation.

Nine Layer Building could be called a landmark within the capital city, so Xue Zheng knew where it was approximately. The wolf riders changed course and headed straight there. The seafolk they encountered all along the way drew back in abundance, their faces full of surprise. No one knew when such an indomitable combat troop had appeared in the capital city.

But at this time, Nine Layer Building had already completely collapsed into ruins. It was wrapped in a swirl of dust and wind, without the least bit of the landmark-like glory that it possessed before.

Chief Manager Wu had long since been left unable to utter a single word more. At this time he had no more tears to cry, so he could only cry to himself in his heart. But looking at today's situation, it was simply far too unusual. He could only hope that Honorable Ning didn't stir up any trouble for himself. As he looked up towards Soupman, who had a grim expression and was emitting a resentful aura, he couldn't help but curse inwardly.

Suddenly, a remarkable sense of awe came crashing down. It was like dancing on the edge of a sword, standing at the top of a mountain. It caused one's heart to shiver and for one to be instinctually frightened.

Chief Manager Wu's head shot upwards. He discovered that the skies above the capital city had suddenly darkened, and black clouds had appeared from nothingness and were rapidly gathering.

This was...heavenly tribulation!

His eyes popped open. Who was tired of living? They actually dared to cross heavenly tribulation in the capital city!?

Soupman looked up. His saber-sharp gaze locked onto the tribulation clouds for a moment and then his frown slowly relaxed. The capital city didn't allow others to cross tribulation here because firstly, the strength of heavenly tribulation would destroy the spells around the capital city, and secondly, because the interference from the spells would also cause the power of the heavenly tribulation to drastically rise.

Sensing the aura, this should be Nascent Soul tribulation. It wasn't easy to cultivate to this step, but who would be so silly as to cross tribulation here? It was no different from seeking their own death.

As Soupman thought of this, he immediately returned to tranquility. It was just a mere Nascent Soul. There were countless sea race powerhouses, so it didn't matter if one more died.

Right now, the only thing he cared about was this giant sphere of spirit stones. Even if it involved Ning Qin, it was also related to the Sea Mausoleum, so he needed a reasonable explanation for all of this.

But as time passed, the tribulation clouds in the sky became increasingly thick. Gradually...it seemed as if they were coming towards this place. Soupman's eyes violently twitched. He looked up at the tribulation clouds and swept his eyes around. Unless his eyes deceived him, the target of these tribulation clouds was the same as his own.

Ning Qin, Honorable Ning, he was the one crossing tribulation!

Soupman was instantly enraged. He nearly cursed out loud. It doesn't matter if you die, but don't you harm His Majesty's chances of being treated and cured! He clenched his teeth and shot up into the skies, blocking the path between the tribulation clouds and the large sphere of spirit stones. Even if he were wounded in the process, he still needed to block this heavenly tribulation.

As if sensing Soupman's actions, the tribulation clouds began to roll about. There was a thunderous sound as a bolt of ruinous lightning came shooting straight down from the clouds.

Soupman's complexion changed, immediately darkening. There was something wrong with this heavenly tribulation!

But there was no more time to think about it. He stepped on the air and smashed out his fist, welcoming this bolt of thunder.

The explosion was like crashing mountains. The thunder disintegrated and rained down in all directions. Some unlucky ones were struck by the remnants and fell to the ground twitching and foaming at the mouth.

Hualala –

The seafolk began to flee in distress.

The sleeves of Soupman's robe were torn apart and he was burnt black all over. His neatly combed hair now looked as if it had been caught in a hurricane and spun around.

Nascent Soul heavenly tribulation normally had three bolts of thunder. This was only the first yet it possessed such power behind it. Soupman lowered his head, grinding his teeth in anger. The more it was like this the more he couldn't draw back. He swallowed down the blood in his mouth and prepared himself to receive the next strike of heavenly tribulation.

Bang –

The second bolt of thunder fell!

Soupman's entire sleeve was reduced to ashes, revealing fair and beautiful arms that were clearly well-maintained. But, when combined with his fanned out and frizzled hair, he seemed especially strange.

He had always lived a respected life. Even during his youth when he fought and struggled, he had still never been in a situation where he had embarrassed himself in front of everyone like this. If it weren't for his self-control being strong enough and him being able to control his mood, he feared his face would have already turned fire-red.

That damned Ning Qin!

Bang –

The third bolt of thunder.

If the first two bolts of heavenly tribulation were like spectacular blades that were difficult to resist, then this third bolt of heavenly was like a falling mountain, enormous and filled with incredible pressure. It carried with it an amazing destructive presence, and even Soupman couldn't help but feel his heart skip a beat. He cursed out loud and stamped down his feet, soaring into the skies!

It wasn't that he didn't fear the heavenly tribulation, but it was due to the unique characteristics of his cultivation method. It was a cultivation method that focused on bravely advancing forwards with unstoppable force, because only then could he erupt with the greatest possible strength.

Bang –

Lightning splashed out, instantly submerging Soupman's figure. But in the next moment he was blasted away and smashed into the ground. A building that had been upended by the wild winds was thoroughly destroyed and even the ground below was blown apart, crackling lines spreading out like a web!

"My family's inherited shop!" In the distance, a shop owner cried out in sorrow.

Bang –

Random debris was blown away. Soupman walked out from the ruins. If his hair was a mess before, it now looked like it had completely exploded. This was because his hair had indeed exploded, and it seemed like the most fashion-forward and ahead-of-the-times kind of hair.

He spat on the ground as he walked towards the large sphere of spirit stones. His eyes were full of ill intention. Now that the heavenly tribulation has passed, you brat Ning Qin, shouldn't you have come out by now?

For all this time I've lived, it was only me who took advantage of others; it's never me that has eaten such a loss. I will remember this account and slowly calculate it later!

He carefully walked over the mess scattered all over the ground. Suddenly, a web of pain coursed through his body and he stiffened. Though he maintained a calm expression, he could feel his teeth itch with hate more and more!

He took one step, two steps, three steps...Soupman suddenly frowned, sensing something wasn't right. Then, he looked up and saw that the heavenly tribulation in the skies still hadn't dissipated. His mouth unconsciously fell open and he cursed out loud, "You bastard, just how many sinful things have you done!"

**Chapter 172 – The Fireworks Didn't Bloom**

The world was cruel and not benevolent; it treated all of creation as nothing but dogs...yes, this was a phrase that had been used so many times until it was ragged. However, there was still a degree of truth to it. Whether one was a noble or a lowly beggar, there was no difference. But, if one used such a description, then there were bound to be some special exceptions.

For instance, cultivators were a particular group that were treated with just a bit more 'loving concern'.

Whether it was those that were righteous, demonic, monstrous, or devils, they all had a common understanding, and it was that the world possessed its own will. But because it was restrained by certain rules, it was unable to interfere with the revolution of the great dao. The restraints of these rules could only be temporarily lifted at certain times, and that was a heavenly tribulation.

For those cultivators that committed heinous sins, those that slaughtered, and those that enjoyed causing suffering to the mortal world, the heavenly tribulation they experienced would be far more powerful. There were few that were capable of overcoming this hurdle and many of them would be reduced to ashes.

This wasn't a baseless rumor, but a truth slowly revealed by previous cultivators who had experienced thunder tribulation thousands of times over. Thus, even the most ferocious and malevolent demons would try to avoid harming mortals lest they were further tainted by the cause and effect of karma, and die to the tribulation thunder as a result.

Today, after experiencing three bolts of tribulation thunder that were far stronger than normal, Soupman fully believed that Qin Yu must have committed some evil deeds that harmed the world, and this was the only reason why he was being punished so harshly. But now, after the three strikes of heavenly tribulation came down, the tribulation clouds had yet to dissipate. Rather, an even fiercer pressure started to gradually gather.

Something wasn't right.

Something definitely wasn't right!

This didn't seem like heavenly tribulation anymore, but appeared as if the world itself had decided to strike down Ning Qin, ending him where he stood.

This was something that was only briefly recorded in some ancient texts, so that was why Soupman had cursed out loud after personally experiencing the tribulation thunder for himself.

Because, he really couldn't imagine how many wicked deeds one had to commit to be so detested and repulsed by the world.

The tribulation clouds above the capital city grew increasingly large. The shadow they left on the ground grew with it, and as people were caught in the shadow, their hearts shivered as if they had fallen into an icy lake.

Old Sea muttered, "Absolute death tribulation...it is actually...absolute death tribulation..." A bitter light flashed in his eyes. "Soupman, this isn't heavenly tribulation that you can block. Otherwise, even if you block another three strikes, there will still be more following it and it will only grow stronger each time! This hurdle is one that only Ning Qin himself can cross!"

Soupman paled. "Do you think I don't know? But didn't you see the power of that heavenly tribulation just now? If I hadn't helped, he would have definitely died!" He didn't say anything after, but his meaning was clear: If Ning Qin died, what would His Majesty do? Of course, this was indeed not the way to speak about it, because if he were to state the reverse, then it would be that as long as His Majesty was fine, he wouldn't care how Ning Qin died!

Old Sea shook his head. "There's no other way. We can only make a bet, because the longer this goes on, the more impossible it will become."

Soupman clenched his jaws.

Rumble rumble –

Tribulation clouds tumbled around like an unleashed flood. A terrifying sound resonated through the heavens and lightning lit up the world. Then, the fourth bolt of heavenly tribulation arrived! With just a glance, Soupman's heart sank. Even if he were to personally take action, he still might not be able to escape this strike unscathed. But, if Ning Qin died, the faint ray of hope that His Majesty had would completely disappear.

"You bastard!" Soupman roared out loud. It was unknown just who he was referring to.

When the heavenly tribulation appeared and Soupman had intervened to resist it, the observing seafolk had quieted down and watched with wide eyes. But, no one imagined that after the third strike of heavenly tribulation, it still wouldn't be finished.

The aura of the fourth heavenly tribulation swept out and countless seafolk paled. They looked towards the giant sphere of spirit stones with pity and shock. They mourned for Honorable Ning. Even a Nascent Soul level existence might not be able to resist this tribulation thunder, so how could he not die? At the same time, there were many seafolk who watched with hateful and bitter expressions as they imagined those millions upon millions of spirit stones being destroyed by heavenly tribulation. It was simply mind-boggling.

Chief Manager Wu froze in place. He looked towards the tribulation thunder with stunned shock. Just how had this escalated to this degree?

Clearwood bit her lips, her face pale and her mind a confused wreck. She couldn't think of anything at all.

...

In a tall building far off in the distance, a mighty figure wrapped in black armor was waiting. Just by standing there, he seemed to completely suppress the area around him. There were seven or eight other seafolk in the building, sitting there in silence. If someone knowledgeable about the capital city were here, they would discover that these were some of the strongest people of the capital city, and one of them was even a key military figure. At this time, they were bowing their heads a little in order to show due deference to this truly mighty person.

"There were definitely problems with the Companion Vine. Although the royal palace kept a tight lockdown on information, we were still able to discover it through various channels." A fair-skinned and

beautiful man spoke in a soft voice filled with regret. “Unfortunately, the incident has been solved; otherwise we would have been able to achieve our goal with the lowest possible price.”

He looked up towards the mighty figure and then towards the sphere of spirit stones floating far off in the distance. “Although I am angry, I cannot help but acknowledge that this Honorable Ning is truly a skilled individual.”

Another seafolk sneered. “So what if he has skills? In the end, he is not one of our people. Everyone from the Southern River Office was taken away by the Taxation Department and we weren’t able to inflict any losses at all.”

A fat old man gnashed his teeth. “The losses weren’t only the Southern River Office, but also all of my subordinate assassins!” This was a familiar face – he was the one who had accompanied Jing Guanjin to the great sea spirit teacher competition. The assassins that were exterminated by the black riders in the street had been painstakingly cultivated by him. Of course, now he also had to add in the two masters that were killed by the royal palace guards during the initial chaotic confusion with the appearance of the spirit stone mountain.

Another person reminded, “That’s enough. No matter what happened, he will die soon.”

These words caused the atmosphere to ease down and those in the room to relax a little. Like a dark star that had been predestined by fate, ever since Ning Qin appeared, all of their plans had started to go wrong. They had invested a great deal of time, effort, and resources into the sea spirit teacher competition, but that plan had completely failed. Not only that, but they had paid with Jing Guanjin and his master Wu Zetian. There was finally some good news with the plot they had established in the royal palace, but that had also been ruined by Ning Qin. Because of that, the Southern River Office had been exposed. A series of chain reactions followed that, and as time passed more and more people were killed off.

But now, Ning Qin was finally going to die.

But what a pity, the plans they had prepared for all these years had been upended. They had missed out on the chance they had tried to create, and could only watch on helplessly as it occurred. Everyone turned towards the great figure looking out of the window and they felt their hearts calm down. Even though the man hadn’t said a single word, he was still able to stabilize their thoughts.

As long as he was here, there would eventually be a chance to succeed.

Coming around a bit, one could clearly see the face of the man reflected in the window. With his black armor serving as contrast, he emitted a powerful god-like aura. This was also another familiar face. If Qin Yu were here, he would recognize this powerful existence from the conflict he had with Princess Lushy a long time ago.

Whale Sovereign!

Standing before the window, this extremely well-polished man, who many seafolk considered the cornerstone of the empire, was now gently frowning. But what was surprising was that Jing Guanjin’s defeat, Wu Zetian losing his Purple Card, the Companion Vine’s chance being lost, the Southern River Office being exposed...he didn’t think about these matters at all.



