

Refining 181

Chapter 181 – Then, Let's Die

Faintly, that figure seemed to glance over at Princess Lushy and then look back before continuing. Guards began to roll out and scream, each one crying blood. The situation had already spiraled out of control. She paled.

She had no idea just what had happened. But, she knew that a storm had been whipped up into existence, and this storm might tear Qin Yu to shreds.

With a flick of his sleeves, several guards were sent tumbling back. Qin Yu's eyes locked onto Jing Guanjin's. Perhaps because Jing Guanjin was startled by Qin Yu's icy cold aura, he immediately frowned and turned around to leave. But just before he left, there was a faint trace of a smile on his face.

It wasn't much, but he had seen Qin Yu. The pain that stabbed at his heart was relieved a little.

After all, you will die by my hand, even if it is indirectly.

By his side, a black-armored man looked up. His fist thrust straight outwards. The matter had already been completed. All he needed to do was keep this person here and he wouldn't need to care about anything else.

On the other side, Qin Yu also attacked. Crimson flames ignited on the surface of his body and his speed rose up so fast and drastically that he almost became a line of light in everyone's eyes. And what was even more terrifying was that he didn't care about the fist that came crashing towards his chest; one could even say that he was rushing towards it on his own initiative.

This fist strike was extremely heavy. His chest groaned and seemed to hollow in a little. Several bones seemed to break and Qin Yu's complexion whitened.

But with this he could reap the harvest of withstanding this injury. His hand reached out and gripped the black-robed man's neck. Then, he ruthlessly tore it out.

Flesh and blood cracked, revealing the white windpipe below. Blood erupted like a fountain and the black-armored man's eyes widened. He seemed to want to make a sound, but he couldn't in the end. This was because at the same time that his throat was torn out, a short black sword had pierced through his stomach, slashing about and completely cutting off any chance of survival. Afterwards, Qin Yu flourished the black sword and drew back.

Qin Yu grabbed the corpse and continued forwards. The young masters were already crying out in fear. Jing Guanjin turned back around, shock and surprise in his eyes. He never thought that the guard his father had assigned to him would lose his life in a single attack.

What incredible strength!

As he watched Qin Yu rush over, a taunting smile lifted his lips. Did this human really think he would kill him like this?

How naive!

Shua –

Shua –

From behind the slaughtered guards, two people flew forth. Their powerful figures erupted with a dreadful momentum that blocked Qin Yu like a mountain range.

Several ruthless exchanges occurred next. After a horrifying series of colliding sounds, Qin Yu was forced backwards. He roared out unwillingly and ruthlessly threw the corpse in his hands forwards.

Bang –

The corpse smashed into the ground, producing a massive hole. Flesh and blood separated as a pool of red appeared.

Jing Guanjin smiled. This was far too perfect.

On this Day of Ancestral Worship, the more blood the better, right?

Qin Yu exchanged several more moves with the two sea race masters. In a situation where he was already wounded, Qin Yu seemed to suffer repeated losses. He was forced back yet again.

In a short ten breaths of time, the ground outside the hall had fallen into chaos. The bodies of the royal guards and the black-armored man that littered the floor were particularly eye-catching.

Princess Lushy's thoughts buzzed in her mind and she found it difficult to think of anything. At this time, she could only stare with wide eyes towards that distant figure.

Ever since the Day of Ancestral Worship had first begun, at least in her memory, such a crisis had never occurred. What could she possibly do to resolve this mess?

"Murder! Save us!" Jing Guanjin cried out in distress and horror. As his eyes locked onto Qin Yu they were filled with sublime joy.

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

There was the sound of breaking air. The first two figures to appear were the Whale Sovereign and Turtle Origin. The former had a calm and expectant look, and the latter had a dark and grim visage.

Then, what followed behind the two was a group of white-haired old men. With their shaky and rickety bodies, it was unknown just how they had run here so quickly.

As they came upon the scene of slaughter and smelled the thick scent of blood all around, their complexions paled and their pointing fingers trembled.

"What a bold criminal!"

"Where did this human come from? He dares to ruin the Day of Ancestral Worship!?"

"Capture him! Dismember him; he must be dismembered!"

If hateful eyes could kill, Qin Yu would have already been torn asunder by this group of old fellows.

The Whale Sovereign faintly said, "Junior Qin Yu, no one will be able to save you today!"

He stepped forwards. His aura seemed to move mountains and drown out the skies.

Turtle Origin's figure flashed as he appeared right in front of the Whale Sovereign.

The Whale Sovereign furrowed his eyebrows. "Do you also want to block me today? Turtle Origin, even if your body is that of a black turtle, do not forget that the bloodline of the flood dragon race also flows within you!"

"Turtle Origin, step down!"

"If you wish to protect this human, that is a great disrespect to the ancestors!"

"Move aside! Even if His Majesty comes today, he will still die!"

Even the formidable old turtle felt his scalp tingle at this moment. This crowd of old geezers had really gone crazy, and it would be difficult for him to deal with them. Even if they were unreasonable they could stir up a mess, much less right now when Qin Yu had given them the perfect excuse.

Just as he was stuck in a hard spot, his eyes swept to the side and caught a look at Qin Yu's calm expression. The old turtle was immediately angered.

Hey, did you guess that we needed help from you? Otherwise how could you be so fearless!?

The old turtle's face darkened and he said in a low voice, "Qin Yu, how do you explain all of this?" Of course, the old turtle was only trying to draw things out. Once more time passed His Majesty would certainly learn what happened here, and only he could suppress this situation.

The old fogies from the Council of Elders all had frosty expressions. What else was there to say? This human captive had blatantly killed people during the royal family's Day of Ancestral Worship. Wasn't this a crime that went beyond any form of forgiveness?

But looking at this human body's stance, it seemed that he really was prepared to say something. The old fogies waited eagerly. They thought that no matter how glib or persuasive this boy was, they would nail him down here and finish him off!

Qin Yu opened his mouth. But, what he said went beyond everyone's expectations. He didn't give any explanation or try to argue back. He only looked forwards and said, "You don't need to shout for your life. No one here can save you."

These words were completely inexplicable and bewildering. It was as if he had taken the Whale Sovereign's words just now and altered them a little. The old fogies flew into a rage. They thought that this boy really needed to be dragged out and killed again and again for a few hours.

Of course, a person only had one life, so it was impossible for someone to be killed so many times. But in contrast to their anger, several other people on the opposite side of them suddenly felt their hearts shrink as a deep foreboding feeling swelled up within them.

Jing Guanjin seemed to fall into an icy lake. Qin Yu's light tone, Qin Yu's faint gaze, all of this was like a horrifying nightmare that covered him in endless fear.

Those words, were those words meant for him?

Jing Guanjin wanted to coldly sneer. His father had already appeared. Even if Qin Yu had a thousand methods, how could he possibly injure him? But he soon discovered that he couldn't smile. His body was numb like a block of wood. Although his consciousness was clear, he wasn't able to control his movements in the least.

What happened?

Fear erupted in his heart. Jing Guanjin wanted to seek out help, but his field of sight began to darken. There was crashing sound after crashing sound all around him, the last sounds he heard before his consciousness fully faded away.

Thus, he fell to the ground, joining all the other young masters. Their bodies were twisted and colored a terrifying and macabre blue and black.

The Whale Sovereign's face froze. His figure flickered and he appeared by Jing Guanjin's side. He placed his hand on the corpse and after several breaths of time, he looked up. In a quiet voice that seemed to come from the nine nether hells, he whispered, "What a fierce poison."

He had already decided to abandon Jing Guanjin. Although the reason was a bit different from what he had thought, there was no longer any significance to discussing this. But in any case, the Whale Sovereign never thought that Jing Guanjin would die, especially like this, right in front of him.

Turtle Origin inspected the other young masters. But, the violent poison had already entered their bodies and thoroughly scattered their souls.

The old turtle looked up at Qin Yu. There was a bit of stunned shock, but even more exasperation. He had thought things were as bad as they could be, and he never imagined that the larger surprise was still waiting behind.

Princess Lushy's field of vision turned black and she nearly fainted. Perhaps there might have been a chance of resolving the situation if just some guards had died, but with the death of Jing Guanjin and all these other captive princes, things had been thrust beyond the point of redemption. At the same time, Qin Yu's hopes of survival were cut off.

She didn't know where the impulse came from, but Princess Lushy ran over to him and shouted, "Why!? Why did you do this!?"

Qin Yu looked at her calmly. "They deserved to die."

Yes, they did deserve death. But what a pity, Daoist Wuyuan's poison was a bit too tyrannical.

These people died too quickly. They likely didn't feel much pain. How unfortunate.

The corpse he threw out had been poisoned and the catalyst was his own blood. Although the effect could only be maintained for several breaths of time, the effects were still quite nice, right?

Qin Yu didn't conceal his disappointment. Because of this, the Whale Sovereign narrowed his eyes and a terrifying aura flooded out from him like a tide.

As for the Council of Elders, several of those old fogies seemed to suffer too great a mental impact from what had happened. Some of them rolled their eyes back and fainted, and several others started to shout out curses. If it wasn't for them fearing that violent poison which could appear at any time, they might have rushed forwards to kill Qin Yu themselves.

The Whale Sovereign took the initiative.

Turtle Origin hesitated, but in the end he didn't move again. With things having come this far, he no longer had the standing to interfere.

He looked deeply towards the royal palace, towards the place where the highest authority in the world was gathered. His heart was filled with anxious worry.

Your Majesty, Your Majesty, have you still not made a decision yet? If you continue to delay, then there won't be enough time!

Qin Yu's face paled. Part of it was because of his injuries, but more of it was because he was being suppressed by this aura. He was well aware that the Whale Sovereign was going to kill him, and he would die even if he used the Boundless Blue Finger.

However, he had already expected this to occur.

Since he had chosen to make his move today, he had already prepared himself for this.

Even if it ended with his death.

Because there were some things that, even if they were the wrong move to make, even if they brought harm to himself, still needed to be done.

After all, what he owed was a life, and only a life could compensate for it.

Whether it was someone else's or his own.

Qin Yu closed his eyes. He gathered the totality of his will and strength together. If he couldn't wait for a final turning point to occur, then right before his death, he would go out in his most fiery glory.

Die with his hands tied behind his back?

Sorry, but that wasn't his style.

The Whale Sovereign's steps weren't quick, as if he were waiting for something. But as he approached with every step, a horrifying pressure arrived like a falling mountain, becoming more and more terrifying.

Qin Yu's black robes were pressed tightly against his body. Perhaps because his injuries had been disturbed, blood started to gush out from his nose, eyes, ears, and mouth.

But he still stood straight and tall. There was no trace of pain or regret in his eyes. Only resolve.

The final wait had failed?

Then, let's die.

Qin Yu lifted a hand. Beneath the terrifying pressure, every movement he made was slow and arduous. He could even hear his bones cracking and breaking. But suddenly, the robes that were pushed against his body were freed. They billowed all around him.

In the skies above the royal palace, winds and clouds surged!

Chapter 182 – The Grown Sang Yueyue

“Stay your hand!”

Wind and clouds surged, followed by a vast slaughtering intent. From that grand hall deep within the royal palace, that man who wielded the highest authority in the world had finally made his voice heard. It was calm, indifferent, and without any fluctuations of strength, yet there was an invisible charm within that stunned the heart and filled one with endless awe.

A trace of disappointment flashed within the Whale Sovereign’s eyes. But beyond that, there was agitation, as if he had already expected this to occur.

He took a deep breath and stopped his steps. He lowered his head to express his respect.

At this moment, the Whale Sovereign’s expression was one of indifference. But, the slight wrinkling of his eyebrows carried with it a tinge of anger. With his sublime performance, he fully displayed his attitude of unwillingness and helplessness.

The seafolk really did need to deliver an acting award to the Whale Sovereign, because his performance was perfect. It was so perfect that even those old fogies of the Council of Elders felt a stabbing pain in their hearts.

Look! The great and mighty ruler of the seas had actually disregarded his most important subordinates just so he could save the life of a mere human. Others might fear his unsurpassed royal authority, but they didn’t. They were already buried to their necks in the earth, so would they still be fearful over their lives?

His Majesty had been fooled. What they needed to do was awaken him, scold him until he was sober.

“Your Majesty, we acknowledge that you are the wisest and most formidable ruler in the history of the royal family, but now you have changed; you have changed and become unreasonable and incorrigibly obstinate.”

“The Council of Elders might possess no real power, but we are the elders of the royal family and have a duty-bound responsibility to help Your Majesty. Look at everything around you. You have already made mistake after mistake. Do you plan on repeating them?”

“Wake up! Has unsurpassed royal authority caused you to lose your judgment? Your Majesty, do you want to become the most disastrous and inadequate ruler in the history of the sea races!?”

The Whale Sovereign remained silent. What he needed to do now was play the role of a good and loyal aide; the rest would be handled by the elders. But in the next moment, his eyes narrowed to reveal a bit of surprise and...praise. Sure enough, His Majesty was still His Majesty. He hadn’t changed at all in these past years.

“Fellow elders, has this Solitude been silent for too long, or is it because these hands haven’t been stained by blood in recent times that you all think the royal authority has declined to the extent where it can be questioned by the likes of you?” The Sea Sovereign had a light expression, but everyone could feel the terrifying aura accompanying each and every word.

The Council of Elders...yes, perhaps it was disrespectful to call these elders a bunch of old fogies, so maybe it was better to call them old thieves. Yes, the old undying bastards were just old thieves after all. Their complexions stiffened and their bodies shook with anger. They never imagined that His Majesty would actually respond to them like this.

Flames wildly burned in their chests. But no matter how much their lips quivered or their bodies shook, no one dared to open their mouth to speak again.

