

## A Record 171

### Chapter 171: Last Resort

All of a sudden, all of the giant octopus's tentacles closed in toward the center, and its enormous body sped toward Fang Pan as a blurry black shadow, resembling a purplish-black mountain that was moving rapidly along the seabed in a bizarre sight to behold.

Even before it was fully upon Fang Pan, the surrounding seawater was churning violently in the face of the tremendous pressure that it was exerting. The resulting currents were so violent that Fang Pan was swaying unsteadily in the water, and he was sent flying back like a cannonball, only managing to steady himself after stumbling several times in succession.

Meanwhile, the giant octopus had already appeared no more than 1,000 feet away from him, and it swatted its eight tentacles viciously at Fang Pan, leaving a series of bright trails in the water amid a sound that resembled rumbling thunderclaps.

Fang Pan was quite alarmed, but he managed to maintain his composure as he instantly split up into five different clones amid a flash of azure light, and each of the clones fled in a different direction.

The giant octopus's tentacles faltered slightly upon seeing this, and it seemed to have been caught off guard by this maneuver from Fang Pan. However, in the next instant, its tentacles continued to come crashing down with devastating force, smashing several deep trenches into the seabed that were several thousand feet in length as countless rock fragments flew in all directions.

Taking advantage of this brief window of opportunity, the five clones conjured up by Fang Pan were just barely able to evade the flailing tentacles before rising up toward the surface of the sea like lightning.

The giant octopus let loose a furious roar, and green light flashed within its eyes as it opened its mouth to release five pillars of purplish-black lightning, each of which was as thick as a water tank.

The five pillars of lightning didn't appear to have been remarkable in any way, but they were far faster than normal lightning, and they caught up to the five Fang Pans in a flash before striking them with unerring accuracy.

Five resounding booms rang out as four of the Fang Pans were destroyed by the purplish-black lightning, with only the leftmost one managing to survive the attack, but even he was sent flyin forward by the force of the impact as he threw up a large mouthful of blood.

However, it seemed that he hadn't suffered any severe injuries, and he was able to steady himself after performing a somersault.

The material of the robe on his back had been torn apart by the lightning strike, revealing a suit of dark golden inner armor that was riddled with golden scales.

A deep mark had been blasted onto the suit of armor, and many of the scales on its surface had been broken. Its spiritual nature had also been severely damaged, but ultimately, it remained intact.

Meanwhile, Fang Pan continued to fly up toward the surface of the sea as a streak of azure light, traveling at an incredible speed.

The giant octopus let loose another thunderous roar of fury, and it extended its tentacles before withdrawing them forcefully, launching itself after the streak of azure light as a blurry black shadow.

Inside the sea, its speed was just about on par with Fang Pan's.

The two of them instantly vanished into the distance as the chase continued, and the turbulent seawater left in their wake slowly settled down again.

Only then did Han Li emerge from the trench on the seabed, and he took a glance at the direction that Fang Pan and the giant octopus had fled in with a hesitant look on his face.

However, he then quickly arrived at a decision and began flying in that direction as an azure shadow.

It appeared that his plan had been successful up to this point, but he wasn't confident that the sea beast would be powerful enough to hunt Fang Pan to his death, so he decided to follow them and finish the job himself if the octopus couldn't kill Fang Pan in his place.

Han Li's speed was far inferior to that of Fang Pan and the giant octopus, and at this point, the two of them had already traveled out of his spiritual sensory range, but the immortal spiritual power fluctuations left in their wake provided an extremely clear trail to follow.

He followed this trail for close to an hour, then suddenly drew to an abrupt halt.

The seawater several hundred kilometers up ahead was churning violently as if it had been brought to a boil, and there were countless vortexes raging in the area. Even from this far away, he could still feel tremendously powerful currents washing over him.

At the center of all the chaos was a giant ball of light that was several dozen kilometers in size with countless arcs of purple lightning and black mist surging around it.

The lightning and the mist intertwined to form a series of balls of purplish-black light before exploding violently, sending immense destructive energy erupting in all directions.

Even the seabed was constantly being torn apart, causing magma to flow out into the water.

This is a spirit domain... No, it's not quite the same. Instead, it seems to be some type of domain ability similar to a spirit domain.

A hint of lingering fear welled up in Han Li's heart as he sensed the terrifying spiritual pressure being released by the massive ball of light.

Even though the giant octopus that he had lured out possessed late-True Immortal Stage power, it seemed to be some type of primordial beast that hadn't yet attained higher intelligence. Otherwise, if it had unleashed this domain ability right away, then Han Li would've been swept up in it as well.

Han Li only entertained this thought for a moment before casting it aside, and a layer of blue light appeared in his eyes as he cast his gaze into the giant ball of light, within which he could just barely make out two figures, one far larger than the other, clashing over and over again.

The larger of the two figures was naturally the giant octopus. It had shrunk down from its original size to less than 200 feet tall, making it far more agile than before, while the other figure was none other than Fang Pan.

Fang Pan's speed seemed to have been severely limited within the ball of light, and he was at an absolute disadvantage, constantly being sent flying over and over again by the giant octopus's tentacles.

At this moment, he appeared to have been in an extremely sorry state. His face was pale, his hair was disheveled, and the azure light around his body had dimmed significantly.

However, there was a silver scroll hovering above his head, releasing countless silver runes that formed a silver light barrier around him. Under the protection of the light barrier, he was able to avoid significant injury despite being sent flying over and over again.

Once again, Fang Pan was sent flying by one of the flailing tentacles, and the silver light barrier was flashing erratically.

After such a long and drawn-out battle, the giant octopus was becoming impatient, and it was lashing out with its tentacles faster and faster. As a result, the frequency at which Fang Pan was being struck was significantly increased.

This was a dire situation. Given his current cultivation base, if he couldn't escape from this spirit-domain-like space, then he would be sure to meet his demise once the immortal treasure above his head was broken.

With that in mind, his resentment toward Han Li only grew more intense.

Right at this moment, the octopus's wildly flailing tentacles suddenly paused for a moment, and it abruptly opened its mouth to release a huge torrent of ink.

Fang Pan felt a foul stench surging toward him, and he was struck by a rush of dizziness.

He hurriedly drew upon his spiritual sense to rid himself of the sense of dizziness, and at the same time, the silver scroll above him began to radiate dazzling light.

Countless silver runes surged out of the scroll to form a round silver shield of light, which resembled a silver moon that protected him from above.

A burst of loud sizzling rang out as plumes of smoke rose up from the silver shield upon making contact with the black ink, and countless holes were instantly eroded into its surface.

The black ink flowed through the holes on the shield as it continued to rain down toward Fang Pan, who hurriedly switched to a different hand seal as he began to chant an incantation.

The silver scroll instantly erupted into flames, and balls of silver fire descended from it to ignite the silver light barrier around him.

From afar, it appeared as if Fang Pan's entire body had transformed into a massive silver fireball.

As soon as the black ink came into contact with the silver flames, the former instantly evaporated into plumes of black smoke.

However, before Fang Pan had a chance to catch his breath, the giant octopus suddenly extended its eight tentacles until they were ramrod straight and resembled eight staves, then swung them through the air to send countless staff projections sweeping toward Fang Pan from all directions.

A string of earth-shattering booms rang out, and the silver fireball began to tremble violently.

At the same time, the flames on the silver scroll above Fang Pan's head were quickly being snuffed out, and it clearly wasn't going to be able to last much longer.

"No! I refuse to die here!" Fang Pan roared, and a thought suddenly seemed to have occurred to him as he flipped a hand over to produce an azure pill.

The pill was only around the size of a thumbnail, but it was giving off extraordinary spiritual power fluctuations and was riddled with countless tiny azure runes, while an extremely life-like visage of a miniature azure wyrm had appeared above the pill.

This pill was called the Azure Wyrms Pill, and he had purchased it for an extremely steep price in preparation for his late-True Immortal Stage breakthrough. It wasn't a dao pill, but it wasn't any less valuable than the average first-tier dao pill.

He naturally wasn't going to attempt a breakthrough in this situation.

Instead, he wanted to take advantage of one of the pill's effects, which was its ability to stimulate the consumer's latent potential, allowing them to attain power far superior to their cultivation base for a short time. As a result, one would be able to experience what it was like to be at a higher cultivation base, thereby significantly increasing their chances of making a successful breakthrough.

In this desperate situation, Fang Pan had no choice but to take the pill.

His entire body instantly began to radiate incandescent azure light, and his waning aura was being rapidly elevated, quickly returning to its former peak before continuing to swell even further.

In this instant, it seemed that all of the latent potential in his body had been forced to the fore.

Violent immortal spiritual power fluctuations erupted out of his body, while the azure light was dancing over his skin like fire.

Furthermore, around 20 to 30 bright specks of azure light that were fluctuating in brightness had appeared all over his body, and they resembled a series of blinking eyes.

Immediately thereafter, another speck of azure light abruptly lit up on a certain part of his body.

In the next instant, all 24 specks of light brightened in unison as if they were resonating with one another, causing his aura to swell even further, to the point that it was beginning to reach the same level as that of the octopus monster.

Fang Pan bit down viciously onto the tip of his own tongue, then spat out a mouthful of blood essence, which fused into the silver scroll above his head.

The scroll was already on the verge of destruction, but with this injection of blood essence, the flames burning on its surface were suddenly revitalized, transforming into a fireball that was several dozen feet in size.

All the silver runes around Fang Pan also swept upward in a frenzy before fusing into the fireball as well.

Immediately thereafter, the silver fireball rose up toward the heavens, then exploded with a resounding boom.

Boundless silver light swept through the air in all directions alongside incredibly powerful shockwaves, keeping all of the staff projections formed by the giant octopus's tentacles at bay.

Fang Pan took advantage of this opportunity to dart through the air as a blurry azure shadow, and his black saber had already reappeared in his grasp.

In the blink of an eye, he arrived at the edge of the spirit-domain-like space, then conjured up seven identical clones, all of which lashed out viciously with the black sabers in their hands.

The seven black saber projections combined as one to form a massive saber projection that was close to 10,000 feet in length, and it struck the dark purple light barrier up ahead with devastating force.

The dark purple light barrier flashed erratically as a huge crack appeared on its surface, following which the entire light barrier exploded altogether.

Fang Pan immediately seized this opportunity, fleeing from the giant octopus as a streak of azure light.

All of this had taken place in the span of only one or two seconds, and by the time the giant octopus set off in pursuit, Fang Pan had already vanished into the distant sea.

## Chapter 172: Put an End to Things

That's a pity.

Han Li turned to the direction that Fang Ban had fled in, but then quickly withdrew his gaze.

Fang Ban had already sustained severe injuries during that battle, so even if he remained intent on coming after Han Li, at the very least, he wasn't going to be able to do that anytime soon.

With that in mind, Han Li took one final glance at the furious octopus, then flew away into the distance along the seabed as a blurry shadow.

He traveled for tens of thousands of kilometers in one go, and only ensuring that the octopus hadn't detected him did he spring out of the sea before making a hand seal to conjure up a silver lightning array around himself.

A loud thunderclap rang out as he vanished on the spot, then reappeared in the next instant tens of thousands of kilometers away.

He then conjured up another lightning array without pause, teleporting him tens of thousands of kilometers in another direction.

He repeated this process quite a number of times before stopping on a small and deserted island.

There, he flipped a hand over to release a large pile of array treasures and other items before taking around half a day to set up a star array on a plot of empty island on the island, one that was identical to the star array that he had set up on Dark Veil Island.

He then also set up around a dozen protective arrays around the entire island to transform it into a fortress, one that even a late-True Immortal cultivator would be unable to break through in a short time.



Only after doing all of this did Han Li heave a faint sigh of relief before sitting down at the center of the star array on the island with his legs crossed.

Not long after that, layers of multi-colored light began to appear, enshrouding the entire island and presenting an extremely eye-catching sight.

Thankfully, this region of the sea was extremely desolate with not a single person around, so he didn't have to worry about catching the attention of anyone harboring sinister intentions.

Day quickly turned to night, and stars began to appear in the sky.

A vast expanse of dazzling starlight appeared on the island, and even the surrounding restrictions weren't able to completely conceal it.

Countless rays of starlight cascaded down from the heavens, forming seven scintillating pillars of starlight that crashed down from above.

A burst of dull rumbling rang out from the island, and it was audible even dozens of kilometers away.

Time slowly passed by, and over two months flew by in the blink of an eye.

All of a sudden, all of the light barriers encompassing the small island faded to reveal Han Li, who was holding a black chain around the same thickness as an infant's arm in his hand.