Because in the opinion of the Whale Sovereign, trying to overturn the heavens and change the skies was a very difficult task, and failures and unexpected accidents were bound to occur.

At this time, what he was thinking about was why this Ning Qin, this Honorable Ning, produced such an inexplicable feeling of loathing and familiarity in him. Perhaps others might ignore such a feeling, but after reaching his cultivation and nearing the Divine Soul realm, he could faintly feel the pull of fate.

Unfortunately, this person was going to die. Under the assault of such powerful heavenly tribulation, even his mortal body would be reduced to ashes, so there wouldn't be anything to investigate.

At this moment within the capital city, everyone gathered thought that Honorable Ning would die. This was because heavenly tribulation didn't care about anything else; it was only a test of absolute strength.

The Whale Sovereign believed this, Soupman believed this, Old Sea believed this, and even the two troops of people who had arrived here almost simultaneously also believed this.

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The little girl pushed open the carriage window and looked out with wide eyes full of surprise and shock. As she watched the heavenly tribulation fall down from the clouds and sensed the horrifying destructive intent that filled them, she subconsciously shrank back. She asked in a small voice, "Seventh Aunt, is Honorable Ning the one crossing tribulation?"

The woman's face darkened. She squeezed out a smile and nodded. Things were far beyond her initial expectations. Honorable Ning was crossing tribulation and it was also the fabled absolute death tribulation.

Taking advantage of Honorable Ning's skills, Sea Spirit Pavilion had experienced a tremendous rise recently. It was like they had climbed a great mountain, but if something were to happen to Honorable Ning, they would also fall back accordingly. Not only would they suffer heavy losses but they would also have to deal with the counterattack from other sea spirit influences.

The little girl had no idea of the troubles her family would encounter. She only looked at the sphere of spirit stones and sighed. She thought that this Honorable Ning was incredibly rich, but she also felt pity for him. Perhaps the most painful thing in this world was to have almost unlimited wealth but be unable to spend it.

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Xue Zheng frowned. A cold killing intent rushed out from him like an icy wave, causing everyone around to retreat in panic. They were all frightened. Just where had this person come from? He had such a terrifying aura!

Within the carriage, the Vice Priest had a gloomy expression and his lips were twisted with bitterness. He thought that they had a faint ray of hope, but he never expected that after he decided to make a desperate gamble to come here, there would actually be such a result.

Had good fortune abandoned them or was this the dark tides of fate? Had the destiny of their Moon Praying Shrine come to an end?

The white-robed girl had a sad expression. She opened her mouth, wanting to speak some words of comfort, but she discovered that her heart was in chaos and she had no idea what to say. She looked out of the window towards the great sphere of spirit stones.

The hope of their Moon Praying Shrine was in there. It had been within reach, but in the end they were far too late.

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The fourth heavenly tribulation brought with it an all-annihilating aura. It crossed the heavens and earth to arrive here, and the moment it touched the spirit stones, it vanished from sight.

This was normal. Heavenly tribulation could not be avoided, unless an external cause-and-effect were to intervene (for instance, Soupman blocking the heavenly tribulation). Thus, no matter how one tried to hide, heavenly tribulation would always find them, crossing infinite space to strike down upon their head.

What followed should be a brilliant show of fireworks.

Cultivators cultivated to go against the heavens and change their lives. They drew the heaven and earth spiritual strength into their bodies, transforming that into their cultivation as well as a powerful magic power. When a cultivator died to heavenly tribulation, an invisible will would descend, returning all of this to its origin back into the world.

In other words, a cultivator's cultivation and magic power would revert back to spiritual strength. This was an extremely gorgeous and soul-stirring sight, thus others said it seemed like fireworks. Of course, each time these fireworks appeared, it represented the death of a cultivator due to failing tribulation.

Perhaps it was more appropriate to call it the most sorrowful fireworks in the world.

A breath of time passed.

Then two breaths.

Three breaths.

Everything remained calm.

The fireworks hadn't blossomed!

### **Chapter 173 - Human**

Soupman frowned. It wasn't because he was unhappy or outraged, but rather because his expectations were far too different from the reality of the situation, thus it naturally spilled over in his emotions. Soon, he responded. It seemed that this heavenly tribulation had been...blocked. Before he could begin to imagine the reasons why, a smile bloomed on his face. Soupman even had a feeling as if he had been saved from imminent death. However, he soon discovered that something wasn't right.

Where was the fourth heavenly tribulation? After it came into contact with the sphere of spirit stones it had vanished from sight, and following that there wasn't a single sound. Just how was that possible?

Could Soupman have been too panicked, so certain illusions developed in his mind? But then, he turned his head and saw Old Sea with his jaw dropped open and his eyes popped wide.

It wasn't an illusion!

Whoosh –

The seafolk that surrounded Nine Layer Building all cried out in an uproar, each one with a shocked expression etched on their face. Everyone stared at each other and thought, 'Am I seeing things or is this a dream?'

And after that, they determined that what happened was a fact. It was the cold hard reality that had occurred in front of them. That heavenly tribulation, that heavenly tribulation which was so incredibly powerful that it could cause heavy losses to a Nascent Soul, had vanished in a completely bewildering way.

The seafolk of the capital city believed that they had seen many things, and that in the sea region, they had an extremely wide field of vision. But, they had never heard of anything like this before!

Rumble rumble –

Before the seafolk could continue pondering about what happened, the black clouds high above flashed brilliantly once more and another stroke of heavenly tribulation came crashing down. It seemed as if it had been provoked, or even threatened, but the tribulation thunder was no longer in the form of pure thunder. Rather, it took on the shape of a heaven-splitting axe as it came ruthlessly smashing down!

As soon as this heavenly tribulation cut downwards, even though it was extremely far away from the crowds, countless seafolk still felt their hearts skip a beat and their scalps tingle. Fear gushed out from the very depths of their soul, so fast that they couldn't contain it.

Even the strong Soupman felt dread and apprehension. His eyes widened as he watched the tribulation thunder approach and then vanish into the spirit stone sphere.

Then, nothing happened...

It was a spooky calm!

No one could explain just what had occurred.

Heavenly tribulation! This was the terrifying heavenly tribulation that horrified cultivators the most! Yet, they had vanished one after another. Countless seafolk cried out in their hearts, 'Hey, did you get lost on the way?'

Of course this was just a nonsensical joke, but at this time, the seafolk felt as if their minds were reduced to mush and they really didn't know what to think.

"How fierce!" The young girl cried out in alarm, her deep blue eyes filled with shock.

The woman was stunned. She glanced at the guard captain and they could each feel their heart shake. Compared to what they had heard, this Honorable Ning was...even more unfathomable than they thought!

In Moon Praying Shrine's carriage, the white-dressed woman was sobbing with joy, and the Vice Priest across from her was clenching his fists tightly, his face flushed red with excitement.

The priests had made the correct bet!

This Honorable Ning was truly an unheard of character. If he were to help, the Saint Flower would absolutely have a chance of earning new life.

The fourth and fifth heavenly tribulation vanished. The black clouds above the city suddenly fell silent. Just as many seafolk were thinking that a terrifyingly great power was fermenting within, the black clouds began to chaotically stir. As if sensing a threat, the sixth heavenly tribulation quickly fell. This one was only the thickness of an arm, far inferior to even the first heavenly tribulation; it dissipated in an instant.

Just what was this situation? No matter how they looked at it, it seemed as if the heavenly tribulation had retreated in fear...many seafolk were scared as they thought about this and instantly suppressed this thought. They all believed they were overthinking things. This was heavenly tribulation! How could it possibly run away from a cultivator in fear? Yes, they must have gotten the wrong idea!

Although they all told themselves this, their eyes when they looked at the spirit stone sphere still revealed a deep awe and reverence.

Six bolts of heavenly tribulation...well, yes, while the last strike seemed a bit suspicious and was barely passable, it was still what it was. Six heavenly tribulations had passed. Honorable Ning, Honorable Ning, when are you going to make an appearance?

They waited, waited, and waited some more...until even their necks started to ache. The spirit stone sphere remained the same as before, without any intent of cracking apart.

Soupman furrowed his eyebrows. Right now his mind was full of questions and he wanted explanations. But every time the words came to the tip of his tongue, he swallowed them back down. With things having reached this step, he actually had no idea just what Ning Qin had been trying. If he were to disturb him and mess something up, that would be a disaster.

He took a deep breath and calmed his thoughts. Soupman's eyes narrowed as he watched on without expression. He would wait. He didn't believe that this young fellow would be able to hide inside and sleep away.

Time passed slowly. Just as the seafolk watching began to feel bored, the skies turned a vast and blurry white and winds began to stir up once more.

It was snowing?

The seafolk watching were stunned silly.

This was...completely unrealistic...

Rain, snow, those were things that appeared in the low and humble human world and could only be truly experienced there. Why would such a sight appear in the capital city?

This was the sea floor! The bottom of the sea!

“Spirit...spirit...spirit stones...” It was unknown who cried this out first, but their sharp and keening cry was also filled with endless distress and grief.

Following that, this distress and grief infected all the watching seafolk.

The giant sphere formed of countless spirit stones floating in the air began to collapse from the surface in. It seemed as if it was quickly undergoing the erosion of countless years. White powder blew into the air and sprinkled down to the world. In just a few breaths of time, the streets, buildings, courtyards, everything was covered in this powder.

The shock of this scene rooted the seafolk in place. The white powder dyed their hair white, created white beards for them, and even formed white coats for them all.

Spirit stones were crushed, crushed, and crushed again.

The massive sphere of spirit stones was shrinking at a speed visible to the naked eye. It grew smaller and smaller, diminishing without any mercy.

Many seafolk watched in a daze. Tears quietly spilled from their eyes.

Money, so much money. It was gone, just like this it was all gone.

Although it wasn't their money, they still felt an unbearable pain. At the same time, a burning anger ignited in their chests.

You bastard!

If you don't want it, then you could give it to me. Why did you have to destroy it all!?

My cute and precious spirit stones, my preciouses!

The upper-class citizens of the capital city had seen a great deal of things in their lifetimes, so they awoke from their daze a step ahead of the others. There was a complex light in their eyes but they gradually calmed down. Moreover, a vague thought appeared in their hearts. Was the vanishing of the heavenly tribulation related to the spirit stones?

And, the ones who thought this also included Soupman.

He had dealt with money all his life, so his eyesight was without doubt. With just a glance, he estimated that there were at least 300 million spirit stones that had disintegrated. This was a heaven-shaking amount of spirit stones, and the spiritual energy contained within them was equally boundless and hard to imagine!

Let alone Ning Qin, even His Majesty would find it impossible to absorb and exhaust all of the strength within those spirit stones in such a short period of time.

If so, then there was only one reasonable explanation. Soupman's heart began to race. If his hypothesis was true, then Ning Qin had a method to use spirit stones to counterbalance the effects of heavenly tribulation. Then, could he imitate this method and help His Majesty cross heavenly tribulation too?

He knew that this idea was an overly hopeful assumption, and there was also the difference in cultivation. Moreover, Ning Qin needed 300 million spirit stones to resist that heavenly tribulation, so

His Majesty might need 3 billion or even 30 billion. But, as long as there was hope, even if he had to clear out the entire royal treasure and seize all assets from every royal, he still would give it a try.

Soupman took deep breath after deep breath, barely managing to suppress his excitement. Right now his mind was completely filled with this thought. Even the matter of the sudden appearance of the Sea Mausoleum's aura had been cast aside. If this could help His Majesty smoothly cross tribulation, then that was simply...far too wonderful to imagine!

Old Sea could faintly guess Soupman's thoughts from his burning gaze. He sighed inwardly, a bit worried. After all, this matter involved too many factors, and even he didn't dare to guess what sort of result would occur.

But a moment later, as the curtain to this act fell, Old Sea discovered that the worries he had now were completely meaningless.

Spirit stones disintegrated at an increasingly fast pace. The volume of the sphere shrank accordingly. When it was around a hundred feet wide, faint traces of blood fog appeared with the collapsing spirit stones. Then, more and more blood fog gushed out, until it finally wove together in a vast veil that covered the remaining portion.

After several breaths of time, when the last pieces of spirit stone turned to powder and fell down, all that was left over was a mass of fog around 70-80 feet wide. Then, as it contracted and expanded like it was breathing, beating with the rhythm of a heart, the volume shrank each time.

50-60 feet.

40-50 feet.

30-40 feet.

Gradually, a blurry figure appeared in the blood fog. Even though it was only a general outline, it was enough for everyone to recognize that familiar figure.

It was Ning Qin!

Soupman narrowed his eyes. He watched as the blood fog was reabsorbed, and because he thought that this was because of certain cultivation methods, he didn't care too much about it.

But soon, a strange look appeared on his face and grew increasingly deep. Then, his eyes popped up to reveal absolute shock and disbelief.

It wasn't just Soupman, but Old Sea, Chief Manager Wu, Clearwood, and many other seafolk were stunned silent as they stared at the shrinking blood fog.

As the blood fog thinned, the figure within was gradually revealed. The black robes which had always covered that person seemed to have been destroyed by some strength and were now hanging in tattered shreds on his body. Thus, Ning Qin, Honorable Ning's true visage, was revealed for the first time.

Originally, the watching seafolk were only quietly excited that they could see Honorable Ning's true appearance. But as the blood fog disappeared, they revealed expressions of surprise.

