

## The Eternal 191

### Chapter 191: Flee for Life

Heng Yuan looked scornfully at the few despairing people and sneered, "A precious item such as this Purple Nine Neonate Flood Dragon is not something that people like you can enjoy. The Sect Leader of the Constellation Sect, Lord Constellation, will celebrate his 200th birthday in a month, and Lord Xu is worried that he cannot find anything good as a gift. Now, the demon core of this purple flood dragon is just nice to give to the old senior and let him nourish his body."

Ma Wendi's face was grave as he said angrily, "If you want the purple flood dragon, take it! Why do you still want to kill us?!"

Heng Yuan's face flashed with a hint of killing intent, and he said in a cold voice, "It is to avoid trouble. You all are Martial Grandmasters, and you are considered famous figures in Qinghai. Lord Xu Feng doesn't want any trouble."

His eyes flickered with killing intent as he said, "Li Yuanyu, I'll leave this place to you. Settle them as soon as possible! There are two more ants over there that have slipped through the net. I'm going to clean them up." As soon as he had finished speaking, he was already a hundred meters away, speeding toward Yunxiao's chariot.

Li Yuanyu pulled out a strange weapon and sneered, "Let's do it!"

In the blink of an eye, several light beams burst out over the sea and fought together.

Yunxiao's eyes gleamed, and he said with a wry smile, "We're really finished this time. I can't believe there was a peak Martial Grandmaster hiding nearby."

He quickly sent out a few incantation seals. With its speed rising up to the maximum, the Tigerking chariot turned into a light beam and fled toward the horizon.

Duan Yue's face was tense and terribly dark. He was a seven-stars Martial Grandmaster, and he naturally knew that a star was a world by itself within the Six Directions realm. Although the difference between them was only of two stars, it was a gap that could not be bridged. If the man wanted to kill him, it was extremely easy, let alone right now when his injury had not yet healed.

What puzzled him the most was that Yunxiao clearly knew that they were about to be killed as well, but the latter's face did not even show the slightest look of panic or fear. It was then that he was truly convinced and thoroughly admired this young man. What kind of steadfastness and cultivation base did it take to make a person keep his composure in the face of death?

Although the Tigerking chariot was fast, it was nothing to a nine-stars Martial Grandmaster. Heng Yuan's speed over the sea might not be as fast as the Purple Nine Neonate Flood Dragon's, but it was more than enough for him to catch up with a Tigerking chariot. Very quickly, he had reduced the distance between them to less than a mile, and it was only a flash before he caught up with them.

"Pay close attention!" Yunxiao suddenly said, "If you build up your power and attack with full force, how sure are you that you can hurt him?"

Duan Yue frowned as he thought for a moment and said, "If I can land a blow right on his body, although it may not kill him, it should be able to at least seriously injure him. But, how could he stand there and let me hit him?"

"That's enough!" Yunxiao's eyes gleamed as he said, "Later, when he is about ten meters from the chariot, I'll stop his movements for a brief moment. That's when you will attack. You can start building up your power when he is about a hundred meters away from us."

"What!" Duan Yue was taken aback, and then he said in horror, "He is a peak Martial Grandmaster, but you can stop his movements for a brief moment? Are you serious!" A huge wave surged in his heart. He could not believe that no matter what, but there was no time for him to think further at the moment, because Heng Yuan was already less than a hundred meters from them.

Clang!

A halberd appeared in Duan Yue's hand and he said lightly, "Unseal!"

Waves of ancient aura spread out of the halberd as it tripled in size instantly, hovering in front of Duan Yue. Quietly, he closed his eyes and grabbed its shaft with one hand, sensing the wind blowing around him and the waves churning across the sea. He was going to borrow the power from the Law of the World.

When warriors cultivated to a certain realm, they could comprehend the Law of the World and communicate with the elements of Earth, Water, Fire, and Wind that constructed the world, so as to achieve the effect of borrowing the power of the heaven and earth. That was what Yunxiao had done at Jialan Academy when he attacked with the Floating Life Seal.

Under the waves of combat intent unleashed from the halberd, the chariot began to sway, as if it could feel the fear.

“Hmph! How can candlelight compete with the sun and the moon! Duan Yue, for the sake of your uncommon strength, I will spare you from death as long as you are willing to join the Constellation Sect!”

As Heng Yuan approached, he also sensed the great power, and he was shocked. A full-force attack unleashed by a seven-stars Martial Grandmaster after building up power was so strong that even he dared not to fight it head-on. Therefore, he provoked with words, trying to ruin Duan Yue’s effort of building up power so that he could defeat the latter easily.

“Even if you don’t consider for yourself, this young man should be your illegitimate son, right? At least think of his life. As a father, don’t you want to protect the life of your own son?”

“Ten meters! Protect my ass! Send my greetings to all the females in your family! Universal Soul Suppressor, Forbidden Expansion!” Yunxiao cried out, and in that instant, a beam of invisible light exploded out of his eyes, piercing through the air. As if tangible, his divine sense spread out in rings like the ripples moving across the surface of the water when someone threw a stone at it. Under the divine light beam, the whole void began to twist and distort slightly.

Heng Yuan was startled, and he felt his head abuzz. Suddenly, a pair of blood-red evil eyes emerged in the sky, staring at him.

He was terrified instantly. It was actually an illusion!

‘Who is this lad? I can’t believe he can confuse me with an illusion!’

He could not remember how he had never been confused by illusions for so many years, and hence he had always despised them. "A trifling trick! Do you think you can stop me, a nine-stars Martial Grandmaster, with a mere illusion? Heaven and earth are infinite, Thunderous Saint Palm! Break! Break! Break!"

Heng Yuan uttered three 'Break!' in a row and frantically threw out several palm strikes. In the blink of an eye, the distorted sky returned to normal and the pair of evil eyes vanished completely. The whole sky and the sea were once again clear and calm.

But...

The sky, which had just returned to normal, began to twist once again, but it was caused by a tremendous force this time. Moreover, it seemed that the void was pressing down from all directions simultaneously as well. In the center of the storm, a huge halberd exuded a monstrous combat intent and thrust down with waves of white flame that seemed to come from nowhere.

"Whiteflame Ghost Kill, the sixth-tier halberd!"

It was Duan Yue, a seven-stars Martial Grandmaster's full-force attack!

At the moment the illusion was destroyed, Yunxiao spat out a mouthful of blood, and his mind was instantly shaken, allowing the backlash of divine sense to rush into his head, which made him cough out a few mouthfuls of blood again. Only then did he fall to the ground with an extremely pale face.

With his soul power, being able to stop a nine-stars Martial Grandmaster for a brief moment was already an extremely lucky achievement. He was not sure he could do it beforehand, but fortunately, Heng Yuan did not put on guard. So, he was able to drag the other into illusion for a brief moment with a quick, fierce, and accurate strike. But, he himself was greatly wounded as well.

"Duan Yue! I'll definitely cut you into a thousand pieces!"

Heng Yuan was instantly drowned by the attack, and a colossal water pillar was attracted from the sea down below by the tremendous force, which filled the whole sky with water vapor.

Heng Yuan was knocked directly into the sea by the waves that rushed up. He felt his insides almost breaking apart, and his fleshly body was messily wounded. He hurriedly took out a medicinal pill and gulped it down, his eyes filled with reluctance and hatred. Although he was badly injured and thrown into the sea, his divine sense had been following the two people. At that moment, their Tigerking chariot had flown dozens of miles away. Gnashing his teeth, he dragged his wounded body and sped up once again in pursuit.

Heng Yuan dared to confirm that the power of Duan Yue's attack was comparable to that of an eight-stars Martial Grandmaster, and he must be extremely weak now. Although his energy was hurt, as long as he caught up with them, he could certainly kill the two ants with his own hands! Besides, what he had just taken was a sixth-tier healing elixir which he had kept as a precious treasure for a very long time, so the injury in his body was instantly stabilized.

It had taken him a huge cost to obtain the elixir. Now that he thought about it, he regretted it very much. He should have kept it and only used it in the future. Just now, he was so seriously wounded that he did not think twice before he took it.