This time, his nascent soul hadn't been completely sealed, and with his prior experience, it hadn't taken him very long to remove the chains from around his nascent soul, but despite this, there was still a grim look on his face.

No matter what he tried, he was unable to completely remove that tracking mark in his body, and as time passed by, it was becoming more and more likely that Fang Ban would've recovered from his injuries to continue the hunt.

Furthermore, the fact that Fang Ban still hadn't shown up after all this time was evoking within Han Li a sense of unease.

He stood silently in mid-air with a contemplative look in his eyes, and moments later, he took a deep breath, seemingly having arrived at a decision.

He stowed away all of the array treasures on the island, then flew into the distance as a streak of azure light.

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Over three more months passed by in the blink of an eye, and a roar of elation that pierced straight up into the heavens suddenly rang out from within a certain mountain range somewhere on the Primordial Wave Continent.

In the next instant, a burst of dazzling azure light appeared somewhere in the mountain range, only to vanish a moment later before reappearing in the sky.

Within the azure light was none other than Fang Ban, and he was chortling with glee.

"Even the heavens are on my side! Who could've imagined that the Azure Wurm Pill would allow me to open up my 24th immortal accupoint?"

A burst of enormous spiritual pressure was emanating from his body as he spoke. At this point, he had already progressed to the late-True Immortal Stage, and it was as if he had been completely reborn anew.

He was glowing with joy as he sensed the changes in his own body, and only after a long while did his excitement subside, following which a cold smile appeared on his face.

"Run all you want, Han Li, but you're not getting away from me!"

As soon as his voice trailed off, he shot forth as a streak of azure light, traveling eastward at a terrifying speed.

Meanwhile, Han Li was flying through the sky as a streak of azure light himself above a lush forest countless kilometers away.

All of a sudden, a dark look appeared on his face. Just now, the tracking mark that had sat dormant beneath his nascent soul for the past few months had suddenly stirred slightly.

"He's finally coming after me again... It's time to put an end to this..." Han Li murmured to himself, then accelerated even further as he sped through the air.

Even though he was flying at full speed, it still took only less than half a month before Fang Ban's familiar aura appeared on the edge of his spiritual sensory range, and the distance between the two of them was quickly being closed down.

No wonder he didn't appear for so long, he made a breakthrough! This is most certainly not good...

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly as a grim look appeared on his face, but he didn't slow down in the slightest.

Before long, the two of them were only separated by a few thousand kilometers.

Only then did Han Li make a hand seal, and silver lightning erupted out of his body as he prepared to conjure up his lightning array.

Fang Ban's eyes narrowed slightly upon seeing this from afar, and countless azure runes surged out of his body.

Immediately thereafter, his speed was almost doubled, transforming into a blurry azure shadow as he let loose a draconic roar.

A burst of peculiar soundwaves spread rapidly through the air, causing the space to ripple as soundwaves instantly permeated throughout the entire surrounding area in a radius of several thousand kilometers.

Han Li was instantly struck by a rush of dizziness upon hearing this sound, and the formation of his silver lightning array was paused as a result.

Even though he was able to snap back to his senses an instant later, at this point, the azure shadow was now alarmingly close to him.

A bright saber projection swept through the air like lightning before striking the lightning array.

In the face of the saber projection, the arcs of silver lightning were as fragile as tofu, and the entire array was instantly destroyed.

Han Li immediately plummeted out of the sky upon seeing this to just barely evade the saber projection, and at the same time, he instantly adopted his Giant Mountain Ape form amid a flash of golden light.

He had only just completed his transformation when the azure shadow arrived directly before him, only to be greeted by a giant golden fist, which was carrying such tremendous power that even the nearby space was rippling violently.

However, Fang Ban was able to evade the golden fist projection with ease by sidestepping several dozen feet in an instant, and immediately thereafter, one Fang Ban turned into three.

One of the Fang Ban's lashed out with his saber to strike the giant ape's arm, and the blade of the saber was plunged into the golden ape's flesh, inflicting a huge wound that immediately began to bleed profusely.

In the past, the giant ape's defenses had been sufficient to ward off the saber, but this was no longer the case.

Meanwhile, the other two Fang Bans were pouncing at the giant ape like lightning while lashing out with their sabers at the giant ape's neck and chest.

The golden ape let loose a thunderous roar as its entire body swelled in size, and countless rays of golden light surfaced over its fur.

Each ray of golden light was actually a strand of golden monkey fur, and they shot forth in all directions, screeching through the air while the space in their wake trembled violently.

The three Fang Bans' expressions changed slightly upon seeing this, and they shot back in retreat in unison while conjuring up azure light barriers around their own bodies.

The countless strands of golden fur struck the protective barriers, producing a sound much like that of rain pelting down on banana leaves.

The azure protective barriers flashed erratically, but remained intact. However, the three Fang Bans were still pushed back by quite a distance by the power imbued within the strands of golden fur.

The giant golden ape didn't unleash any further attacks, instantly transforming into a Lightning Bird instead.

A rumbling thunderclap rang out as the Lightning Bird vanished from the spot amid a flash of silver lightning, only to reappear several thousand kilometers away.

"You're not getting away!" Fang Ban roared as his three clones instantly fused back into one, and he shot forth in pursuit as a blurry azure shadow.

However, the silver Lightning Bird wasn't making any effort to conserve its power of lightning as it unleashed its lightning movement technique over and over again, quickly opening up a distance of tens of thousands of kilometers between itself and Fang Ban.

Immediately thereafter, countless arcs of silver lightning erupted from the Lightning Bird's body to form a silver lightning array.

Meanwhile, Fang Ban was closing in at an incredible speed from the distant horizon.

A resounding thunderclap rang out, and the Lightning Bird vanished into thin air only an instant before Fang Ban arrived on the scene.

Fang Ban drew to a halt with a dark look in his eyes, but a cold smile then immediately appeared on his face.

Given how recklessly Han Li was using his power of lightning, he was going to exhaust this power very soon, and once that happened, his fate would be sealed.

With that in mind, Fang Ban continued in his pursuit of Han Li as a streak of azure light.

Three days later.

There was a dilapidated little brick temple situated in a lush forest on a mountain. The red paint on its outer walls had already completely peeled off, and they were hanging off the walls in flakes that were harder than the bark of old trees.

Out of the two wooden doors, one of them had already snapped off and was resting against the other relatively more intact door, leaving a gap that was around half a person wide.

Through the gap, it could be seen that the temple hadn't been visited for a very long time. Everything was covered in dust and cobwebs, and a thick layer of moss had grown over the bluestone floor as well.

An unrecognizable deity statue was situated inside the temple, but its head had fallen off and rolled to a corner of the temple.

Seated with a weary look on their face and their back resting against said head was none other than Han Li.

Right at this moment, he seemed to have detected something, and he immediately raised his head to look up at the sky through one of the holes in the dilapidated temple's roof, but he saw nothing but clearly blue skies.

He immediately flew out of the temple amid a flash of lightning, then fled toward the distance, followed by a streak of azure light several thousand kilometers away.

A high-speed chase ensued, and the two streaks of light passed over several dozen mountain ranges in the blink of an eye.

Han Li was rapidly burning through his immortal spiritual power reserves as he accelerated to as fast as he could go, but he was refraining from using his lightning movement technique, and as a result, the gap between himself and Fang Ban was constantly shrinking. Before long, they were separated by less than 1,000 kilometers.

Right at this moment, a mountain range in the shape of a semi-circle appeared up ahead, and Han Li immediately swooped down directly toward the snow-tipped summits of one of the mountains.

Not long after he landed on that mountain, plumes of dense white mist immediately began to rise up from the mountain summit, quickly enveloping the other mountains in the mountain range as well.

## Chapter 173: Reality or Illusion

A burst of rippling silver light appeared within the mist, and a series of beautiful palaces and pavilions emerged, while gorgeous white jade arched bridges suddenly appeared to connect the mountains in the mountain range, giving the area the appearance of an immortal paradise.

As soon as this strange setting appeared, Fang Pan arrived on the scene before instantly drawing to a halt.

He looked down at the extremely life-like palaces and pavilions down below, and he harrumphed coldly, "Looks like you haven't just been sitting around, doing nothing for the past half a year. Let me see what other tricks you have up your sleeve!"

As soon as his voice trailed off, he swooped down toward the palaces, plunging headfirst into the mist before landing on the summit of one of the mountains.

He then closed his eyes, only to reopen them a moment later as a hint of bewilderment appeared on his face.

He discovered that he was suddenly unable to detect Han Li's exact location. Instead, he could only roughly sense that Han Li was somewhere nearby.

A cold look appeared on his face as his body began to blur, following which six identical clones flew out.

The seven Fang Pans then split up and shot forth in seven different directions as streaks of azure light.

The seven streaks of azure light traversed back and forth through the area, then returned to their original starting point not long thereafter, having failed to track down their target.

Right at this moment, one of the Fang Pans suddenly noticed something, and he immediately crouched down before laying a palm against the ground.

"This is... an array within an array!" he murmured to himself with tightly furrowed brows as he withdrew his palm before rising to his feet.

As soon as this realization was made, the seven Fang Pans immediately formed a circle with their backs facing one another.

All seven of them then lashed out with their black sabers in unison, sending seven massive saber projections sweeping through the air in all directions.

Gusts of fierce wind were swept up as the seven saber projections multiplied rapidly into countless saber projections, resembling a black lotus flower of saber projections as it rose up into the air while revolving incessantly.



The surrounding space trembled violently, and all of the illusory palaces and spires began to warp and twist in the face of the tremendous and peerlessly sharp power of the mass of saber projections.

Immediately thereafter, a dull thump rang out, and all of the illusory buildings gradually began to fade away, revealing the true state of the mountain.

As it turned out, the summit of the mountain had already been shaved off to produce a plateau, and the ground was laden with white jade stone slabs, upon which were engraved countless circles of strange rune. Engraved onto the ground at the center of these circles of runes was a strange-looking beast.

Around the beast were roughly a dozen white stone pillars, each of which was over 100 feet tall, and there were many crystals of different shapes and colors embedded onto the pillars, presenting a captivating sight to behold.

The seven Fang Pans reverted back to a single one, and a slightly dazed look appeared in his eyes at the sight of the scene that he had been greeted by. However, he then immediately turned around to spot the azure-robed Han Li standing several thousand feet away, holding a round array plate in one hand while rapidly casting incantation seals onto it with his other hand.

Han Li seemed to have detected Fang Pan's gaze, and he raised his head as a faint smile appeared on his face.

He was currently in the process of activating an array by the name of the Calabash Illusory Light Array, which was a high-grade illusory array that he had found through the Transient Guild several months ago, and it was a disposable array.

For this array, he had spent all of his top-grade spirit stones, the only two remaining Great Earth Fruits in his possession, and even a pair of spirit treasures of quite a high caliber from the storage bracelet given to him by Gan Jiuzhen.

It was said that the array was extremely powerful, and that anyone below the Golden Immortal Stage that fell into it would be unable to awaken on their own. Instead, they would only sink deeper and deeper into the array until they perished within it, and even their nascent soul wouldn't be able to escape.

However, the array also had some major drawbacks, the first of which was that it took an extremely long time to activate, which was why Han Li had set up a Nine Palaces Heavenly Array around it to stall for time.

The second drawback was that the one using the array had to use themselves as the array's core. As a result, they had to be subjected to the effects of the array as well, so the array posed just as much of a threat to its user as its target.

However, the one controlling the array naturally held many advantages over someone who was completely unprepared, and if they could awaken before their enemy, then they would be able to control the array to directly attack said enemy.

A sense of foreboding welled up in Fang Pan's heart at the sight of the faint smile that had appeared on Han Li's face, and he immediately launched himself at Han Li while thrusting his black saber directly toward Han Li's heart.

Meanwhile, sweat was beginning to bead up on Han Li's forehead, and he was finally able to cast the last incantation seal onto the array plate right before the tip of Fang Pan's saber could reach him.

All of a sudden, the surrounding stone pillars began to release bursts of bright light of different colors, and Fang Pan's vision was blurred by these bright lights.

Before he had a chance to react, he stumbled forward, feeling as if he had passed through an invisible barrier before arriving in a rather dimly lit hall.

He swept his gaze across the thick square pillars around him and the antiquated braziers hanging from the pillars, as well as the bright green flames burning within the braziers, and a sense of familiarity welled up in his heart.

The sound of metal chains clattering over one another suddenly rang out within the deathly silent hall, followed by a deep and extremely authoritative voice.

"How dare you swing your blade at me! Are you trying to kill your master?"