This caused the old thieves to realize with shame that they still feared death.

Because His Majesty...would really kill people.

In the past, in order to smoothly mount the throne, he had already killed many, many people, and this included those from the royal family.

To be more exact, the most people that His Majesty killed were from the royal family. At that time, many spots had become vacant in the Council of Elders. It was only during the last 200-300 years that these positions had gradually filled back up. Then, who had the confidence to say that His Majesty wouldn’t once again clear out the Council of Elders?

The Whale Sovereign might praise His Majesty’s forceful momentum and strength, but he couldn’t remain silent any longer. He looked and said with a solemn expression, “Your Majesty, today is the Day of Ancestral Worship. For something so wicked to occur today, you must give us an explanation...even if you are the supreme ruler of the sea races. This is because the explanation is not for us, but for the ancestors up above who silently shelter the royal family.”

These words were heavy and were extremely well spoken. They completely removed any responsibility from the Whale Sovereign while placing the most pressure on the Sea Sovereign.

“This Solitude will give you all an explanation. Now, draw back.” The Sea Sovereign spoke lightly, as if he didn’t feel any pressure at all.

The Whale Sovereign bowed and took several steps back. He lifted Jing Guanjin’s corpse and departed.

The old thieves from the Council of Elders all had dark and grim faces. Just before they left, their eyes were cold and clouded over, indicating that this matter wouldn’t end here.

Since His Majesty needed to give them an explanation, they would wait.

Princess Lushy bit her lips. She didn’t know how or when she left the royal palace. It was only when she was escorted onto her carriage that she slumped back in her soft seat. A thought suddenly rose in her heart: perhaps the future life she dreamed of would never be realized.

Qin Yu’s wounds were heavy, but thanks to the potency of the Demon Body as well as the existence of the water and wood element spiritual objects within him, he was extremely tough to kill. As long as he didn’t receive wounds that would take his life almost immediately, then he could restore himself in a

short period of time. So, during this period in the royal palace, Qin Yu sat about peacefully. While his complexion was still pale white, he wasn't wounded any longer.

The old turtle coldly sneered, "What a heroic and powerful human cultivation. During the royal family's Day of Ancestral Worship, you went on a killing spree and finished off almost all your enemies. But, so what? Everyone knows that what happened to your disciple was the handiwork of the Whale Sovereign. How will you get rid of him?"

Qin Yu thought for a moment. He said, "As long as I'm still alive, I will have the chance."

The old turtle nearly turned apoplectic with rage. Is this the key issue you bastard? I was just mocking you for being overly impulsive, stop pretending to be an idiot and play dumb with me!

He clenched his teeth and repressed his impulsive desire to crush this brat into pieces. He lowered his voice and said, "Right now, you only have one road remaining to you, and that is to agree to marry Princess Lushy and voluntarily join the flood dragon race. His Majesty will announce that before you did anything, you were already a part of the royal family, and then he can save your life!"

Qin Yu shook his head without hesitation. "I cannot agree to this marriage. But, perhaps I have a way of making that underground vine even stronger so it can withstand more of that tyrannical strength."

The old turtle's eyes instantly sharpened, as if they became arrows that could stab into the heart. A dreadful aura began to circle around and Qin Yu paled. He bitterly smiled as a trace of blood flowed out from the side of his lips. "Senior, although I am trying to appear as if I'm fine, I'm still injured. Ah, please be gentle with me."

These words...seemed to have a different meaning...

The old turtle's face stiffened and it was hard for him to maintain the icy dread in his gaze. He humphed and said, "Brat, you think far too many things. But, let me tell you, sometimes those that think themselves too smart end up dead! You can consider what choice you want to make. Two days – I will only give you two days."

He left the hall. The air was still thick with the smell of blood. Since Jing Guanjin had appeared here, that meant every guard here needed to die.

Even if some of them were wronged, once His Majesty was angered, no one would be spared.

Ceremony, royal palace...thinking about it, perhaps even His Majesty never imagined that the Whale Sovereign would be able to accomplish all of this.

After clearing out the guards, it was obviously more difficult to get through. But in the dark of night, Sang Yueyue still arrived with a tired look. Her eyes were filled with worry. "Big Brother Qin Yu, I don't know who it is, but someone...publicized everything that happened today. Now, everyone knows."

She pursed her lips and sniffled. From her appearance it seemed as if she would cry.

Qin Yu never thought he would see her again. Seeing her genuinely worried over him, his heart warmed and he smiled. "Don't worry. Since I wasn't killed today, my chances of living on are much higher. Of course, even if I end up dying anyways, I did still gain some time, didn't I?"

The young girl flattened her lips and rolled her eyes. She angrily said, "Big Brother Qin Yu, what time is it that you can still joke around like this? If you die, others...others will be sad!"

She blinked her eyes and shyly looked to the side. She suddenly said, "Big Brother Qin Yu, if you aren't willing to marry Big Sister Lushy, then it's fine if you marry me. As long as there is a reason, uncle will certainly save your life. Marrying me is the same as marrying Big Sister Lushy; you will still obtain the status of a royal family member."

The little girl was excited, as if she had suddenly thought of a genius idea.

Qin Yu couldn't help but laugh.

Good, our young and naive Sang Yueyue was born with a thin and beautiful body and a lovely and cute personality. But, she was still just a very tender, very fresh, and very small little loli. How could he do anything to her...cough cough, he was overthinking things. It was an impossibility anyways. Otherwise, he would have rather chosen Princess Lushy. In any case, she was a beautiful woman too....ah, he was thinking about their looks too much.

He hurriedly dispelled these thoughts and kept his expression as neutral as possible to avoid harming this young girl's naive heart. "Yueyue is certainly good, but you are far too young, it is not possible for anything to happen between us." He tactfully smiled as he spoke, but he never imagined in the next moment he would be struck with something similar to twelve thousand storms.

Sang Yueyue looked down at her mostly flat chest and was suddenly enlightened. "So it's like that. I have a very good solution. Big Brother Qin Yu, watch this..."

There was a flash of light, and that tender and delicate little loli disappeared. What appeared in her place was a tall and fantastic charming beauty with a thin waist and mind-bogglingly long legs. And, what was most horrifying was that while her body had suddenly grown, her clothes didn't have that ability. Thus, they split open all around her.

Her legs were exposed...her waist was exposed...her chest...she seemed to be a bit uncomfortable about still being bound there, and wanted to reach up and tear off the tight strip of cloth. Then, at some time during his bewildered daze, Qin Yu finally regained his senses. He shouted out, "Don't move!"

"Mm? What is it Big Brother Qin Yu?" It was still Sang Yueyue's voice. But, with her current body combined with this sort of soft loli voice, the lethality of it was far too terrifying.

Qin Yu spun around and looked up. He feared that if he continued to look, blood would spurt out of his nose.

That would be too shameful!

"Big Brother Qin Yu?"

Qin Yu coughed repeatedly. "Yueyue, change back first and put on some clothes. Then we can talk again, okay?"

"Oh..." She was obedient as before. After another flash of light and some rustling sounds, she smiled and said, "I'm good."

Qin Yu tuned back around. He cleared his throat and tried to appear calm. But, as he watched the young girl look over her body for something, his expression stiffened.

“Yueyue, don’t do that again in the future.”

Sang Yueyue impishly smiled. “People already know. That’s why I only reveal my body metamorphosis in front of people I am close with. Big Brother Qin Yu, do you think I was beautiful? That is really what I look like grown up! It’s just that mother doesn’t want the strength within my body to grow too quickly, so she placed a seal on me.”

She waved her hand as if scattering all her worries. Then, she winked her large eyes. “Right now, Big Brother Qin Yu doesn’t need to consider those worries anymore. I can grow up so of course I can marry you. How about it? Would you consider it? I am very serious about it.”

Qin Yu: %#@&!

Really, he had no idea just what to say.

Chapter 183 – A Perfect Play

It was only with enormous effort that Qin Yu was able to have Sang Yueyue understand that it was impossible for the two of them to ever be together. In order to completely dispel any thoughts she might have, he even made up a story about how he was already married. And sure enough, this fatal blow immediately caused Sang Yueyue to calm down. However, her eyes were still full of grievances, as if she was asking, who in the world was this woman and how had she been so fast? How hateful!

Her bright and watery eyes left one clutching their heart. Qin Yu wryly smiled. This little girl’s charm factor was just too high.

After a few comforting sentences, she calmed down. But soon, a look of worry crossed her face. In this current situation, Sang Yueyue suddenly changed the mood, her face nervous as she said, “Big Brother Qin Yu, maybe it would be better if you agreed? Otherwise, they won’t ever let you off.”

Qin Yu smiled. “I’m already married, so how can I trick others? That’s why I can never agree to this wedding. I’ll be safe for now. Yueyue, did you pass my letter to those people from Moon Praying Shrine?”

“I delivered it the same day. I’ve had people keeping tabs on them, but the Great Glory Gambling Hall has been extremely peaceful these past days; there hasn’t been anything out of the ordinary.” Of course, the little girl couldn’t help but give an explanation about Great Glory Gambling Hall’s background, and from the way she spoke she clearly disliked this name.

Qin Yu listened to her random thoughts and calmed down a little.

On the day his identity was revealed, the Whale Sovereign had tried to kill him, but Moon Praying Shrine had tried to save his life, even going against public opinion to do so. There had to be a reason for that. Thinking about it, it should be related to his disguised identity as a sea spirit teacher and his subsequent fame. Thus, when he had Sang Yueyue deliver a letter, the words within had been quite simple: As long as it is a sea spirit and as long as it isn’t dead, I can save it.

Moon Praying Shrine would certainly have a response. However, there was actually no noise. Something seemed off.

Concerning Moon Praying Shrine's strength, Qin Yu had already asked Sang Yueyue about it. Moon Praying Shrine was the bloodline lineage and tribe of the previous dynasty's queen. They had a strong war division and had once even raised a flag and revolted against the capital city, causing a fierce war to erupt.

In the end, Moon Praying Shrine had been subdued by the capital city and was forced to acknowledge their supreme sovereignty. But, this explanation was only what was told to the common seafolk. According to Sang Yueyue's explanation, Moon Praying Shrine remained the most formidable tribe in the sea region, one that maintained their absolute independence and still had the qualifications to shake the capital city.

Qin Yu could make a vow to the royal palace that he would help the underground vine grow. Although he still didn't know just why or how that was useful, it was undoubtedly a very, very important matter. Under this premise, if Moon Praying Shrine were to also help, then there should be a chance for him to escape from this unscathed.

Qin Yu let out a light breath and gathered his thoughts. He looked up, "Yueyue, can I bother you with one more thing?"

Sang Yueyue nodded, "Just tell me, Big Brother Qin Yu!"

"Thank you Yueyue. You should already be aware of my disciple and what happened to him. No matter what outcome emerges from all this, I likely won't be able to help him again. So, I hope that Yueyue will look after Leon for me." As he spoke to here, Qin Yu paused for a moment before continuing, "Just say that this is a little bit of what I owe him."

Sang Yueyue's eyes brightened. "Big Brother Qin Yu, you've already done as much as you can. After Seventh Aunty and Seventh Uncle found out, while they were shocked, they still admired you. My Seventh Aunty said that Big Brother Qin Yu is someone who values friendship. It's just a pity that..."

"Just a pity that I am not one of the sea races, right?" Qin Yu smiled, his eyes a bit sad and dim. "In truth, no matter who I kill or what I do, I will always owe Leon. This is because it is impossible for those that die to live again. This matter has already given me a profound lesson. I cannot arbitrarily pull people into my troubles, because even if you think that I have already done so much for them, in the end it just might be harming them."

The young girl listened in a stunned daze, but she could still distinguish his general meaning. So, when she looked at Qin Yu her eyes were even brighter. She perked up and blabbered to herself.

"Just why did I run into Big Brother Qin Yu so late? Now I don't have any chance at all. This isn't fair..."

"Ugh! What a lucky woman. I hope that she will always be good to Big Brother Qin Yu, or else I will steal you away..."

"Ahh, I'm not happy, I'm so envious..."

Sang Yueyue looked up in earnest. "Big Brother Qin Yu, can't you divorce her and marry me? Is she more beautiful than I am?"

Qin Yu shook his head and laughed. "Stop speaking nonsense." He paused for several moments, and when he spoke he seemed wistful, as if he were remembering a fond memory. "Yueyue is beautiful, but she is irreplaceable in my eyes. Moreover, she left several years ago, so even if I want to divorce her, I wouldn't have the chance."

His words were heavy and filled with emotion. The little girl immediately understood what it meant when he said she had 'left'. A guilty look crossed her face and she whispered, "I'm sorry Big Brother Qin Yu, I didn't mean to dig up your painful past."

In her heart, she cried out in sorrow. That woman had already died. How could she possibly compare to the shadow that woman left in her Big Brother Qin Yu's heart?

She feared that no matter what she did, it would be impossible to replace her. But the more she thought of this, the better she thought her Big Brother Qin Yu was.

Oh, what could she do, what could she do?

Qin Yu had no idea what the little girl was thinking right now. Ning Ling's image appeared in his mind, but after several breaths of time he shook his head and sighed helplessly. Perhaps the sudden recent events had affected him and caused him to become sentimental.

After some more words, he urged the little girl to leave sooner. While he didn't know what was happening outside, he could imagine that it took her a considerable amount of effort to enter this place. The longer she stayed, the more chances there were for problems to occur. Right now, he didn't want to owe anyone, anything, anymore.

As if sensing Qin Yu's thoughts, the little girl nodded agreeably. She said that she would try to think of a solution, but when she left, she still seemed a bit reluctant.