After chasing for a while, his expression changed drastically. The two people, whom he had constantly followed with his divine sense, suddenly disappeared in front of him! The disappearance was not that they had gone out of the boundary of his divine sense, but they suddenly vanished into nothingness.

"What is going on?" Heng Yuan was taken aback. Anxious and doubtful, he murmured to himself, "Could it be that they broke through the void and escaped? F\*ck! How's that possible? Could it be an illusion again?"

He took a deep breath and increased his speed as he rushed over. Very soon, he entered a sea area blanketed by a layer of fog that veiled all eyes. Even his divine sense could only reach a very limited range inside it.

"This is?" Heng Yuan carefully touched the fog with a hand and felt a slightly strange sensation. He sneered, "Even if you flee to the end of the world, you will still have to die!"

He flew into the fog and began searching with his divine sense within the limited range. Gradually, he felt something amiss. The fog seemed endless and by no means normal. He had been in Qinghai for many years, and he knew about the sea ten thousand miles from the coast very well. But, he never knew that there was such a strange fog here.

Finally, about ten minutes later, bits of pink dust began to appear mixed with the fog. Only then did his expression change drastically, and he blurted out in horror, "A rainbow fog!"

He was truly frightened now. Although a rainbow fog was magical, he had experienced it before and knew the situation inside. In his desperation, he hurriedly pulled back his divine sense and spread it out around him, forming a layer of soul power barrier that repelled the pink dust from him.

At the same moment, Yunxiao and Duan Yue were also suffering. The two of them fled desperately and intruded their original destination by accident, the rainbow fog. The situation would be better if Yunxiao were not wounded. By relying on his divine sense, although it was not extremely easy to create a path in the fog, it was not extremely difficult either. But now, his soul power was exhausted, and he felt as if he were sucked dry as he lay feebly on the ground.

Now, it was the soul power barrier Duan Yue managed to put out that stopped the pink dust from coming inside. If he were alone, he could still protect himself even if he could not create a path in the fog. But now, he had to take care of Yunxiao too, which was rather straining for him.

"Haha! Little bast\*rd, you have always looked so lofty, but look at you now! Let's see how you are going to act so arrogantly again!" Duan Yue suddenly burst out laughing. Even though he was struggling, he felt happy when he saw Yunxiao's miserable look.

After unleashing the attack with all his energy, he was completely out of strength, but his divine sense was not damaged. Out of the two of them, one's soul power was depleted and the other's energy. Both of them lay feebly on the chariot, letting the vehicle drift further into the fog by itself.

## Chapter 192: Rainbow Fog

Yunxiao was lying on the ground in misery, so he did not bother to pay attention to Duan Yue. If the Divine Realm Tablet was with him, he would certainly recover faster. But now, he could only meditate with the Great Expansion Divine Technique quietly and nourish his dried up spiritual ocean bit by bit. He knew that it was extremely difficult to even just make both of them float with Duan Yue's soul power. Besides, the time that the rainbow fog appeared was uncertain, and if it scattered this time, he did not know how long he would have to wait for the next time. Therefore, he must recover as fast as possible, and then find the right path to the Kunwu Divine Tree.

“Hey, lad, I actually quite admire you. What tier of an alchemist are you? You’re not fourth-tier, are you?” When he saw Yunxiao ignore him, Duan Yue did not mind but talked to himself, “A fifteen-year-old fourth-tier alchemist...Tsk, tsk, even Master Luo Ke of Skyfragrance Empire and Master Yang Di of your Firecrow Empire are not as gifted as you, I think. Which power have you been trained by?”

After recovering a little bit of his soul power, Yunxiao took out some medicinal pills from his ring with great difficulty and swallowed them as if they were some snacks. Just now, his soul power was exhausted and he could not even open his storage ring. When he saw the astounded look on Duan Yue’s face, he snorted coldly and said, “As a seven-stars Martial Grandmaster, don’t tell me you don’t have some medicinal pills that can restore Primordial Qi?”

Duan Yue swallowed and smiled bitterly, “I’m a loner who hunts sea beasts in exchange for resources, so I naturally can’t compare with rich alchemists like you, who own many Tigerking chariots and countless common medicinal pills. I only have a few fourth-tier healing pills.”

“A poor wretch!” Yunxiao held up a middle finger and uttered a disdainful remark. Then, he closed his eyes and began to regulate his breath.

“Hey, if you have extra medicinal pills, give some that can restore Primordial Qi to me. You don’t need them now anyway.” Upset by the remark, Duan Yue took out the only few fourth-tier healing pills he had, hesitating whether he should take them or not. He was exhausted of Primordial Qi and not wounded, so they were useless to him. That was why he asked Yunxiao for some medicinal pills.

Yunxiao opened his eyes slightly as he snorted and said, “Can’t I keep them if I don’t need them now? Well, it is not that you can’t have them, but you need to exchange them with something!”

“Fu\*k, are you serious!” Duan Yue glared at him and scolded, “We are in the same boat now and our lives are tied together, and yet you are still so stingy? If I had money, I wouldn’t ask you for medicinal pills!”

Yunxiao said, “Stop pretending to be poor with me. Since you hunt sea beasts every day, you should have many demon cores of sea beasts, right? You can exchange a Qi-converging pill with a fourth-tier or above demon core.”

“This is robbery!” Duan Yue said angrily, “A Qi-converging pill is the most basic third-tier restorative medicinal pill. Why must I exchange it with a fourth-tier demon core? Besides, third-tier medicinal pills are not of great use to me!”

Yunxiao glared at him and said coldly, “I haven’t charged you for the medicinal pills you took earlier. As for whether they are useful or not, you should know very well, since you’ve taken them!”

Duan Yue was speechless instantly. Those healing pills he took earlier were indeed third-tier medicinal pills, but their effects were better than the fourth-tier medicinal pills he kept as treasures. He said lamely, “Even so, they can’t be so expensive, can they? Whenever I go out to sea, I can kill a dozen sea beasts at most, but it takes me more than a month. And not many of them are fourth-tier.”

“Hmph! It took me several days to refine a medicinal pill. If you don’t want to exchange, shut your mouth! I don’t have time to argue with you!” After saying that, Yunxiao closed his eyes and began to regulate his breath, paying Duan Yue no more heed.

The cold-shoulder treatment made Duan Yue think for a moment with a dark face, only then did he pull out a storage bag and reluctantly throw it over. “A total of seventy-six fourth-tier demon cores exchange for one hundred Qi-converging pills. You won’t be so calculative about the small difference with me, right?”

After counting them, Yunxiao threw out a storage bag as well.

Duan Yue took it, and when he glanced inside, he became so angry that he almost fainted. There were exactly seventy-six Qi-converging pills in the bag, not a pill more and not one less. He was so angry that he turned around and sat down with his back facing Yunxiao. Then, he grabbed a handful of pills and shoved them into his mouth, as if to vent his anger. But, he still sent out his soul power to envelope both of them.

So, they sat back to back to recover their strength. After drifting for an unknown amount of time in the rainbow fog, the pink dust began to gradually turn fainter, and the fog slowly faded. After some time, the sky gradually grew clear and bright. They opened their eyes slightly and saw a quiet world with the sea and the sky merge into one.



Duan Yue stood up and gazed solemnly at the sea. A moment later, he said in a deep voice, "This is no longer the sea at Qinghai!"

Yunxiao lifted his eyes and glanced back over his shoulder at the rainbow fog that began to gradually fade away. A hint of a smile emerged on the corner of his mouth as he said, "Isn't this perfect? The space tunnel of a fixed rainbow fog like this one is also fixed. Since we can come out, it proves that this is the place with a Kunwu Divine Tree."

Duan Yue glanced at him in astonishment. When he saw his face beam with color, he asked, "You've recovered?"

With a wry smile, Yunxiao said, "Almost! Had I known, I would rather not recover."

"Why?" Duan Yue was shocked. It was common knowledge that it took an alchemist a very long time to recover after his soul power was exhausted, and he knew that as well. But, how long had it been? He immediately credited that to those medicinal pills Yunxiao had taken, only then did he feel relieved. "Why would you rather not recover?"

Yunxiao's eyes flickered as he said, "Because, as soon as I sent out my divine sense, I discovered that we've been surrounded. Ignorance is bliss! Look at how happy you are when you know nothing."