Fang Pan shuddered violently upon hearing this voice, and he reflexively lowered his blade in fear and submission.

He turned his gaze forward to discover an inky-black chair over 100 feet up ahead, upon which sat a middle-aged man. The man was wearing a pristine white cape, and he had purple and green zombie-like skin.

"Master," Fang Pan called out in a dazed voice, then immediately shook his head vigorously as a cold look appeared in his eyes.

"No, you're not my master! You're just an illusion conjured up by this array!" he roared as he raised his saber and pointed it directly at the zombie-like man again.

He then sprang forward through the air, leaving a trail of blurry afterimages in his wake.

In the blink of an eye, seven identical Fang Pans had appeared in the hall, and they were pouncing at the zombie-like man from all directions.

"How dare you!" the zombie-like man roared, and a devastating aura erupted out of his body.

He wasn't chanting any incantations or making any hand seals, but all of the black chains littered through the entire hall seemed to have suddenly sprung to life, surging through the air in all directions like a series of black waves.

Despite their incredible speed, all seven Fang Pan clones were struck by the chain without exception before falling onto the ground with blood gushing out of their mouths.

"I taught you everything you know, yet now, you're trying to turn on me?" the zombie-like man questioned as a derisive look appeared on his face.

Fang Pan was astonished by what he was seeing. The zombie-like man's aura, powers, disposition, and voice were all completely identical to those of his master.

Could it be that I fell into some type of special teleportation array as opposed to an illusory array?

For the first time, Fang Pan was beginning to doubt his own conviction.

Before Fang Pan had a chance to ponder the topic any further, the zombie-like man's voice rang out once again. "Come over here and accept your death! Or do you want me to catch you myself?"

A hesitant look appeared in Fang Pan's eyes...

Meanwhile, Han Li had fallen into the illusory array as well.

The wind was howling past his ears, and he found himself rapidly rising up into the heavens.

At this moment, there was a massive expressionless face high up in the sky, and it was gradually becoming more blurry and indistinct. A burst of dazzling purple light flashed behind it, following which a long white rift slowly opened up, from within which the sound of faint Sanskrit chanting could be heard.

This is the gate to the Immortal Realm! Am I transcending my ascension tribulation?

Never did Han Li think that the illusion that awaited him would be his ascension tribulation.

All of a sudden, a deafening thunderclap rang out from overhead, and a massive bolt of seven-colored lightning came crashing down from the giant face, which had almost completely faded at this point.

The bolt of lightning came crashing directly down toward Han Li, carrying with it a devastating aura of destruction.

Han Li reflexively swept a hand through the air, and a string of golden lightningfire instantly flew out of his palm toward the bolt of seven-colored lightning.

He looked down to find a dark green longsword in his hand, and the sword was very familiar to him.

It was none other than his Profound Heavenly Spiritslash Sword.

Han Li hesitated momentarily as he felt the tremendous pressure weighing down on him from above, then sped straight up into the heavens as a streak of azure light with the Profound Heavenly Spiritslash Sword in his grasp.

A resounding boom erupted throughout the entire sky as a layer of resplendent light that obscured the entire sky flashed erratically before being destroyed amid a burst of violent law fluctuations.

Han Li was sent plummeting down from the heavens, and his entire body was in excruciating pain.

His body had been charred black and was riddled with bright red gashes, almost falling apart at the seams, while the Profound Heavenly Spiritslash Sword in his hand had been completely destroyed.

At the same time, the giant face up above had become extremely clear again, and it remained expressionless as ever. It seemed to be looking down on all things with cold apathy before abruptly exploding.

Immediately thereafter, the gate leading to the Immortal Realm suddenly closed, while a massive spatial rift appeared beside it.

Through the rift, Han Li caught a glimpse of a vast expanse of absolute darkness that seemed to be capable of devouring all things.

The darkness didn't even harbor the slightest glimmer of light, yet it somehow struck him with a peculiar sense of allure, evoking within him an irrepressible urge to fly into it.

## Chapter 174: Mastermind?

At this moment, Han Li's entire body was on the verge of falling apart, and he couldn't muster up even an ounce of energy or magic power.

He wanted to control his own body, but he discovered that he couldn't even lift a single finger, and he could only watch helplessly as he drifted toward the inky-black spatial rift.

This is an illusion, it's not real...

Han Li was telling himself this over and over again while doing everything in his power to snap out of the illusion.

Right at this moment, a disturbance suddenly appeared in the space in front of the massive rift in the sky, and ripples that were visible even to the naked eye swept through the air, immediately following which three faint black shadows flew out from within before drifting toward him.

They appeared to be moving quite slowly, but in reality, they were approaching Han Li at an incredible speed.

Even though Han Li was unable to move, he could see just fine, and as he examined the three approaching figures, he discovered that they were completely insubstantial and ethereal, resembling a trio of spiritual bodies. Only their heads seemed to hold any substance, and their faces were completely identical to his own.

Are these inner demons? No, they're Extrarealm Heavenly Devils!

In the next instant, one of the heavenly devils appeared directly in front of him, then crashed straight into him without any warning.

A dull thump rang out, and all of the gashes all over Han Li's entire body began to glow with bright crimson light. The gashes then began to expand, and before he knew it, he had already been torn into countless pieces like a piece of porcelain that had been dashed against the ground.

To his surprise, he discovered that even though his body had been destroyed, his soul had managed to emerge as a faint azure shadow, yet it was also completely unable to move.

The three heavenly devils immediately pounced from all directions like a pack of wolves that had been starving for days, opening their mouths up wide before sinking their fangs into his soul.

A faint tearing sound rang out as a large chunk of Han Li's soul was stripped off before being devoured, resulting in a burst of indescribable agony.

Throughout his cultivation journey, Han Li had never shied away from bodily refinement, so he had a far superior pain threshold to the average person, yet this pain went far beyond anything he had ever experienced.

There was no way to pinpoint exactly where the pain was coming from, all he could sense was that his own soul was being torn apart bit by bit, and his consciousness was also gradually fading.

He could see the three heavenly devils constantly tearing away at his body, and with each bite that they took, their bodies would become a little more substantial, while the greedy smiles on their faces became more pronounced.

Is this still an illusion?

Han Li was completely powerless to resist, and his resolve was beginning to sway.

Could it be that I never even successfully transcended my tribulation? Could it be that the Spirit Domain Realm, Liu Le'er, the Black Wind Sea, Gan Jiuzhen... All of those were just a dream conjured up by these Extrarealm Heavenly Devils? I was once the most powerful Grand Ascension cultivator in the entire Spirit Realm, but it seems I was ultimately unable to overcome these Extrarealm Heavenly Devils...

Han Li's consciousness was quickly fading, and his body had become so transparent that it was barely even visible anymore.

"Don't allow yourself to fall prey to the illusion, Fellow Daoist Han. Us Extrarealm Heavenly Devils are not like this."

All of a sudden, a cold voice rang out in the surrounding space, snapping Han Li back to his senses like a bucket of cold water to the head.

Han Li's vision had already begun to blur, but it quickly refocused again, and at the same time, a cold harrumph rang out within his consciousness. Immediately thereafter, he felt as if several sharp spikes were being driven into his head at once, sending a burst of excruciating pain tearing through his soul.

At the same time, the heavenly devils that were tearing away at his body screeched in anguish as they hurriedly flew back in retreat, then vanished into nothingness.

Han Li immediately snapped back to reality, returning to the shaved mountain summit with the array plate held in one of his hands.

Directly in front of him, Fang Pan was rooted to the spot, still locked in a forward-charging posture, and the tip of the saber in his hand was no more than a foot away from Han Li's glabella.

The surrounding stone pillars were flashing incessantly with disorienting light, but those lights no longer had any effect on Han Li.

"You have my thanks, Fellow Daoist Mo Guang," Han Li said internally with a hint of lingering fear in his eyes.

"This is indeed an extremely formidable array. Thankfully, Extrarealm Heavenly Devils like myself are extremely adept at conjuring up and seeing through illusions. Otherwise, things could've gone catastrophically wrong," Mo Guang sighed.

Han Li was silent for a moment, then pressed his palm down onto the array plate while chanting an incantation.

A burst of five-colored light flashed through the array, and Han Li's surroundings blurred momentarily, following which he found himself in a dimly lit hall.



He could see Fang Pan kneeling on the ground with a horrified look on his face, kowtowing over and over again as he repeatedly implored, "Please spare me, Master..."

It seemed that he was completely oblivious to Han Li's presence.

There was a zombie-like middle-aged man with chains draped all over his body, and he was sitting on a large black chair in front of Fang Pan.

"Why have you used the Origin Separation Law Chains without my permission?" the zombie-like man interrogated.

Fang Pan shuddered violently upon hearing this, and he hurriedly replied, "I had no choice, Master! I ran into an extremely formidable foe, and at the time, I was with two other fellow daoists, but one of them was killed, while the other remaining fellow daoist and I were both severely injured. If I hadn't used those chains, there was no way I would've been able to kill that man."

Han Li was rather intrigued by what he was hearing, and he took a deep breath, then slowly made his way over to the zombie-like man before turning around and taking a seat on the large black chair.

His body gradually overlapped with that of the zombie-like man before the two completely fused as one, and Han Li did his best to imitate the zombie-like man's disposition as he asked, "Oh? Who exactly is this man, and why did you have to fight him?"

"His name is Han Li, and he's an immortal who ascended from a lower realm. He has a type of special crystal that contains the power of time laws, and that's why the three of us went after him," Fang Pan hurriedly explained.

With that, Han Li finally figured out why he had been in conflict with Fang Pan in the first place.

"Is that right? Do you know how he was able to obtain these crystals?" Han Li asked.

"I'm afraid I do not. At the time, I wasn't able to capture him, so I couldn't search his soul," Fang Pan replied.

"Are you telling the truth?" Han Li asked in a cold voice as he raised an eyebrow.

"I am, I swear! I would never dare to lie to you, Master! My other companion and I were both handed down severe punishments for failing to complete this mission," Fang Pan replied in a trembling voice.

Han Li was rather taken aback to hear this, and he asked, "Who handed down your punishment? Are you telling me someone instructed the three of you to go after this Han Li?"

"Please forgive me, Master, but the one you ask of is someone of an extremely lofty status, so I cannot reveal their identity to you..."

Before Fang Pan had a chance to finish, he was struck by a heavy blow to the chest, sending him flying back through the air before crashing into one of the stone pillars in the hall with a dull thump.

The zombie-like man swept a sleeve through the air, and a black chain instantly shot forth like a spirit snake before plunging straight through Fang Pan's chest, sending blood splattering in all directions.

Fang Pan's face was deathly pale, and he was half-knelt on the ground as he violently threw up a mouthful of blood.

"Please spare me, Master..." he implored, but he still didn't dare to reveal that person's name.

"Even now, you're still choosing to withhold information from me! It looks like you're intent on testing my patience. I have no need for a disobedient disciple," the zombie-like man said in a cold voice, and a chorus of metallic rattling rang out across the entire hall.

Countless black chains drifted up into the air, and Fang Pan could feel mountainous pressure surging toward him from all directions, striking him with a crushing sense of asphyxiation.

"Please spare me, Master! I'll tell you everything!" he hurriedly yelled.

Han Li swept a sleeve through the air upon hearing this, and all of the chains in the hall settled down again.

He then cast a cold gaze toward Fang Pan, silently waiting for him to continue.

"The name of the person who ordered us to go after Han Li is..."

Right as he was about to reveal the name, his face suddenly became twisted with pain , and he threw his hands onto his head as he howled in agony.

A peculiar spiritual aura that clearly didn't belong to Fang Pan began to emanate from his head, causing the surrounding illusion to ripple and warp, looking as if it could fall apart at any moment.

Han Li's heart immediately sank upon seeing this, and he instantly rushed forward to escape from the illusion.

In the real world, Fang Pan was still locked in the same posture as before, but his eyelids were rapidly fluttering, and it was clear that he was about to regain consciousness soon.

Han Li immediately made a decision, stepping forward to force Fang Pan's mouth open before summoning his final remaining Heavy Water Lightning Bead and tossing it inside.

He then turned and flew away into the distance as quickly as he could.

At this point, Fang Pan finally awakened from the illusion, but it was already too late.

As soon as his eyes sprang open, a bolt of purple and azure lightning blasted its way out of his mouth, following which an earth-shattering explosion rang out.

A massive black sun appeared out of thin air, and heaven and earth trembled and quaked violently.

Hovering at an altitude in excess of 100,000 feet, Han Li was watching the widespread destruction taking place below with a grim expression.

Even though he had finally managed to kill Fang Pan, he knew that this wasn't the end of his troubles.