Honorable Ning seemed too much like a human...

No matter how one of the seafolk cultivated, or whether they used the manifestation pond to transform into human shape, they still retained some characteristics of their tribe. For instance, Princess Lushy had scales between her eyebrows, or for instance, Committee Member Gudra's astonishing defensive turtle shell.

This was what distinguished humans from the sea races.

But Honorable Ning's body was far too clean, so clean that there wasn't the tiniest trace that belonged to the sea races. Moreover, because his soul and consciousness had been isolated from his mortal body, he hadn't been able to perfectly restrain his aura. Now, as the forces that had been concealing him vanished, that pure human aura which was different from the sea races' appeared in the capital city.

Human...a human...

Honorable Ning, the third ranked Purple Card, the legendary Spiritual Bestower, the powerful existence who had caused the sea spirit baptism to continue for nearly 10 hours...he...was a human!

The shock of this realization was even more incredible than the destruction of the 300 million spirit stones. Thus, everyone within line of sight that saw this had their jaws drop down, all of them in utter chaos.

In that far and distant building, the black-armored Whale Sovereign stood there. As his astonishment passed, a satisfied smile began to pull up the corners of his lips.

No wonder he had felt what he had. 'It was you all along!'

Bang –

The window collapsed. A black bolt of lightning seemed to shoot through the void!

The Whale Sovereign's gaze was faint without any warmth at all. Killing intent soared to the heavens!

It was true that he could accept these defeats and not care about them at all. But, that didn't mean that he wasn't angry, especially when it was a small insect who had once threatened him and caused him a loss before managing to escape.

So, he would kill this human.

### **Chapter 174 – Draw Back One Step**

At this moment, the regret in Soupman's heart grew into a river. If he knew that something like this would occur he would have long since taken Ning Qin away. Sea race or human race, once his shock was over he really didn't care. As long as this person could help His Majesty, what did it matter to him? But now, Honorable Ning was revealed to be a human, and for the sea races who always felt contempt towards humans, this was an extremely explosive event. If he wanted to bypass this hurdle it would be quite difficult.

His thoughts raced. Then, his complexion suddenly changed. The reflection of a pitch-black armored figure entered his pupils. Its momentum was like a raging tide, a devastating avalanche, the sound of it

breaking past the sonic barrier! Although his steps appeared slow, each one seemed to shrink space, making his movements incredibly quick.

His pupils didn't even have time to contract. He shouted out loud, "Take hold of that person and find out where Honorable Ning is!" This statement clearly wasn't enough to convince the public, because as long as one wasn't blind it was easy to see that this human in front of them was Ning Qin. But at this time, Soupman couldn't be bothered with how weak his excuses were. He needed to take Qin Yu in hand to preserve his life.

Soupman turned and stepped out, blocking the way. He smiled and cupped his hands together. "Greetings, Whale Sovereign."

Beneath the black armor, the Whale Sovereign's face was calm. He swept his eyes around, "You want to save him?"

Soupman coughed. "I merely want to capture him to rescue Honorable Ning."

The Whale Sovereign fell silent. Then, his lips curled up. "Soupman, it's been several years since we've seen each other and your skin is thicker than ever. However, he will certainly die today."

Soupman straightened himself. He said, "I thank you for the deep praise. This human will certainly die, but before that I must find out where Honorable Ning is."

The Whale Sovereign didn't bother to respond; he took one step forward.

This step seemed like a comet falling into the sea, creating immense shockwaves that spread out overbearingly, sweeping away all.

Soupman took a deep breath and his chest rose high. Facing the Whale Sovereign, he didn't back off a single step.

He lifted a hand. Heaven and earth spiritual energy boiled and seethed. With a roaring rumble, he pushed forwards.

He chose to attack first!

A flash of appreciation appeared in the depths of the Whale Sovereign's eyes. After all, there were very few people in this world that dared to stand in front of him and attack. It was no wonder why His Majesty held this person in such high regard.

He raised a fist and punched out.

The Whale Sovereign's casual fist didn't gather any potential nor did he use any fancy moves. The fist struck out silently, but when it did strike it was like an erupting volcano, all of that strength bursting out in a moment.

Bang –

There was a deafening thunderclap. Howling winds rushed out and over a dozen vortexes of spiritual energy appeared. The remaining buildings were caught in the blast radius and all of them were instantly razed to the ground.



Soupman seemed to suffer a heavy blow. He drew back step after step. His face was flushed red at first but he immediately paled afterwards. His hand hung to his side, gently shaking. Traces of blood flowed down his arm, gathering in streams and dropping onto the floor.

The Whale Sovereign faintly said, "As a guardian of the capital city, it is my official duty to kill this human who secretly snuck in and tried to destroy it using the Sea Mausoleum. If you try to stop me again, then don't blame me for being heartless. Soupman, I know you are one of His Majesty's people, so I am giving you a chance to get out. Make way."

Beneath that tough and domineering appearance, there was a strong heart that didn't reveal anything. He was well aware of Soupman's character and knew that he wouldn't give in like this. These words were only for him to establish himself on the side of righteousness, and also find himself a reasonable explanation for murdering someone.

Killing Qin Yu was necessary, and killing Soupman was also necessary. In the end, he had long since thought that this overly loyal and devoted dog was an eyesore.

Soupman spit out a mouthful of blood.

The Whale Sovereign lightly said, "Then, let me help you along the way." He flicked his sleeves and a giant blue handprint appeared above his head before it came crashing down like a mountain.

Soupman recklessly laughed. Blood flowed out from his mouth and nose as he forcefully drew upon all his strength, leaving him unable to suppress the injuries in his body any longer. He stepped forwards and shot up into the skies, crashing into that massive blue handprint.

Time seemed to come to a grinding halt. After a brief silence, there was a horrifying sound. Soupman's body came crashing down to the earth, tearing through the ground and forming a giant pit. He lay in the pit, his entire body covered in wounds. Blood flowed out from him, gradually dyeing his robes red.

The blue handprint gently shivered, then it collapsed and disintegrated, dissipating from sight. The Whale Sovereign frowned, but in the next moment he composed himself and continued onwards.

Since his strike hadn't been able to kill the person, then he disdained attacking a second time...of course, this was only what the Whale Sovereign wanted to be as public perception.

That person in the royal palace was still alive.

So, he was still fettered.

The young girl watched all of this with wide eyes, completely shocked. Panic also flashed in the eyes of the woman beside her.

The guard captain turned to them and smiled. His figure flickered and he appeared before the Whale Sovereign.

"Seventh Uncle!" The young girl cried out in alarm.

The woman pursed her lips together. "Whether he is a human or one of the sea races, Honorable Ning is now one of our Sea Spirit Pavilion's people, so he is also your Seventh Uncle's responsibility."

Almost simultaneously, the Vice Priest sitting in another carriage shouted out, "Block him!"

Xue Zheng straightened himself as he rode a sea wolf. No one could see his movements but his figure suddenly vanished, and when he reappeared, he was standing side-by-side with the guard captain.

They didn't even glance at each other. As long as they both knew that they were here to preserve Ning Qin's life, that was more than enough.

The Whale Sovereign's eyes flashed. "Sea Spirit Pavilion's Seventh Night Sky. I can understand if you intervene, since he is one of Sea Spirit Pavilion's people, but what about you? Moon Praying Shrine's wolf rider, why are you meddling?"

Xue Zheng had a callous complexion. As he faced the Whale Sovereign, even if he didn't have the slightest belief that he could win, he still firmly opposed him. He only frowned at the question and didn't respond.

"You dare to become enemies with me for a mere human? That, is a capital crime." As the Whale Sovereign spoke, his eyes turned sharp.

Space violently twisted, shrouding the three people together. No one could clearly see what was happening within. In three breaths of time, Sea Spirit Pavilion's guard captain, the one called Seventh Night Sky, came flying out. The chest of his robes had been shredded to pieces to reveal a horrifying red and purple-colored palm print. After four more breaths of time, Xue Zheng staggered out from the twisted space. Countless wounds marred his body and some injuries were so deep that bone was revealed.

In seven breaths of time, two Nascent Soul powerhouses had been defeated. Whether it was Seventh Night Sky or Moon Praying Shrine's wolf rider, both were synonymous with absolute strength. The Whale Sovereign's formidable powers were made evident to all.

"Your name is Xue Zheng?" The Whale Sovereign had a look of acclaim. "I have heard your name before. You are even more extraordinary than the rumors describe. Submit to me and I will grant you new life."

Xue Zheng had a faint expression, as if horrifying injuries didn't cover every inch of his body. He roared out loud. Blood boiled all around him and a wolf phantom formed from billowing blood fog appeared atop his head. The wolf phantom reared back its head and howled before transforming into a flow of blood-red light.

The Whale Sovereign shook his head. "How impossibly stubborn."

Bang –

The blood red light shattered and the blood wolf howled miserably before its body collapsed. Xue Zheng was sent soaring backwards, the sound of his cracking bones leaving one's scalp tingling.

The Whale Sovereign looked up. When his eyes fell upon Qin Yu's body, he smiled. "Junior, are you called Qin Yu or Ning Qin? Of course, none of this is important. The only thing that matters is that we see each other once again."

Shua –

Qin Yu's eyes opened.

The Whale Sovereign didn't intend to speak any more. Rather than dragging things on for a long time, he would prefer to finish things now.

He lifted a hand, five fingers grasping towards Qin Yu.

Qin Yu had just regained control of his body, but he had been able to keenly sense everything that had happened around him. Facing the Whale Sovereign's hand, his heart fiercely contracted, under so much pressure that it seemed as if it would explode. His face paled but his expression remained as calm as before, like a silent stone. In this desperate and nearly hopeless situation, he maintained his inner tranquility...then, he sent out his own counterattack.

Many years ago, in the deepest depths of a pond, he had obtained the demon blood needed to refine his Demon Body. And at that time, some images had been imprinted into his mind, images that he would never be able to forget.

Now these images flowed through his mind, as if he were seeing them once more. He saw the massive shadow of a demon standing atop the earth, as well as that finger that came crashing down from the highest heavens.

So, Qin Yu lifted a hand, and pointed a finger downwards.

A horrifying amount of energy was drawn from his body. Even with his current cultivation, his field of vision flashed black and a momentary dizziness overtook him. Within his dantian sea, the five different colored Golden Cores dimmed.

A finger appeared. Upon closer inspection, one would find that it was similar to Qin Yu's finger, but also different. The lines of the fingerprint that covered its surface wove together into a disorderly flow. They seemed to emerge from chaos, as if they complied with the rules of the world, but also didn't.

Thus, it could reverse the rules, turning from weak to strong.

Rumble rumble –

A massive amount of heaven and earth spiritual energy wildly poured into the finger. It grew within the wind, becoming ten feet long in the blink of an eye.

Howling winds whipped up. Clouds began to race across the skies.

A single finger to stir up winds and clouds, a single finger to cause changes of Boundless Blue!

The Whale Sovereign's eyes suddenly brightened. His five fingers tightened together into a fist and he ruthlessly smashed out. In the next moment his body shook. From the moment he had broken the window and flown here, even after facing so many opponents with disdain, this was the first time the Whale Sovereign had been forced to step back.

But to accomplish this, Qin Yu had paid a price. The finger he pointed out had ruptured to reveal white bone. He stumbled backwards, and with each step sounds came out from his chest, each one representing breaking bones.

To the seafolk watching, perhaps it appeared that the Whale Sovereign had once again displayed his incomparably powerful abilities. But, even someone as strong as Soupman could only be overwhelmed, while Qin Yu had managed to force the Whale Sovereign backwards. Those who understood this and had seen the supernatural power of that finger were deeply shocked by its might.

But shock was only shock; their eyes were still filled with pity. If the Whale Sovereign wanted to kill someone, who could stop him? A terrifyingly vast amount of killing intent rose up from all around. In just the blink of an eye, Qin Yu would die.

“Humph! Whale Sovereign, you also want to kill my guest? It's as if you don't place me in your eyes!” A cold voice resonated through the capital city. A figure suddenly appeared. Although this person was skinny, their presence was like a mountain, completely blocking out the sinister aura.

The figure had a thick turtle shell on his back, and at this time it didn't seem humorous at all. The face that seemed quite old and funny in the past was now darkened with dignified majesty.

Qin Yu's heart relaxed a bit.

This was the old turtle that had brought him to the capital city. With his strength, he should be able to stand on par with the Whale Sovereign.

His life was temporarily saved.

The Whale Sovereign frowned. “Turtle Origin!”

The old turtle coldly sneered. “Whale Sovereign, what great power and prestige you have.”

The Whale Sovereign narrowed his eyes. “I came here today to kill a human spy that has crept into our midst. If you try to stop me then that will be a violation of the oath we both made to protect the capital city. Are you not afraid that you will trigger a backlash from the sea oath you took?”

“Humph! Don't bother trying to use the sea oath to scare me. I've already said that this junior is my guest!” The old turtle swept his eyes around and suddenly lifted a finger. “Little brat Meng Li, when I brought Qin Yu to the capital city I passed him to you to arrange him somewhere. Now, tell the Whale Sovereign that he is my guest.”

Meng Li froze where he was, his face deathly pale. In truth, when Qin Yu's real appearance was revealed, he had already paled at that time. It was only when he saw the Whale Sovereign's unstoppable onslaught that he was able to calm down a little. He never imagined that without any preparations at all, he would be grabbed by the old turtle and used as a witness in his confrontation with the Whale Sovereign.

