

## Refining 231

### Chapter 231 – Farewell and Goodbye

Storm Flow was a refining method of the demonic path. Its core principle was that a change in quantity would eventually lead to a change in quality. With over 600 swamp alligator teeth refined into a single set of weapons, the terrifying might behind it truly surpassed the imagination. The seawater for several miles around suddenly exploded, turning into endless white mist. Of course, this was just a surface description of what happened, but it was more than breathtaking.

The boiling seawater revealed an incomparably destructive power. No matter what fell in it, even if it was a mountain, it would be torn and smashed apart. Proof of this was obtained from the valley rift below. With a loud rumble and a series of explosions, the rift below began to collapse until the entire area turned into flat land.

After a long time, the white mist started to finally dissipate, revealing the distressed figure of the Whale Sovereign. His face was pale and his black armor hung around his body in tatters. Blood dripped out from the countless wounds on his body before fading away into the sea.

There was a gash on his face, one that started at the end of his left eyebrow and crossed diagonally down to the corner of his mouth, vanishing into his jaw. Flesh, blood, and even white bone could be seen in the wound. There was also that same arrogant and disdainful spirit.

Qin Yu's eyes were ice cold, without any hint of warmth. The sea map slowly unfolded above his head and countless star-like motes of islands spread out, sparkling like treasures.

He lifted his hand and pointed towards the sea map, onto a single dark spot.

In the next moment, a dazzling beam of light fell down from the skies. It split apart the endless seawater and drowned out the Whale Sovereign's form. Its speed was amazingly fast. The beam of light came falling down as soon as he pointed his finger, and it only took a breath of time for annihilation to follow!

But it left as fast as it came. The islands sparkling above began to dim and the sea map curled back up and vanished along with the beam of light. Now, in the sea, there was a straight line that went from sea level all the way to the seabed. It was only after a moment that seawater began to surge in, submerging the channel.

The Whale Sovereign wildly hacked out coughs. He wasn't dead, but he was in a pitiful condition. His scalp had been torn off and his chest had been ripped open; one could see his beating heart within, struggling to live. He looked up at Qin Yu, then, lifting a shaking arm, he clenched his fist. A light cracking sound followed.

Qin Yu stiffened.

The Whale Sovereign smiled. "I never thought that I would actually be forced into such a miserable state by you, and even nearly killed by you. However, the one who gets the last laugh in the end will still be me."

He spread out his hand, revealing a shattered bead in his palm. Though the bead had cracked into several pieces, one could still see Qin Yu's visage within, his face twisted with pain.

“Originally, I would have explained to you just what this bead is. But you are far too strange of a junior. I don’t want my final card to be ruined by you, so I won’t say much. Then, let’s bring this game to an end.”

The Whale Sovereign walked over. His head turned into a fierce whale head; it looked quite bizarre on a human body. He opened his mouth to reveal rows of sharp teeth.

Puff –

The Whale Sovereign’s body stiffened. He blinked with difficulty, confusion filling his eyes. Qin Yu held a pure white sword in his hands. It thrust through the rows of teeth and pierced the upper jaw of the Whale Sovereign until it exited through the top of his head. Blood flowed down the snow-white blade, dying Qin Yu’s hand red.

“I have no idea what that bead is, but it clearly isn’t useful to me.” A severe light flashed in Qin Yu’s eyes. “Whale Sovereign, farewell and goodbye.”

With a twist of his palm, the long sword spun and blood surged out. It rained down like a waterfall, pouring over Qin Yu’s hair, dyeing his face red and soaking his black robes.

Roar –

With an angered roar, a great whale phantom appeared. It looked at Qin Yu, its eyes filled with unmatched hate. Then, in the next moment, without any hesitation, it exploded.

The Whale Sovereign had touched upon the Divine Soul realm, so even if he hadn’t made a breakthrough, his soul had begun to transform. This was why after his mortal body died, his soul could begin its final attack.

Within his soul space, Qin Yu’s soul opened its eyes. In the next moment countless tiny cracks appeared around his soul, weaving together into a dense net.

Spirity coughed and convulsed. The space between her eyebrows split open and a dark red mark seemed to appear, as if dropping down her face. On the surface it looked like her injuries were much lighter than what happened to Qin Yu’s soul, but the reality was that they were so severe that she simply slumped over, unconscious.

The Partner Soul took its host as its master. When resisting attacks from outside, the majority of the killing force was withstood by her. Otherwise, the Whale Sovereign detonating his soul would have been enough to pull them all into death together.

In the outside world, Qin Yu’s complexion immediately paled. His eyes dimmed and blood began trickling down from every orifice of his head. He wavered and stumbled.

At this moment, a change occurred. The bloodstained sword that Qin Yu held in his hand began to lighten, as if it were absorbing the blood on it. Then, all the blood from the Whale Sovereign’s corpse surged out, flowing along the sword’s blade and vanishing into his palm.

A warm current rapidly flowed through his body and spread. His mortal body cheered in comfort even as his soul groaned in agony. This sort of mixed feeling was hard to explain in words. Qin Yu stood where he was, not willing to move at all.

Time passed bit by bit. As the terrifying shockwaves dispersed, although the seawater still tumbled about, it lost that all-annihilating strength.

All of the seafolk watching this fight widened their eyes. Did things finish just like that? Who had won in the end? Originally, this shouldn't be too difficult to imagine; just how powerful was the Whale Sovereign? It was natural that he would win. But just now, in that terrifying battle, Qin Yu had exposed his absolute strength and now no one dared to guess what happened in the end.

In particular, those sea race masters who had received a warning from Sea God Palace to hold back and not attack were especially grateful towards the Lord Priest. If they had actually entered the fray, then they might have died dozens of times already. Who could have imagined that Qin Yu, who used to be at the Golden Core realm, could reach such a freakish degree of strength in just several years?

But shock was just shock in the end. After a short hesitation, some people began to approach the area where the battle erupted. Of course, they were careful in their movements and were prepared to escape at any moment. But every seafolk held onto the same thought, a trace of anticipation in their heart: perhaps in the battle between the Whale Sovereign and Qin Yu, they had been mutually wounded? If so, wouldn't they be able to come in as the third party to seek some benefits?

Soon, the first person crossed the wild waves and appeared in the center of the battlefield. This person was a thin, black-clothed man with a towel wrapped around his face. Only a pair of narrow and slender eyes was revealed, eyes that shined with a sharp light. As he arrived, he was shocked by the horrifying scene around him. But soon his gaze fell upon the bodies of Qin Yu and the Whale Sovereign!

At first glance, the black-clothed man was shocked. The Whale Sovereign had died; he had been killed!

However, Qin Yu's condition didn't seem any better. He stood rigidly in place, his aura nearly imperceptible.

Could he have also died?

Ecstatic joy rose up in his body. The black-clothed man licked the corner of his lips, endless greed erupting from his slender eyes.

After a short period of hesitation, the black-clothed man rushed forwards. Many people were catching up. He couldn't delay at all, otherwise this great lucky chance would fly away right in front of him. Riches and honor all followed danger; the risks weren't anything at all. Moreover, Qin Yu looked more unfortunate than fortunate right now.

This was what the heavens wanted. If he didn't grasp this chance then he would be the one suffering!

He lifted a palm and dark light circulated around it, readying himself to strike Qin Yu's chest. Even if it looked like Qin Yu wasn't a threat right now, it was best to be careful. If this person could even fell the Whale Sovereign then it could be seen just how ruthless and dangerous he was. If Qin Yu had even half a breath of life left over, then with a single wrong move he would be sent along the road.

But just as he was about to attack, his body froze in place. His chest burst open and a red sword tore through him from behind. The blade burned with flames. It ignited the corpse of the black-clothed man and, amazingly, he began to light up beneath the sea like a torch.

Deep under the sea, flames.

No matter how one saw this scene, there was a strange macabre feeling to it.

So, when the second sea race master appeared, his eyes popped open in shock and he hesitated.

The Whale Sovereign had died. His head had been pierced through and, more importantly, he didn't even emit the slightest bit of aura. It was clear that he couldn't be any more dead than he was. That person who was still burning, he was about to be cooked through now and he had also thoroughly died.

The only one remaining was Qin Yu. Although it seemed as if he didn't pose any threat right now, it was clear that the burning person was his handiwork. He was truly vicious! To kill the Whale Sovereign was horrifying enough, but he still had enough strength to kill others. If he didn't see this with his own eyes then he wouldn't have believed it at all.

The sea race master's eyes turned. He flicked his sleeves and the surrounding temperature of the seawater began to rapidly drop, quickly condensing into a black ice arrow.

Shua –

Quietly, the black ice arrow ripped through the seawater and shot towards Qin Yu's head.

Everything proceeded smoothly. In just another blink of an eye, he would be able to witness the splendid scene of Qin Yu's head blowing open like a flower. But suddenly, the sea race master's heart shrank.

Pa –

The black ice arrow shattered and a shadow howled past it. The man was about to evade, but his body froze.

Puff –

Blood spouted out. A head flew upwards. Then, the blood that gushed out from the severed neck suddenly turned to ice. The speed was so fast that it caught up to the head that was flying away. Thus the following strange scene occurred: a headless corpse was wildly spurting out blood, frozen like red ice-bound fireworks, with a head hanging above, filled with panic.

The ice rapidly spread across the entire body in a moment. Then, not too far away from the burning seafolk, an ice sculpture appeared.

That was right, Qin Yu was indeed injured. In particular, from the Whale Sovereign's final soul explosion. If it weren't for Spirity resisting the majority of the impact for him then he would have already died. Even so, with his formidable soul cultivation, the Five Element Swords were still mind-bogglingly powerful when controlled by his mind. This was the reason why he was able to kill two people even when entirely still.

More and more seafolk finally caught up.

Burning corpse, ice-bound corpse...these two completely different strengths left one's mind racing.

In particular, the Whale Sovereign's pierced jaw caused a cold chill to race up their backs.

Qin Yu won. He was actually...terrifying to the extreme!

Killing the Whale Sovereign was already an unimaginable feat. And in such a severely wounded state, he was also able to kill two more people.

They couldn't make out who the burning person was, but they could see who the ice-bound corpse belonged to. It was a master of the Southern Mountains, and he was quite strong.

And as everyone was hesitating, Qin Yu moved. He drew out his sword. The Whale Sovereign's corpse seemed as if it had eroded over endless years. As the sword was drawn out, his corpse disintegrated into countless fragments that floated away into the sea.

Qin Yu turned, slow and stiff. His mind and body didn't seem very coordinated at the moment.

This caused the eyes of many seafolk to brighten.

### **Chapter 232 – Treated as an Equal**

"He's injured." It was unknown who said this first. Their voice wasn't too loud, but it spread through the seawater and clearly entered the ears of all the seafolk present.

Qin Yu sighed. His eyebrows furrowed together with some difficulty, making him seem a bit helpless.

"That human Qin Yu, he killed the Whale Sovereign, a cornerstone of my sea races. We cannot allow him to leave!"

"That's right, we cannot allow him to leave, otherwise where will the pride and glory of our sea races be?"

"Everyone, let's attack together! We will see whether or not he is some superhuman freak!"

The roaring crowd was roused to action.

Qin Yu turned his head. He glanced over the crowd and focused on an especially fierce seafolk master whose face was flushed red with excitement.

Whoosh –

There was the sound of breaking air. In the next moment, this sea race master who had shouted with the most energy until he was red in the face fell backwards, face up.

His chest and belly had been torn through. A terrifying strength immediately exterminated all life.

Everything fell deathly silent.

Qin Yu's eyes darkened and he coughed gently several times. "That's right, I am indeed severely wounded. But, trust me, before I die I will always have the means to drag several of you into the grave with me." He reached out a hand and pointed, "You, you, or you. Of course, it can be other people. It could be any of you. You can allow me to leave in peace, or you can all take a gamble on whether or not you will die here. Make your choice."

The sea race masters were hesitant and indecisive. They definitely didn't want to allow Qin Yu to leave, but if they refused...they had seen someone die with their own eyes, and seeing this up close and

personal left a much larger impact than coming upon the corpses of the two others. Qin Yu proved he still had the strength to easily kill them.

“Hand over the Whale Sovereign’s storage magic tool and you may leave...”

Whoosh –

This was clearly some prestigious sea race powerhouse. But before he could finish speaking, there was a loud sound as his head separated from his body and blood erupted upwards.

Qin Yu said with effort, “My apologies, but I don’t plan on leaving any of my possessions behind. Does anyone still have an objection?”

In the present situation, he couldn’t show even a hint of weakness. Otherwise these seafolk would surely reach for a yard after taking an inch. In the end, they would all become wicked and greedy wolves, eating him up until there weren’t even bones remaining.

The complexions of the sea race masters all changed. There was anger in their eyes but even more fear! If Qin Yu dared to kill them without scruples, it was clear he had plenty of strength left remaining. If he were to go all-out, many of them would be severely wounded or die, and this might even include themselves.

If things followed the current trend, then perhaps Qin Yu might have been able to subdue these numerous sea race masters and retreat from the battlefield.

But, accidents were bound to happen. And there were also those seafolk who weren’t afraid of death.

For instance, masters of the whale monster race.

Although their Lord Patriarch had announced that he was severing relations with them and strictly ordered them not to interfere, ultimately, the whale monster race wasn’t able to stand idly by. After an emergency meeting, the whale monster race dispatched a powerful troop led by five Nascent Soul powerhouses to secretly go to Moon Praying Shrine. They were well aware that with their Lord Patriarch’s personality, after having been forced to this step he would never allow Qin Yu to leave alive.

The facts revealed that they did indeed understand the Whale Sovereign and their judgment had been correct.

But, the result was the exact opposite of what they expected: their Lord Patriarch had died.

Not only had he died, but the whale monster race’s ultimate trump card, the refined souls that they had saved up over countless years using endless effort, had been entirely ruined here. After determining this, all the whale monster race masters turned pale white. They now knew that the decline of their tribe was inevitable.