Judging from what Fang Pan had revealed, it was clear that there had been someone instructing Fang Pan and the brocade-robed elderly man to come after him.

Furthermore, that person had left a mark on Fang Pan's soul, and it was that very same mark that had almost helped Fang Pan awaken from the illusion. Han Li didn't know whether that person would be able to detect that Fang Pan had met his demise, so he would have to be even more cautious from this point onward.

Once the shockwaves down below had subsided, Han Li flew down from his vantage point up above.

At this point, the array on the mountain had already been completely destroyed, as was the case with Fang Pan's physical body, and not even the slightest hint of his aura could be detected.

Han Li found Fang Pan's storage bracelet amid some rubble, then discovered that black saber under a giant rock, and after collecting those two things, he flew away into the distance as a streak of azure light.

## Chapter 175: Seafaring Lightning Boat

Only after flying for tens of thousand of kilometers did Han Li heave a long sigh of relief.

Judging from the information that he had received from Fang Pan, he clearly still wasn't safe yet, but at the very least, the most immediate threat had been eliminated.

He released his spiritual sense to briefly inspect his surroundings, then flew toward a certain direction.

A short while later, he arrived in front of a large city.

He had changed his own appearance once again, transforming into a young scholar who appeared to be in his thirties. At the same time, he had concealed his own cultivation base entirely, and he was casually fanning himself with a peach wood paper fan as he made his way into the city as part of the crowd.

This city was called Moonview City, and it already belonged to the eastern region of the Primordial Wave Continent.

While fleeing from Fang Pan, he had been traveling eastward the majority of the time, so his eastbound journey actually hadn't been delayed by much at all.

In contrast with a rural city like Seaside City, Moonview City was no less prosperous than Black Wind City, but of course, it was far smaller than the latter.

Another difference between this city and Seaside was that the vast majority of the people here were mortals, while cultivators were far less common. Among the small proportion of cultivators, most of them were at or below the Core Formation Stage, and even Nascent Soul cultivators were quite rare.

Furthermore, all of these cultivators had concealed their auras so that they resembled mortals in the crowd.

Along this journey, Han Li had passed through quite a few cities of different sizes, but aside from Seaside City, the vast majority of those cities belonged to the nations of the mortal world.

Furthermore, it was an unspoken rule in these cities that cultivators had to conceal their auras and refrain from using their flight abilities, all to maintain the order of the mortal world.

The ones establishing these rules were naturally the immortal forces behind the authorities.

Of course, in some of the larger cities, there were some marketplaces that were set up exclusively for cultivators.

As the largest city in a radius of tens of thousands of kilometers, such marketplaces naturally existed in Moonview City as well.

These marketplaces were situated in the southeastern part of the city, and the concealment restrictions set up there were essentially non-existent to Han Li. He was able to directly enter the area, then made his way along a main street that was lined with shops to a tall pagoda constructed from giant white stone blocks.

The pagoda was several hundred feet tall, presenting a grand and majestic sight to behold, and it was giving off a bright white radiance under the light of the sun.

This was where the teleportation arrays of Moonview City were situated.

There was also a shimmering golden palace near the white pagoda, and that was the city's Immortal Outlet.

Han Li made his way directly into the pagoda, and the first thing that he saw on the first floor were five teleportation arrays, each of which was separated by no more than 1,000 feet from the other. The arrays were arranged around the hall in a circulation formation, and there was a golden-robed cultivator stationed beside each array.

The golden dragons embroidered onto their robes were a clear indication that all of them served the Immortal Palace.

Furthermore, there were also several cultivators standing beside each teleportation array, seemingly waiting for something.

Han Li only took a brief glance at his surroundings before making his way directly toward the teleportation array at the center of the hall.

Before Han Li had a chance to say anything, the golden-robed cultivator beside the array smiled as he said, "Please go and purchase a teleportation talisman from over there. Once we have enough people, the teleportation will commence."

Han Li turned to the direction that the golden-robed cultivator was pointing in to discover a long stone table, behind which sat a golden-robed elderly man, and there were several people lined up in front of the table.

The person at the very front of the line just so happened to be in the process of accepting a golden badge in exchange for a small pouch of spirit stones.

Han Li paused for a moment upon seeing this, then immediately turned and left the teleportation hall.

He made his way into a secluded little alley nearby, and by the time he re-emerged, he had already transformed into a middle-aged man with a yellow complexion. Upon his emergence, he strode into the Immortal Outlet before arriving in the room where immortal tokens were arranged.

"Tell me your name and place of origin," a bald elderly man instructed.

"My name is Li Yufei, and I'm from the Precious Jade Mountain Range," Han Li replied in a calm manner.

He had previously set off from Seaside City under the identity of Liu Shi, and there was a chance that someone could track him from Seaside City to Moonview City if he were to use the same identity again. Hence, it was best to switch to a different identity as a safety precaution.

Shortly thereafter, Han Li returned to the white pagoda, and it didn't take long before it was his turn to purchase a teleportation talisman.

The golden-robed elderly man took a glance at Han Li's new immortal token, then asked, "Where do you want to go?"

"Red Lake City," Han Li replied.

.....

Thunderclap City was situated on the easternmost coastline of the Primordial Wave Continent, and going any further eastward of the city would take one into the vastly renowned Thunderstorm Sea.

This was a massive city, and due to its location, it was a natural gathering place for all high-grade cultivators who wanted to cross the Thunderstorm Sea to reach other continents.

Given its geographic advantage, it naturally stood to reason that Thunderclap City was an extremely prosperous place. It wasn't the most prosperous city on the entire Primordial Wave Continent, but it could definitely rank in the top five.

Due to its close proximity to the Thunderstorm Sea, the sky above the city was perpetually concealed behind a thick blanket of dark clouds, and occasional flashes of lightning could be seen within the clouds, followed by rumbling thunderclaps.

There was a massive tree planted every few kilometers in the city, and each tree was over 10,000 feet tall. These trees were all of a dark purple color, and their trunks and leaves were all riddled with lightning-shaped patterns.

All of these giant trees had extremely lush canopies that resembled massive purple umbrellas, and together, they were able to encompass the entire sky above the city.

These trees were called Urgent Lightning Trees, and they possessed the ability to absorb and store the power of lightning while being impervious to lightning strikes.

Fearsome thunderstorms took place all year round on the Thunderstorm Sea, and Thunderclap City was often affected due to its close proximity to the sea. If it weren't for the presence of these Urgent Lightning Trees, Thunderclap City would've most likely already been destroyed long ago.

Furthermore, these trees were also able to convert the power of lightning stored within them into light, and as a result, the city was constantly brightly lit regardless of whether it was daytime or nighttime.

At the center of the city was a giant purple pagoda, and around a dozen teleportation arrays were flashing incessantly on the pagoda's first floor as groups of people were teleported away from the city or arriving from other cities.



This first floor was extremely massive, with an area of several thousand feet, but even so, it was still quite crowded.

Right at this moment, around a dozen figures appeared on one of the teleportation arrays amid a flash of light, and one of them was none other than the yellow-skinned middle-aged man that Han Li had disguised himself as.

He followed the crowd out of the teleportation hall, and he couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief as he took in the wide street ahead of him.

After several months of traveling, he had finally gotten to the coastline, and once he crossed the Thunderstorm Sea, he would be able to reach the Ancient Cloud Continent, home of the Blaze Dragon Dao.

Even with the canopies of the Urgent Lightning Trees up above, rumbling thunderclaps could still be occasionally heard.

However, most of the people on the streets displayed any reaction to this, and it was clear that they were already accustomed to this. Only those who were only visiting the city for the first time were still feeling disturbed by the frequent thunderclaps.

Han Li naturally wasn't going to be affected by these thunderclaps, but he didn't take a few extra glances at the collective canopies of the massive Urgent Lightning Trees up above.

Right at this moment, a youthful voice rang out beside him.

"I'm assuming this is your first time here in Thunderclap City. Is that correct, Senior?"

Han Li turned to discover an honest-looking young man not far away from him, extending a salute with a cupped fist.

Han Li didn't say anything, and the young man continued, "My name is Gu Sanming. This is quite a big city with many complex streets, so it can be rather inconvenient to get things done. If you want to buy something or find someplace, I can be of help to you, Senior."

"So you're a guide? I suppose it can't hurt to have one. Tell me this: what is the safest way to cross the Thunderstorm Sea?" Han Li asked.

The young man faltered slightly upon hearing this, and Han Li's brows furrowed slightly as he asked, "Is there something wrong?"

Due to the fact that Han Li had concealed his aura, Gu Sanming was rather taken aback that someone of Han Li's cultivation base would be seeking to cross the Thunderstorm Sea. However, it then quickly occurred to him that Han Li was most likely concealing his cultivation base, and he hurriedly replied, "Not at all. If you want to cross the sea, then you've come to the right person, Senior."

"My cultivation base may be nothing remarkable, but I worked at the Black Feather Trading House a few years ago, and the Black Feather Trading House's Seafaring Lightning Boats are the safest mode of transformation to cross the Thunderstorm Sea. If I recall correctly, a Seafaring Lightning Boat is set to depart in less than three months from now, and there should still be some spots available."

"What is this Seafaring Lightning Boat?" Han Li asked as he raised an eyebrow.

"Ah, please forgive me for not offering an explanation. This is your first time here in Thunderclap City, so there must be many things you're still unfamiliar with," the young man hurriedly said in an apologetic manner.

"It's fine. Seeing as you're so familiar with this matter, why don't you tell me about these Seafaring Lightning Boats? Give me as detailed a description as you can, and if your information is useful, I'll be sure to reward you," Han Li said.

On the way here, he had conducted some research into ways to cross the Thunderstorm Sea, and he had heard about how incredible these Seafaring Lightning Boats were. Now that he had arrived in Thunderclap City, this was the perfect chance to enquire more about this subject.

The Thunderstorm Sea was renowned for how perilous it was, so he naturally had to find the safest way to cross it.

"A Seafaring Lightning Boat is a type of special flying boat crafted specifically for the purpose of crossing the Thunderstorm Sea. Fearsome lightning storms that are comparable in destructive power to heavenly lightning tribulations frequently take place in the Thunderstorm Sea, and a normal flying boat would quickly be torn apart in such storms.

"However, Seafaring Lightning Boats are constructed from extremely lightning-resistant materials, and a layer of Urgent Lightning Tree membrane is applied to the outside. This is a special membrane made from the sap of the Urgent Lightning Tree, and even the most ferocious of thunderstorms won't be able to harm it in the slightest. Hence, Seafaring Lightning Boat can cross the Thunderstorm Sea with a very high degree of safety..."

"I see. How many spirit stones are required for a spot on one of these boats?" Han Li asked.

A slightly hesitant look appeared on the young man's face, and he was carefully gauging Han Li's reaction as he replied, "Given that they're the safest mode of transportation across the Thunderstorm Sea, the required fare is naturally quite steep, costing 500 top-grade spirit stones per person."

"I want to take a look at the boat," Han Li said in an expressionless manner.

The young man's heart began to pound in his chest upon hearing this, and he hurriedly replied, "Please come with me, Senior."

Even though he couldn't discern much from Han Li's reaction, if Han Li were to claim a spot on the boat, then he would receive a handsome reward from the trading house for the role that he played in guiding Han Li.

Chapter 176: Thunderstorm

Two months later.

In a pitch-black region of the Thunderstorm Sea, the seawater here was of a light purple color, and it stretched as far as the eyes could see.

Even without any wind, massive waves were still sweeping over the surface of the sea. At the moment, the wind was quite fierce, and that was only aiding in the formation of the waves.

The dark clouds in the sky were thick and dense and situated at an extremely low altitude, only six hundred to seven hundred feet above the surface of the sea.

It seemed that some of the taller waves surging over the sea were almost able to reach the clouds up above.

Thick bolts of lightning were occasionally flashing through the dark clouds, illuminating the sea down below amid rumbling thunderclaps, presenting a doomsday-like scene.

Right at this moment, yet another bolt of lightning pierced through the surface of the sea.

A massive shadow appeared beneath the dark clouds in the distance, and it was a giant boat that was hurtling rapidly through the air. The boat was several thousand feet long and over 100 feet tall.

It appeared to have been constructed from some type of wooden material, but this material somehow gave off a metallic appearance, and it was clearly extremely resolute and durable.

The surface of the boat was riddled with runes that were glowing with purple light, and it was also entirely covered in a thin translucent membrane.

Even though the giant purple boat was flying at as low an altitude as possible, it was still inevitably struck by some of the lightning that was crashing down from above.