A thought instantly popped up in his mind – ‘I should faint.’ Throughout the years of navigating various circles, this move had helped him overcome more than one crisis. But today, just upon thinking of this he immediately dismissed the thought. Looking at Mister Turtle's cold expression, he knew that if he dared to faint here, there was a high chance he would never wake up again.

## **Chapter 175 – Prisoner**

“Re...reporting...to Whale Sovereign...what Mister Turtle said is...true...”

Meng Li stammered as he spoke. When he finished, he nearly cried. It was over, he was done for. He had spent his life utilizing an array of tricks to get ahead, pleasing all of his superiors and flattering them, and now everything was falling through today.

He had offended the Whale Sovereign. While the sea region was vast, Meng Li still found it difficult to breathe.

The Old Turtle nodded in satisfaction. He swept his eyes around and said, "Did everyone hear that? I said that the boy is my guest, so of course he is. What else do you have to say?"

The Whale Sovereign frowned. He was known to be calm like a mountain, and yet ruthless and overbearing in his actions. However, this didn't mean that he didn't know when to step back. His absolute strength might be higher than the old turtle's, but if he really wanted to win then he would need to engage in a life or death battle. The price was too great; he couldn't take the risk.

The thought of retreating grew in his heart. By this time it was determined that Qin Yu was Turtle Origin's guest, so he had lost his reasoning for trying to kill him. At the very least he could toss out some words before he left, so it would make it seem as if he were trying to care for the overall situation.

And it was at this time that his eyes swept over Qin Yu. Qin Yu also happened to be looking at him, and their eyes met each other. The Whale Sovereign suddenly felt his heart shrink, and an inexplicable sense of fear rose within him. He thought: if he didn't promptly kill this Qin Yu now, it would be no different from raising a tiger and creating a future disaster!

It was said that those who nearly reached the Divine Soul realm had a faint sense of the dark flow of fate. Because of this sudden and intense feeling of crisis, killing intent rose within the Whale Sovereign.

Qin Yu was startled. Just as he was about to lower his head, the Whale Sovereign's eyes brightened. His gaze was like two arrows that shot out from the void. Qin Yu coughed and closed his eyes. Blood began to flow out from between his eyes, and what was more terrifying was that his soul really did feel as if it had been pierced through by an arrow as he was wracked with a terrifying pain!

If it weren't for Qin Yu's soul force having risen so drastically recently because he refined the five-element spiritual objects, then this strike would likely have taken his life. As he withstood the agonizing pain, he suddenly thought of something. If the Whale Sovereign possessed such a formidable divine sense attack, then why didn't he use it that day when he captured Princess Lushy? Perhaps there was only a single answer, and that was that he had silently allowed the incident to occur.

The old turtle angrily shouted, "Whale Sovereign!"

Bang –

A heaven-tumbling aura broke out from his body. In the void above him there was a sudden roar. The phantom of a giant turtle appeared, as grand and imposing as a mountain!

The Whale Sovereign looked up. A tyrannical strength erupted and an invisible strength seemed to twist the surrounding space into chaos. Within this chaos, the phantom of a giant whale appeared. The whale phantom flung its tail about, causing tides of spiritual strength to splash around.

One turtle, one whale – two colossal entities faced each other. Although they were only phantoms, they represented their true strength. An invisible collision of auras occurred, and cracking sounds filled the air as crevices started to appear in space itself.

This was the collapse of space. In the legends, this was something that only those figures above the Nascent Soul realm, Divine Souls, could hope to accomplish. With the Whale Sovereign and Turtle Origin revealing the limits of their strength, the collision of it could actually compare to the Divine Soul realm!

Just as a heaven-shaking battle was about to erupt, a light sound echoed out in the skies above the capital city. “Do you two wish to raze this Solitude’s city to the ground?”

The voice was calm and peaceful. In this tense situation, it was only natural for one to wield a powerful self-confidence. This was the will of the Sea Sovereign, the ruler of all the sea races.

Even the strong Whale Sovereign and Turtle Origin had to lower their heads and display sufficient respect towards this will. The two of them respectively drew back one step. Although they still had ill intent in their eyes, they left their combative stances.

“Greetings, Your Majesty!”

The Sea Sovereign’s voice continued to ring out. “Concerning this matter, this Solitude will personally investigate it. Whale Sovereign, you need not meddle any further.”

The Whale Sovereign courteously nodded, without any intention of arguing the point. He bowed once more to express his respect and then turned and walked away. As for injuring the others, neither he nor the Sea Sovereign mentioned anything about it. With their status, these were minor matters not worth discussing.

“Mister Turtle, I will have to trouble you with cleaning this mess up.” The Sea Sovereign’s voice faded and the invisible aura that seemed to cover the world disappeared along with it.

A single sentence had forced the Whale Sovereign to retreat. Of course, what the Sea Sovereign relied on wasn’t something as simple as words.

The sea races were far more direct than humans. Here, strength decided all!

Soupman was lifted onto a carriage. His injuries were serious, but the old turtle didn’t seem worried at all. Thinking about it, since Soupman was the guardian of the royal treasury, he likely had an astonishing amount of heavenly materials stored up. As long as he wasn’t immediately killed, he was likely to live on.

Seventh Night Sky was carried off by the guards from Sea Spirit Pavilion. For some unknown reason, their attitude towards the royal guards seemed a bit cold. The old turtle seemed to know something, but he shook his head and didn’t say much. However, he didn’t discover that from Sea Spirit Pavilion’s carriage, a pair of deep blue eyes were peeking out at Qin Yu and staring at him with a slightly vacant expression.

Xue Zheng’s injuries were horrifying. Without saying anything, one only had to see his cracked flesh and blood and the bones that punctured his skin to see how dire his situation was. But, the coldness he displayed had left everyone shocked. He rejected the help of his subordinates and pushed himself to his feet as he mounted his sea wolf.

Moon Praying Shrine's carriage turned and rode somewhere into the distance.

The old turtle looked after them, seeming to appreciate Xue Zheng. But, he still frowned, as if confused about why Moon Praying Shrine would choose to intervene in today's events. Well, whatever, if he couldn't think of the reason then he wouldn't bother with it. He was already at the old age where his mind didn't work as well as it used to, and if he could save himself from overthinking things then that was for the best.

The old turtle turned, his gaze falling upon Qin Yu. His lips twitched. If he had known that bringing this brat here would cause so many unknown variables within the capital city, he would have swallowed him up a long time ago as a dessert.

But now, not only could he not eat this boy but he also had to cautiously protect him. Thinking about this, he felt a bit melancholic and his complexion was equally ugly. He waved his hand, "Take him. Bring him to the royal palace for questioning. We must find Honorable Ning and rescue him!"

Soupman had already used this excuse, so he might as well keep on using it. Although it was a bit like burying one's head in the sand, for better or worse it could deceive the general public a little.

Qin Yu was carried up. As he passed by the old turtle, he cupped his hands together and said, "I thank senior for saving my life."

The old turtle's complexion became even uglier. "Bring him away!"

Peh! If it wasn't for His Majesty then who would want to save you? Stop being so sentimental!

It could only be said that the royal palace had experts and so could easily clean up the situation. Soon, spiral shell messages were sent through all the stations, announcing that Honorable Ning had been captured. The surrounding several streets around Sea Spirit Pavilion's Nine Layer Building would also be cordoned off to be cleaned up and renovated.

At the same time, several variations of rumors spread throughout the capital city, all of them stating that Honorable Ning had fallen for a human's trap, and that human had disguised himself to take advantage of Honorable Ning's status. There were also one or two rumors mixed in about how Honorable Ning was a human, but these rumors were rough and filled with inconsistencies, making it seem as if they were definitely fake.

All sorts of methods were used, suppressing this momentous event in the shortest time possible. They had succeeded in muddying the waters so much that no one could conclude that Ning Qin was really a human.

This was enough.

...

In a sentence, after enjoying the benefits of coming out and tricking everyone, eventually one had to pay the price. Qin Yu had enjoyed a dazzling period of time and now he had tragically degenerated into a prisoner. The shackles the seafolk used to imprison him were especially forged for cultivators. They locked onto him tightly, sealing his body, cultivation, and soul.

Luckily, it seemed as if no one in the royal palace had decided just how to deal with him. Or, perhaps they wanted to make some sort of demand of him, thus his storage ring and other personal belongings were left with him and weren't taken away.

Qin Yu thought about it and concluded that it had to be the second situation. If so, then it should be related to that terrifying vine located beneath the royal palace. He relaxed a little.

He had disguised himself as a sea spirit teacher, participated in the great sea spirit teacher competition, and had obtained the sea spirit baptism. He had obtained so many harvests during this time that no one would have thought he would have ended up like this so quickly.

Even if he understood why, there was no way to think about these things anymore. Still, Qin Yu couldn't help but shake his head and force out a smile, sighing about how all he needed was a bit more luck.

...

Seventh Night Sky was extremely strong. However, what he prided himself upon was not his strength, but the methods at his disposal to preserve his own life. He was a mercenary who had wandered through the sea region for many years. Though he had been taken in by Sea Spirit Pavilion as one of their followers, he still relied on his amazing life-preserving skills to live to this point.

So even while his injuries were heavy, after a brief inspection, the woman sighed and relaxed. After giving some orders in a soft voice, she brought the young miss away. In her words, even though they had moved out of the palace a long time ago, they were still of high enough status that they couldn't expose themselves to such an unlucky place with the wounded and sick.

Seventh Night Sky bitterly smiled as he heard this, but he could also sense the unwillingness and perseverance in her heart. He closed his eyes and pretended not to hear anything.

The door closed and her actions became much more relaxed. She turned and saw that the young girl beside her seemed a bit distracted. She asked, "Miss, were you frightened by today's events?"

The young girl smiled. "Seventh Aunty, you look down on me too much, I am not that much of a coward. It's just that..." She bit her lips and said in a quiet voice. "Seventh Aunty, do you think that Honorable Ning seems a bit familiar?"

The woman frowned. She crouched down, "Miss, although Seventh Night Sky helped block the Whale Sovereign, Ning Qin is still a human in the end. Ultimately, our Sea Spirit Pavilion will have to cleanly separate ourselves."

The young girl seemed to understand but also not understand. She mouthed an 'Oh' before lowering her head and not speaking much more. Her eyes swiveled around. He was clearly familiar; she had definitely seen him somewhere before. After the woman left, she placed her hands beneath her chin, and after a long period of thought she clenched her teeth, seeming as if she had made a decision.

...

The group from Moon Praying Shrine settled themselves in the capital city. They didn't try to evade those people that followed them, and walked about honestly and openly. They moved into the rear courtyard inside one of the capital city's gambling establishments.



Which one of the sea region's formidable tribes hadn't placed informants within the capital city? This was a matter that was tacitly approved behind the scenes. For instance, this gambling house belonged to Moon Praying Shrine, although that business was only their outside appearance.

Xue Zheng rested in a room and started to recuperate from his wounds. Although he was strong, it would take a considerable amount of time to recover from his injuries.

The white-robed woman followed behind the Vice Priest. She left the room with him, and as they walked down the hallway, she hesitated several times before finally whispering, "Vice Priest, what do we do now?"

The Vice Priest calmly responded, "We wait."

Moon Praying Shrine stood proud and tall as one of the strongest forces in the sea region, so how could they not have any spies? And they had enough people to utilize within that solemn royal palace.

Since this matter involved the Saint Flower, no amount of news could be leaked out. So even though he burned with impatience, he had no choice but to wait for more information and establish another plan.

...

And as the young girl made her decision, as the group from Moon Praying Shrine had no choice but to wait, at this moment, a raging discussion was occurring within the royal palace to determine how to deal with Qin Yu.

## **Chapter 176 – Marriage**

Honorable Ning wasn't surnamed Ning. His name was Qin Yu and he was a human. This was a completely absurd revelation that seemed as if it were some inane storybook, but at the same time it was also true. This left the high ranking officials with strange looks. They also couldn't help but sigh inwardly. Since when had humans become so fierce!

After all, in the short period since he entered the capital city and appeared with the identity of a sea spirit teacher, everything he did could be described as a brilliant and wondrous event. This was particularly true for the sea spirit baptism that lasted nearly 10 hours. As they thought of this, their lips twitched and they cried out deep in their hearts. The godly existence that they had followed with fervent belief all these years, had it been blind!?

Of course, whether it was Qin Yu or Ning Qin, whether it was short-sighted or not, there was one point that all the seafolk in this grand hall recognized – he could not die. This order had come down from His Majesty himself. They recalled how this human had deceived the sea races and made the entire capital into a laughingstock, and now not only could they not kill him but they also had to carefully protect him. This left them all feeling a bit saddened within.

"Everyone, the Whale Sovereign personally tried to kill this person, so you should know how deep his killing intent is. With the events of the Companion Vine still fresh in our minds, we must double our efforts to protect Qin Yu!"

"Of course. If you and I protect this person with all our strength and he still dies, then we might as well go buy a block of tofu and smash our heads in with it."

“Keeping Qin Yu alive isn’t difficult, but what do we do afterwards? Although the rumors we started spreading have had some effect, we still have to give an explanation for how Honorable Ning was exchanged for a human right in front of everyone’s eyes.”