She left the hall. The carriage hidden in the shadows had been waiting for her all this time. When she boarded, the driver shook the reins and they quietly drove off. After some time, the carriage driver couldn't help but say, "Miss, what you did just now was...far too dangerous."

He really couldn't think of any words or expressions to convey his thoughts. Could it be that just because you thought your chest wasn't large enough, you also started to lose your mind? He had already rushed in just then!

"Mm? What did you say, uncle?"

"...I said that miss shouldn't..."

"Uncle, Big Brother Qin Yu is really a very good, very good person. I used to hate humans, but from today on I have decided to change my view of them. There are still good people amongst the humans – for instance, Big Brother Qin Yu. Hah, I really envy her, that woman who met Big Brother Qin Yu so much earlier. Although she has died, she has always kept guard over Big Brother Qin Yu's heart."

Hearing this, the carriage driver thought that there was no longer a reason for him to speak.

Of course, the young girl was now holding her chest, sighing and full of longing. She had already forgotten about what he had said earlier.

...

Within that grand hall, the Sea Sovereign turned his eyes. "Mister, do you really think that Qin Yu won't agree to the marriage?"

The old turtle had a repugnant expression. "Your Majesty, although I don't want to admit it, Qin Yu that human bastard is indeed a man of principle. If he said that he won't agree, then I fear that even after two days pass, he will still refuse the offer."

The Sea Sovereign smiled. "It's rare to see someone like that who doesn't fear death. Moreover, this Solitude is quite curious; why does he refuse? Could it really be for a woman?"

He found it hard to believe, but this was what it was.

The old turtle sneered. "I think he knows that we need to use him, otherwise how could he be so unscrupulous in his actions?"

The Sea Sovereign nodded. "Mister's words are reasonable. But, we all saw the situation today. If this Solitude didn't take action, he would have truly risked everything."

The old turtle curled his lips.

The Sea Sovereign shook his head. "It seems that mister has really been left angered breathless by him these past days. This Qin Yu is quite skilled. At the very least, this Solitude has never managed to achieve that in the past."

"Your Majesty, it's about time, no more of this extravagant and useless chatter. What do you really think? For something so disastrous to occur on the Day of Ancestral Worship, although the Whale Sovereign is incomparably vile for doing so, he wasn't wrong. It is impossible for us to not give an explanation for this. If Qin Yu refuses marriage then he won't have a royal title. Just how does Your Majesty plan on saving him?"

The Sea Sovereign turned his eyes. "Could that little girl Yueyue's actions be hidden from mister's eyes? Since this Solitude has allowed them to do as they please, there is a variable that this Solitude has kept buried. This Solitude didn't wish to use it, but now it seems that there is no other choice."

The old turtle lightly coughed. "But doing so might not seem too good."

"Haha, if mister has taught me anything, it is that in comparison to living, any face or shame is meaningless." The Sea Sovereign's eyes lightened. "And, these are concessions made under pressure from Moon Praying Shrine. They can always be explained."

The old turtle cupped his hands together. "Your Majesty is wise."

The Sea Sovereign chuckled. "Mister's flattery is too rare. Then, this Solitude will accept it. It appears you also appreciate this Qin Yu a little. This Solitude is the same. At first he didn't seem like much, but more and more he seems like a rare and talented person. Unfortunately, in the end he isn't one of the sea races."

...

As the Sea Sovereign was sighing, a carriage quietly drove into the rear courtyard of the Great Glory Gambling Hall. The stiff and weary carriage driver leapt down, bowed to the several people around him, and drew back respectfully.

The carriage opened from inside to reveal an old man wearing ordinary moon-colored robes. He had a warm and genial smile. With the Vice Priest in the lead, the other seafolk of Moon Praying Shrine lowered their heads deeply, their words coming from the depths of their heart. "Greetings, Lord Priest."

This humble-looking old man whose eyes seemed just a bit brighter than usual, was actually the Lord Priest of Moon Praying Shrine, someone that overawed a part of the sea region and possessed true power. If one really had to compare him, then besides His Majesty in the royal palace, this old priest could be called the most revered and respected person in the world.

And such a great person had quietly arrived in the capital city during this common and ordinary night.

"Rise."

"Yes."

The white-dressed woman approached. When she supported her father's arm, the Lord Priest's smile immediately brightened and filled with warmth. It appeared as if they were no different than a father and his most favored daughter.

"Lord Priest, you have finally arrived. According to what we know, His Majesty has given Qin Yu a final two days to consider. If we don't make our move now it will be too late." The Vice Priest said with a solemn expression.

The Lord Priest smiled. He looked up towards the royal palace. "You all have underestimated His Majesty too much. When you sent news back to the tribe, it was inevitably because he allowed it. If I'm not wrong, His Majesty has been awaiting the arrival of these old bones. So to express my gratitude towards His Majesty, two days from now, our Moon Praying Shrine must work with him to give the perfect play."

Chapter 184 – Lie with Open Eyes

For some people, the older they grew the more crooked they became. For instance, those from the Council of Elders. For some people, the older they grew the wiser and wiliier they became. For instance, Moon Praying Shrine's Lord Priest. Without any communication, he could rely on just his own extrapolations and experience to completely understand the situation. One had no choice but to acknowledge just how sharp his judgment was.

No one disagreed with the Lord Priest's words; they only expressed their joy and happiness towards the treatment that the Saint Flower would soon receive. Within Moon Praying Shrine, this old priest had a status comparable to that of His Majesty within the capital city. No...it was actually far higher than that. This was because this priest was not only the one who wielded the highest power, but also because he was the spiritual leader and beacon of light who led them forwards.

Two days later, Great Glory Gambling Hall's great doors were pushed open. Because they had announced their closure earlier, the surroundings were in a rare state of quiet. A carriage was waiting, one that had the emblem representing the full might of Moon Praying Shrine. It was an image of a moon hanging high above the seas, the waves below gently moving with the breeze as numerous moons were reflected in the waters below.

Outside the gambling hall, there were still some people gathered. These were gamblers that hadn't yet heard the news, and they were turned away. Some of them were angry but they didn't dare to do anything about it. They cursed and muttered to themselves, but things like this were bound to happen. At this time, they saw the carriage drive out of the gambling hall along with the massive amount of wolf riders that followed on both sides. As long as one wasn't stubbornly blind, it was easy to tell that a great figure had arrived.

Moreover, there were always those with discerning eyesight. The carriage was covered in complicated textures and there was also that magnificent and dazzling image of a moon high above the sea; this was the most honored and distinguished symbol of Moon Praying Shrine. It was like the imperial dragon robes of the mortal world. Not many had the qualifications to use it; perhaps it was only this Lord Priest.

That great figure who had once led Moon Praying Shrine into direct conflict with the capital city had now come here? As the seafolk watching realized this, all of them gushed out with fervid excitement in their hearts. None of them held any malice or enmity towards Moon Praying Shrine; one could even say that they had a faint and hard-to-describe sense of worship towards that legendary Lord Priest. Thus, as the carriage passed, their eyes filled with awe and respect, as well as a bit of curiosity and hope, as they bowed towards it.

As if sensing their thoughts, the carriage windows were pushed open from within to reveal the warm face of the priest. But on this day, he wore his full priestly regalia. It was sewed in ancient patterns, bright colors, and there were even several long feathers on his hat. But, none of this seemed humorous at all, and instead further enhanced his dignity. While the old priest might have been gently smiling, his honorable and lofty aura still exuded a sense of inexplicable power.

After this, news of Moon Praying Shrine's Lord Priest arriving in the capital city spread at the fastest speed possible. Wolf riders looked out, their gazes as sharp as blades as they searched for any sign of trouble in the surroundings. If even a tiny accident were to occur, it would welcome a violent reaction.

Xue Zheng sat on his sea wolf, his complexion still pale. It was clear he had yet to recover from the serious injuries he suffered. Even so, no one dared to mock him. He was a formidable existence who had come face-to-face with the Whale Sovereign and still lived.

The carriage drove down the streets. As more and more eyes looked towards them, they headed towards the royal palace.

And at this time, within the royal palace, a final decision was being made on Qin Yu's fate.

News of Moon Praying Shrine's Head Priest visiting left many people stunned. They couldn't imagine why this old opponent of theirs would be so brave as to step into the capital city.

But there were also those that felt something else from Moon Praying Shrine's actions. Their complexion immediately darkened as their eyes became gloomy.

For instance, the Whale Sovereign.

On that day when Xue Zheng had personally moved to block him, he could determine Moon Praying Shrine's stance from this. But, he never thought that their Lord Priest would personally make a visit.

These damned barbarians, just what sort of wrong medicine did they take today. Could it be that they came here to...save Qin Yu? During the Day of Ancestral Worship, the Whale Sovereign had chosen to step back because he had full faith that Qin Yu would die. So, he took advantage of that moment to weaken His Majesty's prestige. After all, that would be advantageous for him when he seized the throne in the future.

But now, other variables had come into play. It seemed as if the situation was slipping beyond his control.

He couldn't wait any longer. Qin Yu had to die!

His eyes flashed with a severe light. The Whale Sovereign stepped forwards and said, "Your Majesty, it is time that you give us an explanation. I have waited until today, and now we have reached the moment you promised."

Within the grand hall, several people widened their eyes in amazed surprise. They never thought that the Whale Sovereign, who preferred to remain hidden in the background, would actually jump out on his own initiative and make a demand of His Majesty. There were many smart people here. They thought about how the Lord Priest from Moon Praying Shrine had just arrived and how the wolf rider captain had tried to save Qin Yu that day, and their expressions turned heavy.

The first one to stand up was the Council of Elders' Great Elder. He had a long scar that traced down his face. The original injury should have been extremely serious, thus even though it had healed, there was still a deep red and purple scar.

"Your Majesty, the Day of Ancestral Worship is the most important festive day of my royal palace. Anyone that affronts the ancestors should be sternly punished. Much less, I also heard that this person is a human?" The Great Elder who had been awakened from seclusion felt his lips twitch, and the scar that ran down his face seemed even fiercer. "I believe he should have been executed on the scene that day, yet matters have been dragged out this long. I really have no idea what Your Majesty is thinking."

He bowed and lightly said, "I ask Your Majesty to issue an order to execute Qin Yu. Otherwise, please kill me. I only hope that Your Majesty's blade doesn't show any more mercy, otherwise if I gain another scar on my face, I will be far too ugly. Not even my little grandson will allow me to hug him."

In the past when the Council of Elders had been mercilessly cleaned out, while the Great Elder had lived, he had gained a scar on his face. Only a small number of people knew about this, and now that it was publicly revealed in the grand hall, it was no different from a ruthless question. Did His Majesty want to clear out the Council of Elders once more, just for the sake of a single human?

"I ask Your Majesty to issue the order. Execute Qin Yu!"

"I ask Your Majesty to execute Qin Yu!"

"Your Majesty, please pass down the order!"

Within the grand hall, person after person fell to their knees. The air seemed as if it would freeze solid.

In the corners of the grand hall, several figures stood about. Their auras were calm and indifferent. They wore long white robes, and whether it was men or women, they kept their eyes down, as if they didn't see what was happening in front of them.

The Whale Sovereign frowned. According to their previous agreement, these priests should have started speaking up to nail down Qin Yu. After all, these people might not have any authority, but when it came to worshipping the ancestors, they held an enormous amount of power.

On the Day of Ancestral Worship, the priests had already made their move, so they had no reason to be silent now. Just where had the problem come from?

The Whale Sovereign was lost in thought. At this time, as the Sea Sovereign sat on his dragon throne and faced the waves of suppression, he finally spoke up. "You want to kill Qin Yu, and this Solitude is the same. But since he has been kept alive until today, there is naturally a reason for doing so." He turned and nodded. "Mister Turtle, please take out that thing."

The old turtle's face darkened and he took out a bright crescent-shaped jade pendant from his chest. He said, "On the Day of Ancestral Worship, a special envoy from Moon Praying Shrine secretly arrived at the royal palace to deliver this identification token. It clearly states that Qin Yu is a guest priest of Moon Praying Shrine. His Majesty and I have carefully examined it, and we have determined that the jade pendant's aura indeed belongs to Qin Yu." He clenched his teeth, seemingly enraged and peeved. "Otherwise, did you really think that His Majesty would willingly save Qin Yu? To ruin the Day of Ancestral Worship is no different from disturbing the slumber of our ancestors. This is a great crime that cannot be forgiven even with death! But, are you all aware that if he dies, that is the same as the capital city killing off a priest of Moon Praying Shrine? Even if that person is only a guest priest, that is a shame which Moon Praying Shrine will not accept. If that happens, there is bound to be war!"

The old turtle paused. His sharp and fierce eyes swept around the grand hall. "War, this is war! Not those minor quibbles that occur amongst those small regional tribes. Since you all have the qualifications to stand here today, you should all be aware what sort of strength Moon Praying Shrine possesses. If there truly is war, then perhaps the capital city may eventually win, but the cost of doing so would be too steep to imagine. You, you, you, and also you, and also me, all of us would have a chance of being buried in this war!"

No one imagined that things would take a sudden turn in this direction. As they saw the frothing-in-anger Turtle Origin and His silent Majesty, countless people groaned inwardly. Hey, with your two statuses, is it really okay to handle things like this?

Moon Praying Shrine's guest priest? Stop messing around!

Qin Yu was a human. In that tribe which cared about tradition and legacies the most, it would be good enough if he wasn't immediately killed, so how could he become a guest priest? This was simply the greatest joke in the world! But, the problem was that even if everyone knew that His Majesty was acting along with Turtle Origin, no one could do anything about it, because that status-identifying jade pendant was sure to be real.