But even decline was split into levels. If they could kill Qin Yu here and take revenge for the Whale Sovereign, taking back their momentum, then the whale monster race might be able to maintain a weakened existence. They might even have a chance to rise back up in the future. Otherwise, if they allowed Qin Yu to freely swagger away, losing all their spirit in the process and allowing themselves to be pushed up against the wall, then their whale monster race would be beyond redemption!

So, the whale monster masters decided to fight. All of their eyes began to fill with a crazed zealousness. Even if they all died here, they still had to pull Qin Yu into the grave with them!

“Qin Yu!” With a hate-filled roar, the first whale monster master rushed out. He immediately transformed into his true form, striking out at the seawater and causing wild waves to rise up, his momentum dreadful.

Puff –

Flesh and blood spewed into the water. Two deep cuts suddenly appeared in the eyes of this great whale that was hundreds of feet long. Blood flowed out, mixed with a pale white slurry of goo.

“Kill him!”

“Revenge for the Patriarch!”

This didn’t frighten those that followed. More and more whale monster race masters rushed out, all of them transforming back into their true forms. There were at least dozens of them.

The surrounding seafolk masters were overjoyed. Qin Yu could still fight, but there were enough whale monster masters to use up the little bit of strength he had remaining. At that time, they would have an opportunity to make their move. This was just too wonderful. They praised the whale monsters, applauding them for their kindness and noble spirit.

Qin Yu bitterly smiled. Right now, he still had the strength to kill four or five more people, but if these whale monsters all rushed at him en masse, there was actually nothing he could do.

But waiting for death to arrive wasn’t something he would do. Even if he couldn’t escape, he would struggle as much as he could and kill several more people. For instance, there was still his right hand’s index finger. Throughout the years, it was unknown how much vicious poison the little blue lamp had sent there. Qin Yu hadn’t had the heart to use it up, but if he really was going to die then he would let it explode; it would definitely cause numerous people here to die horrible deaths bleeding from their heads.

“Stay your hand!” With a cold cough, an old turtle appeared. Though he was thin and small he stood straight and rigid, his old face filled with regal dignity.

Turtle Origin flicked his sleeves. Wild waves rose up from the seabed, blocking the whale monsters and sending them tumbling away.

“Turtle Origin, just what are you doing!?” An old whale spat out.

“If you stop us from taking revenge for our Patriarch, we will never forgive this!”

“Today, no one can stop us!”

Not only were the whale monsters enraged, but the preying sea race powerhouses waiting all around were also angered. Just what was this, what did you mean by this? We just saw a bit of hope and now you want to destroy it? Even if you are Turtle Origin, aren’t you being too excessive!?

“Turtle Origin, you had best not interfere in today’s matters!” The person who spoke was confident in his own status. His voice was heavy with dignity.

“Fellow daoist Turtle, why must you provoke such anger for a mere human!” This person intentionally spoke in a calm voice, trying to speak reason.

“Senior Turtle, you are a cornerstone of the sea region, so how could you allow this human to go free and terrorize everyone in the sea?” This person had a peaceful expression as he tried to exert pressure using morals.

Turtle Origin was expressionless. “Qin Yu is someone that His Majesty wants. Anyone who moves against him is an enemy of the capital city.”

The old whale flew into a bitter rage. “Turtle Origin, even if His Majesty personally comes here today, he can give up any idea of saving this person! My children, attack together with me, take revenge for the Patriarch!”

Bang –

Seawater blew apart with a loud rumble as it surged into the distance. A massive turtle, one as large as a mountain, appeared deep beneath the sea. It opened its mouth and shot forwards. The old whale cried out pitifully but it was wrapped in seawater before being swallowed up in the big turtle’s mouth.

Crunch –

Crunch –

Blood flowed out from between the turtle’s teeth, dyeing the waters red.

The whale monsters all froze and the watching sea race powerhouses also froze. They never imagined that Turtle Origin’s response would be so cruel and bloodthirsty. He had directly eaten the oldest and strongest whale monster here!

Gulp –

The sound of swallowing was incomparably clear coming from the large turtle’s long neck. The turtle swept an icy cold gaze around. “To defy His Majesty’s will is the same as rebelling. I have the qualifications to punish anyone in place of His Majesty. I am quite old and have been a vegetarian for far too long. Occasionally eating some meat to supplement my diet might be a good idea.”

This was a stark naked death threat!

And the most essential point was that this old turtle had the ability to threaten them. Even that overconfident old whale had been swallowed up quickly. If it were anyone else, they would have been swallowed up even faster.

Moreover, from Turtle Origin’s actions, he was determined to save Qin Yu. If they really tried to stop him and aroused the anger of His Majesty in the capital city, then they would have to shoulder the sin of wronging His Majesty. Nothing would come from that but endless calamity.

The old turtle turned his head. He coldly said, “Qin Yu, follow me away!”



Qin Yu cupped his hands together. "Then, I'll have to trouble you."

He stepped onto the turtle's back. The great turtle turned, its four limbs paddling around. Then, seawater surged around them, pushing them into the distance.

After a moment and making sure that no one was chasing after them, Qin Yu flew off. The great turtle vanished to reveal the human-shaped Turtle Origin. Turtle Origin looked Qin Yu over, "What incredible skills you have, fellow daoist Qin Yu. Even the Whale Sovereign was killed by you. Amazing, amazing!"

Qin Yu wryly smiled. "I was just lucky. Senior need not praise me."

"Don't call me senior, it pains my heart to hear that. Compared to the Whale Sovereign, my strength is a bit weaker. If you killed him, then finishing me off should be easy."

This sounded like a cynical taunt, but it was actually quite earnest.

Strength represented status.

Right now, Qin Yu already had the qualifications to be treated as an equal.

Qin Yu forced out a smile.

"Good, let us stop with the small talk and hurry up." Turtle Origin flicked his sleeves, wrapping Qin Yu in water and howling away.

Soon, a giant ship appeared before them. The capital city's war division was in full display. Seeing Turtle Origin, everyone bowed together. As their gazes fell on Qin Yu, there was shock and awe in their eyes.

This person had killed the Whale Sovereign...

Just that point alone was enough to earn their respect.

"Immediately set sail. If people catch up to us then things will be troublesome." The old turtle waved his hand. He clearly wasn't as confident as he showed on the surface.

The ship soon started moving, soaring directly towards the capital city. Before Qin Yu could ask anything, he was sent to recuperate in a cabin. His soul wounds were serious so he decided to meditate and swallow some Star Pills from his storage ring to help his soul recover.

Unfortunately, even top quality pills that were purified by the little blue lamp didn't have much effect on Qin Yu's soul injuries this time. They could only forcibly suppress the pain. The cracks on the surface of his soul remained. If he were forced to withstand another impact, he feared it would shatter into pieces.

After sailing for several days, Qin Yu opened his eyes. He let out a light breath, a helpless look on his face. If he wanted to restore his soul, it seemed he needed the help of some powerful external force. His eyes flashed and his thoughts raced. If the Sea Sovereign didn't hesitate to offend all influences within the sea region and order the old turtle to carry him away, then he must have some demand.

Without accident, the most likely probability was that it was related to him helping numerous seafolk masters cross tribulation.

Could it be...the Sea Sovereign wished to cross tribulation!?

If this was the truth, then he could use this chance to set forth some reasonable requests. For instance, things that could repair soul wounds. After all, if his soul was injured, there might be dangers if he tried to cross tribulation like this.

And even if he took a step back and assumed that the Sea Sovereign wasn't crossing tribulation, he would still have an opportunity to set forth his own requests. Now, all he needed to do was patiently wait.

### **Chapter 233 – Key**

On Qin Yu's journey to the capital city, there was a small interlude.

A knock sounded outside his cabin door. The person outside was unexpected.

"Princess Lushy, it's been a while."

After a brief pause, Qin Yu spoke up, his voice warm and gentle.

The princess had a faint look. "I don't need to come in; I only came to ask you a question. When father bestowed a royal marriage to you, why did you refuse?"

Qin Yu cupped his hands together. "My heart belongs to someone else. I could not destroy princess' happiness just because I wished to live."

Princess Lushy was stunned. She immediately furrowed her eyebrows together. "Are you speaking the truth?"

"I swear it."

Her gaze relaxed. She turned and left, sighing inwardly.

Reality proved that her judgment had been excellent. The man she had chosen was brilliant, far more outstanding than any of her peers.

But why did she recognize this so late? Perhaps it would have been better if they never met.

The ship ventured deep through the sea, the waves rolling past it.

...

The great ship anchored at a wharf. Qin Yu stepped onto the deck. As he saw the giant city spread across the bottom of the sea like a miracle, his expression was tranquil.

After disembarking the ship, Turtle Origin simply flew away. A troop from the capital city's war division guided Qin Yu to board a carriage and enter the royal palace from a side gate.

Following that, things occurred which were beyond Qin Yu's expectations. Without him needing to go and make a request, Soupman personally came to deliver him many soul restoring treasures.

"Qin Yu, rest well and recover from your injuries. If there is anything you need, feel free to ask!"

Although they hadn't crossed paths too often, Qin Yu was well aware of how greedy for wealth Soupman was. He was surprised by his actions.

It seemed like His Majesty had a request for him, and it was an extremely important one.

After thinking about it, Qin Yu pressed down these thoughts and decided to put forth his full effort in recovering from his injuries. He would find out what was happening sooner or later.

The things Soupman sent over were all extremely precious treasures in the sea region. Qin Yu was able to use the little blue lamp to help them grow, making them become even more potent.

Time slowly passed. Although the strength of these treasures was absorbed by his soul, the cracks on his soul's surface didn't disappear.

Shua –

Within a temple, Qin Yu opened his eyes. His face darkened and he grimaced.

Just as he thought, it wasn't useful.

The soul was the most mysterious existence of a cultivator's body. In order to reach it, one needed to touch upon the Divine Soul realm or have heaven-defying good fortune like Qin Yu. The soul was incomparably powerful and filled with infinite mysteries. But, once injured, wanting to restore it was difficult beyond imagination.

And what worried Qin Yu the most was that ever since that day when Spirity fell unconscious, she still hadn't awoken. Through their resonance, he could sense her aura constantly weakening. If things continued like this, he feared she might never wake up.

Just how could he repair his soul and awaken Spirity?

As Qin Yu was mulling this over, His Majesty in that grand hall had finally completed his preparations. He had secretly cleaned up many uncertain factors so that even if he failed to cross tribulation, there would still be a smooth transition of royal authority in the capital city. There would be no widespread chaos.

“Bring Qin Yu in to see this Solitude.”

This man possessed the most power and influence in the world, and his cultivation also stood at the peak of all others. Not long after he spoke his command, Qin Yu was brought in. Where he now stood was in the grand hall at the center of the royal palace.

Qin Yu looked up. When he sensed that boundless aura which soared to the skies, he knew who it was that he was meeting.

He adjusted his black robes a little and then pushed open the doors to the grand hall, stepping in.

The first thing he saw was that figure sitting upon the dragon throne. That figure didn't emit any formidable aura, but just by sitting there he seemed to be the center of the world, leaving everyone who witnessed his glory in awe.

“Qin Yu, greets Your Majesty.”

The Sea Sovereign opened his eyes. His eyes were steady and flat. He was a regal and majestic man. From the start, his appearance had never been described, because with his status there was simply no need to mention these things.

“Qin Yu, you should know that this Solitude has sat upon this chair for almost 300 years, not taking even a single step away.”

Qin Yu’s heart shook. His expression was solemn.

“This Solitude is the ruler of the sea, the one who possesses the highest authority in the world, the one who controls trillions of lives. To others, it might seem like an endlessly glorious existence, but does anyone know the difficulties behind it? The underground vine...you must have seen it already. That is this Solitude’s Companion Vine. If this Solitude didn’t shift strength into its body, then this Solitude would not have lived until today. But to draw out one’s own cultivation, such an action doesn’t taste good at all. Though my will is formidable, this Solitude no longer wishes to withstand it. So, this Solitude hopes that you can help this Solitude resolve this burden.” The Sea Sovereign had a faint expression. When he lowered his head and looked down, the disdainful bearing a transcendent ruler was finally revealed. “This Solitude must cross tribulation, break out of this cage, and obtain a new life! Qin Yu, are you willing to help this Solitude?”

Of course, this was not really a request. If you don’t believe it, how about you try refusing?

Qin Yu bowed. “I will put forth my utmost effort!” He continued to say, “But for this, I will need to make some preparations. Or if any accident was to occur, I would not be able to withstand the consequences.”

“Very well. This Solitude will give you three days’ time...”

“Your Majesty, I have one more thing to say.” He looked up, “Perhaps this is beyond the thinking of someone as lowly as me, but this world is too cruel and sinister, so I cannot help but make considerations early. I hope that Your Majesty can give me a promise, that once you smoothly cross tribulation, you will allow me to leave.”

The Sea Sovereign nodded. “Very well, this Solitude will agree. But, you must also agree to a condition. After leaving the sea region, never take another step in for the rest of your life.”

Qin Yu bowed. “As Your Majesty wills.”

The one who controlled the method of crossing tribulation could create a massive number of Nascent Souls in a short period of time. If used by someone with the correct aspirations, Qin Yu had the ability to stir up a dreadful storm in the sea region. At that time, the rule of the capital city would come under tremendous threat.

After coming to an agreement, Qin Yu bowed and turned, leaving the grand hall.

On the journey to the capital city, he had already correctly guessed that the Sea Sovereign would try and cross tribulation. He spoke to the little blue lamp, and although he didn’t obtain a response, he knew that the little blue lamp must have heard him. Since it didn’t refuse, it was clear that it had no problem dealing with the heavenly tribulation.

But now a difficult conundrum was placed in front of him. If he were to help the Sea Sovereign cross tribulation, he couldn’t do the same as he did at Moon Praying Shrine and have the Sea Sovereign fall asleep with medicines and then stimulate his cultivation to summon down heavenly tribulation.

If so, then how could he proceed without exposing the existence of the little blue lamp?

This was the reason why Qin Yu said he needed to make some preparations.