“That’s easy. While there aren’t many humans in the capital city, for better or worse they are still here. Let’s choose one with a similar figure and age and destroy his face. We can announce that he tried to escape and failed, killed in the process.”

“This...isn’t this too crude?”

“I think it’s not bad. Who cares if it’s a little crude? Do you think there is someone who will try to investigate it later? We should take advantage of this opportunity and use it as an example to inform those who can see things clearly that even if you are a human, as long as you stand on His Majesty’s side we will still save you. We need these people to understand just what choice they should make!”

The Sea Sovereign sat on the dragon throne, his back straight and tall as he listened to his officials discuss the situation. His eyes flashed and he asked, “Mister Turtle, what do you think about this matter?”

The old turtle’s eyes opened, a bit of a vacant look in his expression. The others quickly lowered their faces. The old turtle continued, “I do have some ideas concerning this matter, but I must personally speak with Your Majesty about them.”

The Sea Sovereign was startled. He wasn’t sure if this old fellow was trying to look for an opening to dismiss all the officials so he could find a way to sleep earlier, or whether he really had something to say. He waved his hands, “You may all withdraw first.”

Mister Turtle had an extremely high status. Although he was different from Soupman and his dog-like devotedness, he still held His Majesty’s trust. No one was stupid enough to express dissatisfaction with this command. They all rose up and started to step back.

The Sea Sovereign’s lips curled. “Feel free to speak. If mister is tired or hungry, we can take a momentary rest.”

The old turtle was legendary for having skin as thick as a mountain. Still, he found it hard to hold up his face as he was teased by the most outstanding disciple he had ever produced, since it was true that this matter had occurred several times before. However, he really did have something in his heart today. He coughed a few times and composed himself, saying, “There is proper business to discuss.”

The Sea Sovereign became serious. “Mister, please speak.”

The old turtle lightly said, “If Your Majesty remembers, you and I once had a discussion concerning the royal family’s bloodline. This here might be a good opportunity.”

The Sea Sovereign frowned, “Mister is referring to Qin Yu?”

The old turtle smiled. “That’s right! The common seafolk only know that the sea spirit baptism is a special chance allowed to Purple Card sea spirit teachers, but Your Majesty and I both know that as long as one is strong enough, then they can also receive a gift from the sea spirit. And, while the amount of this gift is related to one’s cultivation, the more crucial factor is one’s bloodline.

“If Qin Yu can galvanize the sea spirit baptism for almost ten hours as a human, then even if I ignore everything else, I can guarantee that a powerful bloodline flows within him. Perhaps, this bloodline might even have diverged from the sea and evolved separately.”

Since a long time ago, there was a legend that humans had emerged from the sea and started to multiply on the land. It was just that this fable was not approved by the proud and arrogant sea races. In their opinion, they were the incomparably noble sea races, so how could they have even the smallest relationship to the low and basely humans?

The Sea Sovereign fell silent.

The matter of the royal family bloodline that they spoke of before was the greatest secret of the royal family. Only a scant few people knew about it, and as for those that were thoroughly knowledgeable of the entire situation, that was only him and Turtle Origin.

The royal family bloodline was degenerating.

Perhaps it was because the legacy of their inheritance was too long, or perhaps it was because after becoming the royal family, the upper limits of their power had been restrained by the world, thus leading to their inevitable decline. But no matter what the situation was, in these past new generations, the power that the royal family derived from their bloodline became increasingly thin. There were even those who had completely devolved and lost their intelligence, no longer capable of taking human form.

These special royals were gathered together. Their deaths were announced to the outside while professionals were secretly gathered in an attempt to find out the reason why. A tremendous amount of time and effort had been consumed with no results. On the surface, the royal family remained as strong and full of vital potential as before, but the degradation of their bloodline continued and only grew stronger over time.

Because of this, the Sea Sovereign and Mister Turtle once had a deep conversation related to this matter to seek out a possible solution. The two of them finally came up with a very direct approach, but the effects were definitely worth looking forward to.

That was...marrying into other foreign families.

These foreign families referred to races that existed outside the sea races. This was because throughout the long years of inheritance, the flood dragon race had always maintained a tradition of kinship and alliance with other tribes through marriage. With the great power of the flood dragon bloodline, even after mixing bloodlines, one could still guarantee that the majority of their descendants' bodies would be those of a flood dragon. It was only after several generations of breeding and with the continual thinning of the flood dragon bloodline that the characteristics of the other tribal race would begin to appear.

Thus, more or less every strong tribal race in the sea region contained some amount of the flood dragon bloodline. For instance, the incomparably formidable Whale Sovereign could in a sense be considered a distant cousin of the Sea Sovereign. Because their bloodlines had already been mixed together, they couldn't be used to reactivate the potential of the royal family bloodline.

So, the human race had become the best choice.

But this idea had faced heavy resistance. When the Sea Sovereign once mentioned this in the past, he had nearly been drenched in sputtering saliva by that group of stubborn old fogies. They had even threatened that if His Majesty dared to tarnish the royal family's bloodline, they would smash their heads into the royal palace gates as a means to atone for His Majesty's sins towards his ancestors.

While he did think it would be best for these old fogies to smash their heads and save himself future headaches, in the end, the Sea Sovereign put this matter on hold for an indefinite period of time. To be fair, if there really was to be a marriage with a human, Qin Yu was undoubtedly the best possible choice. But, that stubborn Council of Elders would be difficult to deal with.

The old turtle seemed to guess His Majesty's thoughts. He sneered and said, "Qin Yu's existence is related to Your Majesty's safety, so using this as the reason, who would dare to oppose it? Your Majesty, this is a good chance to intermarry families with a human, and it can also solve Qin Yu's problem. And, there is another piece of news that Your Majesty might not be aware of. This Qin Yu was the cultivator who initially kidnapped Princess Lushy."

The Sea Sovereign came to a sudden realization. "No wonder the Whale Sovereign flew into a rage and couldn't hold himself back from personally trying to kill Qin Yu. This Solitude was just thinking about this matter. With that, everyone can be explained."

The old turtle smiled. "It was a bit shameful at first, but with the Whale Sovereign's strength, this initial matter...hehe, it was hard to mention. Well, it's in the past, definitely in the past. What I want to tell His Majesty is that Princess Lushy has recently sent people to secretly investigate Qin Yu."

The Sea Sovereign's eyes flashed. "Did Soupman discover this?"

"Mm. His injuries are quite serious. Before he went into seclusion he passed these matters to me and had me handle them instead. I inadvertently discovered this."

"Is mister trying to say that Lushy is interested in this person?"

"The only reason that I fought off the Demon Monarch and saved Qin Yu was because I was asked to by Princess Lushy...if she wasn't interested in him, she shouldn't have asked me to help him and then secretly investigate him from the back, right? I admit, there are some things that I have a particularly sharp eye towards. I initially chose not to inform Princess Lushy about Qin Yu because it was impossible for anything to occur between them. But now, that is a matter of the past. I can use this as an excuse now to find out Princess Lushy's intentions."

The Sea Sovereign thought for a moment and nodded. "Very well, do as you wish. But, Lushy must agree to this, otherwise think of another plan."

The old turtle smiled and nodded. "Of course. This is my sea race's royal family princess; just what sort of revered and honored status does she have? How could she be wronged and forced to marry someone against her will?"

He stood up. "Your Majesty, I will take my leave now."

Within the sea races, they didn't discriminate between men and women or between the old and the young. Everyone had the same right of inheritance. All that was required was sufficient talent and sufficient tactics. The winner would obtain all qualifications of inheritance.

Thus, while the princess' palace was built outside the royal palace, it still possessed a dignified aura full of overwhelming might. The guards that manned the gates had sharp and fearless auras. They coldly stared at the seafolk who passed by the entrance, their bodies emitting an indifference that didn't allow any strangers to enter.

But when the old turtle arrived, the several guards revealed a flattering expression, their smiles brighter than the spring. They bowed again and again, as if they were dogs leaping in joy.

"Ah, if mister is looking for Her Highness the princess then there is no need for any questioning; you may head directly in. The princess has already been informed of your arrival beforehand." They watched with respect until Mister Turtle vanished from sight. Even then their smiles didn't fade in the least.

Although he hadn't been announced, Mister Turtle didn't need to enter the residence before Princess Lushy came to greet him with her court ladies in tow. "Mister, how come you have so much free time to come visit me today?"

Her voice was calm and her complexion was serene. But, there were some minor tics that didn't escape the old turtle's sight. This little girl was clearly worried and was also concealing a few points of grievance. It was just that she was a smart young lady so she didn't say anything about it.

The old turtle relaxed a bit and his thoughts changed. He pretended to sigh and said, "I just came from the royal palace. I heard so many arguments that I felt as if my head would explode. Since His Majesty didn't wish for my presence anymore, I decided to just walk away."

"Wait a moment! Mister, you...are you saying you were arguing?"

Mister Turtle shook his head. "They were the ones arguing? Just what sort of status do I have? I definitely wouldn't do something so debasing as arguing with them. To be specific, it is about that Qin Yu. He concealed himself as a sea spirit teacher to play tricks on everyone, and you should also be aware of the changes that occurred to the Sea Mausoleum. It is said that this was all a human conspiracy, and now, hah, there are many calling for him to be killed."

Princess Lushy's face froze and a bit of worry appeared in her eyes.

The old turtle found this quite interesting. He blinked his eyes. "I was just playing with you. That boy Qin Yu is safe for now. But, what happens next will depend on what His Majesty decides to do."

Princess Lushy bit her lips. Just as she was about to become angry she managed to restrain herself. "And what do I have to do with it?"

Turtle Mister spoke up, "It didn't have anything to do with you before, but now it does. This is because His Majesty intends to marry you to Qin Yu. If princess agrees, then he will become the royal son-in-law of the sea races, and of course his old debts will be written off. Well, if you don't want to, then I don't know what will happen."

Princess Lushy was both embarrassed and shocked. She flushed red and shouted out, "Mister, just what nonsense are you speaking of!?"

Mister Turtle nodded earnestly. "It looks like princess doesn't wish for this. I will go and report it to His Majesty."

As he spoke, he turned to leave.

Princess Lushy was flustered, "Hold on!"

The old turtle turned around, a teasing look on his face.

She knew she had fallen for his tricks. But after saying it, she could see past it. "Humph! Just what are you smirking about? That's right, this princess here has taken a liking to him! Mister, you can go and tell my father that I agree to this marriage!"

### **Chapter 177 – Sang Yueyue**

When it came to Princess Lushy having taken a liking towards Qin Yu, that indeed seemed a bit unbelievable. But, as a high and lofty princess of the sea race royal family, she had truly never experienced such perils before. When she had been filled with despair and on the precipice of death, it was Qin Yu's strong and mighty figure which had appeared and saved her. From that point on, not only did his image not fade away in her heart, but it became increasingly clear instead.

This could all be attributed to the princess being too young and inexperienced. If the princess were a few decades older and had seen through the hearts of more people, then perhaps she wouldn't have been moved so easily. One could say that Qin Yu had taken advantage of the moment, stealing away a girl's heart when she hadn't fully gained her senses.

Of course, being a thief that stole a girl's heart was a completely unexpected matter. Thus, when Qin Yu who was being held within the royal palace learned of this matter from a smiling Turtle Origin, his face stiffened.

In the eyes of the old turtle, the expression that Qin Yu made was like a giant meat pie had fallen from the skies and he was too happily surprised to respond. This was an obvious matter. One didn't need to be a genius to know that anyone else would be crying with joy if they were suddenly given the chance to transform from a prisoner into the royal son-in-law.

As for whether or not Qin Yu would refuse...

Heavens, is there something wrong with your head?' One couldn't find such an opportunity if they went out searching for it with a lantern at night, much less in this current situation. Moreover, Princess Lushy was born as beautiful as a flower and was reputed to be the most beautiful pearl of the sea. Even if she was born looking like a haggard old cow, if marrying her would preserve one's life, then anyone would do it!

Humph, this old turtle has lived for so many years so when it comes to understanding a person's heart, how could you other juniors compare?

Turtle Origin coughed, a completely indifferent and helpless expression on his face. "This is something that I and the other high-ranking officials were strongly against, because how could the royal family's bloodline be diluted like that? But, His Majesty has recognized your talent and appreciates your abilities, thus he has decided upon this idea to save you. Qin Yu, your ancestors must have saved the world, right? That has to be it! Are there any other questions you have right now?"

Qin Yu's lips twitched as he watched this old turtle ramble on and on about how his ancestors must have saved the world and stood there as if he expected him to nod and then cry his heart out in surprise. "Senior, perhaps we could discuss this? For instance, if I continue helping to treat the vine below the royal palace, or maybe something else? As for marriage, please consider that as done for. I am only a human, so how could I possibly match someone as noble as Her Highness Princess Lushy."

The old turtle's face froze. He turned and stared vacantly at Qin Yu, as if he had an aural illusion. But, the expression on that young bastard's face was clearly one of refusal.

Refused!

He had actually refused the sea races' princess!

The old turtle's first thought was that this boy must have gone insane. Anger immediately ignited in his chest, and at the same time there was a little panic. This was because he never imagined there was the possibility of Qin Yu refusing, and that was the reason why he had first asked Princess Lushy for her opinion. This was where the problem was. Now that the princess had agreed, did he need to go back and inform her that the other party had refused to marry her? That scene was far too splendid to imagine, so much so that he didn't want to!