What nonsense. The human was in your hands and Moon Praying Shrine was also echoing you from outside. To prepare these things in secret was ridiculously easy. Yet, who would have thought that in order to save Qin Yu's life, that solemn and dignified ruler of the sea races would actually do something like this and lie with his eyes wide open.

Many of those in the hall didn't know whether to laugh or to cry. But at the same time, they sobered up a bit. It seemed that His Majesty had doubled down on his resolve to guarantee Qin Yu's life.

"Your Majesty, I cannot fully believe your explanation. How can a human become Moon Praying Shrine's guest priest?" Cold light surged in the Whale Sovereign's eyes. "And, even if we draw back a step and say that he is Moon Praying Shrine's guest priest, since he dared to insult our ancestors on the Day of Ancestral Worship, he still must die!"

The sound of footsteps transmitted from outside the hall. Everyone turned to see the Lord Priest arrive, dressed in his full priestly garb. From his smile, everyone could feel the lofty aura that emanated from him.

"Replying to the Whale Sovereign's question, who my Moon Praying Shrine chooses as a guest priest is an internal matter; we don't need to give anyone an explanation or ask anyone for permission. As for killing my Moon Praying Shrine's guest priest..." The old priest paused for a moment and then faintly said, "The Whale Sovereign may try."

The Lord Priest looked up and revealed a smile. "Your Majesty, this old man has been disrespectful to you. I greet you."

He slightly bent his waist in greeting.

This sight left all the high ranking officials in the grand hall stunned. For a moment, they even forgot about what they were discussing before and their overbearing arguments to do so. Moon Praying Shrine had never been easy for the capital city to deal with. They always placed this priest's status on par with His Majesty, and no one had been able to do anything about it. But now, this old man actually lowered his head to greet His Majesty...in that flash, a feeling of growing glory and triumph grew in the hearts of many officials within the hall.

The Sea Sovereign lifted his hands. "There is no need for Lord Priest to be so polite. Men, give him a seat." As the smiling old man took a seat, the Sea Sovereign suddenly realized that this bow had been because of Qin Yu and was a way of expressing his gratitude. Although it seemed casual, for someone of his status to do something like that, it was more than enough to show how important Qin Yu was to him.

Just what had occurred within Moon Praying Shrine? Could it be that...a thought suddenly rose up in the Sea Sovereign's heart. He hesitated for a moment and finally pressed it back down. If his guess was true, then perhaps this might be the best chance to fully wipe out Moon Praying Shrine. But, he would inevitably pay the price for doing so.

At that time, even if he managed to subdue Moon Praying Shrine, he feared that the skies above the capital city would change.

Chapter 185 – Deal Reached

The priest's eyes brightened. He glanced at the Sea Sovereign and smiled. "I thank Your Majesty for your generosity. As a means of expressing our apologies, Moon Praying Shrine is willing to offer a Soaring Sea Mountain. We only ask that Your Majesty show mercy and forgive Priest Qin Yu for his crime."

Everyone in the hall cried out in alarm!

A Soaring Sea Mountain was a treasure born from the heavens and earth. It floated deep within the sea, and after being refined, it could freely float. Coupled with its amazing defensive abilities...it was a treasure that every war division longed for in their dreams! It could be said that after obtaining a Soaring Sea Mountain, the strength of a war division would nearly double. It was a perfect platform on which to transport soldiers!

And war divisions were the most formidable strength in the sea region. In front of them, any powerhouse was considered a joke. Up until now, there were known to be seven Soaring Sea Mountains in the sea region. Moon Praying Shrine monopolized three, while the capital city, which controlled most of the sea region, only possessed two.

"Your Majesty!" A senior general stepped forwards, his face filled with excitement.

The Whale Sovereign sighed inwardly. He looked at the old man not too far away and a bit of admiration filled his eyes. What a smart and crafty old man. In order to achieve his objective, he was willing to place down such a heavy price. He looked around. Even those people who stood with him were beginning to hesitate.

On one hand, if they killed Qin Yu there was the possibility that they would have to wage war with Moon Praying Shrine. If so, then everyone here had a chance of perishing in the flames of war.

On the other hand, if they turned a blind eye or perhaps found a substitute to kill instead, they could harvest a Soaring Sea Mountain instead.

Disregarding anyone else, just those churlish fellows from the army had already gone red in the eyes upon hearing about the Soaring Sea Mountain. And with it being so close to their hands, if anyone were to think of ruining this moment for them, then while they might not say anything now, they would certainly bear a grudge in the future.

If one offended these great military figures, while nothing might happen for now, they might not fight their troubles in the future.

The Sea Sovereign spoke up at just the right time. "Priest, please wait a moment. This Solitude will soon give you an answer."

The priest stood up. "Thank you, Your Majesty." He bowed once more and turned to leave.

The Sea Sovereign lightly said, "Everyone. In this situation, can you all tell this Solitude what the best course of action to take is?"

One hour later, Qin Yu left the hall. He saw an ordinary but imposing old man standing outside, wearing strange-looking robes, waiting for him. He cupped his hands together. "Thank you, Lord Priest."

The priest smiled, thinking that Qin Yu was indeed a smart person. There was no pain at all on his face from having given away a Soaring Sea Mountain. His voice was warm and kind as he said, "Little Friend

Qin Yu, there is no need to speak so seriously. Moon Praying Shrine needs your help, so doing all of this is a matter of course.”

This was the truth but also a reminder.

If Qin Yu had no means of helping Moon Praying Shrine save the Saint Flower, then perhaps this kind-looking old man would fly into a palpable rage.

“Lord Priest, rest assured that since I made a promise, I can definitely accomplish it.” Qin Yu’s eyes flashed. “Can I leave now?”

Turtle Origin flew out from somewhere. He coldly sneered. “Stop thinking such beautiful thoughts. Before you leave the royal palace, fulfill your end of the bargain! Remember, if you cannot help...I guarantee that I will immediately tear up the agreement and dismember you alive!”

As a consequence of saving Qin Yu, the internal factions within the royal family were now a giant mess. While he and His Majesty had worked together to suppress the situation, they had also managed to thoroughly offend those old fogies in the Council of Elders. He didn’t care too much about it, but when he thought about how facing them in the future was inevitable, and how they would try to whittle away at him endlessly, he couldn’t help but feel annoyed.

Qin Yu frowned.

The priest smiled. He lightly said, “Little Friend Qin Yu, there is no need for you to worry. The reason I came here today is to calm your heart. From this day forth, you are Moon Praying Shrine’s guest priest. No one will touch you. After you finish helping His Majesty, I will personally lead people here and bring you back.”

Of course, one could simplify these words. For instance: rest assured and stay here; no one will dare move against you.

To speak such words in the royal palace was a tremendously brave display. For the old man to be so casual about it, it showed just how formidable Moon Praying Shrine was. After speaking some more words to the old turtle, the priest ignored his repugnant expression and left with his people in tow.

“That old thing!”

Qin Yu thought about it. He seriously said, “Senior, although I’m not too sure about it, if I had to make a guess I would say that the Lord Priest shouldn’t be as old as you.”

The old turtle was stunned. He thought about the meaning behind these words and then glared at Qin Yu. “You rascally boy, don’t think that I won’t fly into anger. Hurry up and get to work. You’re an eyesore!”

He flicked his sleeves and walked away.

Behind him, Qin Yu’s laughter rang out loud.

At this moment, he was truly relaxed. To have things reach this step, perhaps this was the best possible result.

“Please.” A royal guard guided the way. Although he didn’t reveal any expression, his actions were courteous and the occasional sweep of his eyes revealed a flash of awe.

A human had been able to conceal his identity and shake up the entire sea region. After being exposed, not only did he not die, but the upheaval became even greater. Just what sort of character was the Whale Sovereign? The Whale Sovereign had failed in killing Qin Yu several times already, and in contrast, his own son had been killed in front of him.

This was a person who had started a killing spree on the Day of Ancestral Worship, and every person he killed had been an important figure. Hah, it was incredible just thinking about it.

The supposedly very-fierce-Qin Yu quietly followed close behind. He gradually calmed down and felt a bit of luck and fear in his heart. Ever since his identity had been exposed, he had been dancing on the edge of a knife. If he had made a mistake, he would have surely died without a grave. And the reason he could accomplish all of this was not because he had relied on his strength or his smarts, but because of the little blue lamp.

Without the little blue lamp’s strength, would the Sea Sovereign put up with him? Would Moon Praying Shrine help him? He feared he would already be a corpse! His personal strength was far too weak. If he had the strength to directly face the Whale Sovereign, the old turtle, or even the mysterious Sea Sovereign, who cared if his identity was revealed?

In the end, only a powerful cultivation served as the foundation to all.

Thinking of this, Qin Yu revealed a faint happy smile. While there had been all sorts of twists and turns and troubles, he was still alive. Moreover, the five element Golden Cores were now formed within his dantian. Now that he was no longer imprisoned, he could officially begin practicing the Five Element Sword Diagram.

In a short period of time his strength would drastically rise again. He just didn’t know what level he would reach. It was truly something to look forwards to.

In order to go underground this time, they didn’t go through Soupman’s dwelling. Rather, they went to a strictly guarded temple where eight black-clothed seafolk were sat down cross-legged. When Qin Yu and the royal guard arrived, one of these people opened their eyes. Their eyes were ash gray and icy cold, without any fluctuations of feeling.

The guard took out a token. The black-clothed seafolk glanced at it and closed his eyes once more, no longer caring about them. If one looked carefully at these eight people, they would discover that their appearances were similar and their auras seemed to blend together. Their figures were half-hidden in shadows, just like eight wooden dolls, without any life to them. But, with Qin Yu’s formidable soul, he could actually feel an inconceivable thick smell of blood coming from their bodies!

It was hard to imagine just what these people had done to obtain such a horrifying smell of blood. But, there was one point that Qin Yu was aware of. If someone tried to rush underground, they would definitely be torn and smashed apart by a terrifying strength.

“I can only bring you this far. From now on, someone else will be responsible for you.” As the royal guard spoke, he used the strength within the token to activate a transmission array on the ground.

Qin Yu didn't hesitate. He stepped into it.

Hum –

A light flashed and his figure vanished from sight. In the next moment, his field of vision was restored. He had appeared before that sealed stone door.

There was already someone waiting here; it was an old man with an ill expression. He coldly snorted and waved his hand, causing the stone door to open. "Go! Remember, this is your only chance. If you cannot satisfy His Majesty, your death will be miserable!"

Wonderful. It seemed that a good number of the sea races had an unfavorable impression of him.

Qin Yu cupped his hands together in thanks. There was nothing he could do about it. Since this person's cultivation was more powerful than his, he could only take the abuse. The cultivators' world was one where powerhouses were revered. Regardless of where he was, this couldn't be considered a disgrace, only a basic rule of survival and getting along with others.

Rumble rumble –

The stone door closed behind him.

Soon, there was the sound of breaking air in the darkness. Qin Yu frowned but soon relaxed.

A thick and sturdy cane raced out from the dark. It drew close to Qin Yu, trembling in excitement as it tried to show its familiarity.

The last time he was here, Qin Yu had judged that while this vine was intelligent, it was mostly at the level of a young child. Otherwise, how could it possibly believe that a gift could move him or even think that he would come back? Moreover, even up until now, Qin Yu wasn't sure just what that black chip was.

Qin Yu patted the vine and then gently leapt onto it. With a cheer, it raced back into the darkness at a speed faster than before. It seemed that since the last time they met, the vine had made great progress after completely absorbing the strength of the little blue lamp.

Qin Yu's eyes flashed. He stepped down from the vine. "I said that I would return, so I would definitely return. But, did you abide by your promise and keep the matter between you and me a secret?"

The vine rubbed itself together, forming a series of syllables. "I...told...no...one..."

This voice was still strange, but clearer than before. If one didn't earnestly listen, it was hard to distinguish the differences.

Qin Yu smiled. "Then that's good. Otherwise, I would not have been able to come and see you again. Later, I will help you continue your growth, but you need to help me block out any senses so that no one outside knows what is happening here, okay?"

"O...kay..."

Rumble rumble –

The ground trembled and countless vines shot out, interweaving together in the air and forming a sealed space. Qin Yu tried to penetrate them with his divine sense but found that the vine itself seemed to have the ability to isolate out any probing senses.

His heart relaxed.

The first time he was here, the royal palace only thought of it as an attempt; they didn't place much hope in him. But, they had found out just how potent his work had been afterwards. One didn't need to be a genius to know that they would be curious as to how he had accomplished this.

So, Qin Yu had asked the vine to block out all senses. The little blue lamp was his greatest secret and his only advantage. If that were to be exposed, he would truly be beyond saving.

"Wait for me. I need to make some preparations to activate the treasure. Only then can I help you." Qin Yu sat down cross-legged. The contents of the Five Element Sword Diagram began to appear in his mind, a bit at a time.

He only needed to wait for night to approach for the little blue lamp to activate. As for preparations or whatever, that was only an excuse.

Staying in the royal palace for a few days wasn't a bad idea. With the protection of the vine he could use this opportunity to practice the Five Element Sword Diagram. Afterwards, he would be much better prepared to defend himself.

...

In the grand hall, the Sea Sovereign opened his eyes, revealing a helpless expression. "The Companion Vine has blocked out all external senses. Even this Solitude cannot see what is occurring within."

The old turtle humphed. He had already guessed that the little bastard would be cautious and try to make a deal with the vine. But once this was truly confirmed, he couldn't help but curse inwardly.

"Then...should we try some other method?"