However, despite how fearsome the bolts of lightning appeared, as soon as they struck that thin membrane on the giant boat, they were immediately repelled, leaving the boat completely unharmed.

The boat was divided up into a series of independent rooms, and each room had a window that allowed those staying inside to see what was outside.

Inside one of the rooms on the boat was a slightly chubby young man with a fair complexion, and he was looking out through the window at the giant bolts of lightning that were tearing through the heavens as he mused, "I'd always heard that the Thunderstorm Sea was an incredible place, and it's certainly living up to its reputation."

Behind him was a yellow-skinned middle-aged man who was seated with his legs crossed, and he was also looking out the window as he nodded in agreement. "Indeed, this is an extremely rare and spectacular sight to behold."

The yellow-skinned man was none other than Han Li, and the fair-skinned young man said in an excited manner, "I came from a mountainous region with a very dry climate, and we often go years without seeing any rain, so this is definitely a refreshing contrast."

Han Li merely smiled in response and remained silent.

The chubby young man's name was Sun Ke, and he was a Spatial Tempering cultivator. According to him, he was the young master of quite an affluent clan on the Primordial Wave Continent, and the two had met over a month ago.

At the time, Han Li had been staying in a secluded inn in Thunderclap City, waiting for the Seafaring Lightning Boat to set sail. However, on the night before the boat was scheduled to depart, Sun Ke was targeted in an assassination attempt while staying in the same inn.

Han Li didn't want to get involved in this matter, but the assassin was an overconfident Body Integration cultivator who planned to kill everyone in the entire inn in order to cover his tracks.

Unfortunately for him, he was slain by Han Li with ease.

Sun Ke was extremely grateful to Han Li for saving his life, and the two of them met once again the very next day on the port where the lightning boat was docked. Sun Ke was traveling to the Ancient Cloud Continent as well, and the two of them quickly became close acquaintances.

According to the Sun Ke, his assassin was an elder from his clan, and he had originally been instructed by the clan leader to protect him on his trip. However, he was bribed by Sun Ke's half-brother to have Sun Ke killed instead.

Thankfully, Sun Ke was able to discover his ploy in time, and he had several bodyguards who had been willing to sacrifice themselves in order to buy him time to escape. Only then was he able to flee all the way to Thunderclap City.

On the way here, he learned that some massive changes had taken place within his clan, and it was no longer a place that he could return to.

Hence, in order to completely distance himself from this mess, he decided to leave the Primordial Wave Continent altogether.

During their conversations, Han Li discovered that Sun Ke was a very knowledgeable person, and one of his hobbies was to learn about all types of general trivia and obscure historical events. Hence, he was quite happy to interact with and speak to Sun Ke as well.

After all, following his return to the Immortal Realm, he had spent a long time in the Black Wind Sea, which was quite an isolated place, so his knowledge of the rest of the immortal region was rather lacking.

Sun Ke was a wealth of knowledge, both important and trivial, and he really liked to impart his knowledge on others, but back in his clan, no one liked to hear him talk about these things. In contrast, Han Li was actively seeking out his knowledge and listening to everything that he said with keen attention, and that filled him with a sense of immense satisfaction. In addition to that, Han Li had saved his life, so over time, he naturally became very fond of Han Li.

"I've heard that the deeper one ventures into the Thunderstorm Sea, the more fearsome the lightning becomes. It hasn't been very long since we set off, yet the lightning outside is already this fearsome. Once we reach the deepest parts of the Thunderstorm Sea, the lightning there is said to be 10 times more powerful. Will this Seafaring Lightning Boat be able to handle that?" Han Li asked with slightly furrowed brows.

"Rest assured, Brother Li. This Seafaring Lightning Boat is crafted from the wood of a 100,000-year-old Urgent Lightning Tree, and this type of wood is extremely lightning-resistant. On top of that, according to my observation, the sap used for the lightning membrane on the surface of the boat came from an Urgent Lightning Tree that was at least 200,000 years old, so there won't be any issues," Sun Ke declared in a confident manner.

"I didn't think that you would be so familiar with the construction of this Seafaring Lightning Boat," Han Li praised.

"You're far too kind, Brother Li. The Black Feather Trading House actually shares some very close ties with my clan. I wonder when I'll be able to return there," Sun Ke sighed as a slightly dejected look appeared on his face.

Han Li remained silent as he rose to his feet, then cast his gaze out the window.

Even through the restrictions on the boat, he could still sense the incredibly formidable lightning aura outside, and it was resonating slightly with his Lightning Bird bloodline.

This was a perilous place, but it was definitely also a fantastic location for those using lightning-attribute cultivation arts.

However, the lightning in the Thunderstorm Sea wasn't the only dangerous thing about it.

Ever since the boat entered the Thunderstorm Sea, Han Li had detected that the spatial pressure in the area had begun to increase sharply.

The Immortal Realm had an abundance of the world's origin qi, and the spatial pressure here was also immense, thereby severely limiting his speed of movement and the effective range of his spiritual sense.

To his surprise, the spatial pressure in the Thunderstorm Sea was several times more severe than in other places, and he couldn't help but wonder why this was the case.

"Brother Sun, I'm sure you can feel the spatial pressure here as well. Why is there such tremendous spatial pressure in this area?" he asked.

"I've tried to find an answer to that question myself in the past, but I'm afraid I wasn't able to find anything concrete. Some people say that this is the result of a battle between a pair of Dao Ancestors that took place here long ago, while others speculate that there's an enormous lightning beast concealed within the Thunderstorm Sea, but both of these are just unsubstantiated rumors," Sun Ke replied as he scratched his head in a slightly embarrassed manner.

"It's rare to see something that even you don't know the answer to," Han Li chuckled.

Initially, the scenery outside was extremely stunning to behold, but over time, it eventually grew stale, and Sun Ke quickly lost interest in the spectacle as he bade farewell to Han Li and returned to his own room.

Han Li swept a sleeve through the air to set up a restriction in the room, then summoned his Twin Starshift Plate before casting several incantation seals onto it, and the array plate immediately began to glow brightly.

A long while later, the light radiating from the array plate faded, and Han Li was left to look at the ball of egg-sized heavy water hovering above the palm of his hand with a wry smile on his face.

At this point in his journey, the Twin Starshift Plate's transmission ability had taken another severe hit, and even after such a long time, it was only able to transmit a tiny amount of heavy water to him.

He shook his head as he stowed the array plate and the ball of heavy water away, then flipped a hand over to produce a series of thick books that he began poring over.

The Thunderstorm Sea was extremely vast, and it would take at least two to three years to get to the other side.

Time flew by quickly, and over half a year passed by in the blink of an eye.



The lightning in the clouds was becoming more and more concentrated, indicating that the Seafaring Lightning Boat was gradually reaching the deepest parts of the Thunderstorm Sea.

Han Li was standing in front of his window, looking at the dark clouds outside. Thick bolts of lightning were regularly flashing through the clouds one after another, almost perpetually illuminating the sea with their radiance.

Most of the lightning was only raging in the clouds, and only a small proportion of them would actually come crashing down.

Due to how massive the boat was, it was regularly struck by lightning.

In this area, the bolts of lightning were far thicker and more powerful than before. Each time the boat was struck by a bolt of lightning, it would tremble while the lightning membrane on its surface rippled, but there was no sign of any damage being caused.

Han Li was staring at the lightning flashing outside through his window with deep focus and concentration in his eyes.

The lightning here appeared to be completely chaotic and haphazard, but it harbored some profound laws of nature, and watching the permutations in the lightning aided him in improving his mastery of lightning.

Right at this moment, the dark clouds up above suddenly began to churn like the surface of the sea down below, and the lightning in the clouds also began to surge violently, as if there were some gigantic objects crashing against one another inside.

Han Li was quite intrigued to see this, but he had already witnessed similar scenes many times on this journey, so he wasn't too surprised.

The Seafaring Lightning Boat began to glow with bright purple light as it immediately changed directions and fled into the distance.

The boat was extremely fast, but not as fast as the changes taking place in the clouds, and a massive vortex took shape in the blink of an eye.

All of the nearby lightning around the vortex was drawn toward it, converging into a dense clump of lightning that was so bright and concentrated that it forced any onlookers to avert their eyes.

A burst of terrifying rumbling rang out, and the boat accelerated to its top speed, attempting to fly out of the area encompassed under the vortex as quickly as possible.

In the next instant, the center of the massive vortex abruptly lit up, and countless thick bolts of lightning came crashing down onto the sea, encompassing an area with a radius of several thousand kilometers.

Each bolt of lightning resembled a massive tree, forming an enormous forest of lightning, causing the sea down below to churn and boil incessantly.

Thankfully, at this point, the Seafaring Lightning Boat had already just barely flown out of the area encompassed under the vortex, so it managed to avoid the forest of lightning.

Han Li's eyes were flashing with amazement as he watched the unfolding spectacle.

This was a renowned thunderstorm that the Thunderstorm Sea received its name from, and there were many types of thunderstorms, with this type of vortex thunderstorm being one of the more common types.

## Chapter 177: Deep Sea Giant Clam

Aside from this lightning vortex, Han Li had also witnessed even more terrifying types of thunderstorms, such as the mist tide thunderstorm and the tornado thunderstorm.

However, just as Sun Ke said, the Seafaring Lightning Boat was extremely resolute, and it was able to weather the storms just fine.

The boat continued onward, covering a distance of several hundred kilometers in just a few seconds to leave the vortex in the clouds behind.

After releasing that forest of lightning, the vortex began to slowly vanish, starting from its outermost parts, and soon, all that remained was a black hole in the middle, and that was quickly about to disappear as well.

Han Li was just about to withdraw his gaze when he spotted a blurry shadow in the black hole out of his peripheral vision.

However, it was too far away, and there were still some remnants of lightning lingering in the air as visual disruption, so he wasn't able to see the shadow clearly.

Out of curiosity, he released his spiritual sense toward the black hole.

At this point, they were already deep in the Thunderstorm Sea, so the spatial pressure permeating throughout the area was extremely potent. As a result, even his spiritual sense was only able to extend to several hundred kilometers away at most, only just barely reaching the black hole.

All of a sudden, Han Li's expression changed drastically, and he almost jumped up in alarm.

Through his spiritual sense, he had detected that the shadow within the black hole was a gargantuan eye.

The eye was several thousand feet in size and orange in color. Inside the eye's giant pupil was a long and thin vertical vein that was flashing with a cold light.

This was already as far Han Li's spiritual sense could go, so he was unable to glean the full appearance of the owner of the eye.

However, judging from the size of the orange eye alone, it had to have been far more massive than any living being that Han Li had ever seen before.

Right at this moment, the orange eye seemed to have detected Han Li's spiritual sense, and it turned slightly to "look" in Han Li's direction.

A sense of foreboding immediately welled up in Han Li's heart, and he hurriedly tried to withdraw his spiritual sense, but it was already too late.

A terrifying aura swept toward him from afar, slamming into his soul like a heavy blow from a hammer.

He immediately threw up a large mouthful of blood, and his face turned deathly pale.

His soul began to tremble violently like a candle flame flickering in a gust of fierce wind, looking as if it could be snuffed out at any moment.

He hurriedly activated his Spirit Refinement Technique, and his spiritual sense transformed into countless translucent threads that enveloped his soul to stabilize it.

The translucent threads intertwined with one another to form a series of translucent chains that wrapped around his soul layer upon layer, and thankfully, that was enough to hold it together.

He opened his eyes before quickly devouring a few pills, then flipped a hand over to produce a small jade vial that was half-filled with a type of light purple liquid, which was giving off a peculiar aroma.

Han Li immediately tipped his head back and drank a large mouthful of the fluid.

This was a type of soul-nurturing spirit liquid that he had made from some Soulbirth Flower fluid left behind from his Earthly Deity Avatar refinement, and it was very effective for treating spiritual damage.

Thanks to the combination of the pills and the spirit liquid, his complexion was beginning to improve, and he took a deep breath before taking another glance outside.

The Seafaring Lightning Boat was traveling extremely quickly, and at this point, it had already completely departed from that area of the sea. The black hole in the clouds had also disappeared, having been concealed by other clouds.

However, Han Li didn't dare to let his guard down, and with a sweep of his sleeve, he released several hundred bursts of light in rapid succession, setting up one restriction after another throughout his room.

All of a sudden, a long black saber appeared in his hand amid a flash of light, and it was none other than the weapon that he had acquired from Fang Pan.

Through his examination, he had already verified that this saber was an Acquired Immortal Treasure of a decent caliber. It contained a type of extremely destructive law powers, and that was why it was able to slice through the defenses of Han Li's Giant Mountain Ape transformation.