Thus, the old turtle was enraged. His eyes popped open and he shouted, "Qin Yu, you have no idea how to tell good from bad! Have you clearly thought about the consequences that would occur upon refusing the princess' hand? Humph, let me warn you. Before you make a decision, make sure you mull over it first, otherwise if you cry from regret in the future, it will already be far too late!"

Qin Yu's complexion turned indecisive. He clenched his teeth and said, "Fine, then I agree!"

The old turtle was overjoyed. He thought that his presence and grandeur were so immense that he had been able to shock this human junior into agreeing with just a few words. But then, he suddenly frowned and a suspicious light came over his eyes. "You agreed, but why do I feel that your words seem a bit shaky? Spill it, just what sort of plan are you forming?"

Qin Yu had a helpless expression. "You were the one that wanted me to agree, and now that I did agree you are doubting me. What should I do now then?"

The old turtle's thoughts changed. "There is something I need to inform you of ahead of time. After getting married, you and the princess will not be allowed to take a single step from the mansion. Of course, this period won't last too long. As soon as the princess gives birth to a child, you will be set free."

Qin Yu froze. He cursed this old turtle in his heart and then shook his head, saying, "This junior believes that this is an incredible insult to me, so about the marriage, we still need to further reconsider it."

The old turtle cursed out loud, but he was also glad that he said this. Luckily he was careful in asking this first, otherwise if this brat were to escape right after the marriage, he would really become a joke!

Qin Yu bowed his head and kept silent, allowing the old turtle to curse however he wanted. But, his heart began to gradually settle. It seemed that the sea races really did have a use for him. As for his marriage with Princess Lushy...who the hell knew just what was going on with that. In any case, it was impossible that he would agree, otherwise he wouldn't be a man at all.

One hour.

Two hours.

Four hours.

The old turtle panted for breath. His lips were red from rubbing and his throat was hoarse. He lifted a shivering hand and pointed at Qin Yu, "You brat! Today, I will tell you something. If you don't agree to this marriage, you can forget ever taking a single step out of here! Think about that clearly!"

He left in a huff.

Qin Yu looked up and forced a smile. What he feared the most was this result, that the sea races would hold him prisoner and wouldn't release him. In this royal palace, he really might not be able to escape. Perhaps he would need to obtain a writ of permission from that underground vine before the sea races would allow him to leave.

As he was wracking his mind for ideas, he suddenly heard the sound of footsteps. Although his cultivation had been sealed away, his five senses still far surpassed those of a normal person. The footsteps were light; it should be a woman. Could it be that Princess Lushy and slaughtered her way here after learning she had been refused? There was no way the old turtle could place him in such a trap!

The sound of footsteps drew closer. Soon, what entered his sight was indeed a woman. No, to be more accurate it was a small loli who looked to be around 12-13 in appearance. She had a beautiful pair of sky blue eyes and her face was beautiful. When she grew up, she would definitely be the type of woman whose beauty brought ruin to nations and people.

The young girl didn't speak. When she arrived next to Qin Yu, she sniffed several times and looked at him. Then, she brightly smiled and said, "It's you, I knew it was you!"

Qin Yu was startled.

This...what was this...?

He had experienced strange events year after year, but there was a higher number than usual this time.

First of all there was an inexplicable marriage that came out of nowhere. He had already refused it, but this time a beautiful little loli appeared, seemingly as she was happy to have found him.

But the key problem here was that he didn't recognize her at all!

As he was stunned, the young girl had already pounced onto Qin Yu and held onto his hands as she jumped up and down. "I knew that I would see you again. Seventh Aunty was always so offhand about it, did she think that I wouldn't be able to tell? What about the sea region being too vast to meet again? Aren't I seeing you again? Once I go back I must make sure to make fun of Seventh Aunty for being an old stick in the mud...well, Seventh Aunty doesn't like it when people call her old, so just forget about it."



Qin Yu still had an utterly dazed expression on his face. Soon, he was also left embarrassed. The young girl was happily jumping around him and her developing chest was rubbing onto his arm. Yes, he did have to admit that it felt good, but really he wasn't that type of person at all!

He hurriedly drew back a step, pulling open some distance between them. He said, "This...young miss, you have mistaken me for someone else. We shouldn't know each other."

The young girl batted her eyes. "No, I'm not mistaken, it's you. Let me tell you, my nose is quite accurate. Once I know the scent of someone, I will absolutely never forget him." As she spoke, she seemed to think of something important. "Ah, I forgot to introduce myself, how disrespectful of me. Big Brother Qin Yu, you can call me Yueyue. My name is Sang Yueyue."

Qin Yu thrust out a hand to push the girl away and stop her from pouncing on him. As he looked at her slightly aggrieved eyes, a sense of guilt grew in him. He hurriedly said, "Yueyue, your name is Sang Yueyue, right? Alright, I'll remember that. But, can you tell me where we've met before?"

Sang Yueyue seriously said, "The last time I went out, I wasn't careful and was accidentally captured by some bastard humans. They killed many seafolk and I almost died. But luckily for me, Big Brother Qin Yu arrived and saved me and Seventh Aunty."

The young girl didn't speak clearly, but Qin Yu was quick to find a corresponding memory. He tentatively asked, "The Netherworld Sea Region?"

Looking at Sang Yueyue nod her head, Qin Yu finally realized that she was one of the sea race people he had inadvertently rescued when he stole the demonic path's Saint Furnace.

Well, this was quite unexpected. No wonder this person's attitude was so intimate with him.

Qin Yu relaxed a little. The reason he had displayed such cautious resistance before was because he thought this might be a trap that the sea races had set up for him. For instance, trying to use a beauty and trick him...yes, such a small and beautiful loli could indeed arouse the darkest of desires within the heart, moreover there wasn't anyone around and she acted far too familiar with him.

He coughed and steadied his thoughts. Then, his eyes flashed. "Yueyue, can you help me with a favor?" If this young girl could enter the royal palace at this time to see him, her status was surely extraordinary. At a time like this, he couldn't consider things too much; he had to give it a try.

Sang Yueyue gave an earnest expression. "What does Big Brother Qin Yu want me to do? I will definitely try to help!"

Qin Yu first expressed his thanks. "Yueyue, can you help me check, the one that was originally with Soupman...ah, you can ask someone if you don't recognize who they were, but do you know who was the one who joined with him to save me?"

"Soupman is uncle's servant. I saw him many times when I was younger. Moreover, when Big Brother Qin Yu was caught, I was also on the scene. The ones that rescued you were my Seventh Uncle as well as Moon Praying Shrine's wolf rider leader. I remember he was extremely fierce."

"...Yueyue, just who are you?"

The young girl began to blabber on and on. Although she added many unnecessary details such as how old she was and what she was doing for her birthday, she still gave sufficient information. For instance, she came from Sega City and was the only daughter of that mysterious madam, Sea Spirit Pavilion's true master.

The master of the royal palace was her uncle!

Good, she indeed had a tremendous background.

If it were like this, it could be explained why Seventh Night sky had helped. After all, Qin Yu was considered part of Sea Spirit Pavilion. However, now that his identity as a human had been revealed, he likely wouldn't be able to borrow Sea Spirit Pavilion's strength again.

All that was left for him was Moon Praying Shrine.

Although he didn't care much about matters related to the sea races, he had stayed in the capital city long enough. He had heard some news from the sound spiral networks around the city...

For instance, the various major tribes of the sea region and their dissatisfaction towards the capital city...

Moon Praying Shrine was very strong. But, from the young girl's tone of voice and her praise of them, he knew that they wouldn't try and save him for no reason at all.

There was inevitably a reason.

Then....

Qin Yu thought for a moment and said, "Yueyue, can I trouble you to help me deliver a letter to Moon Praying Shrine?"

### **Chapter 178 – Jing Guanjin's Desire**

A moment later, the young girl called Sang Yueyue briskly walked out from the hall. Then, she restrained all of the emotions that showed on her beautiful face. Although she was deliberately trying to seem calm and indifferent, a noble aura still emanated from her features, making one give birth to a sense of respect as they saw her.

The royal guards that stood watch outside the palace were carefully selected. Whether it was in strength or loyalty, they stood above the rest. And now, their gazes were directed forwards with an almost stone-like indifference, as if they didn't notice the young girl stepping out of the grand hall. Like this, she threw on a black robe, boarded a carriage, and slowly departed.

She continued forwards unobstructed. It was unknown who was driving the carriage, but the strictly guarded royal palace defenses let it freely go, not even asking any questions or investigating them.

The carriage drove out of the royal palace. As it reached the great streets of the capital city, the young girl suddenly said, "Go to the Great Glory Gambling Hall."

Perhaps it was because they were already aware that they had been eyed by the capital city scouts, but Moon Praying Hall's subordinate gambling den had taken on such a gaudy name. Because their

background was deep and they were well known, many gamblers knew that this was one of Moon Praying Shrine's businesses. Even so, they still flocked over to participate. In any case, there were so many people that came here; could the Dark Night Division really investigate each and every one of them? If they tried they would be left as tired dogs walking in the dark!

Of course, if one had to ask the gamblers inside if there were any undercover agents or spies...did one really need to ask this question? It was fine as long as no one was caught.

The carriage drove out from the royal palace and entered the back courtyard of the Great Glory Gambling Hall. They approached an alley near the back. A number of people who secretly dispersed outwards had already neatly combed over the perimeter.

The young girl thought for a moment and decided she needed to personally deliver the letter before she could be relieved. She ordered, "Have someone come out."

The carriage driver nodded. He leapt down and vanished after taking several steps.

Although the carriage had stopped all alone in the alleyway, there was no need to worry about her safety. If there really were any dangers, it would be torn to shreds before it could even dream of approaching.

Soon, the carriage driver leapt back over a wall. A wolf rider followed close behind. As the wolf rider landed on the ground, there was a loud sound as countless cracks spread out like a web, his eyes ice cold.

The carriage window opened and the young girl thrust out a hand. "This is a letter. I'll have to bother you to give it to the Vice Priest."

Although the wolf rider didn't know who the person within the carriage was, their air of nobility was enough to indicate to him that this wasn't some game. The wolf rider hesitated for a moment and received the jade slip.

The young girl drew back her hand. "Let's go."

The carriage driver shook the reins and slowly drove down the alley. It was only after leaving the scope of the Great Glory Gambling Hall that the man started to speak with a bit of dissatisfaction. "Miss, that was too dangerous just now."

"Hehe, it's fine, it's fine. He knew how fierce uncle was so of course he wouldn't do anything to me. And, I was just delivering a letter. It's not as if the wolf riders are some mindless idiots."

"Well, it's best that there isn't a next time after this."

"Mm, I understand uncle."

The young girl sensibly promised. At the same time, she also thought that this was Big Brother Qin Yu's letter, and since it was her first time helping him out with a favor, she certainly had to personally hand deliver it to feel relieved.

As she thought about how perilous his situation was in the royal palace, she wrinkled her nose and mumbled a complaint. "Really, just what is uncle thinking that he would grant such a marriage...and, Big Sister Lushy is just too reckless. To think she would just agree like that..."

It wasn't only on this side that things were occurring. Within the Great Glory Gambling Hall, the group from Moon Praying Shrine had received the letter and had hurried into closed door discussion. In another place within the capital city, some people were scratching their heads over what to do with Qin Yu.

Of course, these people didn't have any good intentions at all.

The Whale Sovereign sat in a great chair. His waist was straight and stiff like a tree, and even though he was silent, a great oppressive aura permeated the entire temple.

So, within the temple, every seafolk spoke much more cautiously. But, they still had to express their thoughts.

"I do not agree that we should try to deal with Qin Yu right now. Since he is being closely guarded by the royal palace at this moment, the chances of success are too low. The losses of a failed attempt would surely be catastrophic."

"I agree. Looking at the present situation, the price to kill Qin Yu is too great. Perhaps we should wait for now and slowly seek out an opportunity."

"There are too many other dangers in this matter. We might possibly enrage the royal palace and trigger a counterattack against us."

In short, the staff analyzing the situation didn't favor this matter. They were mostly opposed to moving against Qin Yu at the moment.

The Whale Sovereign listened in silence. Although he often displayed a tyrannical demeanor, he had always been a superior who listened to the opinions of his underlings. This was why he had gathered a sizable group of his staff here to analyze the situation and judge what the best possible course of action was. It had been proven that a single person's intelligence was always inferior to that of a group. In the past years, his staff had indeed helped him avoid many losses.

But today, the Whale Sovereign wasn't ready to accept their opinions, even if he knew they were right. He lifted a hand and everyone quieted down. The Whale Sovereign said, "I must kill Qin Yu, but we cannot cause too great a stir. I already have a plan to do so. All you need to do is help me design a plan to deal with any possible retaliation from the royal palace."

The staff respectfully nodded in agreement.

They had already fulfilled their duty. Since their lord had chosen to arbitrarily flip everything upside-down, they would follow him unconditionally and begin designing the plan and making preparations.

The Whale Sovereign waved his hand, allowing the staff to leave. He turned and looked towards a figure standing in the corner. "Jing Guanjin, you have already wasted far too much of my time and energy. But, I will give you one more chance. Complete a task for me and I will give you that which you deserve."

Jing Guanjin's face paled, as if he hadn't seen the light of day for a long, long time. He looked up and revealed a queer smile. "Is it to deal with Qin Yu? Then I agree, lord father, no matter what price I must pay."