Returning to his dwelling, Qin Yu's thoughts moved. The array formation in the hall began to revolve, isolating him from the outside. Light flashed in his hand and the little blue lamp appeared. He looked out for several breaths of time and said, "I need to help the Sea Sovereign cross tribulation. I believe this should be beneficial to you. But, your existence cannot be exposed, so, I want to ask you, just what plan do you have to prevent that?"

The little blue lamp had its own will; he had already received proof of this.

Hum –

The little blue lamp gently shivered. The corals within the hall were still red, indicating that it was still daytime. But, there were still faint traces of dark blue on their surface.

Then, like a bubble, it suddenly exploded and vanished from sight.

Qin Yu was shocked. He immediately closed his eyes. Within his soul space, he could sense a thumb-sized lantern.

Blue light shot out, falling between the eyebrows of Qin Yu's soul and turning into a flowing mark. It fluctuated constantly, its shape unclear.

After a long time, he opened his eyes. His expression was a bit complex. He finally sighed and revealed a faint smile.

So it was only today that he was approved by the little blue lamp, truly becoming its master.

Perhaps this test had already started when he inadvertently obtained the little blue lamp at the Eastern Mountain Sect.

It really, really hadn't been easy!

In the past, Qin Yu had once tried to drip several drops of blood on the little blue lamp, thinking he could bring it under his control like that. He had been far too naïve.

But no matter how it happened, this was an extremely good thing, right?

He thought that the following three days would pass in peace, but soon, a visitor came to see Qin Yu.

"Greetings, Lord Qin Yu." The one speaking was a member of the capital city's war division. Qin Yu had once seen him on the great ship he rode here.

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows together. He asked, "What matter is there?"

The war division member respectfully said, "I am under orders to deliver this box to you. My time is limited so I cannot stay for long, but this box has something that can help you dispel your doubts."

The soldier bowed and left.

The box wasn't large; it was around twice the size of an adult's palm. It seemed to be crafted from wood, with a thick layer of glaze around it. It was clearly an old object that was often played around with

by others. Qin Yu probed it, and after sensing that there was nothing wrong, he opened it. There were no traps, poison gasses, or anything else like that. It seemed he had been a bit too wary.

Within the wood box, there was a long object wrapped in gray leather. A jade slip lay beside it. This thing didn't seem as if it came from the sea races, but instead seemed as if it came from humans.

Qin Yu took out the jade slip. Light flashed on its surface, and then it immediately shattered into motes of light that rapidly condensed into a screen. Figures appeared on the screen. From looks alone, it appeared that they had filmed this from an ancient and dilapidated building. But, he could sense a deep background in the surroundings.

"Lord Qin Yu, by the time you see this, you should have received the gift we sent to you. This key concerns the world's secret. We have always kept watch over it, believing that it is an item necessary to awaken the sea spirit. You are the sea spirit's wanderer in the world, so we will give this key to you, in hope that you will obtain a harvest."

The final image on the screen was everyone lowering their heads, bowing in reverence.

Pa –

The screen shattered.

Qin Yu frowned. He recognized the person speaking. He had been one of the four priests responsible for managing the sea spirit baptism. But today, he and the three people beside him were clearly much older than before.

Looking at their attire, the ones appearing on the screen should all have been priests of the capital city. But, why did they say he was the sea spirit's world wanderer?

He looked down at the long object trapped in gray leather. Qin Yu reached out and untied it to reveal a piece of jade.

That's right, this was a rectangular jade, shaped like a square column. There were countless dents that marred its surface and even traces of it being burnt, as if it had undergone some calamity. But, the item itself wasn't truly damaged. In particular, a key sealed within the jade was in perfect shape.

Qin Yu had a dignified expression. He lifted up the jade and carefully examined it in the light. The jade itself had no signs of being refined, so how had the key been placed within? Or, could it be that this key grew within the jade?

But no matter what the reason was, there was one thing for certain. This jade was definitely an extraordinary object, and the key that the priests gave him must have some vital use.

Thinking about it, it had been mentioned that this involved the secrets of the world as well as the awakening of the sea spirit...Qin Yu had no idea what this world was, but he did know of the sea spirit's strength. He had already touched upon it. It was something that absolutely surpassed the boundaries of his imagination!

He grabbed hold of the key and his eyes flashed. Perhaps he needed to find a chance to clearly question the priests.

But, that time wasn't now.

### **Chapter 234 – Crossing Tribulation**

After that, three days passed uneventfully. The news of the Sea Sovereign crossing tribulation was still blocked out, but if one had the qualifications to touch upon the circles of highest power, then they would have received a prompt concerning this.

On one hand, these people tried to control their subordinate forces, lest they be cleaned away by His Majesty in a critical moment to avoid any problems. On the other hand, their eyes widened as they stared towards the royal palace.

If His Majesty was crossing tribulation, then whether he succeeded or failed it would inevitably create a great disturbance. If they could grab onto this moment then it would be an amazing opportunity for them. Of course, this opportunity might be good and it might be bad. It might appear as if they were walking on a gilded path towards wealth and glory, when in truth they were falling down into an abyss beyond redemption.

At noon, when the time-sensing corals were their brightest red, the skies above the royal palace started to quietly dim down. This color was pale, as if it were a dappled landscape painting. Yet, it carried with it a deep and heavy aura, and when it appeared it attracted the gazes of countless people.

The majority of seafolk within the capital city revealed astonished gazes; they had no idea what was happening. But at this time, the truly great people could feel their heartbeats speed up and their complexions turn incomparably dignified.

His Majesty, he had...begun!

Although everyone knew of this, when His Majesty truly started to cross tribulation, they discovered that the news they obtained ahead of time was completely different from the reality before them.

Soupman raced in circles, like an ant in a hot pot. "Old Turtle, do you think His Majesty will be alright? Peh peh peh! My mouth deserves to be slapped. What kind of character is His Majesty? If he chooses to cross tribulation now then he must be confident in himself!" But even as he said this, he couldn't help but pace in endless circles, mumbling to himself the entire time.

Turtle Origin was agitated. He shouted out, "Can you just hold still, you are making me dizzy!"

Soupman clenched his teeth. "I want to stop too, but I can't! As soon as I stop I start to panic!" He began to curse at himself, "You old bastard, just what are you so nervous about! Do you not have any confidence in His Majesty? You should just go and die!"

This sort of self-scolding was truly refreshing. Turtle Origin didn't know whether to laugh or to cry. "That's enough. Qin Yu was able to eliminate the Whale Sovereign. Forget how he managed to do it. Since he did, that point alone is enough to push him to the peak of society. If he and His Majesty join forces, they are absolutely the strongest combination in the world! With them together, it is highly possible for them to cross tribulation successfully. Moreover, do you remember what Qin Yu has been doing lately? Do you not know that the heavenly tribulation he has seen far surpasses you and me together? Since he has agreed to help His Majesty, he should know that if he fails here, his fate will be miserable. So, you should rest assured that everything will be fine!"

Soupman nodded again and again, as if saying 'you are right, I worship your every word'. But in the blink of an eye, he had a mournful expression plastered on his face once more. "You old turtle, do you think I don't understand you by now? You are always lazy and sloppy. During ordinary times, when would you speak so many words? The more you speak, the more it proves you don't have any faith at all! You cannot trick me!"

Turtle Origin gnashed his teeth in anger. At this time, it was fine enough for the both of them to mutually comfort each other. Even if Soupman sensed something, did he really have to say it out loud?

This was fine. He was also beginning to panic.

The skies above the royal palace began to darken, turning deep and rich. It was like drops of ink falling into a lake, quickly melting away, turning it increasingly black.

Then in the blink of an eye, that black water covered the entire lake. It spread out at an astonishing speed.

Everything mentioned happened slowly, but in truth it was shockingly quick. In just several blinks of an eye, the entirety of the skies above the capital city was covered in darkness.

Billowing black clouds tumbled about. It was bizarrely silent, but the terrifying aura that rained down caused everyone's mind to tremble.

Countless seafolk widened their eyes, their faces full of panic and horror. They had no idea what was happening.

Was someone crossing tribulation?

But, the key point was that they had never seen a heavenly tribulation on such a massive scale, or one that possessed such a terrifying momentum!

Within the grand hall, the Sea Sovereign looked up. His eyes seemed to pierce through the hall and gaze straight towards those formidable tribulation clouds above.

With a deep breath, he slowly stood up. His movements were slow, and even a little stiff. But with this simple movement, there were loud rumbles in the air, like heaven-shaking roars, as if a massive tide was racing forwards!

This sound was incredible beyond belief. In a mere moment it resonated through the entire capital city. Countless seafolk turned pale white. They felt as if a mountain was pressed against their chests, making it hard to breathe.

Because following the descent of this dreadful sound was an unimaginably boundless aura. This sort of overwhelming aura caused their minds to shake with fear.

Deep underground, in a place no one could see, the terrifying vine crazily rolled about. Countless vines withered and crashed to the ground.

The strength of the Sea Sovereign stored within the vine's body began to leave at a rapid rate. This sort of sudden extraction actually caused heavy damage to it.



But it silently withstood the pain, not preventing it at all. This was because the vine knew that only through the Sea Sovereign taking back its strength would it have any chance of living on. Otherwise, all that awaited it was death.

The Sea Sovereign stood straight and tall. He was like a peerless divine sword that had been unsheathed after hundreds of years. His aura recklessly erupted outwards, announcing his existence to the world.

Boundless, deep, dignified, formidable, this aura shot up straight like a beacon towards the skies, connecting the heavens and earth. From the dragon throne which he stood upon, the entire grand hall began to crack apart. Then, it disintegrated into rumble, dust and ash flying into the air.

To outsiders, this was the center of the royal palace, the place where the highest authority in the world lay. But to the Sea Sovereign, this was merely a prison where he had been locked away for 300 years.

Since he chose to risk everything and cross tribulation, then there naturally wasn't a need for this place any longer.

The grand hall broke apart. It was not able to block the majesty of the world. Strong winds howled forth, whipping up the robes of the Sea Sovereign. His black hair danced behind him and he narrowed his eyes and looked up towards the rolling tribulation clouds ahead. "The feeling of being free, that's something I haven't experienced for a long time."

Qin Yu stood outside the hall and watched as it collapsed. He quietly said, "Your Majesty, you can rest assured that from this day forth, you can travel as high as the skies and as wide as the seas. There will be nothing stopping you anymore."

The Sea Sovereign laughed heartily. "High as the skies and wide as the sea, good, this Solitude likes that very much. However, you should also know that if any accident happens when this Solitude crosses tribulation, you shall be accompanying this Solitude to the yellow springs."

To fail crossing tribulation meant that the Sea Sovereign would die. Even so, with his status, he wouldn't do something so lowly as speaking out to scare someone.

Qin Yu was well aware that if the Sea Sovereign died, he would also die. But, his complexion remained as calm as before. "Although I would be honored to take a trip to the yellow springs with Your Majesty, there are still many things I worry about in this world. So, I do not wish to die. I can only disappoint Your Majesty's kindness."

"Hahaha! Qin Yu, only now does this Solitude discover you are an interesting person!" The Sea Sovereign looked up, "But now, this Solitude will first test the might of this heavenly tribulation. Do not interfere!"

Bang –

A heaven-shaking bang seemed to split open the heavens and earth. Blinding lightning instantly sparkled and countless watching seafolk were left amazed. Tears began to subconsciously flow down their eyes. Then, a horrifying sound followed, as if the sea was breaking down above them. The sound roared into their ears, making it hard for them to compose their thoughts.

They all impatiently opened their eyes, wanting to know what was occurring. As they did, they saw a figure standing tall and proud below the tribulation clouds. The terrifying presence was like a dragon,

diving up and down all around him. On the long yellow robes, there were places that were broken all over, and the person's neatly combed hair was somewhat disheveled.

But this didn't ruin his aura. In fact, it made others feel that he was even more dignified and regal. He was grand and noble, looking down upon all others with disdain. Just by standing there he seemed to be the center of the world.

Because of the terrifying aura that surrounded him, space itself was distorted, making it impossible to clearly see his appearance. But, in the entire sea region, there was only one person who possessed such an aura and such a cultivation.

His Majesty! It was that supreme ruler who wielded sovereignty over all the sea races, His Majesty!

The sea races were shocked, but they immediately realized what was happening. No wonder this heavenly tribulation was so momentous; it was because His Majesty was the one crossing tribulation!

No one knew just what sort of cultivation boundary His Majesty had reached. But, there were well-informed people in the capital city who knew His Majesty had probably touched upon some very, very high threshold. Just another step further and he would reach the limits of power of this world.

However, this threshold was not easy to cross. This was the conclusion drawn from His Majesty not appearing in public for hundreds of years.

Then...could His Majesty successfully cross tribulation today?

The seafolk felt their hearts begin to race. Their eyes widened further.

"What is going on? His Majesty is crossing tribulation alone? Where is Qin Yu? Where is that bastard Qin Yu!?" Soupman flew into a rage. "That bastard swallowed up so many of my treasures. If he can't help His Majesty cross tribulation then I will skin him alive!"

Turtle Origin coldly sneered. "He even slaughtered the Whale Sovereign. If you go there it's the same as seeking death."

Soupman roared. "I don't care! If he can't help His Majesty then I will kill him myself!" He turned his head, his expression fierce. "Even at this time you still have the mood to smile? How can you be so calm? Aren't you worried about His Majesty?"

"So what if I'm worried? Do you think you and I can rush up to help block that heavenly tribulation for His Majesty?" Turtle Origin lightly said. "You don't need to blindly worry over His Majesty. Right now, His Majesty wants to use his own strength to resist heavenly tribulation. On the contrary, this makes me even more confident in his success. Since His Majesty dares to do this, this must mean he has the ability to do so."

These words seemed to be very sensible.

Soupman was stunned. He looked at His Majesty in the skies and took a deep breath, forcing himself to calm down. He told himself that it was still too early to act crazily!

Princess Lushy had a nervous expression. Her hands were twisted together. She stood along with her numerous brothers and sisters, watching their father cross tribulation.

Only several people knew that Qin Yu had been brought to the capital city. She silently thought to herself: Qin Yu, as long as you can help my father cross tribulation, then we can write off all our grievances!