"No. Everyone has secrets they don't wish to be revealed. If we insist on investigating, there will surely be issues. Let Qin Yu do as he wishes." The Sea Sovereign smiled. "If he is smart, then he will surely try his best this time. Otherwise, even with the priest here, this Solitude will still refuse him."

Chapter 186 – Drastic Rise in Strength

Deep underground, in the sealed space formed by woven vines, a halo of five colored lights illuminated the surroundings. Reflected against the dense curtain of vines all around, the glowing lights actually appeared quite strange.

Qin Yu sat down cross-legged. The source of the five colored lights hung around him; they were five fist-sized spheres of lights that slowly swirled in a haphazard manner.

Suddenly, he opened his eyes. He lifted his hand with his fingers splayed out and the five spheres of light flew towards him, each one falling onto one of his fingertips. Starting from this thumb, they were in turn white, black, blue, red, and yellow. They shrank in size until they were the size of a knuckle. Then, as time passed, the spheres of light twisted and stretched, each one taking on the shape of a sword.

Hum –

Hum –

At this moment, the resounding cry of swords echoed through the underground cave. The vine violently trembled as if it were shivering. Qin Yu revealed a small smile that soon spread across his entire face. His carefree laughs rang against the walls, endlessly bouncing back and forth across the vines.

He had successfully refined the Five Element Sword Diagram!

From the moment he first saw the sword array in Immortal Eclipse Valley, to the time he obtained the sword diagram, to when he again obtained the Great Divided Heaven Sutra, to when he journeyed to the sea region to take the five-element spiritual objects...through all that he had been through, his adventure couldn't be described as just 'difficult'. After numerous twists and turns and several life or death encounters, all his efforts had finally borne fruit today. From here on out, with the Five Element Sword in his hands, while he might not be able to freely wander the heavens and earth, he still had a certain ability to defend himself in this world.

The nine levels of his Golden Core realm had been divided into five separate cores. Generally speaking, his Five Element Golden Cores should have fallen to the third or fourth level. But, the ruckus that Qin Yu had caused when he split his Golden Core had been too great, far outstripping his imagination of what it would be like. There was that vortex of spiritual energy, of the Sea Mausoleum, and also of that mysterious altar phantom that the Hundred Nether Sword had summoned. With all these powers superimposed upon each other, his divided cores were no longer considered normal. Thus, his five Five Element Golden Cores were all maintained at the seventh level.

This wasn't as simple as five seventh level Golden Cores adding onto each other. The five elements both restrained and enhanced each other. If Qin Yu needed, he could take the magic powers of the five element Golden Cores and instantly transform them into a single element. The resulting rise would be far greater than merely adding them together, and with this, he could even face off against an early Nascent Soul in battle.

Now that he had successfully practiced the Five Element Sword Diagram and could utilize the Five Element Sword, while his cultivation hadn't increased, his combat strength had risen drastically. He had yet to experiment with it, but he believed that he was capable of battling with a middle stage Nascent Soul. Moreover, one couldn't forget that there was also Qin Yu's bodily strength to consider. Ever since the Demon Body had swallowed the tumor and had been damaged and regenerated continuously when his Golden Core split apart, the potency of his body had far surpassed what it used to be.

After a long time, his laughter began to slowly die down. He closed his fingers into a fist and the Five Element Swords vanished along with it. Right now, it might seem that refining the Five Element Sword Diagram was meaningless, after all, it couldn't help him change his current predicament. But this was because the people that Qin Yu faced were peerless powerhouses like the Sea Sovereign, Whale Sovereign, and Turtle Origin. These were amongst the most formidable existences in the world. Besides those people, he had the strength to freely run amok across the world.

He paused for a moment. Once his thoughts calmed down, Qin Yu looked up and smiled. "Don't worry, I won't do anything to you."

The branches and leaves of the vine rubbed against each other, producing more syllables.
“Very...scary...”

Qin Yu’s eyebrows rose up. “Your voice seems to be much clearer than before. It seems you’ve made a considerable amount of progress during this time.”

After thinking about it, he had been in this underground cave for almost half a month. It was about time to leave.

The vine seemed to shake around in the air, appearing very happy. “Yes...my thoughts...are much...clearer...thank you...”

Qin Yu waved his hand. “There’s no need to thank me. I’ve already received your gift, and before I came here I also obtained certain advantages.”

The vine continued to swing around. “That...is not...my gift...you had...best not...use it...too...much...in the future...or...bad things...might... happen...”

Qin Yu thought for a moment. Even now he still didn’t know what the vine had given to him, so even if he wanted to use it he couldn’t. Suddenly, he subconsciously thought back to the day that black chip fused into his body and the illusions he had seen. He wanted to ask about it, but the vine suddenly twisted in pain.

Qin Yu’s train of thought was immediately broken. He said in a low voice, “What is it?”

“I am going...to...evolve...”

Qin Yu lifted his hand and put away the little blue lamp. With the vine in so much pain, it could no longer seal away this area. Countless vines fell down from the air and smashed into the ground, sending rocks tumbling about.

He had refined the Five Element Sword Diagram and the vine had also started to evolve; this should be enough to satisfy the royal palace’s original request. Qin Yu’s eyes flashed. He cupped his hands across his chest and said, “Brother Vine, you and I meeting can also be considered fate. After I leave today, I fear that we will never meet again. Then, this is where I say my farewells.”

He turned and left. As his figure vanished into the dark, the anxious voice of the vine followed quickly behind him. “Your name...”

Qin Yu didn’t even turn his head. “I am called Qin Yu!”

After a moment, he emerged from the raging tide of strength. Qin Yu stood in front of the stone door, his gaze tranquil. With his current strength, he was able to walk freely back and forth by himself, and he wouldn’t be as distressed as he had originally been.

The stone door opened and the old man who sent him in was waiting on the other side. It was unknown whether he had hurried here or whether he had been waiting here all this time. His gaze was faint but his eyes were much friendlier. It seemed that he had already obtained some news. He said, “Come with me.”

They stepped into the transmission array. With a flash of light, Qin Yu appeared in the corner of a temple.

The old priest just happened to be sitting there drinking tea. When he looked up, a beautiful brilliance bloomed in his eyes. He smiled and said, "Little Friend Qin Yu, you finally came back up." There seemed to be a sense of relief in his words.

Qin Yu stepped out from the transmission array and cupped his hands across his chest. "I have made Lord Priest wait too long. My apologies."

"It's fine. It's good as long as you come out." The priest put down the teacup and cupped his hands towards the old turtle sitting across from him. "I thank Brother Turtle for the tea; it was wonderful. If you ever have a chance to come and visit my Moon Praying Shrine, I will be sure to entertain you."

The old turtle stood up. He lightly coughed, "There's no need to spout such honeyed words. If I visit Moon Praying Shrine in the future, it will be because I was captured or because you were all destroyed. No matter how it happens, many people will die, so it's best that we never see each other again."

The priest smiled. "Brother Turtle may be overly direct, but the general meaning is correct. However, my Moon Praying Shrine has always obeyed the capital city and have never had any thoughts of rebelling. I hope that the peace may last a long, long time." He cupped his hands together and turned around. "Little Friend Qin, let's leave."

Qin Yu bowed towards the old turtle. "For all this time, I must thank Senior Turtle for taking care of me so well. I apologize here in advance!"

The old turtle dismissively waved his hands again and again. "Go, just go. I don't want to see the priest and I also don't want to see you. Wherever you go, you're just a troublemaking brat that brings disaster with you everywhere!"

These words...there didn't seem to be anything Qin Yu could say to refute them.

Troublemaking brat Qin Yu rubbed his nose and revealed a bit of embarrassment.

At this time, Moon Praying Shrine's luxurious and extremely eye-catching carriage was stopped outside the royal palace. The one driving was Xue Zheng.

Qin Yu glanced at him and nodded, not saying much. On that day, Xue Zheng had blocked the Whale Sovereign to save him. Although this was because Moon Praying Shrine needed his help, he still felt gratitude towards his actions.

The priest led the way with Qin Yu following close behind. After mounting the carriage, Xue Zheng gave a deep shout and the carriage began to slowly drive forwards.

At the entrance of the temple, the old turtle looked away. He took several steps and finally stopped. He frowned, "Something's wrong. That brat Qin Yu, he clearly isn't fatigued, but instead seems to have...become far fiercer."

Within the carriage, the priest's eyes flashed. He had thoughts similar to the old turtle. "Congratulations Little Friend Qin Yu, it seems your cultivation has drastically risen during this period of time."

Qin Yu cupped his hands together. "I must thank Lord Priest for this. If it weren't for you helping at the right time, I would have already died, so how could my cultivation have risen anywhere?"

"Haha, this is because Moon Praying Shrine needs little friend's help, so there is no need to thank us." The priest smiled freely and honestly. There was a bit of appreciation in his eyes.

Of course, Qin Yu acknowledged this because in front of these old fogies whose cultivation seemed to reach the sky, it was just far too difficult to conceal himself. Rather than lying and leaving a poor impression, it was easier to just admit it.

"Priest, I have been in the royal palace for too long, so I fear you have all been waiting anxiously for me. I am not tired right now and can go to work at any moment." Why did Moon Praying Shrine rescue him? Qin Yu had never forgotten his point. Now that he had gained back a little of his freedom, he wanted to figure out the exact details of what they wanted and what was happening, rather than waiting for them to raise the subject for him.

The priest laughed out loud. "Little Friend Qin Yu is an interesting person. Then, I won't be polite either." He turned his hand and a jade box appeared in his palm. The light blue color was common, but with just a glance, Qin Yu could tell that it wasn't ordinary at all!

Essence energy collected on its surface, not revealing even the slightest trace of brilliance. There was not a single sign of it being refined. Rather, it seemed as if it had been born directly from the world. Not only was this not ordinary, this was simply an incomparably precious treasure. To use such a treasure as a container, it could be imagined just how impossibly valuable the contents were.

Qin Yu carefully received it with both hands. After carefully opening it, he discovered that there was another space inside. The interior was far larger than its outside appearance.

Spatial treasure!

Of all the powers in the world, there were none that could not be grasped and mastered. There were common elements like metal, wood, fire, earth, and water, and there were also incredibly deep powers like those of space and time.

Qin Yu didn't know what sort of cultivation one needed to grasp the power of space, but just by glancing at it, he could tell that one needed an extremely profound cultivation realm.

This jade box, it was a truly peerless treasure!

There was over a hundred feet of space within. There was soil, streams of water, and on the inner surface of the jade box's walls, there were even phantoms of the sun and moon scattering down light. This was simply an extremely small and independent world!

It had naturally been born like this from the heavens and earth. If not for this, how could it be called a peerless treasure!

And all of this he noticed with a sweep of his eyes. Then, what completely caught his attention was something growing in the soil...a very beautiful flower.

That's right. Qin Yu couldn't think of any words to describe it, so he only thought of it as beautiful. This was because it was beautiful, so beautiful that anyone would fall in love with it.

This was love, not like. The difference between these two emotions was far too great and needed to be clearly differentiated.

It was 30 feet tall. Every curve possessed its own sublime grace and elegance. The leaves were a verdant jade green, a green so soft and gentle that it seemed like flowing water. Every several leaves, there were flowers in full bloom. Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet...there were even more colors, as if every color in the world could be found on these flowers. They were so delicate as if they were made from the most gentle of waters; it made one subconsciously afraid to breathe, for fear that just the slightest breath would harm it.

Boundless vitality emitted from every inch of this beautiful flower. What one smelled was not the fragrance of the flower, but a pure force of life, potent to the extreme. Just a single breath stirred the heart and soul. Anyone would think that this was a perfect, unrivalled, and incomparably vital and vibrant existence.

But, Qin Yu could faintly feel that this aura of life was too much, too rich.

It seemed that something was wrong.

Chapter 187 – A Silent Choice

The priest's words verified Qin Yu's thoughts. "This is Moon Praying Shrine's Saint Flower. In my long life, even now I haven't been able to master it. Haha, that may sound a bit perplexing. In truth, if I had to simplify it, then even after having lived to such an old age, I still don't understand the flower that I raised.

"Of course, to say it is a flower I raised is also inappropriate, but that's the approximate situation of things. The Saint Flower is like a sun that releases the aura of life. Through some special methods, this aura can be fused into an entire tribe, and this is the reason why Moon Praying Shrine is able to continuously produce powerful warriors and maintain our status. But, in the end it is not a true sun. As it releases more and more vitality, this will only lead to the Saint Flower destroying itself."

The priest continued to speak, rambling on and on. He seemed overly verbose and a bit scatterbrained, but Qin Yu listened with an earnest expression, as if he could sense the seriousness hidden beneath the words.

Moreover, he finally realized why Moon Praying Shrine had disregarded any cost to help him.

Moon Praying Shrine's Saint Flower was an incomparably strange sea spirit. It had been found many, many years ago and had been exalted all this time by the tribe. It was unknown where it obtained the strength from, but the life energy it released was able to be used to help strengthen Moon Praying Shrine. Ideally, this release and absorption rate should be at an equilibrium, or just faintly tilted towards one side, in order to allow the Saint Flower to grow.

But a long time ago, Moon Praying Shrine's Saint Flower stopped growing. However, the life energy it released grew increasingly rich and potent, as if it truly were on fire. And this didn't come without a cost. The priests could feel that the Saint Flower was weakening. If this continued, the only result would be that the Saint Flower would wither away.

“Our tribe has tried numerous ideas to help rebalance the Saint Flower’s strength, but unfortunately, we failed at every turn. It was only then that we heard news about Little Friend Qin Yu. Oh, at that time you were called Honorable Ning. Because of you, the Vice Priest and my daughter personally brought the Saint Flower to the capital city and finally all of this occurred.” The priest’s complexion calmed down. “Now, I want to ask Little Friend Qin Yu – can you save the Saint Flower?”