This human that had ruined his life, how could he not hate him to the bone? As for what the Whale Sovereign meant when he said he would receive what he deserved, Jing Guanjin didn't believe those words at all. He had been sent off as a child and rarely had a chance to get to know his father. Still, there was always a faint instinctual understanding between father and son. His father was a person who paid attention to how the public viewed him and had his own sense of morals. So, even though he plotted so many things during these years, he was still held in extremely high esteem in the world. How could such a person allow a tainted descendant to inherit his everything?

Since he could never regain what he had lost, his most ardent desire now was to kill Qin Yu.

...

Honorable Ning was a human.

If one had to rank the top ten shocking events of this year, then this revelation was unquestionably at the very top, and even cast away every other competitor by a wide margin. Even now, all of the seafolk scrambled to discuss this matter, each one giving their own opinion about it.

Of course, the secret rumors spread out by the royal palace were useful. In addition with some people helping these rumors gain traction, there was now a different voice that emerged.

For instance, that Honorable Ning had been kidnapped by the humans...

But, all of these efforts could only deceive the lower level seafolk. The higher circles of power naturally knew the truth a long time ago.

Honorable Ning was a human. Or, perhaps his name was Qin Yu, but no matter what he was called, he was undoubtedly a human.

Sea Spirit Pavilion suffered the greatest attack of all. Their soaring potential had been completely swept away, and it even seemed as if others were trying to deliberately smear their reputation, muddling events to make it seem as if they might have been involved with the humans. Of course, this was something spread out by public figures related to the sea spirit world. The truly great individuals knew of Sea Spirit Pavilion's secret deep background, so they were left snorting contemptuously at these rumors.

Everyone had a chance to collude with the humans, but not Sea Spirit Pavilion.

Besides them, the ones that were affected the most were likely Noble Court Avenue's Qing Family.

Ever since the day the Nine Layer Building was destroyed, the Qing Family that seemed as if it would soon be restored to its previous prosperity had suddenly fallen into drastic decline. Countless people who had wanted to form deeper relationships with them yesterday now turned a cold shoulder to them. Countless icy eyes gazed at them with indifference, and many people couldn't help but gloat over their misfortune.

Envy, jealousy, hate, such emotions were inevitable within the intelligent races. They had initially been jealous of the Qing Family's connection with Qin Yu, but now they were smug and pleased. Hadn't the Qing Family been strictly guarded in the past, for fear that others would latch onto them?

Hehe, now it seemed that they had to thank them!

The indifference and resistance from the highest echelons caused the Qing Family to immediately fall into a dire situation. They were even worse than how they were at the start, and it seemed as if they would soon be pushed aside.

Violent arguments blew up within the Qing Family several times. Each argument was fierce and violent and everyone soon scattered in unhappiness right after. Many of them wanted to draw a clear line between Qin Yu and them.

The biggest involvement between them was Leon and Qingqing's wedding. Then, it was best to break this marriage apart.

The sea races had thrived in prosperity for a long time, so all sorts of luxurious and hedonistic ways of living existed. In the upper class of society, divorcing and remarrying were not rare at all. Moreover, Qingqing had married not too long ago, so it would be easy for her to withdraw now. As long as the Qing Family could maintain their current status, they would be able to find a properly matched marriage in the future.

It was said that Madame Qing fell deep into thought for several days, and had ended up calling her daughter back home. No one knew what it was that they discussed, but they knew that when Miss Qingqing left, there was a bright red handprint on her face. From that day on, she didn't step back into the Qing Family household.

But this was how things were. While they could avoid things for a moment, they couldn't avoid it forever. In the sea region, making a returning visit to the wife's family after a month was a long-standing tradition amongst the sea races, one that had been established for thousands of years.

In a large dwelling not too far away from Noble Court Avenue, Leon combed his hair, washed his face, and dressed himself. He slapped his face several times and then pushed open the doors.

Qingqing was standing outside. As she saw him, she squeezed out a smile. "Leon, I have been giving this a lot of thought. We don't need to go back today, so how about we don't go at all?"

Leon's heart warmed. He straightened her hair for a moment and said, "There is no need to worry about me. We have to face this sooner or later. As long as you are by my side, I have the courage and confidence to face anything."

Qingqing vigorously nodded. "I will forever be with you!"

Leon smiled. "Then I must thank my wife." He habitually waved his hand. It was only afterwards he recalled that after his teacher's incident, the shrewd and outstanding housekeeper of his had made excuses to call in sick. He shook his head and revealed a helpless expression.

This was the changing thoughts and sentiments of people. He had grown up in the very lowest tiers of society so he had experienced this far too much. Still, the speed at which the upper classes changed moods still left him flabbergasted.

Qingqing held his hand. "Well we're going, so let's go. To leave such undecided things floating around would only be a scourge on us later. Humph, they look down on my husband? They won't even have time to regret it in the future!"

Leon gripped her warm and soft palm. He earnestly said, "Qingqing, I vow to you that I will try my best to make sure you don't suffer in the future."

"I'm doing quite well right now. I'm not suffering at all! The carriage is already prepared; let's go."

"Alright."

### **Chapter 179 – The Broken Seasky Wings**

Although the servants tried to maintain a normal demeanor, when their eyes swept around, they couldn't conceal the panic in them. With things having blown up so much, who knew when they would be affected? After all, Leon was Honorable Ning's only disciple.

Ah...perhaps now, they shouldn't refer to him as Honorable Ning anymore...

Leon had a calm expression as he helped his wife mount the carriage. He lightly ordered, "Drive."

The carriage left towards Noble Court Avenue. After a brief silence, Qingqing hesitated and quietly said, "Leon, what will Mister Ning do next?"

Leon shook his head. "I don't know." He frowned and then seriously said, "Qingqing, I know that you likely have some complaints in your heart, but I want to tell you something, and that is that I knew of teacher's true identity from the very beginning. So, I had already made preparations for this to occur a long time ago. I need you to know that without teacher, we would have never been together, that Lyon wouldn't have been able to undergo his manifestation, and that mother's sickness would never have been cured. I feel nothing but wholehearted gratitude towards teacher. This was the same in the past, it is the same now, and it will be the same in the future. Qingqing, I hope you can understand this, because this was never teacher's original intention."

Qingqing's face blushed red. During these past few days as she wandered around, she did have these thoughts. She thought she had hidden them deep in her heart, but they had been found out by Leon.

Seeing his wife a bit embarrassed, Leon held onto her and said in a comforting voice, "It's only natural for you to have such thoughts. I don't blame you, and even if teacher knew, he would only appreciate Qingqing for not abandoning me even now. To marry you is the greatest fortune of my life."

Qingqing glanced at him and lightly humphed, "All you say are pleasant sounding things!" Still, she subconsciously held onto his arm.

And at this time, the carriage violently shook as if it had been struck. Leon moved to protect his wife even as he shouted out in confusion.

The carriage driver didn't even have a chance to respond. He was immediately pulled to the side and ruthlessly beaten up. These people were extremely cruel and excessive in their actions, and blood flowed out as the driver weakly groaned.

The carriage door was violently torn open. Several drunken faces appeared as they all cursed out together, "Who the hell are you guys? You dare to drive over one of our people? You must be tired of living!"

These people all had an overly arrogant demeanor, each one more prideful than the last, as if nothing in the world could stop them. They had the appearance of typical rich young masters, but looking at their clothes, it wasn't the style that was currently popular in the capital city. Rather, it seemed a bit foreign with the taste of different localities, as if these wealthy juniors had come from other lands. At this time, their eyes were shaky but burning with excitement. In particular, when the eyes of several of these people fell on Qingqing, they began to heat up.

"Look! There's a beautiful young lady here! It's as they say, the people of the capital city are blessed by the land; everyone here is just so beautiful!"

"Beautiful woman, you have struck us. This matter won't end so easily!"

"It's fine, it's fine, as long as this young lady joins us for a round of fun, we can discuss anything!"

As several people spoke, they reached out towards Qingqing.

Leon was enraged. "Just what are you doing!? Stop!"

He pushed several people away and started to strike them. These rich young masters only had an ordinary and sloppy cultivation, and they had also been enjoying wine and women too much, so along with their drunkenness they never imagined that this boy would actually attack them. Several of them were immediately angered.

"Just what are you watching for? Grab him for me!"

"Hit him for me! I don't care if you beat him to death!"

"Bastard! Not even my father hits me! I'll kill you!"

There were loud shouts all over. Guards rushed over and knocked Leon down. The young masters cursed at him, telling him he had no idea of death or danger, and then they began to encircle the screaming Qingqing again.

They had grown up in their respective tribes, and from birth, they had been second generation bastards who had committed evils without any scruples. To seize and harass women in the streets wasn't anything at all to them. Even though this was the capital city, so what? The great figures of the capital city would have to consider the great tribes that stood behind them and would only be able to smile in response.

Jing Guanjin stood within this group of people. It was only with his foreign status and with him also being the son of a powerful tribe that he was able to arrange today's events.



This meeting had been initiated by him. He purposefully lured them into drinking too much, and then started to instigate them with words. He flattered and mocked, until all of them became fierce and aggressive, wanting to fight. What followed after was simple. Once he obtained news that Leon and his wife had come out, he arrived here ahead of time. With that, creating a conflict was far too easy.

Qingqing screamed, her cries filled with despair and panic. Leon's eyes turned blood red. Faintly, he could hear someone say that this person was once Honorable Ning's disciple. Then, he also heard that his teacher could barely defend himself, so what could his disciple do?

The words that followed were filthy beyond belief. Most of them judged Qingqing's looks and there were also some people who said that playing with such a recently married bride was the best, and that it would be better if she struggled a bit more.

Leon's head felt as if it would explode. He didn't know where he summoned the strength from, but he threw off the guards that held him down. He saw a hilt in front of him and tore it out. He clenched his teeth and rushed towards those several young masters.

Jing Guanjin disdained doing something like harassing women in public on the streets. Even though he was the one who instigated it, no one could blame him, because he was only standing on the side smiling and he didn't go in at all.

He could hear the sounds of a sword being drawn from its sheath, followed by rapid footsteps and heavy breaths. He rolled his eyes back and sighed, finding it hard to believe that his lord father would use such low and shameless methods to kill him. But, to his hate-filled heart, this scene was far too wonderful.

As he was thinking this, he remained completely motionless, allowing the sword to chop onto his back. As the blade cut through his flesh and blood, he frowned, thinking that it really was too painful. Then, his complexion suddenly changed as panic filled his features. He screamed out loud and 'accidentally' fell into the several people in front of him. They couldn't dodge the saber light and thus the sounds of miserable cries filled the air as blood splashed onto the ground.

The young masters were scared so badly they nearly pissed themselves. Leon rushed over. Qingqing's clothes were a little damaged, but she hadn't really suffered a loss. She cried and threw herself into his arms. At the same time she desperately held onto him so that he wouldn't do anything anymore. This was because just now she had already recognized several of these people and knew that they were the princes of several great tribes that were kept in the capital city. Perhaps they were all in miserable situations themselves, but since they were sent to the capital city, at least on the surface they were considered honored guests. Injuring these people would have serious consequences.

"Kill him! Kill him for me!" Jing Guanjin displayed a perfect performance as a young master playboy who was terrified and panicked after being attacked.

Amongst the guards, a black-armored man looked up, his eyes cold and without the slightest warmth. The guard lifted his palm and thrust forwards.

No one imagined that there would be this sort of genuine master within the guards. A terrifying aura rolled forth like a wave, leaving one's soul frozen in horror.

Qingqing's eyes widened. She shoved Leon away. Then, light bloomed behind her as spiritual strength condensed into two beautiful wings on her back.

Following that, the strength of this palm crashed into the wings.

The formidable defensive power of the Seasky Wings erupted and the wings grew incomparably radiant. But, the strength of a Nascent Soul realm master far surpassed their limits. There was a cracking sound as the two giant wings wrapped around Qingqing shattered.

Fresh blood spurted out as she was sent tumbling backwards. She crashed into Leon and the two of them fell to the ground. The sounds of broken bones filled the air as blood dyed the earth red.

The young masters were dazed. Before any of them could think about whose guard was so powerful, they immediately sobered upon realizing how much of a ruckus had occurred. They glanced at each other and started to walk away, cursing inwardly about their situation. Although they weren't afraid of getting into trouble, if they were too unreasonable they would be punished. It was best to just walk away from this.

Jing Guanjin followed the crowd, each person mounting their own carriage. Just before he left, he turned and glanced at the woman who was slumped over in a pool of her own blood. A complex light flashed in his eyes. He thought that if things were like this, Qin Yu would find it hard to bear, right? The tiny hint of guilt disappeared and he faintly smiled.

Leon held onto Qingqing, gripping her blood-covered hands. He wailed, "Help...help...!"

But the person he held in his chest had already closed her eyes. She could only hold his hand one final time, no longer able to smile.

On the capital city's streets, sadness filled the air, the sorrow and anguish so deep that it left one struggling to breathe!

Within the royal palace, in the hall where he had been placed under arrest, Qin Yu's eyes flashed open. His heart suddenly throbbed, and he could feel an inexplicable pressure in his chest.

What happened?

Qin Yu frowned. When he tried to sense it again, that throbbing had already disappeared. But, the suffocating pressure in his chest became increasingly heavy with every passing second.

He had an ill premonition, one that was confirmed as night fell.