You must not disappoint me, no matter what.

Rumble rumble –

The second heavenly tribulation descended. The Sea Sovereign laughed, “Wonderful!” He stepped up into the skies. With a flick of his sleeves, a torrential level of energy rushed out, raging forth like an endless river, completely breaking apart the thunder.

“This Solitude has avoided you for several hundred years, but now it seems that your strength is nothing but mediocre!” Daring valor flashed across the face of the Sea Sovereign. “Come! Come! Come! This Solitude is waiting for you to kill me!”

Within the black skies, two traces of red appeared and locked onto him like two eyes. Then, the tribulation clouds’ aura deepened. The air turned thick and sticky, as if an invisible swamp was about to submerge and swallow all.

### **Chapter 235 – Qin Yu Moves**

Chapter 235 – Qin Yu Moves

...

The third tribulation thunder appeared!

A faint trace of red accompanied it, like the first gentle colors of the early spring. It seemed pleasant to the eyes, but it actually left one’s heart wrenching. It was like a mountain collapsing in front of someone, capable of destroying all.

The Sea Sovereign wildly laughed as he punched out, his potential able to move mountains and seas. Wild strength surged past him, like a wild tiger leaping out, its mouth opened wide open.

The tribulation thunder snapped apart. Then, after several breaths of time, it shattered into countless pieces and dissipated in the air.

The faint blood red heavenly tribulation clearly possessed a horrifying degree of energy. But, the Sea Sovereign didn’t even give it a chance to display its power before it was torn apart.

Qin Yu signed inwardly. This person was indeed worthy of being the Sea Sovereign, the man with the highest level of authority in the world. His strength really did match his status; he was inconceivably strong.

In order to break past Nascent Soul and reach the undying Divine Soul, just how powerful was the heavenly tribulation that one had to overcome? But in front of him, he had actually easily rolled past it.

The Sea Sovereign’s true cultivation was likely several degrees stronger than even the Whale Sovereign’s.

Comparing to Pill Crucible and the Demon Monarch, they were on an even lower level.

Disregarding the existences that Qin Yu still didn't know of, the Sea Sovereign could be called the number one powerhouse he had ever seen in the world!

But the more it was like this, the more it proved that today's heavenly tribulation wouldn't be as simple as this.

Golden Core had one heavenly tribulation.

Nascent Soul had three heavenly tribulations.

Divine Soul had nine heavenly tribulations.

Perhaps these first three heavenly tribulations were only an appetizer to whet the appetite. Otherwise, with the Sea Sovereign's pride, would he really have been forced to hide from heavenly tribulation for over 300 years, sitting on that dragon throne and never rising?

Little blue lamp, can you really do this?

A bit of worry appeared in Qin Yu's eyes. But in the next moment, he forcibly suppressed it.

With things having come this far, no matter how powerful the heavenly tribulation was, he could only continue forwards. There was no longer a path to turn back.

The fourth tribulation thunder was deep red.

The fifth tribulation thunder was bright red, like blood.

In the sixth tribulation thunder, purple appeared within that blood red!

For the first time, the Sea Sovereign's tall and straight figure was forced back. His yellow robes were scorched black and his face was pale white. The rumbles of heavenly tribulation were shockwaves that spread out like a growing hurricane. They instantly swept through the entire capital city and countless tall buildings were brought tumbling down. The terrifying explosions caused the minds of the seafolk to ring and buzz, and their eyes widened in panic.

Even if they were far away, they could still feel how powerful that sixth bolt of heavenly tribulation was. If it were any one of them up there, they feared they would turn to flying ash in just the blink of an eye.

Throughout the capital city, all the great figures subconsciously revealed looks of flustered dread. Their cultivation was higher, so they could even more clearly feel the terror behind this tribulation thunder.

His Majesty had withstood the thunder's power and had only been pushed back a few steps. It greatly surpassed their expectations.

But, this was only the sixth thunder.

"There are still three more tribulation thunders..." They whispered in their hearts.

Soupman was stunned. He looked at His Majesty, who was shaken backwards, and knew that with His Majesty's prideful personality and having been forced to hide his anger for over 300 years, it was impossible for him to retreat, regardless of whether or not he could resist the attack. Although his complexion had only paled a bit, Soupman knew that His Majesty was injured; he was definitely injured!

“Qin Yu! How come you haven’t helped yet!” A low and vicious roar echoed out.

There could be absolutely no accident that happened to His Majesty, absolutely none!

Turtle Origin’s complexion sank. “His Majesty is fine.”

“I know he’s fine, but that is only the sixth thunder! You and I both know that in the Divine Soul’s nine tribulation thunders, it rises to a new level every three tiers. The power of the seventh thunder far outstrips the sixth. His Majesty absolutely cannot block it again!”

Turtle Origin fell silent. He looked at the back of the Sea Sovereign and gently sighed. With His Majesty’s intelligence, would he not know this? But, he wouldn’t draw back. His Majesty was still the same Majesty from the past. Being caged for 300 years had only served to temper his mind, making his willpower even more tenacious and formidable.

Although heavenly tribulation was terrifying, he still wanted to meet it and fight against it until the last moment.

Qin Yu tensed. Within his dantian, his Five Element Golden Cores shined splendidly. He was ready to take action at any moment.

But at this time, the Sea Sovereign in the sky slowly said, “This Solitude is fine.”

Qin Yu was startled. Admiration appeared in his eyes.

In all fairness, if he were up there, he might be able to withstand the sixth bolt of heavenly tribulation. But, he would be severely wounded, and facing the seventh bolt of heavenly tribulation where the threat of death was, he might have chosen to give up.

The Sea Sovereign indeed had the charm of a ruler. He had his own pride and confidence!

Bang –

The seventh thunder.

A light purple. Compared to the purple corals of the sea region, it was much lighter in color. But, this trace of purple was like the sharpest blade in the world. It instantly crossed space, cutting into the depths of the soul.

Qin Yu’s pupils shrank. He could feel the truly terrifying aspect of the seventh thunder tribulation; it unexpectedly possessed the power to affect the soul! But thinking about it, it was normal for Divine Soul heavenly tribulation to involve the soul.

But being normal was another matter altogether. If even the slightest mistake occurred and that pale purple thunder struck its target, then even the powerful Sea Sovereign would not be able to escape.

In the blink of an eye, the purple lighting submerged the Sea Sovereign. Qin Yu grimaced. The Sea Sovereign’s reaction was indeed much slower. If he really couldn’t withstand it, then...perhaps Qin Yu should be considering how to run away.

Roar – !

A resonant cry emerged, and from within that purple lightning, a 1000 foot long flood dragon appeared. Its scales were shattered all over and blood gushed out from its wounds. In the next moment, the blood was evaporated by the lightning to reveal the glistening flesh and blood below. Then, beneath the ravaging barrage of lightning, the wounds were soon burnt black.

The flood dragon roared and rolled about. Its massive figure swayed from side to side as it tried to tear apart the lightning.

Princess Lushy wept tears like rain. She could feel that her father was withstanding an agonizing pain right now.

Qin Yu! Qin Yu! You bastard, where are you!? Why haven't you helped yet!?

Turtle Origin stubbornly grabbed onto Soupman. Their auras clashed together, causing rumblings in the void. "Calm down, calm down! If you rush out now you won't be any help at all, you will only add chaos to His Majesty's situation!"

"I'm not adding chaos to anything! I want to chop up Qin Yu! That bastard, he still hasn't helped. I will kill him! I will kill him!" Soupman roared out repeatedly.

Turtle Origin bitterly smiled. He could only desperately hold back Soupman. He looked up towards the skies. Within the struggle with the flood dragon, the purple lightning seemed to have awakened. He could feel his heart tighten.

Your Majesty, for your pride, you are willing to pay with your life? That is just too great a joke!

Or, could it be that there really was a problem with Qin Yu? Was he intentionally not saving His Majesty?

Thinking of this possibility, Turtle Origin stumbled where he stood. His hands were subconsciously pulled back.

Bang –

Turtle Origin was sent flying away. Soupman rushed out, soaring directly towards the center of the royal palace where the destroyed hall was.

"Qin Yu!

"Qin Yu!"

Brutal roars echoed through the royal palace.

Princess Lushy's heart skipped a beat. It was unknown what she was thinking, but her complexion paled.

The other princes and princesses around her revealed looks of shock. None of them knew what was happening.

Soupman was actually so enraged, and the name he was shouting was Qin Yu...this name...even with their status, it struck their eyes like thunder.

The Whale Sovereign had been killed. Such explosive news had long since spread through the entire sea region as the powerhouses watching left the battlefield.

Of course, concerning how Qin Yu had left, details of that had been mostly skipped over during explanations.

What ridiculousness. Could those powerhouses say that they were all scared silly by Qin Yu so that none of them dared to make a move, and in the end they were forced to lower their heads in submission by Turtle Origin?

It was certainly impossible for them to punch themselves in the face like that!

Thus, news of Qin Yu being brought back to the capital city hadn't spread.

Could it be that Qin Yu had returned? Was His Majesty's sudden decision to cross tribulation related to him?

As they were all contemplating this, they saw Princess Lushy suddenly rush away.

The numerous princes and princesses were stunned. They followed closely behind.

Outside the disintegrated grand hall, Qin Yu frowned. He turned around.

Soupman's figure hurtled forwards, his eyes crazed. "Qin Yu!"

Bang –

Soupman felt his field of vision turn black for a moment as he was sent flying away by boundless strength. He smashed into a temple, and with a loud rumble the temple collapsed on him.

Princess Lushy and the others caught up in time to see this occur. Alarm colored their faces.

Within the royal palace, Soupman's strength was considered a peak existence. Although he was still far weaker than His Majesty and Mister Turtle, just what sort of strength was needed to send him flying away with a single strike?

Their gazes fell upon Qin Yu's calm face. They all felt awe in their hearts.

He was truly worthy of being that powerful existence who had cut down the Whale Sovereign in direct combat. His strength was astonishing.

Bang –

The temple rubble was sent flying away. Soupman clawed out from the mess. He clenched his jaws, "Qin Yu, even if you have transcendent abilities, if anything happens to His Majesty I will make sure you die without a grave!"

A cold light flashed in Qin Yu's eyes.

Whoosh –

Turtle Origin rushed over. He hurriedly said, "Qin Yu, Soupman is just worried about His Majesty. Don't take his words to heart!"

Qin Yu coldly snorted. "Keep watch over him. It won't end so simply next time."

Princess Lushy suddenly spoke up. "Qin Yu, hurry and help father! I know you can do it!"

Qin Yu shook his head. "You all underestimate His Majesty..."

Before his voice fell, a dragon roar resounded through the skies once more. Up high, the flood dragon's body grew by several degrees and it tore the purple lightning to shreds.

The flood dragon flew down, taking human form as it approached the ground. The Sea Sovereign's face was the palest it had ever been and there was blood dripping down from the corners of his lips. "Divine Soul heavenly tribulation is truly formidable. Blocking the seventh thunder tribulation is already my limit. Qin Yu, I'll have to leave the rest to you!"

Qin Yu nodded. Without a word, he turned and stepped up, ascending into the heavens, straight towards the tribulation clouds.

"Your Majesty! Your Majesty, are you alright!?" Soupman anxiously asked from afar.

The Sea Sovereign waved his hand. "I'm fine."

Princess Lushy was overjoyed. But as she looked at Qin Yu once more, her heart felt gripped.

The seventh thunder tribulation was already so terrifying, and it was obvious that the following eighth and ninth thunder tribulation would be even more so. Qin Yu, can you block it?

More so, because of outside interference, the might of heavenly tribulation would only increase. It would be far more terrifying than it would ordinarily be.

As she was worrying, countless eyes throughout the capital city were locked tightly on Qin Yu's figure.

As the most prominent and dazzling figure in the sea region in recent times, he was recognized by everyone in a mere moment.

No wonder His Majesty was suddenly crossing tribulation...

As this riddle in their hearts was solved, what followed was excitement.

In Moon Praying Shrine, Qin Yu had helped more than 200 seafolk reach Nascent Soul. No matter how weak or strong their heavenly tribulation was, all of it had vanished from sight.

How had he done this? This was absolutely the greatest question lingering in the hearts of all the seafolk.

Now, they finally had the chance to solve this mystery.

Every seafolk widened their eyes. Even the Sea Sovereign was looking closely at Qin Yu, waiting for what he would do next.

Rumble rumble –

A brilliant purple howled down like a beam of light. Its aura shocked the heavens and earth, capable of exterminating all things in creation.

The eighth tribulation thunder had arrived!

**Chapter 236 – True Thunder Beast**



Qin Yu tensed. From deep in his body, a feeling emerged that he was being targeted by a higher level existence. Then, this feeling transformed into an instinctual fear. His soul trembled and his body seemed as stiff as iron, his heart nearly stopping its beat. The prestige of this eighth thunder tribulation hadn't even truly erupted, but its aura was almost impossible to contend with.

But this process only continued for a very short period of time. From his soul space, the little blue lamp emitted a buzzing cry. Then a strange aura fused into Qin Yu's soul. Following that, all of the horror and dread he felt began to retreat like a falling tide, leaving behind only calm...and indifference.

It was like an almighty being looking down from above, nothing but careless disdain in its eyes, accompanied by the self-confidence to control everything. Yes, that was the ability to grasp all in its control.

At that moment, everyone discovered that Qin Yu's aura had changed. He suddenly became calm and loose. Although his body didn't move, he clearly transmitted this feeling to all those watching.

As if the tribulation thunder in front of him, as if the roiling tribulation clouds that spanned across the skies, was nothing in his eyes.

Then, Qin Yu moved.

He grasped forwards.

Yes, it was that simple. He unbent his arms and grasped his hands forwards.

His actions were casual, as if he were catching a leaf gently falling from a swaying tree. There was a light ease to his movements.

But the key point was that what he faced was the terrifying eighth tribulation thunder. And, he was reaching out his hand to grab it!

To directly touch tribulation thunder with his mortal body...did Qin Yu want to commit suicide?