However, up to this point, he hadn't been able to determine exactly which type of law powers it contained.

At the same time, several spirit treasures had also been summoned, circling around him in a wary fashion.

The Seafaring Lightning Boat continued onward, and soon, close to an hour had passed by without any further mishap.

Only at this point was Han Li finally convinced that the crisis had been averted, and he stowed the black saber and the spirit treasures away, but the surrounding restrictions remained.

He then sat down with his legs crossed, then closed his eyes as a layer of azure light appeared over his body.

Several days later, the azure light faded, and Han Li slowly exhaled as he reopened his eyes.

His complexion was already looking far better, and the spiritual damage that he had sustained was also close to halfway healed.

What on earth was that thing?

There was still a hint of lingering fear in Han Li's heart as he thought back to that giant eye.

Even though the contact had only been extremely brief, he was still able to clearly sense the insurmountable gap between himself and the owner of the giant eye. He felt like an ant staring into the eye of a giant, and just that single glance had almost been enough to destroy his soul.

He had heard from Sun Ke that that there were some extremely powerful lightning beasts that had the innate ability to control lightning residing in the Thunderstorm Sea, but according to Sun Ke, even the most formidable of those lightning beasts were only comparable in power to True Immortal cultivators, which was most definitely not the case of the owner of that giant eye.

With that in mind, he suddenly recalled something else that he had heard from Sun Ke, which was that it was speculated that the reason why there was such immense spiritual pressure in the Thunderstorm Sea was because there was a gargantuan beast residing deep within it.

Could it be that this rumor was true, and that the gargantuan beast in question was the owner of the eye?

Han Li only entertained this train of thought for a moment before shaking his head.

There was no point in considering such matters, and all he could do now was pray that he didn't encounter anything else that formidable.

Close to half a year later.

Inside a spacious room that was several hundred feet in size on the top floor of the Seafaring Lightning Boat, there were some tables and chairs, with each table separated by some elegant screens or bonsai trees.

It appeared that this was a restaurant, and the windows around the room were quite large, granting the patrons of the restaurant an exceptional view of the Thunderstorm Sea outside.

The journey to cross the entire Thunderstorm Sea was one that took several years, and it was quite boring to constantly stay in one's room all the time, so there were some amenities like restaurants and teahouses on the boat.

At this point, everyone on the boat had already become accustomed to the sights and scenes of the Thunderstorm Sea, and people had gradually begun visiting the restaurant as a form of relaxation.

At one of the tables sat Sun Ke and Han Li across from one another.

Sun Ke wore a bright smile as he filled his and Han Li's cups with the contents of an intricate dark red flagon in his hand.

"This is the renowned Red Crane Wine from my hometown, Brother Li. Its flavor is quite exquisite," Sun Ke said with a smile.

Han Li offered no response as he picked up the cup before taking a small sip.

Sun Ke was quite an avid drinker, and his storage treasures were filled with all types of delectable wines, but drinking alone was rather depressing, so he would often ask Han Li to drink with him.

After having some drinks, Sun Ke would often begin telling Han Li about some of the interesting stories pertaining to the Immortal Realm that he had seen from the books that he had read in the past, so Han Li was quite happy to drink with Sun Ke.

This Red Crane Wine was sweet and gentle, producing a slight heat in one's dantian following consumption. Han Li could tell that it would be quite beneficial to the cultivation of low and mid-grade cultivators, but its effects on him were quite minimal.

He held his cup as he cast his gaze outside.

Through the window, he could clearly see that the dark clouds had become even denser than before, and just the mere sight of the thick bolts of lightning tearing through the sky struck the beholder with a primordial fear.

The boat had already reached the very center of the Thunderstorm Sea, and the restrictions around the boat had been activated to their maximal capacity, while its speed had also decreased significantly.

"What a stunning place this is. It's a pity that I'm too weak to venture outside. Otherwise, I would be sure to explore this Thunderstorm Sea to my heart's content. According to writings left behind by some immortals, the Thunderstorm Sea is home to countless rare and precious lightning-attribute materials that are impossible to find anywhere else, and there are even supposed to be treasures that contain the power of lightning laws here," Sun Ke sighed as he also cast his gaze out the window.

"Risk and reward have always come hand in hand. The more perilous a place is, the greater the rewards that can often be reaped there," Han Li said.

"Indeed, Brother Li," Sun Ke chuckled as he filled Han Li's cup again.

Right at this moment, the dark clouds outside began to churn once again, and this time, the affected area was extremely massive. All of the lightning clouds stretching as far as the eyes could see were surging violently, as if the sky were about to collapse.

"Looks like another thunderstorm is coming," Sun Ke said with a hint of apprehension on his face.

Han Li rose to his feet and began making his way toward the entrance of the restaurant.

The restaurant was situated on the top floor of the Seafaring Lightning Boat, so whenever a thunderstorm took place, it would be struck by violent tremors, and that was why everyone had to vacate the restaurant during thunderstorms.

Countless bolts of lightning were flashing through the air like giant serpents, and every single one of them was several thousand feet in length.



Each bolt of lightning that struck the water down below would instantly cause the surface of the sea to explode.

"It's a wandering serpent thunderstorm!"

Everyone in the restaurant quickly departed to seek refuge in the lower levels of the boat.

The wandering serpent thunderstorm was the most formidable of all types of thunderstorms. In order to weather the storm, the Seafaring Lightning Boat had completely stopped in its tracks, darting from left to right as quickly as it could to avoid being struck by the enormous bolts of lightning.

"Well, this is rather depressing. I'm going back to my room for now, Brother Li," Sun Ke said with a slightly dejected expression, then made his way back to his room.

Han Li was watching the unfolding thunderstorm through the window beside him, and he was just about to retire to his room as well when he suddenly spotted something that caught his attention.

The surface of the sea roughly 200 to 300 kilometers away from the boat had suddenly begun to churn, and a giant vortex had appeared.

A round blue object that was several thousand feet in size emerged from within the vortex, revealing itself to be an enormous clam. The clam's blue shell was riddled with countless lightning-shaped patterns, and it was giving off an immense True Immortal Stage aura.

The giant clam shell slowly opened up, and two purple feelers that resembled elephant tusks emerged from within, while plumes of purple mist were billowing out of the holes at the center of the feelers' tips.

All of a sudden, a ball of purple light that was around the size of a human head shot out of the clam shell.

It was an object with thick arcs of purple lightning revolving around it, and the purple lightning was so bright that it was impossible to see what was inside, but it appeared to have been a ball of some sort.

As soon as this object appeared, all of the surrounding lightning immediately began to churn violently before converging toward the ball and surging into it.

After absorbing those bolts of lightning, the lightning radiating from the purple ball had become even brighter.

A string of strange sounds rang out from within the giant clam shell, and it seemed that the clam was roaring with excitement.

Han Li was rather intrigued by the sight of that purple ball.

His spiritual sense was only just barely able to reach the clam, but he could still clearly sense that the purple ball was giving off extremely potent law power fluctuations.

He didn't know if the ball was the clam's pearl, but it was definitely imbued with tremendous lightning law powers.

After a brief moment of contemplation, he quickly returned to his room, then released a series of array flags with a sweep of his sleeve to set up several restrictions.

After that, he flew out of his room as an invisible shadow.

Even though there were some restrictions around the boat, they naturally didn't affect him, and as soon as he left the boat, he immediately flipped a hand over to produce his High Zenith Invisibility Talisman, allowing him to bypass the restrictions with ease before flying toward the giant clam.

## Chapter 178: Taking the Clam's Pearl

The violent thunderstorm showed no signs of abating anytime soon.

At the center of the vortex, the shell of the giant clam opened up slightly, releasing arcs of lightning to envelop the purple bead. The arcs of lightning intertwined to form a giant mouth of lightning that was greedily devouring the boundless power of lightning in the surrounding area.

It was clear that this formidable storm was providing the clam with the ideal cultivation conditions.

Right at this moment, a strange cry rang out from the distance.

It was an extremely loud cry that was audible even through the relentless chorus of booming thunderclaps.

The shell of the giant clam suddenly stirred slightly, and a speck of green light appeared within the darkness inside the shell. That seemed to have been the eye of the clam, and it had turned to the direction that the sound had come from.

Far away on the horizon, a black shadow had emerged and was rapidly approaching, appearing on the scene in the blink of an eye.

It was an enormous purple whale the size of an island, and its two massive eyes were gleaming with greed and yearning as it stared intently at the purple bead above the clam.

Furthermore, a tremendous aura that exceeded even the giant clam's was emanating from its body.

However, the clam didn't immediately withdraw its bead. Instead, its shell opened up even further, and two thick bolts of purple lightning erupted out from within, hurtling toward the whale like a pair of lightning dragons.

The space in the wake of the bolts of purple lightning shuddered violently as a charred smell wafted through the air, as if the very space itself had been scorched by the purple lightning.

A solemn look appeared in the giant whale's eyes at the sight of the oncoming bolts of lightning, and it opened its cavernous mouth to reveal a mouthful of massive white fangs before biting viciously down onto the purple lightning.

A layer of black electricity surfaced over its teeth as it brought its jaws shut in a forceful motion, biting the two bolts of lightning into halves.

A resounding thunderclap rang out, and the two bolts of purple lightning were quickly dispelled.

A black hole then appeared on the whale's back, and black light flashed within the hole, following which an inky-black bolt of lightning shot out from within, transforming into a black lightning wyrm that was several thousand feet in length in the blink of an eye. The lightning wyrm sprang through the air in a menacing fashion, reaching the giant clam in the blink of an eye.

The clam let loose a low roar as the purple ball above its head stopped devouring the lightning in the surrounding area, then appeared in front of it in a flash to clash against the oncoming black lightning wyrm.

An earth-shattering thunderclap rang out as the black lightning wyrm exploded into balls of lightning of different sizes, which instantly encompassed the entire surrounding area in a radius of close to 10 kilometers, swallowing up the giant clam in the process.

Bolts of dazzling black lightning flashed through the air as thunderclaps and explosions rang out in unison to produce an astounding commotion.

Right at this moment, the countless arcs of black lightning in the air suddenly converged toward a single spot, then vanished in the blink of an eye as if they had been devoured by something.

As a result, the giant clam was revealed once again, and it was completely unharmed.

At this moment, the purple ball in front of it was flashing with black lightning, and it was clear that it had just devoured the black lightning unleashed by the whale.

The massive whale let loose a roar of fury upon seeing this, and it whipped its giant tail forcefully through the air as arcs of black lightning surfaced over its entire body, following which it threw itself at the clam like a gargantuan cannon ball.

The clam wasn't backing down in the slightest, and arcs of purple lightning emerged over its shell as it threw itself at the whale as well.

A ferocious battle ensued between the two enormous creatures, further contributing to the commotion caused by the wandering serpent thunderstorm.

In the heat of battle, neither of the two beasts had noticed that there was a blurry humanoid figure standing less than 10 kilometers away from them. It was none other than Han Li, who had completely concealed his own aura.

Thanks to the effects of his High Zenith Invisibility Talisman, even if someone were standing right beside him, they wouldn't be able to detect his presence unless their spiritual sense was far superior to his.

At this moment, he was watching the fierce battle taking place before him with an unblinking gaze.

He could clearly sense the astonishing law fluctuations emanating from the purple ball, and there was a hint of yearning in his eyes.

If he weren't mistaken, the ball contained the power of lightning laws. He had previously seen some precious materials that contained law powers, but regardless of whether it was the eye of the Primordial Fei Beast, the Great Earth Fruits, or the Sea Condensing Crystal, none of them contained anywhere near the volume of law powers as what was in this ball.

The giant clam had most likely already spent countless millennia nurturing the ball.

Han Li took a deep breath to suppress his excitement, then continued to slowly close in on the pair of giant beasts while still in his invisible form.

He could sense that the clam and the whale were at the early-True Immortal Stage and the mid-True Immortal Stage, respectively. Of course, this was only relative to human cultivation standards. Given the exceptional immortal aptitude of these immortal spirit beasts, they often possessed far more immortal spiritual power than human cultivators of the same level, and that allowed them to hold their own against cultivators of a superior cultivation base.

Han Li didn't fear the prospect of facing them in battle, but he would rather avoid having to face them if possible.

Hence, at the moment, he was pondering how he could secure the purple ball before fleeing the scene without being forced into a confrontation.

Han Li continued to slowly approach the pair of giant creatures, and before long, he was no more than four kilometers away. However, he failed to notice the extremely faint purple mist permeating through the area around the giant clam, and he inadvertently came into contact with it.