That gave Duan Yue a fright, and he quickly glanced around in terror. The sea was unusually calm, without even a gust of breeze, and there was a faint oppressive feeling, but he found no traces of the enemy. However, he had a great admiration for Yunxiao's ability now, so he raised his vigilance to the highest level and was extremely careful.

Yunxiao smiled wryly and said, "Take it easy, resistance is useless! They are all under the sea. This place should be a deep-sea somewhere. We've entered the territory of a certain sea clan."

As soon as he finished speaking, numerous splashes exploded on the sea, as if a bombardment had blown many holes in the water. Hundreds of sea people rose out of the sea, and the Tigerking chariot was tightly surrounded in just a flash!

Duan Yue was dumbfounded by the sight. These sea people were all standing in the air, each with a huge bubble under his feet that seemed to be controllable. That made him breathe a sigh of relief. Just now, when he saw these hundreds of people standing in the air, he thought they were all Martial Grandmasters, and it nearly frightened him to death.

“Damn humans, how dare you come here again!” Among the hundreds of sea people, a man standing in the middle with a smaller frame spoke coldly. They were not much different in size or appearance from humans, except for some scales on the arms and a fin that protruded from the back of the head.

“Are you going to allow yourself to be seized without putting up a fight or you want us to do it with force?”

The aura exuded from this sea man reached the level of a five-stars Martial Grandmaster. Although Duan Yue was not afraid, there were simply too many of them, and there were also many sea people of the Martial Grandmaster level scattered among them, not less than ten of them.

Yunxiao took a deep breath and said in a loud voice, “Please pardon us, my lords! We just accidentally entered your waters while running for our lives, and are not trespassers. I hope my lords understand.”

“Hmph! Still trying to quibble! No matter how you come here, as long as you trespass the Firefish clan’s water, you will have to allow yourself to be seized without putting up a fight and let our clan leader decide your fate!” The man’s eyes flashed coldly as he lifted a golden fork, as if he would strike if they could not agree to each other.

Looking at the hundreds of Firefish people with a murderous look on their faces, Yunxiao broke out in a cold sweat. The struggle between these sea people was very fierce, which made them all cruel and unreasonable. Especially when dealing with human beings, they even took pleasure in killing without asking anything. Otherwise, he would not have slaughtered all the sea people within eight thousand miles of waters and smeared the sea red with blood when he was chased by the imperial clans of the Four Seas and the Bo family.

Anyhow, one had to be humble when trapped in an inferior situation. Yunxiao smiled lamely and said, “Brothers, we bore you no malice. You can take us captive, but you have to spare our lives.”

He and Duan Yue immediately gave up the thought of resisting, allowing the people of the Firefish clan to come over and bind them up tightly. Yunxiao struggled lightly and found that the rope was made with the tendon of some unknown sea beast, which was very elastic and could not be broken.

“Hmph! You are obedient, I give you that. I’ll leave you a whole corpse later!” the man sneered. “Let’s bring them to the clan leader!”

The two of them were immediately carried toward the bottom of the sea. Stunned, Yunxiao said, “A whole corpse? Hey, hey, are you serious? We had allowed ourselves to be seized, and yet you still want to kill us? Do you keep your words or not?”

A man of the Firefish clan took out two pearls and shoved them into their mouths. As soon as they entered the sea, they felt a strange feeling: They could actually breathe and talk at any time just like when they were on the ground. Only then did they realize that what the man gave them were water-repelling pearls, a kind of treasure that allowed land creatures to move freely in the water.

Yunxiao was slightly surprised. Since they wanted to kill the two of them, why did they give them such a treasure? A water-repelling pearl was extremely rare among human beings, and its price was expensive. Although there was a large amount of them in the sea clans, there was no need to waste them, was it?

Duan Yue, on the other hand, appeared to have calmed down. He seemed a little different from before, and his eyes were devoid of emotions as if he had a plan in his mind. Yunxiao was slightly taken aback at the sight, and he seemed to understand something.

The hundreds of people from the Firefish clan took them and swam for a long time. Their speed in the water was extremely fast, faster than a Martial Grandmaster flying in the air. However, they seemed to not have much understanding about mystic artifacts, because they did not take away their storage rings, and about a hundred of them pushed the Tigerking chariot while following closely behind.

“Brother, where are you taking us? Why must you kill us? As the saying goes, separated as we are thousands of miles apart, we come together as if by predestination. It is fate that brings us together, so we can be friends,” Yunxiao smiled and said to the five-stars Martial Grandmaster.

“Friends?” The man showed a mocking look and said disdainfully, “Do you think humans are worthy of being friends with the sea people? You really think too highly of yourself!”

## Chapter 193: The Firefish Clan

Yunxiao scolded in his heart, 'Think too highly my ass! If you hadn't kept me captive, I wouldn't have wanted to be friends with fish-headed men like you! F\*ck! After looking at you, I can't eat a fish head in the future anymore. Damn it, this is so disgusting!'

As the saying went, an angry fist would not hit a smiling face. Although the Firefish man was too disdainful to talk to Yunxiao, when he saw the latter keep smiling at him, he could not help but feel superior as a member of the sea clan. Suddenly, this human being did not seem so disgusting to him anymore, and he even began to explain patiently.

"Previously, a human expert trespassed our territory and wounded three of our leaders. Now the whole clan is furious, and the clan chief has ordered that the human must be captured. We haven't seen any trace of human beings here for hundreds of years. How could there be more than one at a time? If you're not related to the previous one...hmph, I don't believe it!"

'Damn it, we took the blame for Heng Yuan!'

Yunxiao said angrily, "Of course we are related. Brother Firefish, I had a blood feud with that man. How is he now? Is he hurt?"

The Firefish man looked him up and down dubiously as he gave a cold snort and said, "Under the joint efforts of the three leaders, of course he ran away with his tail between his legs. He's been badly injured as well and is probably hiding somewhere to heal his wounds."

To be able to injure Heng Yuan and suffer injury themselves, it seemed that the three leaders should be eighth or ninth-stars Martial Grandmasters. 'I wonder what is the strength of their clan chief. As long as there are no Martial Emperors, the hope of escaping will still be great. Let's see what they're up to. If a fight can be avoided, that'll be the best.'

"Brother, what grade of a sea clan is Firefish clan?" Yunxiao asked.

He knew that there were too many sea people, the exact number of which even the Kings of the Four Seas could not count. So, they were divided into seven grades for easy management according to the strength of the clans. The most powerful of the sea clan was the Bo family. As the highest existence and revered like a divine being, it was not classified by any grades, and its status was so holy that it was even higher than the human Divine City of the Holy Realm.

The first grade was the imperial clan of the Four Seas, managed by the four major aristocratic sea clans—Guang, Qin, Shun, and Run families. It was also called S-grade and belonged to superpowers. In addition to the Kings of the Four Seas, many sea clans' strength had reached the S-grade as well, but they were still nominally governed by the Kings of the Four Seas.

The second grade was A-grade, and the clans must have ten Martial Sovereigns. They were overlord-like existences in the Four Seas. The third grade was B-grade, and a clan only needed a Martial Sovereign to be promoted to B-grade. The fourth grade was C-grade, and the clan needed a Martial Supreme. The fifth grade was D-grade, and the clan needed a Martial Emperor. The sixth grade was E-grade, and the clan only needed a Martial Grandmaster, an existence similar to an upper-state of the Firecrow Empire. The last grade was F-grade, and any clan with Martial Kings could be promoted to this grade.

In addition to the seven grades, there were still a large and uncountable number of weaker sea people. They were not allowed to use the term 'sea clans' and were collectively called 'sea schools'. For example, if the strongest expert of the Firefish clan was only a Martial Lord, it was not allowed to be called the Firefish clan, but could only be called the Firefish school. Among the sea people, the hierarchy was very strict.

There were no real sea people in the sea ten thousand miles around Qinghai. The sea people generally lived in the deep sea, which was far away from the human continent. So, even though Duan Yue had been living in Qinghai for years, he was not very clear about the classification of the sea people. Upon hearing that, he immediately became interested and pricked up his ears.