Every seafolk that witnessed this – no matter whether their cultivation was weak or strong – widened their eyes, disbelief thick in their gaze.

Soupman's knees weakened and he slumped to the floor. He didn't care whether Qin Yu lived or died, but it was obvious that his fate was shared with His Majesty.

Bastard! You big bastard! If you want to die then die, why harm His Majesty!!

Princess Lushy cried out in alarm.

Her mouth fell wider and wider open until it was large enough to fit an egg inside.

However, no one would notice the princess' shameful reaction. Because nearly everyone else was in a similar condition.

All of their eyes were wide open, so wide that anyone watching would be afraid they would explode at any moment.

Qin Yu grabbed onto that tribulation thunder. He had grabbed onto that eighth tribulation thunder. He had grabbed onto that deep purple, that incomparably horrifying eighth tribulation thunder!

Even though they repeated this to themselves three times...yes...he really was grabbing onto it....

As if he was holding a string, a branch, or even a light leaf.

No matter how that purple tribulation thunder roared and wildly struggled about, it still couldn't free itself. Lightning spread out, submerging Qin Yu's entire body.

It was obvious that the arcing lightning wasn't able to harm him at all.

This...this...this...

No one knew what to say.

That's right, everyone knew that Qin Yu had some method to deal with heavenly tribulation. But, they never imagined this method would be so exaggerated.

Big brother, you're grabbing onto heavenly tribulation with your bare hands? Was there anything more incredulous in this world?

If they didn't see it with their own eyes, then if anyone else tried to describe this to them, they would have beaten them silly!

Bah!

If anyone tried bragging about something as ridiculous as this, they would be in for trouble!

But this was really...heavens...

The watching seafolk groaned inwardly. They wanted to shiver and sing out 'conquer' in their hearts.

Suddenly, the eighth tribulation thunder began to shrink at a speed visible to the naked eye. In several breaths of time, it was less than half its original size.

It was being swallowed...

Hahaha...am I surprised? I am already used to it. This fellow even grabbed onto heavenly tribulation with his own hands, so who cares if he can swallow heavenly tribulation too?

Why did my mouth drop this wide open?

Nonsense. Was it open just now? I just never bothered closing it!

Humph, luckily I have the foresight. If I were to close it up and it were to fall open again, wouldn't that just be wasting energy?

The thunder tribulation shrank by half again, then by another half. Soon enough, it turned into a string.

One end in Qin Yu's hand, another end in the tribulation clouds, the eighth tribulation thunder formed a connection between them.

But, the seafolk all started to discover that the tribulation clouds covering the capital city began to wildly surge.

This sort of surging was different from the pressure and overwhelming momentum of before. There was a trace of panic, alarm, and even fear.

Everyone rubbed their eyes. Was this an illusion?

Tribulation clouds represented the will of the world. How could they possibly feel fear?

You must be joking!

But in the next moment, something occurred that drastically changed their worldview once more.

A crack appeared in the tribulation clouds that covered the capital city. This piece of tribulation cloud that was several thousand feet wide began to fall down, separating from the main body of tribulation clouds.

And, it just happened that the end of the eighth tribulation thunder was right in the middle of it.

In the blink of an eye, that several thousand foot piece of tribulation cloud vanished, and the eighth tribulation thunder vanished with it.

Why did it seem as if something were breaking off its arm to survive...?

Qin Yu, he had actually managed to force the tribulation cloud to such a point. Many seafolk heard a loud cracking sound and then pained wails.

Their chins had struck the ground.

And the most critical point was that Qin Yu had used his hands to grab onto the heavenly tribulation and swallow it cleanly away. It was like he had grabbed onto a sweet sugar cane and had sucked it dry, without any outside help at all.

This was even scarier.

Heavens! Heavens! Heavens!

When did humans become so epic? There was actually someone that appeared who could grab onto heavenly tribulation and beat it around? Let alone hearing about it, this had simply never appeared in history before. Even if someone was bragging, there still had to be limits!

An unprecedented look of earnestness appeared on the Sea Sovereign's face. Even with his cultivation he still couldn't imagine something like this happening.

Qin Yu, this Solitude has really underestimated you!

Soupman shrank back, subconsciously withdrawing. After His Majesty made it out safely, clarity returned to his mind. Now, he was finally beginning to feel fear.

That brat Qin Yu, he was actually powerful to such a degree. Luckily that old turtle stopped me just now, otherwise I would have certainly died.

Before this tribulation crossing comes to an end, should I leave the field ahead of time? Cough cough...if we meet again, it would be a bit awkward.

Even someone like Soupman, who was so nervous about His Majesty crossing tribulation, had already begun to think about what would happen afterwards. If so, then the majority of the seafolk already believed that His Majesty would no longer have any problems crossing tribulation.

This was certainly a direct consequence of the shocking scene where Qin Yu had used his hand to grab onto heavenly tribulation and eat it like a sugar cane. So what if the ninth tribulation thunder was more terrifying? To a freak like Qin Yu, perhaps a thicker sugar cane would taste sweeter.

Princess Lushy was ecstatic with joy, but she soon composed herself. This joy was also because Qin Yu was safe and sound. She clenched her teeth. That amoral man already had a woman he liked, so what was she worrying over him for? She really lacked resolve.

But even thinking this, as she looked at his figure up above, her vision was still a bit blurry. A young girl's love and admiration was always aimed at outstanding young men. This was an instinctual desire that had nothing to do with status or background.

The royal palace and even the entire capital city entered a state of jubilation. If His Majesty successfully crossed tribulation, then an unprecedented Divine Soul realm existence would appear in the history of the sea races. To all the sea races, this was an inevitably great advantage.

But at this time, Qin Yu was furrowing his eyebrows together. His expression was grim as he looked up towards those funny-looking tribulation clouds that were clearly missing a section. He could feel an unusual aura coming out. From his soul space, the little blue lamp's cries became fiercer.

Something seemed wrong.

The Sea Sovereign was the one crossing tribulation and his cultivation was also the highest. He was the first one to notice something strange occurring with the tribulation clouds.

Slowly, more and more seafolk revealed looks of surprise. Why was the ninth tribulation thunder not descending yet?

Suddenly, the tribulation clouds above the capital city began to shrink inward, the speed accelerating. After several breaths of time, all that remained was a mass of black fog.

It wasn't still; bulges constantly appeared on its surface, as if some sort of life was being bred within, struggling to be born.

This...what was going on here...?

The seafolk were bewildered. Even those people who believed themselves knowledgeable individuals with broad fields of vision were confused at this moment.

Today, they were already shocked enough by seeing someone grab onto heavenly tribulation with their hands. Was there still some other special surprise waiting for them?

You can't do it; if you give us another fright, we might not be able to withstand it!

A light aura sprinkled down from the fog. The Sea Sovereign stuffily humphed and his body shivered, as if an invisible mountain was pushing down on him.

He was the one crossing tribulation, so he was the first to sense changes occurring in the heavenly tribulation.

Turtle Origin and Soupman's complexions changed!

It hadn't even appeared and yet His Majesty found it so hard to withstand. No matter how terrifying the ninth tribulation thunder was, it still shouldn't reach this step.

Just what was happening?

Perhaps Qin Yu knew.

The will of the world had always wanted to eliminate the little blue lamp. But because it was bound by the rules, it had never been able to truly take action.

So, it had always been waiting for an opportunity.

And now that opportunity had arrived.

Helping the Sea Sovereign cross tribulation and interfering in the birth of a Divine Soul, perhaps this touched upon the limits of some rule. Thus, the world's will was able to summon an even greater strength, bringing down a destructive force.

So, because it decided to take action, that led to the current situation.

Of course there might be other reasons, but this was definitely the most likely possibility.

Roar –

There was a deafening roar. It carried with it a boundless aura, as if it flowed from the vast desolate beyond, bearing a taste of endless years.

But there was even more savagery, brutality, and bloodthirst.

This roar alone caused the entire capital city and every seafolk within to feel as if they were placed in an asura slaughter field. A dense killing intent drowned them all, leaving them pale white.

The black fog was as thick as the night. An opening was torn open, and then the black fog was swallowed inside like a rushing tide. The existence being bred within was finally revealed; it was a 100 foot tall thunder beast.

At Moon Praying Shrine, when the five Golden Core heavenly tribulations fused together, it could be said that a thunder beast phantom appeared. And this was its true form.

Of course, it was impossible for a thunder beast to be born from a tribulation cloud. But its appearance, its aura, was completely the same as that legendary God Beast that was said to control heavenly retribution and possess an all-annihilating power.

It was like the shrinking tribulation clouds had opened up a door through space and time, thus allowing this horrifying existence which only existed in legends to cross through the endless flow of time and appear above the sea races' capital city. All so it could destroy the 'person' it was sent to destroy.

The thunder beast lowered its head. Giant eyes that were cold and without warmth locked onto Qin Yu. Then, it moved.

Hu –

Through the void, dozens of thunder beasts appeared, so many that they formed a line.

This was because the thunder beast was too fast, so afterimages appeared.

Without giving anyone time to react, it appeared right beside Qin Yu. Then, it opened its mouth and swallowed down.

“Ahh!” Princess Lushy panicked and screamed.

Gulp –

There was a clear swallowing sound. As it spread into the ears of the countless seafolk, it gave birth to an uneasy feeling.

That amazing and epic Qin Yu who had done so many mind-boggling things, had died just like that?

But those who could feel the dreadful slaughter intent rolling of the thunder beast didn't doubt this.

The thunder beast lowered its head, its icy cold gaze falling onto the Sea Sovereign's body. Then, it roared and turned away, vanishing into the skies above the capital city.

The tribulation cloud vanished and the thunder beast left. Did this mean that His Majesty had crossed his heavenly tribulation?

From the standpoint of the sea races, it wasn't necessarily a bad thing that Qin Yu had died. Perhaps this could even be called a perfect result. But how come there wasn't any visual phenomenon of a successful tribulation crossing?

### **Chapter 237 – The Power to Control Time**

The thunder beast was true to its name. It was as cruel and tyrannical as thunder, and it was as fast as it too. It flew from the capital city straight into the deep sea, entering some fathomless dark abyss at the bottom of the seabed. It sunk to the bottom of that abyss and spread out its body, planting its limbs into the ground. Runes began to appear on it, dense and thick, as they constantly wandered about it like little living creatures.

An invisible strength arrived and the icy cold seawater was pushed away. With the thunder beast as the center, a blank void appeared below the sea.

If someone were to see this, they would discover that the void within the seawater was in the shape of a giant furnace, with a lid and handles.

The thunder beast closed its eyes. The lightning leaping across its body restrained itself and the seabed abyss returned to darkness once more. It regained the deathly still that had reigned here since ancient times.

...

Qin Yu was inside the thunder beast. All he could see around him was a deep vivid purple. Boundless waves of roars reverberated around him, each one flooded with an annihilating strength.

However, the moment this thunder touched his body, it was all absorbed, none of it able to damage him.

By this time, Qin Yu could already determine that the Sea Sovereign's ninth tribulation thunder was targeted at him.

If so, then things shouldn't be this simple.

Since the world's will had decided to make a move, it should have a certain logic to its plan. It shouldn't be giving strength to the little blue lamp like this for no reason.

There must be something wrong here!

As Qin Yu was deep in thought, he suddenly stiffened. He looked up at his fingertips and saw several runes begin to appear. His complexion turned dignified.

Before now, he had never seen these runes. But when he looked closely at them, an instinctual fear was born in his soul.

Bang –

Within his dantian sea, the Five Element Golden Cores erupted. Wild magic power surged outwards, but the runes on his fingertips not only didn't vanish, but became increasingly clear.

Then a trace of black appeared at his fingertips and started to spread towards his palm. Wherever the gray color passed, he no longer felt anything, as if whatever it touched was no longer a part of his body.

Qin Yu's eyes revealed anger. The runes and the ash gray color, that was definitely linked to the world's will.

This was likely its true killing move.

As for how these runes had invaded his body, if he didn't guess wrong then it must be because of the thunder around him. When the little blue lamp swallowed this thunder, it must have allowed these 'poisonous' runes into his body. But if the little blue lamp didn't swallow that thunder, then Qin Yu's body would have been turned to ash.

That's right, the goal of the world's will had shifted from the little blue lamp onto Qin Yu. Perhaps it had already sensed the change in relationship between Qin Yu and the little blue lamp.

After recognizing a master, both would share glory and loss. If Qin Yu died, the little blue lamp would surely suffer heavy losses.

One could say this was a roundabout attack!

Qin Yu bit down on his tongue, forcing himself to calm down. Thinking about these things right now was meaningless. He needed to find a way to survive the slaughter aimed at him from the world.

The ash gray color crossed his palm and headed towards his wrist.

At the same time, runes began to appear on his other palm and feet. There clearly wasn't much time left for him.

When the ash gray color crawled over his entire body, Qin Yu wasn't curious as to what the final result would be, and he especially didn't want to find out.

Rumble rumble –

Blood surged like a tide in his body, rumbling and roaring.

The total strength of the Demon Body erupted, slightly slowing the creeping crawl of the ash gray color.

But at most this could only buy Qin Yu a bit more time. It was meaningless in the end.

With his dantian sea, the little blue lamp was bizarrely peaceful, as if it sensed nothing happening in the outside world.

Qin Yu took a deep breath, suppressing his thoughts to question it. Perhaps the little blue lamp was deep in thought right now. He wasn't worried that the little blue lamp would stand idly by, because by now, both sides were sharing a body. If something happened to him, the little blue lamp would inevitably be drawn in.

Moreover, the fundamental demand of the little blue lamp was to destroy it. They were two states interdependent on each other. This was a simple truth, and one that couldn't be any clearer.

Suddenly, there was a loud shaking cry. Then a faint blue light emitted from the little blue lamp. This light fell upon the great dao base, slowly fusing into it.

It was like a pearl had been placed upon the great dao base. Qin Yu could instantly sense a change; his relationship with the little blue lamp became much closer, more intimate. After a stunned moment, he sighed. Indeed, there were many twists and turns in this world. One wrong move and anyone could fall.