As soon as this happened, the giant clam immediately swung around, and the speck of green light within its shell seemed to have suddenly turned to Han Li.

In the next instant, its shell opened up wide, and a thick bolt of purple lightning came crashing toward Han Li at an incredible speed.

Looks like my cover's been blown!

A cold look appeared on his face as arcs of silver lightning surfaced over his body, and he transformed into a bolt of silver lightning to evade the attack. He then appeared right in between the pair of giant beasts in the blink of an eye before grabbing onto the purple ball.

However, to his surprise, the ball was extraordinarily heavy despite the fact that it was only the size of a human head, and it refused to budge, even in the face of his enormous strength.

Both the clam and the whale flew into a thunderous rage upon seeing this, and they immediately joined forces to turn on Han Li.

Two bolts of purple lightning and one bolt of black lightning were sent hurtling toward Han Li in unison.

On top of that, a flurry of purple lightning began to spiral around the purple ball, striking Han Li's palm like a series of purple lightning blades.

Han Li's expression darkened slightly, but he displayed no intention of taking evasive measures.

He let loose a low roar as bright golden light appeared over his entire body, and he instantly took on his Giant Mountain Ape form. At the same time, countless golden scales appeared over his body and the palm of his hand.

The purple and black lightning struck the golden ape in unison, causing it to stumble in an unsteady manner.

The scales on the parts of its body that had been struck by the lightning had been broken to reveal the charred skin and flesh underneath, but the wounds weren't very deep.

Meanwhile, the purple blades of lightning around the purple ball had also sliced through the scales on the palm of his hand, causing him to bleed profusely.

The giant ape paid no heed to these injuries as it made a forceful grabbing motion to lock the purple ball firmly in its grasp, following which it shot back in retreat as quickly as it could.

At the same time, dazzling golden light erupted out of the palm of its hand to envelop the purple ball, attempting to forcibly sever its connection with the giant clam.

The purple ball began to struggle violently while flashing with purple lightning, illuminating the giant ape's hand into a semi-transparent purple color as it attempted to break free.

The giant clam roared with fury as it sprang out of the vortex on the surface of the sea, pouncing toward the golden ape like a living mountain.

After launching itself up into the air, its shell sprang open, and dazzling purple lightning appeared on its surface as countless bolts of lightning came crashing down from the dark clouds up above before converging onto its shell.

A burst of light surged over the shell, and all of the purple electricity transformed into a layer of dark purple light that struck the beholder with a sense of foreboding.

The clam shell then moved once again, and two crescent-shaped streaks of purple light were sent flying through the air, hurtling rapidly toward the golden ape while leaving ripples that were visible even to the naked eye in the space in its wake.

The lightning whale also pounced at the giant ape with a furious roar, and countless arcs of black lightning had already gathered together in its cavernous mouth.

Immediately thereafter, around a dozen massive balls of black lightning shot out of its mouth, hurtling rapidly toward the golden ape as well.

The giant ape's pupils contracted slightly upon seeing this. It was already retreating at an incredible speed, but the attacks from the pair of lightning beasts were even faster, catching up to the giant ape in the blink of an eye.

However, the golden ape remained calm and collected as dazzling golden light erupted from its body, and several massive projections, including that of the Golden Dragon, the Five-colored Phoenix, the Lightning Bird, and the Azure Luan Bird had appeared behind it before instantly fusing into its body.

Immediately thereafter, the giant ape's body swelled drastically in size as it transformed into a devilish deity that was over 10,000 feet tall in the blink of an eye. Countless purplish-golden scales had appeared over its body, and it was giving off an almighty aura of destruction.

A burst of tremendous power erupted out of its body, causing all of the oncoming purple lightning and balls of black lightning to stop cold in their tracks.

At the same time, bright purplish-golden light glowed from the hand of the devilish deity that was holding the purple ball, and a dull cracking sound rang out as the lightning around the purple ball was forcibly crushed, severing the connection between the ball and the giant clam.

The clam shuddered as a look of vicious resentment appeared in its eyes, and it let loose an enraged roar as around a dozen bolts of purple lightning were sent hurtling toward the devilish deity at once.



The devilish deity flipped a hand over to stow the purple ball away, and at the same time, the black saber that he had acquired from Fang Pan appeared in his hand.

A layer of dazzling black light appeared over the surface of the black saber, and all of the world's origin qi in the nearby space shuddered before beginning to surge into the saber, forming a massive vortex of energy.

The black saber immediately swelled drastically in size, transforming into a giant black blade that was over 1,000 feet in length.

Countless black runes appeared all over the surface of the saber, and rings of black light proliferated through the air in all directions, carrying powerful law fluctuations that caused the surrounding space to tremble and shudder.

A hint of surprise appeared in Han Li's eyes upon seeing this.

The black saber had been quite formidable in Fang Pan's hands, but it definitely hadn't been this fearsome. Could it be that his Holy Nirvana Physique had better synergy with the power of laws contained in the black saber?

This thought only appeared in Han Li's mind for a moment before he refocused on the battle at hand, and the muscles on his arm bulged as he slashed the saber viciously through the air.

A resounding boom rang out as the black runes surged violently, and a crescent-shaped black saber projection that was several thousand feet in length was unleashed, clashing against the oncoming purple lightning and balls of black lightning.

The black saber projection was able to destroy the oncoming attacks with ease, and its power wasn't diminished in the slightest as it continued to sweep toward the pair of massive lightning beasts.

A tremendous burst of law powers came crashing down upon the two lightning beasts, and the space around them had abruptly turned as hard as a block of metal.

The pair of massive beasts immediately stopped cold in their tracks, seemingly quite wary of the oncoming attack.

The giant clam hurriedly closed its shell, and purple lightning flashed all around it, forming a massive ball of purple lightning that served as a protective barrier.

Meanwhile, the lightning whale let loose a thunderous roar as it released a millstone-sized black ball out of its mouth, and the ball was giving off an enormous aura with arcs of black lightning flashing around it.

As soon as the black ball emerged, it rapidly swelled to the size of a small mountain to shield the lightning whale behind it.

#### Chapter 179: Arriving on a New Continent

The crescent-shaped saber projection crashed into the bodies of the two lightning beasts, and a scintillating black sun instantly appeared out of thin air to envelop both creatures.

In the next instant, the black sun exploded violently amid an earth-shattering boom, causing the nearby space to twist and warp.

Rings of black shockwaves swept through the air in all directions, destroying everything in their path.

Only after a long while did these black shockwaves subside to reveal the giant clam and the lightning whale.

At this point, all of the purple lightning around the giant clam had already vanished, and a series of cracks had appeared on its shell, out of which blue blood was seeping out incessantly.

The lightning whale was in an even more sorry state. The black ball in front of it had reverted back to its original size, and its surface was riddled with cracks.

Furthermore, there were several huge wounds on the lightning whale's body that extended all the way from its head to its tail. The wounds weren't very deep, but the sea around it had still been stained red by its blood.

As for Han Li, he was already nowhere to be seen.

The giant clam's shell opened up slightly, revealing its glowing green eye, which was flashing erratically in alarm and fear.

Even though it had lost the prized object that it had been nurturing for countless millennia, it had managed to survive the attack, and it could always create another pearl given more time.

On the other side, the lightning whale opened its mouth to swallow the black ball, and its eyes were also filled with alarm and unease.

At the same time, the wandering serpent thunderstorm was slowly subsiding.

The pair of giant beasts exchanged a glance with one another, and they naturally had no intention of continuing their battle as they slowly descended into the depths and went their separate ways.

Meanwhile, the Seafaring Lightning Boat was already several thousand kilometers away, and Han Li abruptly reappeared in his room in a flash.

Only after setting up several more restrictions in his room did he sit down with his legs crossed. He then flipped a hand over to summon the black saber, and there was a hint of elation in his eyes.

During that battle, he had finally developed an understanding of the black saber's power. Even though its destructive power couldn't compare with that of the Profound Heavenly Spiritlash Sword, he finally had a strong immortal treasure in his possession.

However, the saber still didn't truly feel like an extension of his body yet, and he would have to refine it for some time to achieve perfect synergy with the weapon.

With that in mind, he opened his mouth to release a ball of azure flames to envelop the saber, then devoured it into his belly.

After that, he flipped his hand over once again to produce the head-sized purple ball.

The ball wasn't perfectly spherical in shape. Instead, it was an ovular object that was as translucent as jade and dark purple in color.

At this moment, there wasn't even a single arc of lightning on its surface. Instead, it was giving off a purple glow, while faint law fluctuations were emanating from within.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly as he inspected the object. He had thought that this would be the giant clam's demon core, but upon closer inspection, he discovered that this didn't seem to have been the case.

It was said that demon beasts that reached the True Immortal Stage no longer had demon cores. Instead, they would manifest nascent souls, just like human cultivators.

Once they mastered the power of laws, they would mostly deposit those law powers in a certain part of their body. For example, the Primordial Fei Beast that Han Li had slain had deposited its power of time laws in its single eye.

However, there were also some True Immortal Stage demon beasts that focused the essence in their bodies around the power of laws that they had mastered to form a demon root.

Unlike demon cores, demon roots weren't vital to the survival of True Immortal Stage demon beasts. Instead, they were more like naturally occurring treasures, and every single one of them was extremely precious.

Han Li shook his head to rid himself of that train of thought, then cupped the ball in both hands and slowly injected his immortal spiritual power into it.

As a result, the purple light glowing from the ball brightened a little, but no further change was observed.

Han Li's brows furrowed slightly upon seeing this, and after a moment of contemplation, he released some arcs of silver lightning into the purple ball.

The purple ball immediately began to glow brightly, and arcs of purple lightning that were as thick as a grown man's arm emerged over its surface amid a string of dull thunderclaps.

Arcs of purple lightning that were as thin as strands of spider silk had also appeared within the ball, and upon closer inspection, one would discover that they were formed by countless lightning runes, which were constantly changing forms while giving off formidable lightning law power fluctuations.

An elated look appeared on Han Li's face upon seeing this, and he began scrutinizing the lightning runes within the purple ball intently, trying to glean the secrets of lightning laws through his observation.

Close to a year passed by in the blink of an eye.

At this moment, the purple ball was hovering in mid-air as it slowly revolved on the spot with arcs of purple lightning flashing all around it.

Han Li was seated with his legs crossed and his eyes closed beneath the purple ball, and he was observing all of the changes taking place in the ball through the use of his spiritual sense.

A long while later, he opened his eyes, then heaved a resigned sigh as he swept a sleeve through the air.

The purple lightning flashing over the surface of the ball instantly faded, following which it fell into his hand.

Even after observing the purple ball for close to a year, he was no closer at all to mastering the laws of lightning.

"Looks like I was too naïve," he murmured to himself with a wry smile.

The powers of laws were extremely profound, and no small degree of fortune was required to master such powers. Even though he had obtained a ball that contained the power of lightning laws, that was certainly no guarantee that he would definitely be able to master the laws of lightning.

Even though he was already prepared for such an outcome, he still couldn't help but feel a little disappointed.

Having said that, this hadn't been a completely fruitless endeavor.

Following this near-year-long stint of observation, he had developed a more thorough understanding of the power of lightning, and his proficiency in the control of lightning had also improved in subtle ways.

Han Li set the purple ball down beside him, then drew a ball of heavy water out of his True Water Pouch.

After that, he pointed a finger at the purple ball, and arcs of purple lightning emerged, fusing with the ball of heavy water at his behest.

As soon as the two made contact with one another, they immediately began to reject each other fiercely.

Han Li remained calm and collected upon seeing this, making a rapid series of hand seals to release a string of incantation seals that enveloped the purple lightning and heavy water from all directions, forcing the two to slowly combine and integrate with one another.

Three days later, Han Li was holding a fist-sized ball in his hand with some purple lightning patterns on its surface.

This was another ball of Heavy Water Veined Lightning, except this time, he had used the purple lightning from the purple ball.

Even though he hadn't tested it out, he could tell that it was definitely more formidable than the Heavy Water Veined Lightning he had refined using the power of the Lightning Bird.

A faint smile appeared on his face as he flipped a hand over to stow the ball of lightning away, following which he took a glance out the window.

After such a long journey, the Seafaring Lightning Boat had already left the central region of the Thunderstorm Sea, and the lightning flashing through the dark clouds in the sky had clearly become more sparse.

At this point, over half of the journey had already passed by, and he would be arriving on the Ancient Cloud Continent in just two or three more years.

This was a very encouraging thought for Han Li, and he drew another ball of heavy heavy water out of his True Water Pouch.