The Firefish man's eyes flashed with a look of alarm, but when he saw Yunxiao's pure and innocent face, he relaxed and said proudly, "We, the Firefish clan, are a D-grade clan, the overlord within a radius of ten thousand miles!"

Yunxiao's expression changed slightly. Since it was a D-grade clan, the Firefish clan must have at least a Martial Emperor. Otherwise, according to the strict iron law of the sea people, it would never be allowed to misuse the grade. However, after the man said that proudly, his eyes flashed with a strong look of worry.

The sea people were relatively simple unlike human beings, who were scheming and liked to hide their emotions.

Yunxiao asked curiously, "Is there something wrong, brother? Why do you look so worried?"

The Firefish man was taken aback, and he rebuked angrily, "Why do you ask so many questions? Are you trying to nose information about the Firefish clan?"

Duan Yue was speechless. 'Does he have to nose information when you have told him everything? What else is there to nose about?'

Yunxiao showed a shocked look and said, "Of course not! It's just that I saw you look worried, and I wonder if there's anything I can do to help. We have a common enemy, and as the saying goes, the enemy of my enemy is my friend. We are friends already!"

"Ah?" The Firefish man froze and blinked his big fish eyes. He could not understand how they suddenly became friends. But, that sounded somewhat reasonable. So, he sighed and said, "Our Clan Chief is a one-star Martial Emperor, but he unfortunately has come to the end of his life. Our next strongest leader, Tie Fan, has only become a nine-stars Martial Grandmaster not long ago. Originally, the Clan Chief intended to use a mystic technique to directly pull Leader Tie Fan to the peak of the nine-stars at the cost of his remaining longevity."

When he came to that, his eyes flickered with a trace of anger, and then he went on with a voice thick with killing intent, "But, the human expert who recently trespassed our territory severely wounded Leader Tie Fan. It is already extremely lucky for him to keep his realm from falling, and it is no longer possible for him to use the mystic technique to break through the peak of the nine-stars! Meanwhile, both Leader Tie Xin and Leader Tie Bi only have the strength of an eight-stars Martial Grandmaster, and it will take them at least fifty or even over a hundred years to advance to nine-stars Martial Grandmasters. But, Clan Chief can't wait for so long!"

The Firefish man had a strong worried look in his eyes as he said painfully, "If Leader Tie Fan cannot break through to become a Martial Emperor before Clan Chief passes away, the Firefish clan will fall to the E-grade! This is something that none of the Firefish people can accept! So, we must capture that human expert and cut him into a thousand pieces!"

Duan Yue was completely speechless. 'What a fool! He just told us everything about the Firefish clan! These sea people are really stupid!'

On the other hand, Yunxiao's eyes flickered. 'That Tie Fan, a nine-stars Martial Grandmaster, and two other eight-stars Martial Grandmasters were severely wounded. It seems that the battle was a tough and bitter one. Although Heng Yuan is a peak nine-stars Martial Grandmaster, he was already badly injured by Duan Yue's full-force attack, and it is impossible that he could recover in such a short time. He must have also been severely wounded after the battle.;

'With the three leaders of the Firefish clan injured, their strongest experts should be just a seven-stars Martial Grandmaster, and their only supporting leader is that clan chief, who is a Martial Emperor.'

Yunxiao kept planning in his heart. Very soon the two of them were escorted to the home of the Firefish clan. A stretch of buildings appeared at the bottom of the sea, with numerous Firefish people swimming through them. It was like they had come to a human city.

It was the first time Duan Yue had seen such a scene, and he was dumbfounded. He had spent most of his life on the coast of the South Sea, but he had never known that the sea people lived like this. He thought they were like sea beasts, swimming aimlessly in the sea and looking for food every day.

Many Firefish people, mostly the old, weak, women, and children walked up and down the city while carrying large baskets on their backs, which contained a kind of purple crystal. There were also some different looking sea people among them, who seemed to be very busy at work.

When Yunxiao saw Duan Yue look around curiously like a bumpkin who had visited a city for the first time, he chuckled and explained, "Those purple crystals are called Primordial Crystals. Similar to the Primordial Stones of the human race, the sea people use them to cultivate. Because the seafloor is too rich in resources, the general sea people do not need to worry about food and clothing at all. Just like human sects, the most important thing for them every day is to cultivate. And the rest of them, those who are old, weak, women, and children, are responsible for transporting Primordial Crystals. The strange-looking sea people you saw are from the other weaker clans controlled by the Firefish clan."

Duan Yue listened with relish, but he showed a disdainful look and snorted, "I've spent most of my life in Qinghai. Do you think I don't know this common knowledge? Do I need you to tell me?"

The Firefish man, on the other hand, was shocked. "I can't believe you have a certain understanding of sea people."

Soon, they landed in the city. The Firefish man clearly was the leader of the operation, for he pointed at the Tigerking chariot and said, "This is a good chariot. Send it to Tie You and ask him to use it to transport Primordial Crystals. A trip with it is equivalent to hundreds of trips of a normal worker."

Yunxiao smiled wryly; he had just lost his last Tigerking chariot.

The Firefish man turned to the two of them and said, "You will follow me to the Clan Chief. If you really can explain that you are not that man's accomplices, maybe Clan Chief can spare your lives."

After talking to Yunxiao along the way, the man had developed a good opinion of him, and he seemed less insistent on wanting to kill them.

As the two of them were tied by sea beast tendons, the Firefish man was not afraid that they would run away, so he led them toward the largest palace alone. The guards on both sides saluted him as they passed, which showed that he had a high status in the clan.

The Firefish palace was built almost in imitation of humans, but it contained numerous beautiful corals, precious treasures, and various sparkling things, so it looked much more beautiful. The ceiling of the great hall was carved with a totem of flame, which looked very extremely bizarre. Yunxiao was slightly surprised; the sea people were generally afraid of fire, so he did not understand why the Firefish clan had a totem of flame and used 'fire' in their name.

"Tie Fei, who are you bringing with you?" An old voice slowly rang out in the great hall. The surrounding precious treasures seemed to turn brighter, and the light in the hall flickered and swayed, giving people a dim feeling, as if the hall itself had stepped into old age like the lofty chief of the Firefish clan.

The Firefish man quickly dropped to one knee and said, "My lord Clan Chief, I've caught two human beings!"



Two beams of light suddenly shot out of the old clan chief's cloudy and dim eyes, as if a sleeping lion had suddenly woken up, and an extremely powerful pressure spread out across the hall.

Tie Fei looked nervous. At that moment, the five-stars Martial Grandmaster was like a kid who had done something wrong, with his head bowed and not daring to even speak.

#### Chapter 194: A Deal

Under the pressure, Duan Yue's expression changed drastically, and beads of sweat oozed out on his forehead. Even he would tremble in the face of a Martial Emperor.

Although Yunxiao's face was livid as well, he clenched his teeth and gazed coldly at the clan chief, showing no sign of fear. What flickered in his eyes was a proud and unyielding look.

Once a peak Martial Sovereign, how could he bow to a mere Martial Emperor? Wasn't that a big joke?

The clan chief's face showed an astounded look, and then he slowly retracted the pressure and said in an old voice, "Do these two humans have anything to do with the previous one?"

Tie Fei thought for a moment and answered, "These two humans said they have a blood feud with the previous one."

"Oh?"

The clan chief stared at Yunxiao for a while as he snorted coldly and said, "An excuse! No human being is good. Drag them out, kill them, and feed them to the fishes!"

That gave Tie Fei a pause, but he stood up obediently and gave Yunxiao a pitying look.

“Feed my ass!” Yunxiao did not expect that this old fish head would order them to be killed as soon as they met. He flew into a rage and scolded, “Stop pretending in front of me! Do you believe I will destroy your Firefish clan?!”

He stretched his hands, and with a ‘twang’, the sea beast tendon enough to bind a Martial Grandmaster broke.

“You!” Startled, Tie Fei roared furiously, “How dare you speak rudely to the Clan Chief and even utter such a wild statement! Die now!”

“You’ll be the one who dies!”

As soon as Tie Fei threw out a punch, the seawater in the whole great hall surged, but it was immediately pressed down by a stronger force.