To recognize a master was to recognize a master; he always assumed it was this simple and direct. Who would have imagined that it was divided into different levels? If entering Qin Yu's dantian sea was considered the most initial level of recognizing a master, then fusing into his great dao base should be considered a deeper level.

But his intuition told him that this wasn't the end. In other words, even now he still couldn't be called the little blue lamp's true master.

But sighing was just sighing. If the little blue lamp fused into his great dao base, there should be some beneficial effect. For instance, that ash gray color which spread across his limbs was forced to stop. Then, slowly, it was expelled from his body, restoring control of it.

The current crisis was solved.



Qin Yu took a breath of relief, but he subconsciously frowned a little. The world's will represented the world itself. It was a part of the rules that governed everything. It had deliberately set a plan to deal with the little blue lamp, so who could know what methods it planned to use? It had waited laboriously all this time for a chance to make its killing move, so how could it be like this, with such a strong beginning yet such a weak ending? Would it just let things go? It seemed far too simplistic.

Reality proved that sometimes it wasn't always a good thing to be too cautious and wary. This was because when an accident did occur, it made one feel that it happened because they wished for it too much.

Hum –

A shaking cry resounded from his soul space. On the surface of Qin Yu's body, from where the ash gray color had been forced out, countless runes began to appear. Then, a gentle and yet incomparably sharp aura appeared. It was like a faint fall wind, carrying with it a light chill as it brushed against Qin Yu's soul.

Originally, this sort of contact wouldn't cause too much damage to Qin Yu's soul. But, the key problem was that after the Whale Sovereign detonated his soul, Qin Yu's soul had been cracked and he still hadn't found a way to repair it.

This faint fall wind was the last straw on the camel's back. It was like some carefully prepared attack that was designed for Qin Yu's current weakness.

Thus, a severe pain spread out from his soul. It was like countless hands had grabbed onto a piece of his soul and were pulling with all their strength, wanting to rip his soul to shreds.

Agonizing pain tore through him. He feared that even before the little blue lamp fused into his great dao base and chased out the gray color, this had also been included in the plans of the world's will.

It had wanted to strengthen the relationship between the little blue lamp and Qin Yu. Then, once Qin Yu was killed, it could damage the little blue lamp even more.

So it turned out that from beginning to end, he was only a chess piece that was part of the plan.

This left Qin Yu feeling helpless, but also a bit expectant.

The little blue lamp had initially been silent when it allowed the ash gray color to invade his body. Perhaps it had sensed something was wrong, so it was making additional preparations.

So, he wouldn't necessarily die.

Hum –

From his great dao base, the little blue lamp released a brilliant light. It blazed like blinding fire, like the rising sun, so pure and radiant that even Qin Yu couldn't look at it.

Then, everything beneath this light fell silent.

The runes on the surface of Qin Yu's body, his shattering soul, the half-opened eyes of the thunder beast outside, and even the curious deep sea monster fish hovering outside in the surrounding water.

At this time, no one knew that somewhere deep in the sea, time had stopped. Even if this area only covered several hundred meters, stopped time was still stopped time. Even if it only continued for one second and the scope was only a few inches, it would still belong to an unimaginable category of power.

This represented a boundary and level that far surpassed the understanding and imagination of life in this world.

Qin Yu's consciousness was still clear and aware. It might be because of his relationship with the little blue lamp that he could still think as time came to a pause. The pain wracking his body vanished and startling waves rose up in his mind.

The power to control time...

Whether it was power of galvanizing the growth of spiritual plants or swallowing heavenly tribulation, any of these things were enough to prove just how inconceivably strong the little blue lamp was. But even then, Qin Yu discovered that he had underestimated it.

Just what was it?

Before he had any more time to think, the pain came crashing back onto him. It was like a falling mountain, instantly shattering his consciousness and leaving him on the edge of collapse.

"...Must...remain...awake..."

Fragments of sounds spread through Qin Yu's soul. He could sense this was the meaning of the little blue lamp, and life or death from here on out would rely on him.

If he could withstand this then he would live.

If he couldn't, then he would die.

He had worked endlessly hard for this day. How could he possibly be willing to die like this?

Qin Yu didn't know where he found the strength, but he stubbornly guarded his mind. No matter how painful it was, no matter how much he wished he could tear himself apart, he still clenched his teeth and endured.

He couldn't give up!

He couldn't give up!

Occupied with his current struggles, Qin Yu didn't notice the runes on his body begin to melt like metal beneath a blazing hot heat. They dissipated and merged into his body.

Within Qin Yu's soul space, the shocking cracks in his soul began to emit motes of light. Then, the cracks started to fuse back together.

This was a considerably slow process. It was unknown how much time passed, but that unimaginable pain disappeared.

Qin Yu stubbornly held on until a voice resounded in his soul, "...It's fine..."

Faint and dreamy, as if there were something else.

Before Qin Yu could recognize it, his consciousness fell dark.

Capital city.

In the vault of heaven, countless petals fell down. Endless music resounded in the air.

Endless cheers of joy cried out in unison, celebrating the appearance of an unprecedented powerful existence in this part of the world.

The Sea Sovereign floated in the air. All of those petals fused into his body.

Countless seafolk widened their eyes. After a brief moment of shock, their eyes went wide with joy. Across the entire capital city, all the seafolk fell to their knees.

“Congratulations Your Majesty for successfully crossing tribulation and ascending to Divine Soul!”

The billowing voices impacted towards the horizon.

The Sea Sovereign closed his eyes. When the last petal entered his body, his eyes opened. His pupils were warm and translucent, as if they had the power to see into the depths of one’s soul.

Hu –

Within the capital city, a wind whipped up. It lifted the Sea Sovereign’s robes, leaving them fluttering in all directions.

Turtle Origin’s heart shook. He had nearly touched upon His Majesty’s boundary, so he was most aware of this aura’s feeling.

This was Divine Soul?

Soupman sobbed with joy. For such a large and old person to cry so much, it was quite a scary sight.

His Majesty had succeeded, he had succeeded!

Good, this was too good!

At this moment, that was the only thought in his mind.

Princess Lushy lowered her head. Every person around her was celebrating her father’s success. Naturally, she was also happy.

But, did they forget who it was that resisted the heavenly tribulation for her father?

As she thought about that person who was swallowed by the thunder beast and carried away, she felt worried and anxious.

Qin Yu, did you die?

## **Chapter 238 – Gold Noble Family**

Deep sea, abyss –

The ice cold seawater was dark, so dark that one couldn't see their fingers in front of their face. Qin Yu lay face up in the sand, buried by silt. His aura was nonexistent, making him seem like a log of dead wood.

Several strange deep sea fish randomly wandered near him. These deep sea fish had eyes that had degenerated over the generations because light didn't reach this far below the waters.

But, when the fins of these strange fish bumped into Qin Yu's finger, they blew up without any warning at all. It was like a dark red flower blooming in the waters.

The remaining strange fish fled in fright. But, after discovering that there weren't any dangers, their instinctual desire for food overcame their previous alarm and fear. They cautiously wandered back, eating bits of their fallen companions' flesh and blood. Then, with a sense of satisfaction, they slowly meandered away.

Qin Yu's eyes were still closed. He didn't sense anything occurring in the outside world. But, with that scene just now, anyone could tell what sort of dreadful vibrational strength was contained in that dead log-like body of his.

Though he was as silent as a stone, there was a roaring flame inside him, one that raged like a volcano.

In this icy cold and pitch black environment, time seemed especially long but also uniquely meaningless. After an unknown period of time passed, silt began to stir in that deathly silent environment. A patiently waiting crab was excited; it had already been hungry for many, many days.

But soon, disappointment appeared in the crab's eyes. The thing that stirred up silt was a 'big fish'. Although it was hungry, it knew that it wasn't a match for the big fish and if it ran over it would only be feeding itself to it. It might as well honestly wait here for food to appear.

As the disappointment-filled crab went into hiding once more, Big Fish Qin rapidly retreated with a confused look in his eyes. The chaotic memories that were jumbled up in his mind began to gradually reappear and sort themselves.

Capital city, heavenly tribulation, thunder beast...it seemed it was the thunder beast that had brought him here.

If he was alive then the thunder beast must have died. It was normal for it to vanish without a trace.

He rubbed his temples. Qin Yu stiffened. He recalled the agonizing pain he suffered before he fell unconscious. No matter how strong his willpower was, he didn't want to recall those memories.

Luckily, he survived in the end.

Qin Yu sat down, sensing the changes in his body. Soon, he revealed a pleasant smile. After surviving a disaster, there were bound to be blessings afterwards; this saying couldn't be any truer. Within his soul space, his cracked and damaged soul was now restored.

Moreover, there seemed to have been some changes.

Three days later, somewhere in the boundless sea region, the surface of the sea broke apart. Qin Yu's figure shot out. He looked towards the great sun above his head and lightly smiled.

He glanced all around. The sea appeared the same no matter where he turned and it was almost impossible to find an identifying marker. But for Qin Yu, this was actually quite simple. His thoughts turned and the sea map appeared above his head, slowly unfurling.

Qin Yu glanced at it for several moments. After determining his position and locking onto the mainland, he put away the sea map and howled away in a beam of light.

He was a considerable distance away from the sea race's capital city. But even if he wasn't close, Qin Yu could never return there again. Without accident, the Sea Sovereign had already reached the Divine Soul realm. And if the Sea Sovereign decided to go back on his promise, there would be no bargaining between them.

So, he might as well leave.

It was just that he couldn't question the priests about the key.

Whoosh –

A brilliant rainbow darted across the horizon!

...

One month later.

When the coastline appeared in his field of vision, Qin Yu revealed a happy smile. He had finally returned! The shore he chose to return to actually wasn't too far away from the fishing village that Little Sea had gone to. Thinking about it, Qin Yu hid his aura and entered the fishing village.

Little Sea had indeed lived here for a period of time. But she had left around three months ago, and no one knew where she went.

Qin Yu smiled. He expressed his thanks towards a wizened old woman whose face was etched with time. Then, he turned and left. He had no intention of disturbing Little Sea's life here. Since she had already left, there probably wasn't a chance they would ever meet again.

He hoped she would live a happy life.

After leaving the coastal region, more and more cultivators appeared. Qin Yu soon discovered that the mainland was currently filled with a tense atmosphere. After paying a bit more attention, he found the reason behind it: the demonic path and Immortal Eclipse Valley were now as violent against each other as fire and water.

The specific cause was already lost in the chaos. Everyone only knew that both sides now had countless wounded and dead, and things had progressed far past any point of return.

The demonic path influence undoubtedly surpassed all others in scope and strength. Only if all righteous path sects joined forces, could they be a worthy opponent.

Immortal Eclipse Valley was known as the number one immortal sect, and their pill refining inheritance extended backwards across a glorious length of time. They had saved up an immeasurable amount of wealth and connections, and similarly showed disdain for all others.

Both of these sides decided to collide. Their turbulent war created a profound influence, so one could understand the current situation.

Qin Yu wryly smiled. In the beginning he had casually killed Bloodthirsty Demon, and since then, small scale conflicts had started to pop up all over between Immortal Eclipse Valley and the demonic path.

If it was said that the current situation was because of that initial event, then this was his responsibility.

But thinking more about it, there was no need to be too worried. Immortal Eclipse Valley had Pill Crucible, Jiang Li, Daoist Wang, and many others personally guarding their land. Even the demonic path didn't have the means to easily shake their foundation. In the future, he could find some way to resolve this matter and further compensate them.

From when Qin Yu entered the sea region, including his short delay, around one whole year had passed.

He had to acknowledge that the reason he accelerated his pace was because of the news he obtained from that mysterious cultivator from Heavenseek Pavilion.

To enhance his Demon Body and break into Nascent Soul was his most vital objective at the moment. Once he succeeded, there shouldn't be anyone else he needed to fear in this part of the world.

So, even if he dreaded Heavenseek Pavilion in his heart, he still decided to go and see them again.

Heavenseek Pavilion was incredibly famous. They spanned across the Southern Empire and Northern Dynasty. As long as there was a cultivator city of some size, there was most likely a branch division there.

Finding them was extremely simple.

Two days later, Qin Yu stepped into Heavenseek Pavilion. He didn't conceal his status, so not long after he passed through the doors, a manager came out to personally greet and welcome him.

"Do you recognize me?"

The dark middle-aged cultivator didn't deny it. He cupped his hands together and said, "A year ago I received a notice from headquarters. Once Lord Qin Yu arrives, we must treat you as a most honored guest. I ask for you to wait a moment. I have already sent a message; we will soon receive a response."

Qin Yu nodded, not responding much.

In a luxuriously decorated room, Qin Yu drank fragrant tea. A serving maid wore a long dress tailored to fully expose her beautiful figure. Her submissive face hung low, her cheeks red, as if any person could go up and take hold of her.

If one really needed, she would not refuse.

Unfortunately, Qin Yu only drank tea. Besides the first moment when he glanced at her, he didn't display anything else.

This caused the serving maid to bite her lips. A bit of hidden bitterness, just the right amount, flashed in her eyes.

She was capable of expressing her thoughts in a way that wouldn't annoy others, but would instead arouse their pity and compassion.

Unfortunately, it was still useless.

An hour later there was a knock on the door. Then, a young man walked in, a congenial smile on his face. His expression was warm and gentle. He cupped his hands together and said, "Fellow daoist Qin Yu is truly a man of trust!"

Qin Yu lightly said, "Let's speak business."

The young man didn't mind Qin Yu's frosty attitude. He waved his hand and the maid rose up and left, closing the door behind her.

"Fellow daoist Qin Yu is a straightforward person. Then, I'll get to the point. Have you ever heard of the Gold Noble Family before?"

Qin Yu furrowed his eyebrows together. "Gold Noble Family?"

The young man sat down and poured himself a cup of tea. "It's normal if fellow daoist Qin Yu doesn't know of them. The Gold Noble Family is extremely hidden and besides a few people, no one else knows of their existence. However, if one carefully thinks about it, the Gold Noble Family should be one of the strongest influences within the Southern Empire and Northern Dynasty."