Qin Yu’s eyes nearly twitched. He thought that even though this priest had a faint and serene expression, if he said that he couldn’t rescue it then he might immediately turn the tables and go crazy on him. So, he simply pretended to think for a moment and then nodded.

The priest smiled. “I understand. Then, I’ll have to bother you with this.”

The Saint Flower’s greatest problem was that the balance in the strength it absorbed using an unknown method and the strength it released had been broken. To put it in other terms, it was drinking two mouthfuls of water and only spitting out one. There were many reasons for why this could be, but no matter what it was, the solution was actually quite simple. All he needed to do was have the Saint Flower become more powerful.

Its situation was the same as that underground vine’s. Just like how the underground vine needed to become more formidable so it could contain more of that tyrannical strength, the Saint Flower also needed to become stronger so that it could absorb more power. Eventually, the absorption rate would catch up with the release rate, and when it returned to equilibrium, there naturally wouldn’t be any problems with it.

The carriage returned to the Great Glory Gambling Hall. Qin Yu was escorted into a tightly guarded chamber, where the Vice Priest and old priest from Moon Praying Shrine personally stood guard. Wolf riders surrounded the complex, both inside and out. Throughout the capital city, the various influences seemed to have come to a tacit understanding with each other, and each one of them held back their forces. None of them even approached this region by half a step, lest they create unnecessary misunderstandings.

As for Qin Yu, after obtaining a short period of freedom, he was placed under house arrest once more. Even if this was only Moon Praying Shrine trying to keep him safe, it wasn’t much different from before.

Then, time passed, day after day.

Qin Yu believed he placed a bit too much faith in the little blue lamp. There were always exceptions to the rule. For instance, the Soul Mushroom of before, and now Moon Praying Shrine’s Saint Flower.

Did the little blue lamp have any effect on it? Of course it did, and he could even feel the Saint Flower’s condition changing for the better, although at a slower pace.

From his room, Qin Yu contacted Moon Praying Shrine through a white-dressed young woman. It was only afterwards that he learned she was the old priest’s daughter. After careful communication, it was discovered that at this current speed, it would take at least several more years to help the Saint Flower return to balance.

Of course, the premise of this was that the Saint Flower could last that long. Otherwise, if it were to explode in a giant mess one day, Qin Yu worried he would die a miserable death.

But, this result alone was enough to excite Moon Praying Shrine. This was because it was the first time they had ever found a method that could save the Saint Flower. Soon after, the old priest came and personally chatted with Qin Yu. He came to say that there was no need for Qin Yu to worry, and Moon Praying Shrine was more than patient enough to wait it out. Moreover, if the Saint Flower's situation began to spiral out of control, they also had some methods to extend its survival time as long as possible.

In brief, it was like this. Everything's fine as long as you continue to treat the Saint Flower. We can wait.

Qin Yu was originally a bit anxious, but after determining that there was nothing he could do, a sense of calm came over him. He could only force himself to be patient. He comforted himself by saying that he could at least cultivate. With Moon Praying Shrine's protection, he wouldn't need to worry about his own safety.

Thus, time quietly passed.

During this period of time, 'Qin Yu' had already been executed. It was unknown what the royal palace had done, but their actions were more than enough to appease the lower level seafolk. Those that had the qualifications to know the truth could only keep their mouths shut. After all, this wasn't some glorious event of the sea races and there was also His Majesty's invisible suppression.

Ning Qin, Honorable Ning, or perhaps Qin Yu, this name that had caused such a stir in the capital city, soon vanished from sight. People always had short memories. Perhaps there were some that might always remember his name, but for the most part he would disappear in the long memories of the people. At most, years later someone might come and say to a friend, 'oh, I also know of that person! He was a very fierce human!'

This was it.

As for the dwelling that Qin Yu gifted to Leon, some people even had covetous thoughts towards it. After those people were beaten bloody, that large and mostly empty dwelling finally restored itself to peace.

No, perhaps using quiet was much more appropriate.

When news spread from the royal palace that Qin Yu had killed Jing Guanjin and the other captive princes on the Day of Ancestral Worship, the Qing Family had allowed Leon to take away Qingqing's corpse for burial. In that dwelling, from morning until night, there was only Leon now. It seemed that he had also been forgotten. Without incident, he would be like Qin Yu, forever disappearing from the attention of the capital city people.

The capital city returned to calm, just like it normally was through the countless years once the waves passed. Gradually, Qin Yu also adapted to this tranquility. And this was when the accident occurred.

In a way, this was a good thing. Because one day in the deep of night, as the Saint Flower bathed in the light of the little blue lamp, it seemed to quietly undergo some vital change.

Thus, that overbearingly potent life energy, so strong that it shocked the heart, gradually settled down.

The Saint Flower stopped wildly burning. Its strength had returned to balance.

All throughout Moon Praying Shrine, everyone fell into joyous revelry. The entire gambling hall was bathed in festive celebration. And once the old priest's daughter repeatedly determined that the Saint Flower truly was cured, these celebrations reached their peak.

The fragrance of meat and wine drifted out for over ten miles. The normally serene and restrained Vice Priest drank so much that he nearly fainted. He held onto Qin Yu's hand and cried and laughed, smacking his chest repeatedly and guaranteeing that Moon Praying Shrine would always be his good friend. Qin Yu could come at any time and receive the best welcome from him.

After Qin Yu dealt with the Vice Priest for a long time, it was only then that he was able to send him away. But, he was soon replaced by a line of waiting people, each one wailing into his ears. It was only far later into the night once most of the people had left that things quieted down a little. He bitterly smiled several times and shook his head. It was then that he spotted the wolf riders still guarding the perimeter.

They were equally excited, but they coldly maintained their sobriety. They only ate some food and returned to their respective posts. Perhaps it was only because of the utter devotion and loyalty of these wolf riders that the Vice Priest and the others were able to let themselves go to such an extent.

The one leading these wolf riders was Xue Zheng.

Qin Yu walked up with a drink. He smiled. "In truth, I've always been wanting to meet you and thank you."

Xue Zheng nodded. He turned and left.

How incredibly cold and callous.

Qin Yu didn't pay much attention to it. He returned to his room. He didn't rest, nor did he cultivate; he simply sat there. This was because he thought that some people would soon come to visit him.

And as he thought, the old priest came an hour later. As the old man opened the door and found Qin Yu calmly waiting there, he smiled and said with a bit of helplessness. "If possible, I really don't want to let you leave."

Qin Yu reached out a hand, an invitation to sit. "I trust that Lord Priest is someone who abides by his promises."

The old priest's eyes shined a little. "For someone as old as me, things like honoring promises and keeping face don't really matter much anymore. Perhaps I really would renege on my promise."

Qin Yu lightly said, "Then, Lord Priest will discover that the result will not be what you hope for."

"For instance?"

"For instance, if the Saint Flower dies."

The room fell quiet. The priest frowned, as if he was dissatisfied that Qin Yu used the Saint Flower as a threat. Then, his heavy expression lifted as if there had been no tension in the room just now. But it was because of this that one couldn't underestimate him.

After a long time, the old priest smiled. "Of course I was just playing around. I am a priest of Moon Praying Shrine, so naturally I will keep my word."

Qin Yu smiled back. "This junior also believes you will."

However, the old priest's following words were extremely cold and indifferent, even though his expression and tone remained warm. "Moon Praying Shrine saved Little Friend Qin Yu's life; that isn't something you can refute. As repayment, little friend treated our Saint Flower. Then, both of our sides are now equal. Moon Praying Shrine can allow little friend to leave, but when little friend does leave the capital city, I will have to announce that you have lost your status as Moon Praying Shrine's guest priest."

After a pause, he continued, "After all, for the sake of a person that is leaving, I cannot allow Moon Praying Shrine to gain such a formidable enemy."

The old priest didn't say who this enemy was, but it wasn't hard to guess – the Whale Sovereign!

That powerful existence had vanished ever since the day in the temple when deliberations on Qin Yu's fate had finished. But, it was clear he wouldn't give up. The Whale Sovereign had failed to kill Qin Yu several times before and would continue trying until he achieved his goal. The moment that Qin Yu left the capital city and lost the protection of Moon Praying Shrine, he would certainly make his move.

This was a silent choice that the old man had placed in front of Qin Yu.

Join Moon Praying Shrine or face the wrath of the Whale Sovereign.

After all, he didn't want Qin Yu to leave.

Chapter 188 – Not Funny

Although this was coldly indifferent, realistic, and perhaps even too lacking in any sort of compassion, the old priest's actions weren't wrong. From Moon Praying Shrine's point of view, it could even be called more than fair. So, after a brief moment of stunned surprise, Qin Yu simply sighed inwardly over how thick this old fellow's skin was. He accepted it and nodded, "I understand."

His reply was light, so light that it seemed he was telling the old priest what he had eaten for lunch and dinner. And, the priest nodded similarly in return, as if this wasn't a choice that involved life and death. But while this attitude wasn't a direct reply, it was still a clear answer.

The priest sighed lightly and a trace of helplessness flashed in his eyes. "We will remain in the capital city for another three days. I hope that Little Friend Qin Yu can rethink this. The doors of our Moon Praying Shrine will open wide for you whenever you want."

Qin Yu sat up and escorted the old priest out. When he closed the door and sat back down in his chair, he wryly smiled. How could he never have considered the threat from the Whale Sovereign? While consideration of the underground vine and Moon Praying Shrine's Saint Flower had managed to preserve his life until now, it also pushed him towards a dangerous precipice. No one knew of the little blue lamp's existence, but it would surely arouse suspicion. If Qin Yu were to accept Moon Praying Shrine's invitation, then while he might be able to leave the capital city, no one knew how events would develop after that.

If the existence of the little blue lamp was revealed, he could only wait for his inevitable death. So, after a brief inward struggle, he still refused. Without the protection of Moon Praying Shrine, he still might be able to rely on his own strength to leave. This was where Qin Yu gained the strength to refuse.

If he were pushed to a dead end and had no other means to leave, then he didn't mind temporarily joining Moon Praying Shrine for the time being.

Two days later, a visitor came to the Great Glory Gambling Hall. Even the cold and ruthless wolf riders lowered their heads in respect. After all, she had also played a considerable role in saving the Saint Flower.

Sang Yueyue stepped down from the carriage. As she saw the old priest standing not too far away, she stuck her tongue out at him and then walked over to bow. "Yueyue greets Grandfather Priest."

The old priest smiled and waved his hand. "In terms of age, it's normal for you to call me grandfather. But considering your parents and His Majesty in the palace, that word doesn't sound flattering at all. So, it would be best if you called this old man uncle instead."

The little girl blushed red. Just where had this old thing lived that his skin was so thick? She muttered a few words, unsure of what to say.

The woman behind Yueyue smiled, her expression one of peace. "Lord Priest speaks too seriously. The various sea races all live for different lengths of time so it is already a long established tradition for how to greet others. No matter what young miss here calls you, it has no connection to my family's madam." As for His Majesty, she didn't mention him at all. Those people that came from Segia City, especially old servants of that madam, had no favorable impression towards the ruler of the sea races.

The old priest nodded. "That's also reasonable." The two conversed warmly. The priest sent his regards to that husband and wife in Segia City and asked how she was.

"Are you all here to see Little Friend Qin Yu? If so, then how about helping this old man urge him to join my Moon Praying Shrine? Everyone here should be aware of the situation."

The woman faintly smiled. "I fear I must disappoint Lord Priest. We came here in hopes that we could convince Qin Yu to join Segia City. After all, in the entire sea region, our Segia City is the friendliest towards humans. Moreover, we have some dealings with Qin Yu, so maybe he will agree."

The old priest's eyes flashed. "Is that so? Then I wish you success."

"Thank you, Lord Priest."

Without trace, the two sides completed their first skirmish.

After watching the woman and young girl move towards Qin Yu's room, panic flashed in the white-dressed woman's eyes. "Father, why did you agree? What if they really manage to convince Qin Yu?"

The priest helplessly smiled and patted his daughter's hand. "There's nothing we can do about it. The choice remains with Qin Yu and we are being threatened by him now."

The young woman's complexion changed. "Is father really worried that he has left some trap behind?"

“Perhaps he has, perhaps he hasn’t, but what difference is there? As long as he can have us feel a bit of fear, then this Qin Yu has already succeeded. However, unless he wants to face the endless chase and onslaught of our Moon Praying Shrine, there shouldn’t be any movements from him once we fulfill our end of the agreement and let him go.

The young woman nodded. She looked over, a bit reluctant. She really, really, really hoped that Qin Yu would stay at Moon Praying Shrine.

...Perhaps they could also learn from the royal palace and try to make an arrangement for Qin Yu that would lend him some peace of mind.

For instance, a marriage.

But if this were to be, the only one in Moon Praying Shrine with the appropriate status would be her. As she thought of this, she felt her face heat up with a bit of shyness, but in the next moment her eyes filled with solid determination. As long as it could be guaranteed that the Saint Flower would be fine from now on, she was willing to pay any price.

The old priest frowned. He said in a low and deep voice. “Don’t even think about it. I will never agree!”

The young woman wasn’t surprised that her father could see her thoughts. He was the priest of their tribe, the man closest to the sea spirit in the entire world. Of this, she never doubted.

“Father, perhaps he could guarantee the safety of the Saint Flower for a long period of time, ensuring the prosperity of my Moon Praying Shrine forevermore. If possible, that is what I want.”

The old priest turned and walked away. “It’s not possible. You hold that thought in your head and never speak of it to anyone!”