Duan Yue stared at him with a cold face as he lightly destroyed the punch force and smashed out an attack backhandedly, which frantically compressed the water within several meters around into a ball, trapping Tie Fan inside.

Although the sea beast tendon was tough, Yunxiao managed to break it by burning it with the illusory phoenix flame. Duan Yue’s attack by itself was a kind of extremely cold white flame, so he had also easily burnt the tendon.

“How dare you!” The clan chief bellowed. He unleashed his aura once again, which formed into an extremely strong pressure and spread out across the great hall. “Are you two not afraid that I will cut you into a thousand pieces?!”

Yunxiao sneered, “I’ve asked you to stop pretending! Yes, you are a Martial Emperor, and you do indeed have the ability to kill us with one strike.” His eyes gradually narrowed, and he said coldly, “But, you can only attack once. Your condition cannot escape from my eyes. You are hanging on your last breath, and if you attack even once, you will die immediately!”

“What!” Tie Fei, who was trapped inside the water ball, was shocked, and he looked at his clan chief in horror.

There was a flash of shock in the clan chief's eyes. Suddenly, he seemed to have turned so old that he was about to die, and he panted slightly while saying, "Human, you are right, I can no longer last for too long. I'm trying to use as little energy as possible now. But, if you threaten the Firefish clan, I'll not hesitate to kill you."

Yunxiao snorted coldly. "We bore you no malice, but as soon as we met, you ordered us to be killed and fed to the fishes. F\*ck! I hate when people threaten me! If you don't apologize, we will kill this Tie Fei first before you can kill us. Let's see what other experts your Firefish clan have that can support your facade!"

"You! How dare you!" Tie Fei flew into a rage in the water ball. After suddenly learning that the clan chief's condition was so serious, he felt the sky was falling and the earth was sinking as the world turned dark around him. He immediately mustered all his Primordial Qi and broke out of the water ball.

Although he was a five-stars Martial Grandmaster, he could outdo himself underwater while Duan Yue was restricted. Because of that, the difference between them was not large. As soon as Tie Fei flew out of the water ball, he threw himself fiercely at Yunxiao.

"Tie Fei, stop!"

The clan chief's voice was not loud, but it was very powerful. Tie Fei's body instantly halted in mid-air, and he forcibly pulled back his fist as he shot a fierce look at Yunxiao while fuming.

"Human, since you bear us no malice, you may leave now. Don't ever come to Firefish's territory again." The clan chief seemed very tired. Had it not been for his imminent death, he would not have let the two of them go.

Yunxiao and Duan Yue exchanged a glance, and they just stood there, unmoving.

Tie Fei bellowed, "The Clan Chief is kind enough to let you go, so why are you still here? Get lost now!"

Yunxiao glanced at him and said, "After following you here, I feel that you are a nice sea man who is quite honest and loyal. But, there are two things I wish to say. First, your clan chief letting us go is the

result of his deliberation, not an act of kindness. Secondly, I don't want to leave yet. I want to make a deal with you."

"We're not interested in making a deal with you. Go now! Apart from me, the Firefish clan has many people who can take you down. Be careful that I may go back on my word." The clan chief waved impatiently with a look of disgust.

Yunxiao sneered, "Sea people have always been so arrogant, and I've already learned that. What if my offer is to let you have another hundred years of life and make that badly wounded Tie Fan directly become a Martial Emperor?"

"What!"

The clan chief jumped from his throne as if he got an electric shock, and he shouted with a look of disbelief, "What did you just say? Repeat that again!"

Even Tie Fei was so startled that his pair of fish eyes grew wide.

Duan Yue frowned slightly. He would have believed it if Yunxiao said that he could let this old fish live for a few more decades, but another hundred years? And he did not believe Yunxiao could help a Martial Grandmaster, who had just stepped into the nine-stars realm, become a Martial Emperor, not to mention that the nine-stars Martial Grandmaster was badly wounded at the moment.

Yunxiao repeated with a sneer. The whole great hall fell silent in an instant, with only some tiny fishes swimming back and forth while spitting bubbles.

Gulp!

The clan chief swallowed hard and said with great difficulty, "Human, if you lie, I swear I will kill you! Tell me how you want to make the deal, and how can I trust you?"

No matter if it were giving him another hundred years to live or helping Tie Fan become a Martial Emperor, they were enough to solve the Firefish clan's present crisis. How could he resist them?

“Hehe! It’s an easy deal. In fact, this is a win-win situation for both you and us.” Yunxiao smiled faintly, and his eyes flickered as he said, “My lord should know about the Kunwu Divine Tree?”

The clan chief gasped and blurted out in horror, “You...I can’t believe you’re eyeing it!”

Tie Fei’s expression also changed drastically, showing a look of shock.

“What? Is there a problem?” Yunxiao frowned and asked, puzzled. “With it, I can not only help my lord live for a hundred years more, but I can also help Tie Fan become a Martial Emperor.”

The clan chief was silent for a moment before he sighed and said, “So, you came here for it. Tie Fei, tell the two humans what happened.” As if all the air had leaked out of him suddenly, he turned old once again.

Tie Fei’s expression was unsightly and his eyes were full of hate. “The Kunwu Divine Tree was originally a sacred relic guarded by our clan, but it has now fallen into the hands of those razor clams!”

Yunxiao asked in surprise, “This Kunwu Divine Tree should be in the nearby sea, right? I thought you said the Firefish clan is the overlord within a radius of ten thousand miles?”

Tie Fei’s face flashed with shame and he said angrily, “Yes, we are a D-grade sea clan, and those razor clams are just an E-grade clan. But, they have three nine-stars Martial Grandmasters. Unless Lord Clan Chief strikes himself, we are no match for them in terms of overall strength. The Kunwu Divine Tree had been the treasure of our clan for ten thousand years. Swallowing its leaves can not only nourish vitality, but also improve cultivation base. Because of that, the Razor Clam clan turned hostile against us. Maybe they learned about Lord Clan Chief’s condition. Otherwise, they would not have dared to attack us.”

“Swallowing the leaves of Kunwu...”

Yunxiao almost fainted. These ignorant idiot fish heads!

He snorted and said, "Since you lost it, why don't you fight to get it back? Now that they have offended you openly, there is no more room for negotiations. They have three nine-stars Martial Grandmasters, and when Lord Clan Chief passes away, hehe, your entire clan will be in danger!"

The clan chief also looked deeply worried, and he said in a deep voice, "Do you think I never thought of what you've just said? But, unless I personally kill their three nine-stars Martial Grandmasters, we are no match for them even with the entire strength of my clan."

Yunxiao pondered for a moment before he said, "Since the Kunwu Divine Tree was under your care for ten thousand years, do you know of any way to enter the inner part of the divine tree?"

The size of a Kunwu Divine Tree was not like that of a common tree, and with all its branches and leaves spread out, it was even larger than a city at times.

While frowning, the clan chief thought for a moment and said, "There's no way to sneak in, but if we break through their lockdown by force, it will be very difficult for them to find us once we are inside."

Yunxiao smiled and said, "That will make things easy. Please lead the way, my lord! As long as we rush in and hide there for ten days to half a month, I guarantee you will gain an extra hundred years of longevity when we come out."

Tie Fei said in shock, "No! Lord Clan Chief can only make one attack now. What if he's in danger? Let me take you there!"

The clan chief shook his head and said, "The Razor Clam clan attaches great importance to the Kunwu Divine Tree, so their three nine-stars Martial Grandmasters are taking turns to guard it. You can't break through their lockdown with your strength. Let me take you there. But human, don't forget your promise to us. You must help Tie Fan step into the realm of Martial Emperors."

Yunxiao began to admire this old man. In general, the older one got, the more afraid one was of death. But, judging from what he said, he was prepared to sacrifice himself.

“Haha! If that’s the case, bring Tie Fan together. As long as we can enter the inner part of the divine tree and stay there for ten days to half a month, I’ll have ways to help him to break through and become a Martial Emperor!”

The reason he was so confident was because of his understanding of the precious plant. These underwater races occupied a tremendous amount of resources, but they did not know how to fully utilize them. It was also a kind of fairness of creation. Human beings were given great wisdom, but they were crowded on a continent where resources were scarce. If a sea territory like this were in the Heavenly Martial Continent, all the top powers would have fought each other to death for it.