He smiled. "Fellow daoist shouldn't be anxious. Since I have mentioned it, I will certainly give you a satisfactory answer. However, as a price, I hope that fellow daoist Qin can agree to one thing for me in the future."

Qin Yu frowned.

The Heavenseek Pavilion branch division that he visited today was different from the one he went to in the past. But, this young man had still appeared in an extremely short amount of time. He had no idea what this meant, but a bit more dread appeared in Qin Yu's heart.

The young man said, "Fellow daoist Qin Yu, there is no need to be so worried. My request is surely within the scope of your abilities, and it won't make things awkward for you either. Otherwise, you can refuse it."

Qin Yu thought for a moment and then nodded. "Good, then I agree!"

The young man smiled. "The Gold Noble Family has a mysterious origin. It is rumored that they are connected to the Land of Divinity and Demons. That Ning Family lives in the Southern Empire, but actually nowhere in the Southern Empire..."

Qin Yu's head rang.

Ning, they were surnamed Ning.

Qin Yu instantly thought of Ning Ling. She possessed a formidable talent, a terrifying bloodline, and an incomparably mysterious background.

Could she be from the Ning Family?

He sucked in a deep breath, suppressed his turbulent thoughts, and continued listening.

The young man spoke a great deal, praising and admiring the Gold Noble Family. But to sum it up: the Gold Noble Family had a way to help Qin Yu break through his chains and reach Nascent Soul.

“How can I obtain it?”

The young man smiled. “Soon, the Gold Noble Family will be recruiting a new group of servants and cleaners in Ning City. If fellow daoist Qin Yu can think of a method to enter, I’m sure an opportunity will soon open itself up to you.”

Qin Yu slowly said, “Can you not be more specific?”

The young man smiled. “There are some things that don’t work when spoken out loud. But, I won’t lie to you, so I ask fellow daoist Qin Yu to believe me.”

Qin Yu’s gaze was sharp. “I hope so!”

He rose up and left.

As for the payment, he had already paid it.

The young man was in a very good mood. He wasn’t in a hurry to leave and sat there, slowly drinking tea. The door opened once more and the submissive maid tentatively walked in. Her expression was cold and indifferent, completely lacking the soft warmth of before.

“This servant was incompetent and was unable to complete master’s instructions. I ask master for punishment!”

The young man smiled. “Qin Yu is a cautious person. He has already developed suspicions towards Heavenseek Pavilion so he certainly wouldn’t want to reveal any flaws. But, I have done what I needed to do. All I need is to wait now.”

The maid slightly frowned. “Is master truly confident?”

The young man wavered and then sighed. “I have already passed enough of these days. If there is only a slight chance, I will still try it.” He waved his hand and switched the topic, “How has the recent situation been?”

“Reporting to master, the conflicts between the demonic path and Immortal Eclipse Valley grow more and more intense by the day. They can no longer turn back.”

“Relay orders for our people to return. We no longer need to meddle.”

...

After leaving Heavenseek Pavilion, Qin Yu rushed into the skies. His eyes flashed and his thoughts raced.

In this matter, there was definitely something wrong with Heavenseek Pavilion!

But now, no matter what plans Heavenseek Pavilion had, if he wanted to break into Nascent Soul he could only raise his guard and continue forwards.



Ning City...Ning Family...

Whoosh –

Qin Yu's figure vanished from sight!

### **Chapter 239 – Successfully Entering**

In the eastern reaches of the Southern Empire, sitting on fertile plains and stretching for over a thousand miles, stood a large city. This city was named Ning and it overawed its surroundings.

Ning City was famous and had been peaceful for over a thousand years, never experiencing any destruction or turbulence. Because of that, it was even more prosperous and its accumulations of wealth and treasures reached astronomical figures.

They naturally attracted numerous covetous eyes, but no matter how the surrounding forces changed around them, Ning City remained calm and stable throughout, a silent and formidable force.

Over time, although no one knew their depths, there was no other side around them that dared to have any ideas about them.

But as time passed, there would eventually be rumors that came out. Whispers said that behind Ning City stood a powerful family which lived in seclusion, their strength unfathomably deep.

This was a rumor without any solid evidence at all. But every 20 years, Ning City's Ning Mansion would openly recruit servants. They would select a group of outstanding young cultivators and then these outstanding young elites would disappear shortly afterwards.

Speaking of this, it seemed quite scary. But every now and then, one or two of the earlier selected cultivators would reappear at Ning Mansion with a far deeper cultivation, and they would wield tremendous authority there.

When combining the above factors, it was only then that the various factions guessed there was a large secluded family standing behind Ning City. And, the reason that Ning Mansion chose to recruit servants every 20 years was all in order to seek out suitable servants for this family.

Cultivators with status and background certainly wouldn't bet their future on the chance they could become a servant. But, for those cultivators that were alone and had nothing to depend on, this was a chance. If they could take hold of it, then perhaps a few years later they might accomplish something.

Of course, there were risks. After all, where were those chosen people taken to? And what happened to them? But if one wished to obtain anything in this world, they had to pay a certain price. At the very least, even if they weren't selected, they could still enter the Ning Mansion. To many people this was also a good choice.

Ning Mansion ruled over Ning City.

The 20 year interval approached. As time passed, Ning Mansion posted announcements that they would be seeking servants, and it was clear that Ning City became more lively.

A good number of cultivators arrived from all over. They wished they could find their own lucky chance in this large and bustling city.

The Xu Family had lived in Ning City for generations and was considered one of the most senior families there. Although their influence wasn't too deep, their status actually wasn't low. Of course, a great deal of this was because the Xu Family had the qualifications to recommend servants to Ning Mansion. Moreover, in these past years, a good number of their recommendations had been chosen.

That was right. The servants recruited by Ning Mansion had to be recommended by others; not every cat and dog could hop in as they pleased. A person needed to have a clean background as well as a guarantor. If there were certain confidentiality measures taken, then the hidden secrets of Ning Mansion would have already been publicized throughout the world.

Xuada was a name. It had been passed down from over 1000 years ago to today. When someone became the Patriarch, their name would immediately be erased, replaced by Xuada only. Thus, this name was quite famous in Ning City, and there were few who didn't recognize it.

"Where did Uncle Xu go today?"

"Master Xu, have you considered that nephew in my sect? His personality and foundation are without question."

"Xuada, how many people is your family preparing to recommend this time?"

That's right, not everyone had the qualifications to be called Xuada. This was a display of status and position.

A skinny and white-haired man: this was the current Xuada. He lightly smiled as he greeted the people gathered around him.

Behind him was a young man in black robes. His appearance couldn't be considered too handsome, but his dark eyes were bright and there was a presence around him that left a good impression on everyone.

"Eh, Xuada, where did you bring this young man in from?" A fat and bald man sitting next to the window on the second floor of the restaurant asked. He had heard that the Xu Family's list of names had already been decided.

Xuada smiled. "This junior is part of my distant family. He has some talent in alchemy, so I brought him over to see if Ning Mansion might like him." He stroked his beard as he spoke, a smug look in his eyes.

As he expected, there were loud gasps in the crowd and many people revealed looks of envy. No wonder the Xu Family hadn't fallen for so many years; their methods were incredibly wise. They had even managed to find a young man with the qualifications to be an alchemist. Even Ning Mansion always held a certain respect for alchemists. It could be seen that he was basically a shoo-in to be selected now.

After exchanging some greetings and making sure that everyone had a good look, Xuada chuckled and led the young man away.

Within the Xu Family, chaos reigned for a moment. Everyone was left restless by the fact that a completely unknown stranger was brought in. However, with Xuada's endorsement, everything soon

returned to normal. In order to be the Patriarch, one had to be shrewd and wise; they wouldn't make careless mistakes.

With the identity of a distant relative, the young man was soon placed appropriately within the ranks of the Xu Family's youths. Now they only needed to wait for Ning Mansion to begin accepting servants.

Sitting in a clean and simple room, the black-robed youth revealed a helpless smile. With his current status, doing things like this seemed a bit beneath him.

But in front of the Nascent Soul great dao, if it was beneath him then it was beneath him.

This young man was naturally Qin Yu. Today's events had been simple. In the past, in order to conceal his identity he had used a soul confusing technique to control a man called Xu Cheng and enter Heavenseek Pavilion.

Now, using the same methods, controlling Xuada was even simpler. After what happened in the sea region, Qin Yu's soul was far more formidable than it was in the past. Now he was no longer just controlling Xuada, but directly altering his memories and adding himself in as a distant relative. Like this, everything was easily accomplished.

...

Ning Mansion.

As the ruler of Ning City and the master of the surrounding 1000 miles of fertile land, they naturally had the qualifications to display their great strength.

So, the dignity and majesty of Ning Mansion was naturally at the peak. There was no need to describe it too much.

In a flower garden, a clean and white-robed cultivator was savoring tea. He asked, "Is everything prepared?"

The handsome young man across from him respectfully said, "Reporting to father, this son has carefully overseen matters. There will not be any mistakes."

They made selections every 20 years. While the Ning Family already had a rich experience in this, they still couldn't drop their vigilance.

After all, those people that were selected had a high chance of being truly selected afterwards.

The master of Ning Mansion, Ning Mingxuan, smiled. He clearly trusted the work of his son.

The Ning Family young master opened his mouth, a bit wary.

"What do you want to say?"

"Father, your son would like to ask a question beyond his boundaries. If this annoys you or makes you unhappy in any way whatsoever, I ask that you forgive me." The Ning Family young master, Ning Yiran, hesitated, and then said, "Why do the lords in the main family want us to intentionally spread rumors? Don't they want to not be disturbed?"

Ning Mingxuan frowned and put down the teacup. "You are the heir that I have chosen, so you should have the qualifications to know these things. However, you cannot mention this later at all. Do you understand me?"

Ning Yiran bowed, "Yes, father!"

Ning Mingxuan's complexion relaxed. He thought for a moment and said, "This is because you don't completely understand the situation. It is exactly because the figures of the main family don't want to be disturbed that they borrow our mouths to release rumors and whispers here and there. Otherwise, with my Ning City sitting on such a massive amount of wealth, have you ever wondered why no wolves have paid a visit?"

Ning Yiran seemed to realize something. "Lord father is wise; your son is inferior."

Ning Mingxuan laughed and wagged a finger at him. His son was extremely intelligent. The reason he asked this question today was probably just to verify this, so he could handle affairs with more assurance in the future and make things more convenient.

"Go. Clean yourself up again. Concerning the origin of the matter, you must look into it carefully. Make sure nothing goes wrong."

"Yes, father. Your son will excuse himself."

Ning Mingxuan sighed. Ning Mansion ruled Ning City and sat atop the surrounding 1000 miles of fertile land. Looking from afar, this was a beautiful and lofty position with endless scenery. But, he knew that only by entering the main family could one obtain true power and influence. Because no matter how much hard he worked, there were always dangers lurking beneath the water. A single careless move and he would be cleaned up and replaced.

Hopefully, the juniors he sent to the main family would have some outstanding individuals among them.

He drank a sip of warm tea. A breeze blew past, lifting up the leaves and branches.

...

The Ning Mansion's servant selection continued as scheduled.

Of course, the so-called 'servant' was only in name. Everyone knew that as long as they were able to enter the Ning Mansion and display their skills well, they would be able to obtain a wonderful future. If it weren't for this, then why would cultivators come to participate just so they could serve for the rest of their lives?

Ning Mansion opened their side door. All of the families that had the qualifications to recommend people began to enter the dwelling with their heads bowed low, bringing a number of young men and women behind them.

Xuada personally led the way. He was clearly an old acquaintance as he chatted happily with several of the stewards in Ning Mansion. They had cooperated together for many years so there was bound to be a certain level of trust built.

But trust was just trust; the inspection wouldn't be eased.

“Old Brother Xu, you know the rules of the mansion. I will bring them in first and we can talk later.” A steward smiled, cupping his hands together.

Xuada nodded. “Of course.”

The steward turned and looked around. “Follow me.”

Xuada had brought five people with him, three men and two women. He was clearly a bit nervous, proven by the faint disturbed look in his eyes.

Qin Yu stood fourth in line. He lowered his head, perfectly playing his role.

Soon, the five people were brought into a strictly guarded room. The steward told them to wait here before leaving himself.

The room was empty. After the door was closed, the light within dimmed down and it seemed much colder. A bit of unease appeared on the faces of those within.

Suddenly, Qin Yu frowned. He looked around from the side of his eyes. Indeed, the four people around him had begun to lose focus and their bodies started to sway.

With his thoughts racing, Qin Yu shouted out, “What are you all doing?”

He looked up at his surroundings, a terrified expression on his face. He took several steps towards the entrance before his body stiffened and a blank look crossed his eyes.

From within the room, a secret door opened. Several old men stepped out. One of them stood in front of Qin Yu and smiled. “He is indeed worthy of being a talented young alchemist; his soul isn’t weak at all. He was actually able to respond.”

He patted Qin Yu’s shoulder as he spoke. “Follow me.”

With a dull expression, Qin Yu followed behind.

After entering the hidden door, there was a passageway with rooms on both sides. The old man led them into the second on the left.

“What’s your name?”

“Qin Ning.”

Following that was a boring list of questions and equally boring responses. Qin Yu’s answers were exactly the same as the information in the old man’s hands.

After a moment, when the last question was answered, the old man smiled. He suddenly drew back and shouted out loud, “Men, grab him!”

Qin Yu sat still where he was, no change in his blank expression, as if he had no idea of what was happening.

But no one appeared in the room. The old man looked at Qin Yu several times carefully and then nodded. He looked down and recorded some information in a jade slip.

When the five people were returned to their room and regained awareness, the hidden door had been closed as if nothing had happened. The steward opened the door and led them back out, but in the hands of the five people, there was an additional jade slip.

After being examined, they now had the qualifications to participate in the inspection. Whether or not they would be chosen would depend on their own skills.

“You are Qin Ning?” Behind a table, there was an old man with red eyes and scattered eyes. He looked Qin Yu up and down, impatient in his gaze.