Even promises from the royal palace had been unable to tempt Qin Yu. Although he believed that his daughter wasn’t any worse than the princess, the chances that she would succeed weren’t any higher. Taking a step back, even if she did succeed, would she have to stick close to him for the rest of her life and never take a single step away? What if this brat Qin Yu ate his fill of her after marriage and then decided to look for any chance to escape? If that happened, his daughter’s entire life would be ruined.

In Qin Yu’s room, the old priest never imagined that that madam from Segia City was actually far bolder than he was.

The woman’s complexion sank; it was clear she wasn’t satisfied with this, but her expression still remained gentle and neutral. She tried to clarify the situation as much as possible. “Mister Qin Yu, my family’s madam has taken this stance. If you are willing to be together with our young miss, Segia City will become your strongest supporter, and we will guarantee that no one will harm you. Of course, before our young miss has fully grown up, you cannot truly be together.”

Sang Yueyue’s face was flushed deep red. She nervously glanced at her toes.

Across from her, Qin Yu smiled helplessly. He felt nothing but deep admiration towards that mysterious madam who could even think of something so ridiculous. He knew that the mysterious madam had made this decision because it was what Sang Yueyue desperately wanted and also because of the response that had come from the royal palace and Moon Praying Shrine.

From Princess Lushy who had once said that she would eviscerate him, to the charming and cute Sang Yueyue standing before him, and even including the beloved daughter of the old priest who had yet to toss her bet into the ring, all of a sudden it seemed as if Qin Yu had obtained a heaven-defying stroke of love-related luck, becoming the person who was highest in demand in the eyes of countless people.

Unfortunately, though it was nice to think about, it was destined that nothing would come from it.

He reached out and rubbed Sang Yueyue's head. Qin Yu smiled. "Just what have you been thinking all these days? I already told you that there is someone in my heart, and I can't hold any more people there."

Then, he seriously spoke to the woman, thanking her for Sega City's good intention and trying to express his own stance as tactfully as possible. Although he had refused the offer, the woman's complexion seemed to improve instead. When she looked at Qin Yu, she appeared much more relaxed.

"Then that is truly a pity."

Qin Yu's lips twitched. Okay, can your words sound any faker? He smiled, telling Sang Yueyue that he would soon leave the capital and thanked her for all the help she gave him. If destiny willed it, they would meet again. But everyone knew there wasn't much sincerity in these words. Of the two people, one remained in the sea region and the other would return to the human world on land. Without accident, it would be extremely difficult for them to ever meet again.

The young girl fell silent for a moment. Her eyes seemed to turn red a little and she even sniffed a bit. She quietly said, "Seventh Aunty, can you leave for a moment? I have some words I want to say to Big Brother Qin Yu alone."

The woman hesitated. She glanced at Qin Yu and nodded. "Alright. I will be waiting outside for miss."

The door opened and closed. The only ones left in the room were the two of them. Seeing the young girl keeping her head hung downwards, he tried to think of a way to liven the atmosphere. He cracked a joke, "It looks like you really made her nervous. She is definitely worried that you will act impulsively and do something you regret. Haha, she looks down on me too much! If..."

Before he could finish speaking, he was interrupted by the little loli that threw herself into his arms. He stiffened. As he felt the hot and wet feeling coming from his chest, he sighed and held onto her.

"Yueyue be good. Don't cry."

"I...I'm not crying...something...is in my eye...."

Sometimes, the ridiculous words of a little loli could be cute.

Qin Yu smiled and patted her shoulders. "Mm, Big Brother Qin Yu knows. Yueyue isn't crying. Yueyue is the strongest in the world."

But as he said this, Sang Yueyue truly did cry. She couldn't even suppress her wails. If someone were to see this, they would immediately curse at Qin Yu and call him a piece of filth even worse than an animal.

"Big Brother Qin Yu, Seventh Aunty didn't tell me, but I know that bastard Whale Sovereign will definitely try to find some way to harm you. You have refused uncle, you have refused Moon Praying

Shrine, and you even said you can't agree to being with me. So, who will protect you? Big Brother Qin Yu, I know you love that woman very much, but she is already dead, so why can't you be with me? I will try hard, I will try my hardest to grow up, and I will be very, very good to Big Brother Qin Yu. I don't want anything to happen to you, I don't!"

As she spoke about all her sorrows, the young girl had cried herself into a mess.

Qin Yu was touched. He thought and said, "Yueyue, I understand your thoughts, but I hope you can have some confidence in me. While I might not be able to fight the Whale Sovereign, there is always a chance I can escape."

Sang Yueyue looked up, her pupils red. Her tears almost brought down Qin Yu's determination. "Re...really...?"

Qin Yu nodded earnestly. "Of course! Yueyue, just you wait. Someday, I will become even more formidable. On that day, I will return to kill the Whale Sovereign!"

He smiled as he spoke. Others might think that he was only trying to comfort a young girl's heart, but he knew that what he said was the truth. He had killed Jing Guanjin and those young masters around him. It seemed as if he had completed his revenge, but if the secret mastermind behind all of this hadn't died, how could he ever have peace of heart?

So, the Whale Sovereign had to die.

The only question was when.

As he reflected on this, it really was quite funny that he was considering when to kill the Whale Sovereign even as he thought of ways to escape his pursuit.

But Qin Yu was incredibly serious, so he wasn't trying to be funny at all!

Chapter 189 – A Late Hunt

Qin Yu comforted Sang Yueyue and said some more words to her. Then, perhaps because the woman on the other side of the door might have been becoming a bit impatient, he smiled and sent Sang Yueyue out. Although it was very discreet, it didn't escape Qin Yu's eyes when the woman glanced at Sang Yueyue and looked over her. Indeed, she hadn't been very reassured at all.

"Miss, we should leave." After discovering there wasn't anything different, the woman's heart calmed down. She nodded towards Qin Yu.

Sang Yueyue's lips moved, as if she wanted to say something.

Qin Yu patted her shoulder. "You can have some confidence in me, okay?"

So the young girl forcibly nodded. It was just that as she boarded the carriage, she continued to look back.

After driving away from the Great Glory Gambling Hall, the woman thought about things seriously. She said, "Miss, I'm beginning to believe your initial judgment. This Mister Qin Yu isn't too bad."

Sang Yueyue curled her lips. "Humph! Seventh Aunty, I think that you know Big Brother Qin Yu would never agree to be with me, so that's why you're saying this."

The woman wasn't surprised that her thoughts were seen through by the young girl. She had already known that her young miss was smart and never doubted this. She simply nodded in acknowledgement. "That's right. No matter how outstanding he is, he is inevitably just a human, so how could he match our young miss? I suppose that madam had already expected this earlier, so that's why she allowed miss to take a trip here. Now, miss, it is time for you to fulfill your end of the bargain. Once you return to Sega City, you won't take a single step out before you grow up."

Sang Yueyue bit her lips. "I will return...after Big Brother Qin Yu leaves."

The woman thought for a moment and nodded, thinking it was impossible to change the stubborn mindset of a young girl. However, she sighed inwardly. Perhaps there was something that the young miss didn't completely understand; it wasn't just the Whale Sovereign that wanted to kill Qin Yu. This was something tacitly consented to by many people. For instance, His Majesty, and for instance, Moon Praying Shrine's old priest.

Qin Yu was a human who had displayed an impossibly dazzling performance. If the sea races couldn't use him, then he should die. This might have been the common thought percolating in the hearts of many people. In the end, humans stood across from the sea races, and perhaps it was only their geographic limitations that made it so war didn't erupt between the two groups. Still, weakening the other side was an instinctual desire.

In other words, no one would help Qin Yu. If so, could he rely on his own strength to escape the pursuit of the Whale Sovereign? If the woman were being honest, she didn't favor his odds. To personally watch someone that you cared for or loved die was an incredibly cruel and brutal matter, but perhaps this might help the young miss mature as soon as possible.

Another day passed.

Today was the deadline that Moon Praying Shrine gave to Qin Yu; they would leave tomorrow. If he stayed here, there would be one more day of calm and peace, but Qin Yu didn't plan on waiting. So, he bid his farewells to the priest. When he stated his decision to leave, he discovered that this old man who changed faces so quickly, actually revealed a bit of pity and helplessness.

Following that, Qin Yu harvested an unanticipated gift.

What appeared in the priest's palm was a blue flower. It seemed as if it were carved from drops of water and emanated a verdant vigor. What it contained was an incomparably pure and boundless life aura.

"This old man had come to an agreement with the Saint Flower. As long as you choose to leave before the deadline, then this will be gifted to you. Otherwise, I would have taken it back. The Saint Flower's strength – that is something which only the brave deserve to be matched with, and now at least, it seems that Little Friend Qin Yu is someone with courage. I hope that you will survive."

With a small flick of his fingers, the blue flower flew over. Qin Yu reached out a hand, and as if it had truly been formed from drops of water, it melted into his skin, fusing into his blood and flesh and

vanishing from sight. But, Qin Yu could feel its existence in his body; he gained a quiet and formidable vitality.

“A flower from the Saint Flower – this is something that only the most outstanding tribesman of Moon Praying can obtain. It will follow you for all your life. When you are injured, the vitality of the flower will surge out and autonomously regenerate your wounds. Moreover, its strength will recover on its own.”

This was a flower but also a repeat use treasure that could store up a massive amount of vitality. It was no wonder that this old fogy priest had such a pained expression when he handed it over.

Qin Yu solemnly expressed his thanks and accepted the flower.

The priest stood up. “Then, I won’t send you off.”

“Farewell!”

Qin Yu turned and left. The wolf riders stood guard outside, as if they already knew what happened. Simultaneously, they all cupped their fists together and lowered their heads to express their respect.

This respect was their gratitude for having treated the Saint Flower.

Xue Zheng stood there, not saying anything. He only quietly watched Qin Yu’s back as he put on a black robe and stepped out of the gambling hall.

Very soon, all the sound spiral stations around the capital city began to broadcast an urgent piece of news. A tribe’s guest priest had their status revoked, and from here on out they were no longer related. The identity of this person wasn’t listed, but those who had the qualifications to know were well aware of what it meant, and just what would follow this transmission.

...

At the Council of Elders, the scarred Great Elder smiled. “In truth, I must say I admire this human junior. Just where does his confidence come from and why does he believe he can leave here alive?”

Below him, the group of white-haired old thieves all revealed sneers. Anyone that ruined their Day of Ancestral Worship and offended the ancestors must die.

...

At Sea Spirit Pavilion, the Nine Layer Building was being rebuilt. Old Sea temporarily lived at a dwelling not too far away. As he heard the transmitted news, he waved his hand and left.

Clearwood bit her lips. “Teacher!”

“This Qin Yu, he has always been doing things that others cannot. To me and to you, although it might seem that he will surely die, this doesn’t necessarily mean a miracle won’t appear. This Qin Yu, he is someone that is always creating his own miracles, right?”

His voice was steady and light, but this steadiness didn’t always represent calm; sometimes it represented weakness, an inability to do anything. As a Purple Card sea spirit teacher, he had a revered status and possessed an incredibly formidable influence. But, he had no means to interfere with this.

...

In that quiet dwelling close to Noble Court Avenue, Leon sat before a newly constructed grave. He spoke in a low voice, as if Qingqing was still sitting right beside him.

Not too far away, there was a sound spiral shell station playing some music. This was lively orchestral music, the type that Qingqing always liked to listen to. But suddenly, the music stopped and an urgent emergency broadcast began. The delicate voice of a woman announced, "Bringing to you the latest news. Because of unknown reasons, a guest priest has parted ways with Moon Praying Shrine today. From here on out, they officially sever relations with each other and are no longer related. In the last 10 years, this is the first time that this station has reported on news related to Moon Praying Shrine. According to this station's special judgment, this might be explained by the easing in relations between Moon Praying Shrine and the capital city..."

There was still a great deal of news after that, but Leon didn't hear any of it. He sat there stunned, slowly revealing a pallid face with a disheveled beard. He muttered to himself, "Teacher, is that you...?"

...

At the princess' palace, Princess Lushy was stunned for a long, long time. She slowly lowered her head. She had already learned that she had been refused by Qin Yu, so his life or death shouldn't have anything to do with her. But, why did she feel so empty in her heart? Why did she worry so much?

She clenched her teeth and scolded herself for not being ambitious enough. That unsightly, arrogant, hateful, abominable, bastard of a human that lacked any sense of judgment; if he wanted to die then he should go ahead and die! Why did she need to care about him!?

She used a number of adjectives to describe him, but perhaps lacking in judgment was the most important.

...

He looked at the edge of the capital city and listened to the sound spiral stations that were playing all around. He wryly smiled, sighing over the priest's control of things.

Indeed, it really was time to leave the capital city.

Suddenly, Qin Yu had a feeling in his heart. He turned and looked towards a tall building in the distance. It was so far away that even with his keen senses, he couldn't make it out clearly. But, with that ruthless and powerful aura as well as that arrow-sharp gaze that was pointed his way, he immediately understood that the Whale Sovereign was there.

Perhaps the Whale Sovereign had noticed him the moment he stepped out from the Great Glory Gambling Hall. It was only when Moon Praying Shrine relayed their new stance that he truly revealed his dark intent.

Bang –

Qin Yu stepped up and shot into the skies. The black robes he wore were immediately reduced to powder by the powerful acceleration force. Blood red flames ignited and he howled into the distance like a meteor.

This sudden scene drew the eyes of countless people. There were some that couldn't clearly see him, but there were also some people who did. Those that did all widened their eyes, their faces full of shock.

...

Within the royal palace, in that grand hall, a faintly helpless smile appeared on the edge of the Sea Sovereign's lips. "This Qin Yu, he is deliberately revealing himself to stir things up. It's clear that he's harboring some resentment towards us for allowing this to happen."