#### Chapter 195: The Origin of the Razor Clam Clan

“My lord, don’t listen to his nonsense!” A sonorous voice came from the outside, followed by a jet of water, and then a man who looked similar to Tie Fei suddenly appeared in the great hall. With a ferocious look on his face, the man said, “These humans are full of cunning tricks! My lord is in no fit condition to strike. Just let me kill them both!”

The man gave them no chance to speak as an ordinary steel fork appeared in his hand, and he casually waved it, rolling up a whirlpool instantly which pressed hard toward the two of them.

A cold smile appeared at the corners of his mouth. With such a casual wave, he had locked down the waters around both of them, making it impossible for them to avoid the attack. The man was none other than Tie Fan, a nine-stars Martial Grandmaster!

Duan Yue’s pupils constricted. With a roar, he jumped before Yunxiao as he wheeled his halberd and created a huge vacuum, which swallowed the whirlpool and formed a huge underwater current, causing the whole great hall to tremble and rattle.

“Tie Fan, stop!” The Firefish clan chief shouted with a hint of anger on his face.

Taken aback, Tie Fan quickly said, “My lord, you must not be fooled by these two human beings!”

The clan chief snorted angrily. “I have my own decision! You just do as you’re told!”

Tie Fan looked very worried, but he could not disobey his clan chief, so he choked down the anger and said, "I understand!" But even then, he turned and fixed his eyes on Yunxiao and Duan Yue.

"Dad, what Brother Tie Fan said is right. You must not be fooled by these two human beings!" Suddenly, a clear voice came from the outside, and a young Firefish man swam into the great hall. He wore a shining cape, and if not for the fins on the back of his head, he could be considered very handsome in human standards.

"Tie Ling, you shut up too!" The clan chief flew into a rage, and his eyes flickered as he said, "You all know the present situation, and maybe this is the last chance for the Firefish clan. If we don't get hold of it, we will be devoured by the Razor Clam clan sooner or later!"

Unconvinced, Tie Ling said, "Have no fear. When I advance into a third-tier Sea Refiner, no one in this sea region would dare to touch the Firefish clan!"

There was a tender look on the clan chief's face as he said distressingly, "Ling'er, do you think a Sea Refiner is so easy to advance? If it weren't for a fated chance that you obtained the legacy and insights of a senior, do you think you could become a second-tier Sea Refiner at such a young age? In all four seas, none of the third-tier Sea Refiners is less than a few hundred years old. If you want to break through the next tier, there is no hope without hundreds of years. And the Firefish clan cannot wait for so long."

The lifespan of human beings was completely incomparable to that of sea people, who generally could live up to hundreds, or even thousands of years. Some strange races could even live up to ten thousand years. But, there were also many sea people with extremely short lifespans, who could hardly grow stronger and usually just became sea schools.

Sea Refiners were equivalent to human alchemists. They were a kind of existence who decomposed and recombined various materials, and their status was extraordinarily exalted, because the ratio of Sea Refiners to sea people was much lower than that of alchemists to human beings. Tie Fan was a nine-stars Martial Grandmaster, but what he held in his hand was just an ordinary steel fork. That showed how rare Sea Refiners were. If such a steel fork were taken to the continent, even a Warrior would not want it.

Tie Ling gave a cold snort. "If worse comes to the worst, we can hide. As long as we get through a hundred years, waiting until Brother Tie Fan advances to a Martial Emperor and I a third-tier Sea Refiner, we will seize back everything the Razor Clam clan takes from us, plus interest!"



Tie Fan looked at Tie Ling with a wry smile and sighed, "Tie Ling, you are too naïve! The Razor Clam clan will never let us hide in peace for a hundred years. Do you remember how they have kept pushing us over the last twenty to thirty years, to an extent that they almost replaced us to rule this sea region?"

Tie Ling said hurriedly, "Does the Manta Ray clan just turn a blind eye to this?"

The Manta Ray clan was a C-grade sea clan who ruled a larger sea territory, including that of the Firefish clan. Normally, when there was a conflict under its sea territory, it would step in to mediate. It was an order given by the Bo family to avoid unnecessary slaughter among sea clans.

"Hah. Do you still remember what the leader of the Manta Ray clan said thirty years ago when the Razor Clam clan had just arrived here? He said the Razor Clam clan had made a contribution to the sea people and asked us to make room for them to recuperate. He told us to live in harmony with them." The Firefish clan chief gnashed his teeth and said, "Over the years, the Manta Ray clan must have received a lot of benefits from them!"

"In that case, why don't we complain about them to the B-grade sea clan?" said Tie Ling.

All the people present were speechless. Tie Fei sighed and said, "Tie Ling, you are too young! What the world talks about is not reason, but strength. If we are stronger than the Razor Clam clan, everyone will be on our side. On the contrary, the weak can only survive."

Tie Ling said vexedly, "If so, what is the use of those decrees issued by the King of the South Sea?"

Everyone's expression changed drastically while the clan chief bellowed in an instant, "Stop uttering nonsense! If what you said were to be learned by other clans, not only you, but even the whole clan will be implicated by you! Step to the side now, boy!"

Looking at the handsome young Firefish man, Yunxiao thought he was very naïve and cute. Then, he asked in surprise, "Judging by what you said, this Razor Clam clan seems to have migrated here from another sea region, haven't they?"

Tie Fan said in a voice thick with hatred, "They are from more than just another sea region...They came from another sea. They are originally a clan in the East Sea, and they were an A-grade existence. Moreover, the innate talent of the Razor Clam clan is far superior to us. I fear they will climb atop us in just a few more years!"

"A-grade!" Yunxiao was shocked. "If they were A-grade, wouldn't that mean they once had ten Martial Sovereigns? How did such a mighty clan reduce to E-grade and migrate? Did they offend an S-grade existence?" Apart from the four imperial sea families, there were only a handful of S-grade existences.

The clan chief sighed and said, "I don't know exactly what happened. Last time, I heard from the leader of the Manta Ray clan that they were ordered by the sovereign of the East Sea, the Guang family, to surround and block up a human being thirty years ago. The result was the death of many sea people from A-grade clans. I heard at least one hundred Martial Sovereigns were wounded or killed at that time while all existences above Martial Emperors of the Razor Clam clan had fallen during the mission. That led to a great reduction in their strength, and other sea clans took advantage of the situation and seized their sea territory. To hide from their enemies and recuperate, they migrated to the South Sea."

"F\*ck! Which human being is so savage? One hundred Martial Sovereigns!" Duan Yue sucked in a cold breath. Suddenly he seemed to recall something and his eyes lit up as he said, "Could it be..."

Yunxiao broke out in a cold sweat. 'Thirty years ago... the East Sea...'

"That's right! It's that human being named Gu Feiyang!" The Firefish clan chief said venomously, "That is a name that humiliates the entire sea race!"

Duan Yue quickly shut his mouth. Seeing that all the people were aflame with indignation, he knew it would be death for him if he spoke again at this moment. Meanwhile, Yunxiao was dumbfounded. He had no idea that his random killing of a large number of sea people in those days would have an impact even today. He said lamely, "It's been so many years! That Gu Feiyang might have died long ago, so why do you still bear grudges? We need to always look forward!"

"Hmph! Even if he is dead, we must find all his descendants and kill them. Only then can the shame of sea people be washed away!" Tie Fan gnashed his teeth. The ethnic pride of these sea people was strong.

Yunxiao was somewhat speechless, but he said, "Rumor has it that he died before he was even married. Let's drop this topic and discuss how we are going to enter the inner part of Kunwu Divine Tree."

The crowd remained silent, as if they tacitly approved Yunxiao's suggestion. They all knew this was indeed a perfect opportunity for the Firefish clan.

But, Tie Ling still snorted coldly and said, "Why should we believe you? Since you claim you can prolong my dad's longevity by a hundred years and help Brother Tie Fan advance into a Martial Emperor after entering the Kunwu Divine Tree, you must at least show us some abilities, don't you think so?"

Everyone thought that reasonable.