He had been refining pills but had been disturbed so that he could come out and manage the inspection. He naturally wasn’t in a good mood.

Qin Yu bowed. “Yes.”

“Alright, don’t waste my time. Here are materials for a Minor Spirit Pill. The furnace is there. Go!” After Alchemist Zhang finished speaking, he closed his eyes, thinking about alchemy and other matters. As he was coming upon something interesting in his mind, thinking that he would soon find the reason why he kept failing in the refinement process, he was suddenly interrupted.

Alchemist Zhang angrily opened his eyes. “What are you doing!?”

As if he hadn’t heard what was said just now.

Qin Yu was a bit helpless. He repeated, “Grandmaster, I have finished refining.”

Alchemist Zhang glanced over. The hourglass on his table wasn’t even half finished. Surprise appeared in his eyes. He said, “Give me the pill.”

Qin Yu offered a jade bottle with both hands.

He opened the bottle and tipped out the pill. It was still warm and the energy from the flames had yet to dissipate. It had been recently refined and the quality was unexpectedly high.

It was hard to tell, but this boy’s alchemy skills were surprisingly good.

“What level boundary are you at?”

“Reporting to grandmaster, if I am lucky, I can refine second-grade pills.”

A second-grade alchemist was decent. In a small sect, their status would be similar to that of an Elder. They could live a carefree life. But more importantly, this boy was young and able to fend off temptation in order to come to Ning Mansion and struggle for a spot. It was clear he was someone of ambition.

Alchemist Zhang was satisfied with this. Alchemists needed to tread forwards fearlessly and not ignore their own talents.

“You’ve passed. After today, follow by my side to work.” His complexion warmed by several degrees.

Qin Yu cupped his hands together.

Then, the selection of servants came to an end.

This wasn't anything surprising. With Qin Yu's current cultivation, if he couldn't successfully pass a small scene like this, he might as well find a block of tofu and kill himself by smashing his head into it.

Thus, after this day, there was one more second-grade alchemist in the Ning Mansion.

Alchemists had a lofty status and were always treated at a higher level. With Qin Yu's second-grade alchemy cultivation, he should be treated similarly to someone at the Golden Core realm.

He had his own courtyard, a rich monthly salary, and even a beautiful young maid that took care of his daily necessities.

Of course, it was also okay for him to do other things.

Alchemist Zhang was someone who loved alchemy and also possessed a very short temper. He was slovenly and disorderly and often disappeared into his alchemy room for days and weeks at a time. His actions led to a stream of constant complaints, but if one wanted to give advice, they had best be prepared to be on the receiving end of an endless stream of curses.

Luckily for everyone, there was the recent arrival of a young fellow called Qin Ning. He was friendly and amicable, and even though he was young he possessed a second-grade alchemy cultivation. His foundational alchemy skills were solid and he accomplished all sorts of alchemy tasks with ease. Ever since he arrived, everyone felt much less pressure on their shoulders. In particular, after Alchemist Zhang assigned Qin Yu to be his alchemy assistant, everyone relaxed and was overjoyed.

Alchemist Zhang was satisfied with Qin Yu; he even had thoughts of taking him in as a disciple. But as he thought about it, he could only gently sigh and press down the idea. Qin Ning was so young but possessed a second-grade alchemy cultivation. Even disregarding his martial talent, his alchemy foundation was bewilderingly solid. Observing his manner, he noticed he was always calm and never panicked during work. If such an outstanding young man came to Ning Mansion, it was clear he had greater aspirations.

One month later, when Alchemist Zhang finished his work and was about to bid goodbye to Qin Yu, he said, "I don't want to let you go, but I don't want to hinder your future. The mansion has already taken notice of you. Make sure you're prepared."

Qin Yu bowed. "Thank you for the reminder grandmaster!" As he left the room, he smiled.

This step of entering the Gold Noble Family was about to be completed.

## **Chapter 240 - Test**

Three days after obtaining news from Alchemist Zhang, Qin Yu gained another friend in the mansion. Her name was July, and she was a young lady. Her family had experienced a bitter misfortune so she was temporarily living with the Ning Family. The reason Qin Yu was acquainted with her was that her maid had become sick and she came to his dwelling to ask for medicine.

When her maid's illness was brought under control, one could see how grateful July was. She soon became close to Qin Yu. She was a beautiful young girl, with a soft and delicate temperament; it was easy for others to have a favorable impression of her. The two of them hadn't known each other for long, but they already felt like good friends who had known each other for many years.

“This is chicken soup I personally cooked. Unfortunately, I didn’t have any extra materials or the flavor would be even better. Alas, I can only use the fragrance of the chicken soup itself.” July smiled as she spoke, her manner warm and friendly.

Qin Yu smiled. “It tastes good.”

July stood up. “I know you are busy. Alchemist Zhang is really something. It's fine enough if he wants to go all-out, but why drag you along? I can’t even talk a bit more if I wanted to.”

Perhaps because she was thinking that the meaning behind her words was a bit too straightforward, a blush began to creep up her fair cheeks. She waved her hands in a hurry and left.

Qin Yu finished drinking the chicken soup and laid down the bowl. He thought about it and revealed a helpless smile.

July was too passionate.

Although it could be said that he saved her maid and that was the reason why she was close to him, there was still something wrong with the situation.

He shouldn’t lie to himself.

If he thought that his seductive charm was too great, that would be a flat out lie. He might as well wash himself of such thoughts.

When the maid came in, Qin Yu regained his composure. He sat up and said, “Wait a moment and then clean everything up. Make sure to send Miss July back.”

“Yes.”

Qin Yu walked to the alchemy workshop. He greeted several people that were already there and immediately started working.

Methodical, calm, reasonable, no different than before.

Time slowly passed. From the time he first met July, around a month had passed. Her attitude towards him had become even warmer and more intimate. Of course, there was a reason for all this. On some day when Qin Yu returned to his dwelling, he saw July being harassed by a mansion steward. With his status as a second-grade alchemist, he spoke some words and made the steward retreat in resentment.

He could feel the emotion and affection in July’s eyes. He smiled inwardly. The fire was almost ready.

Two days later, there was an incident of theft in the Ning Mansion; it seemed that something extremely precious had been lost. The mansion declared martial law and searched unendingly. In his dwelling, Qin Yu could also hear some rumors. It was said that what the Ning Mansion lost was an extremely precious treasure that was highly beneficial to one’s cultivation.

At night, in the deep darkness, Qin Yu’s courtyard welcomed a visitor. It was July.

“Qin Ning, help me!” After just a few words, her watery eyes shined with tears. With her frightened and windswept appearance, it was enough to arouse the sympathy and pity of others.



Qin Yu allowed her in. "What happened?"

July bit her lips. "I was the one who stole something." Her face flushed red and sorrow colored it. "This is originally something that belonged to my family. When I was brought to the Ning Mansion in the past, they forcefully took it away from me. I just wanted to take back what was mine!"

Qin Yu frowned. "July, the mansion won't care for your explanation."

"I know! That's why I have to leave!" July's eyes brightened. "Qin Ning, are you willing to bring me away? You should know my feelings towards you. If you bring me away from here, I will turn over my family treasure to you."

After shyly speaking out her feelings, her face was hot red.

Qin Yu couldn't help but acknowledge that July was very charming. At this time, as she looked at him like he was the king of her heart, it would be hard for anyone to withstand.

But he already knew.

He shook his head. "July, I'm sorry, but I cannot agree."

July's complexion instantly paled and her eyes filled with disbelief. She seemed so sad that it shook one's heart. She wanted to say something else, but Qin Yu suddenly stepped forwards and struck the back of her neck. She fainted where she stood, all of her words kept in her belly.

Qin Yu opened the door and awakened the maid. He told her to tell the mansion that the thief had been around.

The mansion moved quickly. Not long afterwards when July woke up, she was already locked in jail.

When she first opened her eyes, she was a bit confused. She frowned and revealed a thoughtful expression.

"July, I never imagined that you would be knocked unconscious. This is really..." Ning Yiran wavered, not sure how to describe it, so he simply left it as is.

July lightly said, "There is no need for young master to feel awkward. I know the rules. Since I was exposed, I will leave the mansion..." Her voice hardened a bit. "But I can't accept it."

Ning Yiran frowned. "What do you mean?"

"I want to try one more time. I ask young master to help me."

Ning Yiran fell silent for a moment then nodded.

Thus, Qin Yu received news that the imprisoned July had made a request to see him. After thinking about it, Qin Yu didn't refuse. He arrived at the mansion's dungeon.

July was backed up against the stone wall. Her thin body was huddled up, like a small injured beast. "Qin Ning, your heart is like stone..."

Her quiet voice was able to shake one's resolve.

Qin Yu cupped his hands together. "I wronged you in this matter. But, since I joined the mansion, I am one of the mansion's people. It is impossible for me to harm the mansion's interests."

July bitterly smiled. "But do you know what treasure is in my hands? With it, you wouldn't need to toil away in this mansion any longer. I know you are a prideful man with lofty aspirations. This is your greatest opportunity, but you gave it up...as well as giving up me. Qin Ning, could it be that you really don't have even the slightest shred of emotion towards me?"

Qin Yu sighed. "There are certain things a gentleman can do and cannot do. I know that what you say is fact, but I cannot do it, so I can only express my regrets."

At this point, the jail cell fell silent.

July lowered her head. It was unknown what she was thinking, but at some time she clucked her tongue and chuckled. She walked forth from the corner of the cell and straightened herself. "When did you realize it?"

Qin Yu frowned. "July, what do you mean?"

"Humph. No one else is here, so why try to hide it? I've already used every trick I know and spent an entire month with you. If you weren't vigilant against me to begin with, how could you be so cruel to me?" July's delicate and charming personality had disappeared and was now replaced with an arrogant and haughty one. "I lost to you this time, so I have nothing to say. But for better or worse, you should at least tell me where I slipped up in these past days. Consider it as repayment for all the good food I brought you."

Qin Yu paled and his breathing quickened. He was like someone who had just woken up and realized he had been made the butt of a joke. "July! I never thought that you were someone sent by the mansion to investigate me! To think that I felt guilty over what I did to you. Consider this as me being blind to the intentions of others!"

He flicked his sleeves and left.

In the jail cell, July was stunned. She stared blankly on as he left.

After a long time, she sighed.

Regardless of whether Qin Ning had known earlier or whether he didn't know anything at all, she was fully convinced of her loss.

Facts spoke louder than words!

Ning Yiran appeared from some unknown place. "July, do you have anything else to say?"

July shook her head. "I ask master to dismiss me from the mansion."

Ning Yiran shook his head. "Right now, I will give you another choice. Consider it, and then give me an answer."

Qin Yu left the dungeon. With a gloomy expression, he stormed back to his courtyard, closed the doors, poured himself a cup of tea, and then maliciously slammed the teacup into the ground.

In the dark night, the shattering of the teacup was especially noticeable.

The attentively listening maid shrunk back her neck and crept away silently.

Qin Yu revealed a hint of a smile. With things having come this far, it should be enough.

The Ning Family was quite cautious.

But Qin Yu knew that if the Ning Family was able to maintain its current status to this day, they must be far more cautious than he imagined.

“Father, the test result proves that there is no problem with Qin Ning. He can even be called outstanding.” Ning Yiran subconsciously furrowed his eyebrows. “But for some reason, I still think something is wrong.”

Ning Mingxuan’s eyes flashed. “Why is that?”

“I don’t know. Perhaps it is because July lost.” Ning Yiran thought back to how Qin Ning had actually knocked July senseless, and he couldn’t help but feel something.

Perhaps it was because of this that he was a bit restless.

Ning Mingxuan fell silent. He slowly said, “The name list is put forth by the main family; our only responsibility is to test those on it. Since there is no problem with Ning Qin, there is no reason to cut him out.”

Ning Yiran was worried. “But what if...”

“Qin Ning only has a Foundation Establishment cultivation. Even if he has other thoughts, what can he do if he enters the main family?” Ning Mingxuan paused and then said, “But before entering the main family, send out some rumors and see how he deals with them.”

Ning Yiran cupped his hands together. “Your son understands.”

The next day, someone in the Ning Mansion said that for his own future, the new alchemist recruit Qin Ning had handed over Miss July. He did this to obtain the trust of the Mansion Lord and to be given more responsibilities.

Although it was the right thing to do for him to help the mansion catch the thief, in the end that young miss had liked him and trusted him, yet he had betrayed her. This didn’t feel right for many people.

So, Qin Yu soon discovered that the eyes of some people looking at him started to fill with disdain and contempt.

Within the alchemy workroom, the several people that had good relations with him also became a bit distant.

For his future, he was even able to sacrifice the woman he liked. With such a cold and callous personality, who would want to be friends with him?

Qin Yu maintained his calm. He signed inwardly. July was someone arranged by the mansion, and now with rumors rising up from all over, it was clear things weren’t so simple.

Indeed, there were far too many intelligent people in this world, and they weren't easy to deceive either.

But looking at the current situation, the Ning Mansion should be a bit cautious towards him. However, they had no proof.

They freely spread some rumors because they wanted to watch his reaction and make another judgment based on that.

Qin Yu thought for a moment and decided to create a bit of a stir. He was a young man, right? If he was wronged and didn't say anything, that would be abnormal behavior.

In the next two days, in order to stop these rumors, he had two small conflicts with people. It was unknown how Alchemist Zhang found out, but Qin Yu was called before him. "Be more careful. Don't try to provoke any trouble. These next few days might be able to change your life."

Qin Yu expressed his gratitude and then left, smiling.

Five days later, the Ning Family steward brought Qin Yu away. Then he saw the master of the mansion.

Ning Mingxuan said, "Qin Ning, my Ning Family has a secret place that can help cultivators cultivate. You are one of those chosen to go. You will be leaving tomorrow, so prepare to leave."

Qin Yu was overjoyed.

Watching him leave, Ning Mingxuan turned around, "It looks like there aren't any problems."

Ning Yiran nodded.

He had been paying attention to Qin Yu's behavior these past few days. There had been no flaws.

Perhaps he had been overthinking it.