The old turtle groaned. "He deserves it. Who made him not know how to separate the good from the bad? He refused the princess and also refused that brat Yueyue. Does he really think he is some indispensable figure?"

The Sea Sovereign smiled. "Does mister believe he can live?"

The old turtle fell silent. He said, "There's a 20% chance."

"There's actually 20%. It seems that mister unexpectedly favors him. But, this Solitude believes that he doesn't even have a 10% chance."

"Why does Your Majesty say this?"

"The Whale Sovereign is even stronger." On the dragon throne, his voice was light and filled with emotion.

His words were simple but the meaning behind them wasn't, especially when spoken by the Sea Sovereign. The old turtle's complexion instantly turned solemn. "Your Majesty, are you saying he made a breakthrough...?"

"Mm. This is something this Solitude discovered not too long ago. This Solitude cannot help but acknowledge that this cousin of mine is a truly fierce character. Unfortunately, he cannot be used."

The old turtle bitterly smiled. "If that's so, then this time Qin Yu is truly dead." He spoke with some regret. After all, if he ignored Qin Yu being a human, then whether it was in cultivation, methods, or character, Qin Yu was the junior he appreciated the most.

There was no one that could compare. At least not now.

...

In the tall building, the Whale Sovereign was wreathed in black armor. His gaze was faint as he looked at the brilliant red beam of light that shot into the skies. His face was as cold and indifferent as stone, without any fluctuations in mood. He peacefully watched Qin Yu run away, seeming as if he didn't care at all. He was like a god observing from the highest heavens, with the grace and poise of everything being in the control of his hands.

Suddenly, from leaning on the railing, the Whale Sovereign's figure swayed slightly and then vanished from sight. Following that, a crack appeared in the place he vanished from. A second crack, third crack...cracks instantly spread out like a dense spider web.

The entire building immediately collapsed in a breath of time. The formidable strength that was released instantly pulverized the remnants into powder. Then, as stone powder sprinkled down, there was a horrifying, earth-shaking sound that rang out – it was the sound of air being torn apart.

The Whale Sovereign had made his move. From where he stepped in the air, his figure flickered in and out of sight. Countless afterimages of the Whale Sovereign appeared in the skies, leading from the interior all the way to the outside, slowly vanishing in turn.

One red, one black, like twin bolts of lightning piercing through the skies, they howled far off into the distance.

Countless seafolk watched on. Some people cried out in alarm, and some people also knew that this was a hunt which had started late.

However, they didn't know whether or not the incomparably formidable Whale Sovereign, who had been defeated several times before, would be able to successfully catch his prey this time.

Because maybe, this might be his last chance.

Chapter 190 – A Familiar Sound

Qin Yu soon discovered that he had been overly optimistic in his chances; he had far underestimated the Whale Sovereign's strength. The strength that the Whale Sovereign displayed was more formidable than what he expected. To be more exact, it was far, far greater than he had expected. With Qin Yu's current cultivation, if he were to use the Blood Escape Art today, he was at least 10 times faster than before. There shouldn't be anyone capable of catching up to him within the Nascent Soul realm.

But the Whale Sovereign was able to!

Although he couldn't eliminate the distance between them for some time, this was more than enough for the Whale Sovereign. All he needed to do was to latch tightly onto Qin Yu's trail. Sooner or later, Qin Yu would tire and no longer be able to use the Blood Escape Art. At that time, Qin Yu might be too weak to even stand up. The Whale Sovereign would only need to gently wave his hand to take Qin Yu's head.

Qin Yu had already drawn far away from the capital city, so a great deal of time had also passed. He sighed inwardly after determining that the Whale Sovereign truly was capable of chasing after him. In fact, Qin Yu could feel that the Whale Sovereign even had the mindset of a hunter chasing after its prey. After he weakened, then he would easily be killed off.

So, if everything went as expected, he shouldn't be able to escape.

Countless thoughts raced through Qin Yu's mind as innumerable paths were played out over and over. But he found that no matter what he did, he wouldn't be able to preserve his life. And there was no power he could borrow from out here.

If he were to be honest with himself, Qin Yu did feel a trace of regret. Whether it was agreeing with Moon Praying Shrine or Segal City, he would have been safe right now. But as soon as this thought appeared, he crushed it with his formidable willpower. This was because he knew that thinking of these things wouldn't be able to solve any of his problems. It would only soften his resolve.

Since he couldn't escape, then he wouldn't flee anymore. Rather than exhausting all of his strength, then he might as well turn around and struggle one last time. Although there was nearly no chance that he would win, if he were to go all out, he might be able to tear out some meat from the Whale Sovereign's body.

If he were to die, it was better to die with a bit of significance.

Thinking like this, Qin Yu suddenly stopped. The blood red flames that burned along his body had disappeared, revealing his weary and pale face.

No, that was wrong. Even if he died, there was still something he needed to do.

So, in the next moment the blood red flames flickered on his body once more.

He flew up, up, and continued upwards.

With a loud explosion, a massive bubble grew on the surface of the sea before it blew apart. Seawater wildly sprayed out. Qin Yu looked up towards the sun that he hadn't seen for a long time. He took a deep breath and whispered to himself. "Yes, this is it. If I die, it's only right to die beneath the sun."

Bang –

The sea's surface blew open once more. Countless water drops flew in all directions, each one containing a horrifying strength. Perhaps even a mountain would be turned into a sieve if struck by these water drops.

The Whale Sovereign stepped out. With his black armor and his heaven-shocking aura, he was like a demon god that descended upon the world. He looked at Qin Yu and swept his eyes around. After making sure there wasn't anything wrong, he said, "I thought this was also a trap you arranged for me."

Qin Yu smiled. "It's just that I don't want to die on the seabed. In the end, I am a human, so my thoughts and needs are somewhat different from those of the sea races. You know, basking in the sun feels quite good."

The Whale Sovereign shook his head. "I don't like it." He looked up towards the great sun in the skies. "If you wanted to draw support from the sun to suppress my cultivation, then I will have to disappoint you. I am not restrained in any way. After all, when your cultivation has reached my step, leaving the sea region for a short period of time has nearly no effect."

Qin Yu didn't explain anything. The only reason he spoke was because he wanted to live a bit longer. Since the Whale Sovereign wasn't in a hurry to make his move, he naturally wasn't hurried either.

And indeed, the Whale Sovereign had a reason for not hurrying to kill his prey. "Qin Yu, you know that I will kill you and it is impossible that I will let you go. So, let's have an open and honest talk with each other. Tell me, what did you use to treat the vine beneath the royal palace and Moon Praying Shrine's Saint Flower? Tell me and I will give you a happy death. Otherwise, I guarantee that you will regret ever appearing in this world."

This was a threat, but upon hearing it, it actually sounded like a fact, something that possessed a strange truthfulness to it. Perhaps he really could do what he said he would.

This sort of natural revelation wasn't intentional at all. Qin Yu still didn't understand why the Whale Sovereign had this sort of special characteristic to him. Perhaps it was because when one's cultivation reached the limit of Nascent Soul and almost touched the Divine Soul, when one's soul quietly transformed and sublimated, there was a resulting confidence from feeling that one was being accommodated by the world.

But this didn't change anything. Qin Yu knew that the Whale Sovereign could do as he said. After several breaths of silence, he shook his head and said, "I also want to kill you, but I likely won't have the chance. So right now, I just want to live a little longer. I know the method of treatment, but I won't tell you. My apologies, I might be dying soon so I am a bit nervous and my words might stutter a little or sound a bit strange. I hope that you can be a bit broad-minded and overlook this."

The Whale Sovereign's gaze was icy cold. "I will find out." He lifted a hand and grasped forwards.

The world was at peace, without the least bit of sound. There were only the sounds of wind atop the sea, but at this time even that had vanished. Then, without warning, that quiet peace was broken.

A massive hand formed from seawater rose up from the surface. It rose upwards, distorting space wherever it went, grasping towards Qin Yu like an ancient sea demon of legends.

Before it had arrived, an invisible suppression left Qin Yu gasping for breath. His black robes pasted against his body, so tight that they didn't move anymore. This was the Whale Sovereign's true strength, moreover, he should still have been holding back. Right now, the Whale Sovereign only wanted to suppress him and force him into answering his question. If the Whale Sovereign really wanted to kill Qin Yu, then just a single palm would have been enough.

Self-deprecating thoughts filled Qin Yu's mind. Even though he had struggled to reach his current cultivation, he was unexpectedly still only a character that could easily be eliminated by others. Indeed, this was a dragon amongst dragons while he was cannon fodder amongst cannon fodder.

And, there was Pill Crucible, that cheap senior-apprentice brother of his. Qin Yu couldn't conceive why he had trusted him when he said that he had inborn good fortune. That old man was truly a swindler!

With these thoughts in mind, Qin Yu struck back. Facing the Whale Sovereign's skills, there was nothing he could bring out. So, even though it was a bit vulgar and outdated, he still used the Boundless Blue Finger.

Winds and clouds whipped into existence and his black robes began to flap around him once more. The power of heaven and earth spiritual energy howled around him. The power of this finger collided with the giant hand of seawater. There was nothing fancy about this; it was only a confrontation of absolute strength versus absolute strength.

It was obvious that in this struggle, Qin Yu had an absolute disadvantage. Then, the Boundless Blue Finger trembled and collapsed, and with some unknown method, the water hand was also destroyed. Blood gushed out of every single one of Qin Yu's orifices and he was sent tumbling backwards.

The Whale Sovereign knitted his eyebrows together. He had faced this supernatural finger ability before, but it seemed a little different today. He opened his mouth and slowly asked, "This finger of yours, what is it called?"

“Boundless Blue Finger...” He coughed, “It’s an awesome move I learned after I nearly died one time.” In a manner of speaking, this was the truth. But in the eyes of the Whale Sovereign this seemed like he was being openly mocked. He nodded and said, “This means there is another thing on your body that I wish to obtain. Very good.”

Qin Yu hacked out a cough. “Stop being so vague with your words. I really might be scared soon.”

“What a sharp mouth!” The Whale Sovereign lifted his hands and pushed them forwards.

A master was like this – he didn’t need to use any superfluous and gaudy moves. When he raised his hands, an earth-shaking strength rose up. Torrential waves rose up, roaring forward in waves upon waves, as if they wanted to race towards the ends of the earth.

If one stood in the distance and saw this, it would be a shocking scene that left a deep impression on the heart. Then, there was bound to be some young scholarly and artistic youth that would excitedly spill his emotions and feelings into writing a magnificent poem. For instance: The east river washes out, and the waves roll forth...

Yes, this was a sea and not a river, but it was fine as long as one understood the general meaning behind it. This was how the literary world always worked; it dealt in many, many metaphors.

But as for Qin Yu, who was facing this incredible sight head on, he didn’t hold any appreciation towards these dreadful waves that seemed to blot out the skies. He spat a mouthful of blood and cursed out loud, “What the fuck...this is...such a giant wave...”

He struggled to lift a hand. His dantian sea began to cry out. This was the power of his five-element Golden Cores being pushed to its limits. Then, five spheres of light rose above his fingers. White, black, blue, red yellow, each one emitted the sound of a keening sword. The swords cried out together. The Five Element Swords had vanished a long, long time ago. But now, they unexpectedly revealed their dazzling brilliance in the world once more.

But what a pity. This might also be their last appearance.

Bang –

Bang –

The Five Element Swords spun in a circle, quickly revolving and piercing outwards. As the great waves arrived, they were pierced through by this sharp strength. The area that was torn open was just enough to hold Qin Yu. So, even though the vast and rough sea waves swept over him and their shaking strength left him vomiting blood, when they eventually passed over him and continued racing towards the distance, Qin Yu still remained where he was.

Certainly, his appearance was quite miserable. His robes were broken all over and countless wounds marred his body. Blood recklessly flowed down, dripping from a corner of his clothes.

Still, his performance had gone far beyond the Whale Sovereign’s expectations. His eyes brightened and he smiled as he looked at Qin Yu. “Impressive. You truly leave one in stunned admiration. So you had grasped such a formidable strength all this time. Is this the power of the five elements?”

Even as he spoke out in praise, his eyes turned icier. In the depths of his heart, he decided that this choice to kill Qin Yu was the best and most correct one he had made. Otherwise, while he might be overwhelming this boy as if he were nothing more than a worm now, who knew to what degree he would grow if several more years passed.

Perhaps there was even a chance that he could be a true threat to him. Of course, there was no longer a chance that this would happen.

“This is the third.” The Whale Sovereign’s smile vanished. I really hope you can give me another surprise today.”

He opened his mouth and formed a special syllable. Then, he lifted a hand and pointed a finger down at Qin Yu.

That’s right. This time it was the Whale Sovereign that was giving Qin Yu one finger.

The skies suddenly darkened. A thin black finger appeared just like that, as if a black hole leading to another world was right behind it.

Qin Yu spat out another mouthful of blood and felt his chest be a bit more relieved. At the very least, it didn’t feel uncomfortable to take another breath. He looked up at that finger and his eyes widened. If the Whale Sovereign thought he had more tricks up his sleeve, then he might have been overestimating him.

In reality, he didn’t have the strength to do anything else.

His magic power was nearly exhausted and his entire body ached from top to bottom. If it wasn’t for his firm will, he might have already fallen down.

If there was some other card in his hand, he didn’t mind giving it a try.

Just as he was ridiculing himself, after the sound that the Whale Sovereign was making, there were strange, broad and vast sounds that followed, ones that were ancient and filled with majesty.

Why...did he think they were somewhat familiar? As if...he had heard these sounds before.