He had to make some extensive preparations prior to reaching the Ancient Cloud Continent.

.....

Three years later.

There was a snow-covered cliff that was over 100,000 feet tall and shaped like an eagle's beak.

Atop the cliff stood a grand and imposing pass that was over 1,000 feet tall and constructed from some type of dark red stone material, and there was a golden plaque that carried the name "Eagle Beak Pass" hanging above the pass.

Beneath the cliff was a sea of white clouds that extended for tens of thousands of kilometers, with mountain summits poking through the clouds at intervals of several dozen kilometers. Those mountain summits resembled islands on a vast sea, and they appeared to have been quite tiny and insignificant, but in reality, all of them belonged to majestic mountains that were hundreds of thousands of feet tall.

These mountains belonged to the vastly renowned Crane Call Mountain Range of the Ancient Cloud Continent, and even though this was only a remote branch of the mountain range, it was still an exceptional visual spectacle.

It was very early in the morning, and the sun was only just beginning to rise, basking the entire sea of clouds in a warm, golden glow.

The clouds surged and churned in the face of the cold mountain wind, presenting a stunning sight to behold.

All of a sudden, what sounded like a string of cow moos rang out. The sound was very low and deep, but was also extremely penetrative and rang out across the entire sky.

At the same time, a gigantic creature was breaking through the vast expanse of golden clouds as it slowly flew toward the Eagle Beak Pass.

The creature was several thousand feet in size, and it resembled a dark green turtle. Its four massive flippers resembled a set of oars that were slowly moving through the clouds, propelling the enormous creature forward.

A three-story louchuan-like structure that exhibited exceptional craftsmanship had been constructed on the shell of the giant turtle, and it was complete with engraved golden and jade pillars, presenting a lavish sight to behold.

At this moment, there were several hundred people standing on the deck of the louchuan, most of whom were appreciating the scenery around them with relaxed and carefree expressions.

At the very front of the louchuan, situated closest to the turtle's head, was an azure-robed man with a medium build. He was holding onto the thick and sturdy dark wood railing in front of him as he cast his gaze toward the Eagle Beak Pass in the distance.

The man was none other than Han Li, who had traveled here from the Primordial Wave Continent.



After arriving at the Seafaring Lightning Boat, he had parted ways with Sun Ke, and the giant turtle that he was riding at this moment was a beast by the name of the Cloudfaring Turtle.

Despite their enormous size, these creatures had a very gentle and mild personality that made them easy to tame. At the same time, they had an enormous load capacity and were able to travel through the sky at extremely high altitudes, so they were often kept by large trading houses to serve as a mode of long-distance transportation.

Not all of the cities on the Ancient Cloud Continent had teleportation arrays, and having only just arrived on this new continent, Han Li was still yet to find his footing, so he decided to pay the fare to take the Cloudfaring Turtle. Along the way, he would be able to familiarize himself with the Ancient Cloud Continent.

The giant turtle let loose another long call as the edge of its shell made contact with the port of the Eagle Beak Pass, resulting in some slight tremors that quickly subsided.

Ushered by the manager of the Cloudfaring Turtle, all of the passengers began to make their way down a wooden ladder constructed along the slope of the turtle's shell to step onto the tall cliff.

Han Li followed the stream of disembarking passengers onto the cliff, and he couldn't help but look up at the imposing pass before him.

According to his map, he had officially reached the central region of the Ancient Cloud Continent.

## Chapter 180: Detection

There were over 200 people who had disembarked here with Han Li, and the majority of them were humans, while the rest were beings from other races, and there were several mortals among those humans.

In reality, these people weren't actually just ordinary mortals. Instead, they focused solely on refinement of the physical body, much like the body refinement cultivators of the Spirit Realm.

Everyone made their way down the mountain path, and upon entering through the gate of the pass, they arrived in a spacious hall.

The hall was virtually completely empty with the exception of a sandalwood table that was around three feet in length situated in one corner of the hall. On the table sat an incense burner, out of which incense smoke was billowing out incessantly.

Through the thin veil of smoke, Han Li could see a purple-robed elderly man with white hair and a white beard sitting on a taishi chair behind the table. The elderly man's eyes were closed, and his head was bobbing back and forth slightly, making it impossible to tell whether he was meditating or taking a nap.

His aura indicated that he was a Grand Ascension cultivator, and right as Han Li was about to avert his gaze from the elderly man, the latter suddenly opened his eyes before fixing his gaze on Han Li.

At the same time, an elderly voice suddenly rang out in Han Li's heart.

"I won't ask why you've intentionally suppressed your cultivation base from the True Immortal Stage to the Body Integration Stage, but now that you've entered the territory of our Blaze Dragon Dao, you must follow the rules of our sect."

"Please enlighten me," Han Li replied through voice transmission.

He wasn't bothered by the slightly threatening tone of the elderly man's voice. The only thing that was rather perplexing to him was how the man had been able to glean his true cultivation base despite the fact that he was only a Grand Ascension cultivator.

"Rest assured, Senior, our Blaze Dragon Dao most definitely has the good grace to tolerate outsiders. However, as a True Immortal, you must remember at all times that you are not allowed to meddle in the affairs of the mortal world, and you certainly can't disrupt the order of the mortal world and kill mortals for no good reason," the purple-robed elderly man elaborated.

"Thank you for informing me of this. Those rules sound very reasonable," Han Li replied.

Seeing as Han Li was willing to comply, the tone of the purple-robed elderly man's voice instantly became more polite as he said, "In that case, I wish you a smooth and fruitful journey, Senior."

Han Li gave the elderly man a slight nod, then turned to follow everyone to the gate on the other side of the hall.

Outside the gate was a huge white plaza, where there were many beast-drawn carriages, some of which could gallop through the mountains, while others could soar through the heavens, and they were mostly catering toward the mortal body refinement cultivators.

On the mountains further away were layers of white forest that resembled jade belts, reflecting the light of the sun.

As soon as he arrived on the Ancient Cloud Continent, Han Li clearly noticed that the temperature here was far lower than anywhere else on the Primordial Wave Continent, and the climate was also more humid.

He paused momentarily to collect his bearings, then flipped a hand over to produce a jade slip before injecting his spiritual sense into it.

Inside the jade slip was the tracking map that he had exchanged for from the Transient Guild, and even though only a portion of the landscape had appeared on the map, it was far more detailed than when he checked it back in the Black Wind Sea.

There was also another clear point of difference compared with before, which was that an extremely eye-catching red line had appeared on the map. The starting point of the red line was the Eagle Beak Pass, and it stretched all the way to a place by the name of White Kite City in the northeast.

According to the map, White Kite City was situated in the Hundred Blessings Nation, which was quite far away from the Eagle Beak Pass.

As a safety precaution, he was planning to travel at a speed appropriate for a Body Integration cultivator, so the journey was going to take him around half a month.

In contrast with the Primordial Wave Continent, the Ancient Cloud Continent had a far greater abundance of world's origin qi and spirit veins. Hence, there were also far more immortal sects here than on the Primordial Wave Continent, thereby naturally making it a more dangerous place as well.

After taking a moment to ascertain the right direction, Han Li stowed the jade slip away, then flew up into the sky as a streak of azure light.

Seven or eight days passed by in a flash, yet as Han Li was passing over a snow-covered forest, his expression suddenly changed slightly as he drew to an abrupt halt.

Just now, he had detected the auras of Daoist Xie and his Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords.

However, it was clear that both of them were still extremely far away, and he wouldn't have been able to notice them at all had it not been for his tremendous spiritual sense.

After a brief hesitation, he quickly inspected his surroundings, then flew directly down toward a snow-covered valley.

After descending into the valley, Han Li began to skip rapidly along the ground like an agile gazelle, ultimately coming to a halt on a very flat and level rock deep in the valley.

With a casual sweep of his sleeve, all of the snow that had accumulated on the rock was cleared, and he sat down with his legs crossed, then closed his eyes and began making a series of hand seals while chanting an incantation.

His consciousness began to churn as a subtle spiritual connection began to travel through the air like a winding thread, searching for Daoist Xie and the Azure Bamboo Cloudswarm Swords based on the faint connection that he had detected earlier.

However, right as the spiritual connection was gradually beginning to become clearer, the spiritual thread that was wandering through the air was suddenly cut off. Even the original connection that he had felt had faded, as if someone had cut him off.

His brows furrowed slightly as he switched to a different hand seal and fully activated his spiritual sense, trying to recapture that connection, but moments later, he reopened his eyes with a resigned expression, then sighed to himself, "Looks like it won't be so easy to recover what I've lost."

Han Li was feeling a little disappointed in the wake of all of this, and he sat in silence in the peaceful valley for a while to collect his thoughts, then continued on his journey to Whit Kite City.

Three days later.

A streak of azure light descended out of the sky outside a white city that was situated at an intersection point between a pair of rivers.

The streak of azure light then faded to reveal a tall and imposing man with a prominent forehead and a thick beard. The man's appearance was quite rugged, presenting a bit of a mismatch with his bright and piercing eyes.

The man was none other than Han Li in disguise.

Prior to entering the city, he used his mask from the Transient Guild to adopt yet another disguise, and this time, he concealed his own aura completely, posing as a mortal as he made his way into the city.

There was no snowfall near White Kite City, but it was still quite cold. There weren't many people passing through the city gates, and most of them were wearing thick cotton-padded clothes.

There was a group of cultivators situated on either side of the city gates, but most of them were only at the Foundation Establishment Stage, and they were there more so to maintain order than to examine the people entering the city.

Initially, Han Li felt this to be rather strange, but he quickly came to realize that White Kite City was only a small rural city in the Hundred Blessings Nation, and the vast majority of its residents were mortals, thereby explaining the rather lax security measures.

After entering the city, Han Li checked the map in the jade slip once again, and this time, the annotations had become even more detailed, pointing him toward a restaurant in the eastern part of the city.

Han Li made his way through the city streets in accordance with the path stipulated on the map, and he spotted the restaurant that he was looking for in a rather understated alley.

As soon as he arrived at the entrance of the restaurant, he was immediately greeted by the strong odor of fermented spirits. Perhaps it was because the memory was from too long ago, but the smell was different from what he recalled it to be like.

Back when he was a child, whenever Uncle Zhang came to visit, he would always bring some home-brewed wine to share with Han Li's father over their crude meal.

At the time, Han Li had been quite young, so he had never drunk the wine, but he recalled finding its aroma very sharp on the nose.

Han Li was momentarily dazed as these distant memories flooded into his mind, but he then shook his head in a self-deprecating manner before making his way into the restaurant.

According to the habits of the mortal world, it was already past lunchtime but not yet time for dinner. In addition to that, the alley was quite secluded, and as a result, most of the tables and chairs in the restaurant were empty, with the only exceptions being one table that was occupied by two men who were having some wine with some salted peanuts.

As soon as Han Li entered the restaurant, a waiter with a hand towel draped over his shoulder immediately approached him with a warm smile.

However, before the waiter had a chance to say anything, someone grabbed onto his shoulder and tugged him aside.

A portly middle-aged man then stepped around the waiter with a smile as he said, "This is an acquaintance of mine, so I'll attend to him in person."

As the portly manager led Han Li up to the second floor, the waiter scratched his head as he murmured to himself, "An acquaintance? How come I don't recall ever seeing him before?"

However, he didn't ponder the matter any further as he stretched lazily, then sat down onto a chair, slacking off on the job.

Han Li followed the portly manager up the creaky wooden staircase to the second floor, where he was then led into a booth at the end of the corridor.

Upon entering the booth, the portly manager stepped aside to allow Han Li to enter the room as well, following which he closed the door.

After that, he swept a hand through the air, and a layer of faint light appeared over the walls of the room, producing a soundproof barrier.

"Please take a seat, Fellow Daoist."

The portly manager made an inviting hand gesture as he spoke, and the smile on his face gradually faded.

Han Li sat down and swept his gaze around the room to find that the surrounding concealment array wasn't of a particularly high standard. If a cultivator of his caliber wanted to see what was happening in the room, then he would be able to do so from kilometers away.

However, the restaurant was quite secluded in location, and that allowed it to avoid unwanted attention and prying eyes.

The portly manager sat down across from Han Li, then asked, "I'm assuming you have the token, right, Fellow Daoist? Would you be able to bring it out to show me?"

Han Li wasted no time as he flipped a hand over to produce the jade slip that contained the missions debriefing and the tracking map, then slid it across the table toward the portly manager.

The latter picked up the jade slip before inspecting its contents for a moment with his eyes closed, then nodded as he said, "This is the right token. Looks like you are indeed a fellow daoist of the Transient Guild."