Yunxiao smiled faintly and said, "You're a second-tier sea refiner?"

Tie Ling squared his shoulders proudly and said, "Yes! Within a radius of ten thousand miles, I'm the only second-tier sea refiner!"

"Very good! I happen to be an alchemist. Why don't we have a match? If you win, I'll obey all your words, but if you lose, I'll be in charge of this operation, and you all have to listen to me! What do you think?" Yunxiao's gaze moved between the Firefish clan chief, Tie Fan, and the others.

He also wanted to take this opportunity to subdue the Firefish people, lest they became rebellious during the operation.

The few Firefish people paused a moment, as if they did not expect that Yunxiao was an alchemist. The way they looked at him became somewhat respectful instantly. As if pricked by Yunxiao's provocative gaze, Tie Ling snorted coldly and said, "Let's have a match then, I'm not afraid of you! What do you want to compete on? I'll let you choose the topic!"

Duan Yue laughed in his heart, and he looked at the group of people without saying a word. He was not clear about Yunxiao's alchemy level, but there would be no problem to suppress these fish heads at least.

Yunxiao also narrowed his eyes as he smiled and said, "I think it's better for you to choose the topic, just pick the one you are best at. Apart from swimming, anything will do."

"Hmph! What a damn human being, how dare you underestimate me!" Tie Ling growled. "Let's compete in artifact refinement! See whose quality is better and higher!"

Yunxiao had to laugh. "Are you sure? Don't go back on your word when you lose." At the same time, he sighed in his heart over the sea people's wits.

"How could I lose? Haha! You must be joking. Within a radius of ten thousand miles..."

"Tie Ling!" The clan chief interrupted him. "This is not the time for you to play the hero. A match with the human will affect the honor of the Firefish clan and the entire sea race. Compete with fire control, your best ability!"

"Wh-what? Fire control? Tie Ling paused a moment. There was a faint expression of resistance in his face, as if he were very disdainful of the suggestion.

Yunxiao and Duan Yue were very surprised. Normally, what sea people feared most was fire, and even sea refiners would try their best to search for other natural elements to replace fire when refining. But, according to the clan chief, Tie Ling was best at fire control? Was he not afraid to turn into grilled fish?

"Hehe! Human, my son wants to compete in fire control against you. Do you dare?" The Firefish clan chief asked with a smile on his face. Clearly, he had great confidence in Tie Ling's fire control ability.

Yunxiao was very curious. He narrowed his eyes and said, "Good, good, let's compete in fire control ability! I also want to see how you play with fire. But, what about the conditions we mentioned just now?"

## Chapter 196: Flame Controlling Technique

The Firefish clan chief chuckled. "No problem! As long as you can defeat Tie Ling, you will be in charge of the operation."

Tie Fan and Tie Fei looked relaxed, too, which made Yunxiao feel interested and curious. They seemed very confident of winning.

Duan Yue was vaguely worried as he watched the fish heads smile sinisterly. "Do you have confidence, Young Master Yun?"

Yunxiao snorted and said disdainfully, "If I lose, I'll eat these few fish heads!"

"Ugh, I'm just asking. You don't have to swear such a venomous oath, do you? You are too cruel on yourself!" Duan Yue held up a thumb and praised, but then he was relieved. He knew this lad's strength, and he knew the latter would not say that if he were not sure.

Tie Ling gazed coldly at him and said mockingly, "Let's compete in this great hall. You will set the rules."

Yunxiao said, "Fire control is nothing more than precision and strength. Well, I'll make a few moves. If you can imitate them, you win. If not, I win. How about that?"

With a playful smile on his face, Tie Ling made a gesture, signaling his approval.

Yunxiao's eyes grew cold. He could not believe he was despised by a group of fish-heads, and he could not help but feel a little angry. He sneered in his heart and thought, 'Let's see if you can still smile later!' He was slightly provoked by Tie Ling's disdainful and provocative glance. 'It looks like if I don't show you some of my abilities, you bunch of fish heads will never stop looking down upon me!'

He pondered a moment and reached out his right hand as he said in a cold voice, "Watch carefully!"

With a 'poof', a wisp of flame rose in his hand, and he used Primordial Qi to protect it as he pushed away the surrounding water, creating a vacuum area. But, the air under the water was not as plenty as on land after all. Yunxiao's expression changed slightly as he discovered then that it was very difficult to control fire underwater. He took no chances and began to carefully control it.

Under the control of Primordial Qi, the flame in his palm began to slowly grow larger, thinner, and longer, like a thumb-size little sapling beginning to grow at a rate visible to the naked eye. In the blink of an eye, it was as thick as an arm, and the details of the little tree gradually emerged while its trunk, branches, and even leaves began to slowly grow out.

The eyes of the clan chief, Tie Fan, and the others gradually grew wider as they stared at the artistic control in shock, their faces filled with disbelief. Even Duan Yue was dumbstruck. He was cultivating the element of fire as well, but all this while, he just kept increasing its power and never thought of controlling it in such a playful manner. 'Heaven, this is no longer playful, but freakish! Gods, what exactly have I seen!'

He was so astounded that his eyeballs almost fell. Yunxiao's fiery tree had grown to four or five feet tall, so thick that it took half a man to embrace it. By now, even its bark was imitated, with wrinkles clearly visible across it. And the leaves...He saw veins emerge on the surface of those leaves formed by millions of tiny flames!

Everyone took a few steps backward in horror. 'Heaven! Is this still human? This is simply god's work! Even the God of Fire cannot control flames to such an extent, can he?'

Looking at the petrified look of all the people, Yunxiao snorted coldly and clapped his hands. With that, the tall fiery tree vanished instantly, and the whole great hall suddenly dimmed down. Only then did the people come back to their senses, but the way they looked at him was one of being totally convinced.

Tie Ling's face was livid now with a shocked look.

"Have you seen everything clearly, boy? It's your turn."

"Human alchemists are indeed amazing! I haven't tried such a fine imitation before, but it's not necessarily impossible!" Tie Ling gnashed his teeth and walked to the center of the hall. His face was extremely serious as he began to mimic Yunxiao, producing a wisp of flame in his hand and then slowly following the steps. However, when the little tree was half-grown, he frowned and quenched the fire, sinking in thoughts.

At last, there was a glimmer of understanding in his eyes after quite a while, and a wisp of flame began to gradually grow in his hand. He mimicked Yunxiao's steps again, and this time, he did not give up

halfway but held on to the last, gradually conjuring a tree that was two to three meters tall. Although it was not as spiritual as Yunxiao's, it was still well-formed.

Pa!

Tie Ling clapped his hands, and the fiery tree vanished; he bowed his head and said nothing. Although he also successfully conjured a fiery tree, the quality was obviously inferior.

The Firefish clan chief was a sly old fish. Fearing that Tie Ling might directly throw in the towel due to his pride from a young age, he quickly said, "Haha! Not bad! This should also be regarded as a success, right? Human, what other tricks do you have? Show them all to us."

Yunxiao was not upset, but just looked at Tie Ling in shock. He nodded and praised, "Although this is your first attempt, you can already reach this level. You have a great talent in controlling fire. I'm not as good as you at innate talent. You try the following one. This time, I'll show my best fire controlling technique. If you can do it, I will admit defeat."

Tie Ling quickly retreated to the side, his face slightly warm. He was a proud Firefish, so he felt ashamed to gain an extra advantage by unfair means. Even then, the way he looked at Yunxiao began to be filled with respect.

When Duan Yue, the clan chief, and the others heard that, their nerves tensed up. What came next would determine the winner, they knew. But, judging from Yunxiao's previous means, there was little chance of losing.

Yunxiao walked to the center of the hall again as he folded his arms over his chest and thought for a while. Only then did he narrow his eyes. A tremendous wave of Primordial Qi exuded from his body, and with a 'poof', plumes of flames blazed all around him, as if they were about to form into a sea of fire.

"Watch carefully!" Yunxiao shouted. The sea of fire around him suddenly began to transform and kept spreading out, and the whole great hall was filled with a sea of red flames in just a flash. Even the guards at the door were alerted, but Tie Fan waved at them, sending the shocked guards away.