In the hall that no one had visited besides Turtle Origin and Sang Yueyue, a third guest finally arrived. Rather, it was more accurate to say that it was a sea anemone raised by someone. This sort of gorgeous sea life had a vague intelligence of its own. Because it possessed a beautiful appearance and was also rare, its price was correspondingly high. It was a rare spiritual pet raised by the wealthy.

Now, the sea anemone held a jade slip in its mouth. Qin Yu had seen similar things before. This jade slip could store video recordings and was a high-priced consumable object. The person who had arranged all of this seemed to know that Qin Yu's cultivation had been sealed away, thus they had been thoughtful enough to also prepare an energy storage bead. When the jade slip was placed next to the energy

storage bead, the strength within would voluntarily flow out and into the jade slip, stimulating the video stored within.

As Qin Yu watched the beautiful sea anemone leave, he picked up the jade slip and energy storage bead.

Then, the scene of what occurred today in the streets of the capital city, presented itself clearly before his eyes.

Jing Guanjin...Qingqing who was slumped in a pool of her own blood...Leon who wept blood...

The video broadcast played to its end and started to replay itself, over and over. Qin Yu gradually frowned.

Crack –

The jade slip was crushed to pieces!

Qin Yu was silent. Half of his body was hidden in the shadows thrown down by the curtains above. His face was like an icy stone, without any expression at all.

His face was cold, but his heart was even colder.

Something had happened to Leon and Qingqing. Someone had taken a video of this incident and had delivered it to him within the royal palace. It was clear that from the very beginning, they had been targeting him.

It was just that this other party couldn't touch him at this moment, thus they made this choice.

Qin Yu took a deep breath, then he took another. He whispered to himself, "How could it be like this..."

He appreciated Leon. Leon was a boy with good character and morals. He was tenacious and hard-working; everything about him stood out. This was why he did everything he could in his limited capacity to help him.

At first, he was faintly satisfied with what he did. This was because with his help, Leon had changed his destiny and gained a brand new life.

Qin Yu was pleased with himself. He told himself that he wasn't just using Leon to help conceal his own identity. This was because what he gave Leon was more than enough to compensate for the risks that Leon had to take.

But now...it seemed that he owed him far, far too much...

If Qin Yu hadn't meddled in Leon's life, then maybe he might have continued living a lowly life. But, the girl he loved wouldn't have died. Many years later, perhaps he would be recalling her beautiful smile instead of drowning in despair as he held onto her corpse as she turned gradually colder.

"How could it be like this..." Qin Yu whispered to himself again. As he spoke, his eyes turned darker and colder.

He was silent, waiting.

Since they had taken action first and even informed him of this, then he naturally wouldn't allow things to end like this.

However, have you really completed preparations for every possibility?

Within the shadows, a cold intent stirred.

## **Chapter 180 – Day of Ancestral Worship**

The Day of Ancestral Worship.

This was a grand and magnificent ceremony created to honor the royal family's first ancestor, who managed to successfully incarnate into a flood dragon. The royal family's direct lineage, their branch families and all other bloodline descendants were required to appear in full and splendid regalia. Today, all slaughter was forbidden and only an auspicious peace was allowed. The smell of blood was not allowed anywhere within the vicinity of the capital city, otherwise this would be considered a great crime, an affront to the ancestors.

Several days ago, the royal palace had already started cleaning. All of the palace maids bustled endlessly about, all of them trying their best to ensure that the Ancestral Worship Ceremony would be carried out flawlessly. At the same time, guards were dispatched throughout the capital city to maintain stability.

In truth, this was only as a final emergency measure. The sea races didn't have too many strict laws and regulations, thus the Day of Ancestral Worship that occurred once every ten years had already taken root in the hearts of the people. Everybody was well aware of how much importance the royal family placed on this ceremony. In particular, the old bag of bones known as the Council of Elders. If anyone even thought of interfering with the Ancestral Worship Ceremony, they would definitely go insane.

"It's clear why Leon and the Qing Family lady were attacked. If one isn't blind, it's obvious who planned all of this." Turtle Origin coldly sneered. "It seems that someone really desires to kill Qin Yu."

The Sea Sovereign sat back in his dragon throne. He lightly said, "Soon, the Day of Ancestral Worship will arrive."

The old turtle nodded, his face darkening. "Your Majesty has also thought of this. This is exactly what I was worried about."

The Sea Sovereign frowned. "Does mister believe that Qin Yu will do something at this time?"

The old turtle thought back to how he had first taken Qin Yu because he had wanted to go back and check on his friend's situation and sighed. "He's a smart boy. It's not difficult to see that this is a trap. But, that is another matter altogether. Qin Yu that human brat, while his actions are a bit reckless and rascally, he is someone who places a heavy emphasis on friendship."

With a single phrase of heavy friendship, that was enough to indicate his thoughts. And as for whether or not Qin Yu was aware that Leon and Qingqing had been attacked, neither Turtle Origin nor the Sea Sovereign mentioned it.

Since the Whale Sovereign used such shameless methods without any regard for face, how could he not inform Qin Yu as soon as possible? And that person definitely had this strength. Even if Qin Yu was strictly being held captive in the royal palace, they didn't doubt this.

This was a low and basely method, but at the same time it was an honest and open plot. Even if one realized it was a trap, it was difficult to think of a solution.

The Whale Sovereign was surely confident to achieve his goal and have Qin Yu make a move on the Day of Ancestral Worship.

The old turtle stood up. "I will warn him. Even if he wants to take revenge, he cannot do it all at once." He hurried out. However, in his heart, he didn't have much confidence in his words.

After a moment, while under house arrest, Qin Yu had a calm expression. Turtle Origin tentatively asked some questions, but what his watertight questions received in response was something that appeared to be a little happy smile.

This happy expression left the old turtle scared silly. He was too bothered to cover up anything anymore and deeply said, "Qin Yu, you may continue to consider your marriage with Princess Lushy, but I came here to tell you that no matter what it is you know, you cannot be impulsive. In another two days, it will be the royal family's Day of Ancestral Worship. The entire royal family must gather together, and this is the most sacred and dignified of all ceremonies. If someone were to disturb the ceremony, it would be the greatest provocation to them. It is an inexcusable crime!"

This was no longer just a warning. It was openly placing everything on the table.

Qin Yu was silent for several breaths of time. "I thank senior for the good intentions. I understand."

His expression was earnest and his manner was sincere; he clearly seemed to show some gratitude and he also seemed to relax a little. But, once the old turtle left the hall, he was still unsure in his heart. He sighed. Without saying anything else, he gathered all of Soupman's forces.

On the Day of Ancestral Worship, this place would become the most strictly guarded area in the entire royal palace! Not even a single fly could hope to escape!

The passing of time was an eternal truth, one that continued unimpeded by any strength. The Day of Ancestral Worship continued as planned. A giant altar was laid out. It was solemn and respectful, and atop the purple jade plates, countless rare and precious treasures were displayed, each of them a sign of veneration towards their exalted ancestor. The entire royal family bloodline gathered here today. Some had even arrived from hundreds of thousands of miles away. This was because this ceremony was not just to pay tribute to their ancestors, but also as a means to display one's status within the royal family.

Starting from the altar, people were lined up orderly in divisions, each one representing your status within the royal family. The further away one was, the less important they were. If one were absent from this vast Day of Ancestral Worship, that would often represent one's expulsion and fall.

Thus, it was not difficult to understand why several deathly ill royal family members would come here even if they were lifted on stretchers. They all struggled to ensure they came.

Princess Lushy was also here, and her position was at the front. This wasn't because the Sea Sovereign preferred this daughter of his. Rather, it was because she possessed a formidable cultivation talent and an outstanding bloodline. Otherwise, did anyone really think that just because she was born a little bit beautiful, she would be called the most dazzling and beautiful pearl in the sea? It was impossible to be so naive.

At this moment, feeling the solemn and dignified atmosphere, her expression was earnest. She silently prayed to her ancestors, hoping that they could bless her life after marriage with joy and happiness.

That was right. Even up until now, Princess Lushy didn't know that she had been refused already. She had already thought about her wedding and marriage more than once.

To join together with a human, that was a completely unprecedented event within the royal family. It could even be said that this would affect her inheriting the power of authority in the future.

But the princess did not regret.

She remembered what her mother had once told her as a child. For a woman, their most important task was to find a husband that they liked in the future, so that they could live a happy and enjoyable life. Otherwise, no matter how much they gained from it, they would only be living in a void of sorrow and despair, fading away bit by bit with every passing day.

Princess Lushy knew that her mother didn't love her father. She had witnessed her mother's loneliness and depressed life, and she didn't want to live like that.

If she was together with Qin Yu, she should be very happy, right? Although this human could be hateful sometimes, and yes his words could be especially exasperating, but once they got married, this princess would definitely use sufficient methods to shut him up and make him learn his lesson!

Women of the flood dragon race not only had a spiritual accepting body, but after marriage, they could transfer this benefit to their husband. And, there were also many other marvelous things she could do. As she thought back to how she had secretly studied up on this, the princess blushed red. But then, she suddenly thought that thinking about such things in this situation might be too disrespectful to her ancestors and immediately restrained herself. She quietly prayed: oh ancestors, please do not lower yourself to the level of this little girl!

The old turtle named Turtle Origin had a pure flood dragon bloodline flowing in his body. According to common sense, he should be a mighty and powerful flood dragon now. But, the black turtle bloodline he inherited underwent a sudden reversion and mutation, unexpectedly suppressing his flood dragon bloodline as a result. One couldn't help but say this was how fate played with people.

At this moment, he was beneath the altar. He looked to the side and could see the Whale Sovereign from the corner of his eyes. He wasn't sure just what this fellow was thinking. Currently, most of the ceremonial offerings had finished. Afterwards His Majesty would order everyone to leave the royal palace, and there wouldn't be any other chances for him to make his move.

Could he have misjudged the situation?

As Turtle Origin was deep in thought, atop the altar, a white-haired and wizened priest suddenly opened his eyes. The priest looked around and met the eyes of several disciples. There was relief, there was reluctance, but most of all there was determination.

In the next moment, there was a surge of light atop the altar. Turtle Origin looked up in consternation and stared blankly on at the flood dragon phantom that appeared in the light. His eyes began to cloud over.

Ceremony...

Today, this was the first variable that appeared.

Princess Lushy had only ever heard about her ancestor's spirit manifesting before. Although she found it a bit unbelievable, she still felt awe in her heart.

She just didn't know what was going on. Why were all the juniors ordered to withdraw, leaving only the most powerful figures within their race here?

However, this shouldn't be something bad.

Princess Lushy paused in her step. Because there had been a sudden change in the ceremony, there was still plenty of time...she looked up towards a corner of the royal palace and bit her lip, hesitating a little.

But once this thought appeared, it was particularly hard for her to hold it back. In short, the less she wanted to think about it the more she thought about it; it was a complex situation.

"I'll just take a look from afar." As if comforting herself with this or perhaps having found a reasonable explanation, she shyly smiled and started walking over there.

Although she had never visited, how could she not be concerned about the man she was about to marry? At the very least she knew where he was being held.

She passed through several gardens and a long corridor. When she saw a familiar figure, she ran over.

This other person was pale and heavily sweating. They bowed as they saw the princess.

"You are one of Soupman's subordinates, right? Why are you so worried?" Princess Lushy's eyes flashed. She realized that those watching Qin Yu right now should be Soupman's people. Just as she was thinking about how to question him, the other person suddenly grabbed onto his grumbling stomach. He hurriedly apologized, bowed, and rushed past her.

That was a corner of the garden; it seemed to be a toilet room or some such place.

Princess Lushy flushed red. She thought that this person really lacked any sense of responsibility. How could they have a stomach ache while they were on duty? She thought back to how he had run past her in distress and laughed. The corners of her lips lifted in a happy smile.

It was only that Her Highness the princess didn't know that this fellow with diarrhea was today's second variable.

She continued for a moment, and soon she could see the hall within sight. As she was thinking whether she should stop here or not, she discovered that something wasn't right with the situation. Right now, in front of the hall, there were several figures standing about. They didn't seem familiar to her, but judging by their clothes, they should be princes from the various large tribes. And there was one amongst them that was actually quite familiar, as if she had seen him from somewhere not too long ago.

Mm...thinking about it, he was Jing Guanjin. She had seen him in a video before.

On the surface, it was said he was a prince from some northern tribe. But, she had heard that his true identity was as a son of the Whale Sovereign.

He seemed to have been held in high regard. A while ago, he had competed against Qin Yu in the great sea spirit competition, but his result hadn't been good and that was the end for him. Thinking of this, a bit of arrogance rose up in the princess' heart.

But immediately after, she was also puzzled. What did they come here for? In these past days, the nervous yet expectant princess hadn't paid attention to what was occurring in the capital city.

A thought rose to the top. Could these people be wanting to harm Qin Yu? From Jing Guanjin's standing, he definitely had the motive to do so. Princess Lushy's heart quickened. At this time, from within the shadows of the hall, she saw a figure walk forwards. The person lightly stretched his waist, glanced at Jing Guanjin, and then walked over.

What did he want to do?

Just as this thought appeared in her mind, she heard a shout explode in her ears. "The criminal has escaped – capture him!"

Guards rushed out from who knew where like a swarm. Princess Lushy's heart skipped a beat as she thought about what day it was today.

"Stop!"

What followed her sharp cry was blood that shot out into the skies. Beneath the warm rays of light that scattered down from the capital city's spells, it actually carried with it an unexpected sense of beauty.