“This is?” Everyone was taken aback as they saw the roaring sea of flames begin to transform into a forest. The few people present all gasped. It was really a forest! Although each tree was not as detailed as the previous one, there were many of them, and every tree looked different and lifelike.

Suddenly, a bird’s cry rang out, and then a little red bird flew out from between trees and kept chirping while flapping its pair of tiny wings. It looked like a real bird.

Just as everyone was completely petrified, their brains frozen and unable to think, numerous bird cries echoed throughout the forest. For a moment, all kinds of birds flew out and began to chase and play with one another in the fiery forest...

The scene completely turned everyone’s mind blank. ‘Is this still fire control? Even the God of Fire cannot control flames to such an extent, can he? Heaven, am I dreaming now?’ The Firefish clan chief’s fish eyes almost fell out as he watched a bird made of flames fly past.

“It’s not over yet. Keep your eyes open!” Yunxiao shouted with a cold face. “What I’m going to imitate is the scene of a hundred birds paying homage to the phoenix. I have the birds now but lack the phoenix! Watch carefully, Tie Ling, if you can do this, I’ll admit defeat!”

‘Heaven, it’s not over yet!’ The few Firefish people almost fainted, and they all kept crying in their hearts, ‘Finished, finished, we’re completely finished!’

Tie Ling was dumbstruck. The reason the Firefish clan had a ‘fire’ in their name was that they were proud of their fire controlling ability passed down from generation to generation. But now, in the face of Yunxiao’s performance, his proudest ability was like a stone compared to a pearl. At that moment, all his pride and confidence collapsed, and he murmured numbly to himself, “It’s not over yet...”

Yunxiao took a deep breath, and his face turned pale instantly. “Since it is a scene of a hundred birds paying homage to the phoenix, I need to come out with a real phoenix!” There was a hideous gleam in his eyes. He was sure to win the match, for even if Tie Ling could conjure a forest and a hundred birds, he would never be able to conjure a real fire phoenix!

“Condense now, Phoenix True Flame!” He shouted as the flaming cloud symbol between his eyebrows appeared abruptly, and a long cry of the phoenix seemed to come from the boundless void. Everyone in the great hall was startled and began to glance around in horror.



An illusory phoenix flew out from between his eyebrows, bringing with it a faint fiery-red color as it danced gracefully in the fiery forest.

“Am I still only able to condense its illusory form?” Yunxiao was slightly disappointed. The Phoenix True Flame was too powerful! Even with his current peak strength, he could not condense its corporeal form, and just a wisp of its projection. But even so, it was enough to stand out amongst all the other flames.

After the illusory fire phoenix appeared, the whole fiery forest and all the birds immediately retreated in terror, as if they had seen something terrible, fleeing toward both sides of the great hall. In just a flash, all the shapes were destroyed.

With the emergence of the illusory phoenix, Yunxiao’s body also began to turn into the Glazed Body, gradually becoming transparent. Unfortunately, it still could not meet the ideal requirements. He sighed softly and clapped his hands; all the flames vanished, and the great hall grew dimmed instantly.

Suddenly, he felt a throbbing sensation gradually rising from within him, and a surge of Primordial Qi began to flow through his meridians.

“Hah! I’m a two-stars Great Martial Master now? This is so slow!”

Yunxiao smiled faintly as he sensed his own advancement. In fact, his speed was already very heaven-defying, but it was still not enough compared to his requirements and expectations.

“Hey! What are you doing?!”

He looked up and was instantly taken aback by the petrified look of the few people. Duan Yue and the four Firefish people were completely frozen, almost turning into statues, with their mouths wide opened and their eyes widened. Compared to the shock from his fire controlling technique, his advancement to a two-stars Great Martial Master was completely ignored by everyone.

Yunxiao shouted at them and even knocked Duan Yue on the head a few times, and only then did the latter come to his senses and cry out, “Young Master Yun, you are so amazing! I really want to kneel down before you!”

Plop!

As soon as he finished that, the Firefish clan chief on the side knelt down directly!

Chapter 197: Kunwu Divine Tree

“What are you doing, Lord Clan Chief? I was just saying! Why did you really kneel?”

Duan Yue was taken aback, and he quickly avoided doing that. Although the clan chief was old, he was a Martial Emperor after all, and Duan Yue did not think he deserved that.

Yunxiao was shocked as well. “Lord Clan Chief, what are you doing? Even if you admire me very much, you are old and don’t have to offer me such great courtesy.”

“My lord!”

“Dad!”

It was then that Tie Fan, Tie Ling, and Tie Fei came to their senses. They hurried over to help the clan chief up, but he pushed them away and shouted, “Get down on your knees, all three of you!”

The trio was struck dumb instantly. ‘What is this? It is shameful enough for you to kneel on your own, and now you want us to kneel too?’ Even Yunxiao was dumbfounded.

While trembling, the Firefish clan chief said agitatedly, “Holy Herald! Lord Holy Herald! You are Lord Hold Herald!”

“Holy Herald?” Yunxiao did not understand.

“Dad, what nonsense are you talking about? Get up quickly!” Tie Ling hurried over to help his father up, but was knocked in the head with a punch by the clan chief, making him jump away in pain.

The clan chief bellowed at the few of them, "Quickly pay homage to the Lord Holy Herald, all three of you!"

Tie Ling, "..."

"Old fish-head, get up quickly and make yourself clear. Look at the three of them, their eyes are burning as if they want to devour me now." Yunxiao hurried over to help the clan chief up.

The clan chief glanced at the fuming trio and gave a cold snort, only then did he grab at Yunxiao's hand tightly and said in an almost sobbing voice, "Your Excellency, I never thought I would see you in my lifetime!"

"This..." Yunxiao said lamely, "We can exchange our addresses and contact information later, and there will be plenty of opportunities for us to meet each other in the future."

The Firefish clan chief was thrilled for a while before he said, "Your Excellency may not know why yet," he turned to the other three and said, "and you too. Do you know the origin of the Firefish clan?"

"Origin? What origin could we have?" Tie Ling froze.

The clan chief said in a deep voice, "Hmph! Although we, the Firefish clan, are not comparable to those descendants of the True Spirits, we are not nameless people either. Do you know the origin of the Kunwu Divine Tree?"

Everyone looked blank, but Yunxiao's eyes gleamed as he said thoughtfully, "A Kunwu Divine Tree was the dwelling place of a True Spirit Phoenix in ancient times, which was burned by the phoenix's nirvana fire, reborn together with the phoenix, and eventually became a Kunwu Divine Tree." He seemed to have understood something; he did have the Phoenix True Flame in his body.

"Exactly! Your Excellency is indeed the Lord Holy Herald!" The clan chief's eyes shone with excitement as he said, "In the ancient times, the Firefish clan was just an ordinary sea school. It was in this sea area that a True Spirit Phoenix entered Nirvana on a Kunwu Divine Tree, and the nirvana fire accidentally burned one of our ancestors. The ancestor thought he would die, but instead of dying, his body

transformed significantly under the burning of the divine fire. From then on, he not only had an extremely keen perception and desire for fire, but his body structure also became very suitable for cultivation. Later on, the ancestor even stepped into the realm of Martial Sovereigns and turned our clan into an overlord in this region!”

“Did that really happen? Then why is it that none of the Firefish people could step into the Nine Heavens realm over the last ten thousand years? Even the Eight Desolation realm is unheard of. Only some thousands of years ago did one of our Patriarchs manage to reach the peak of the Seven Constellations realm, but he also stopped at that realm,” Tie Fan paused for a moment before he asked.

The Firefish clan chief sighed and said, “I also thought about this question for a very long time, and finally I understood the reason. The nirvana fire of the True Spirit Phoenix had transformed our ancestor’s bloodline, but since then, the bloodline began to grow thinner through the later generations. Today, the power of the Firefish bloodline is no longer enough to let us break through to the Eight Desolation realm. Moreover, if this were to continue, it will get more difficult for us to break through to the Seven Constellations realm. I’m really worried that one day, the Firefish clan will be reduced to the level of sea schools again.”

Tie Fan and the others were startled, and they said in horror, “Then... what should we do?”

The clan chief’s eyes glowed as he stared at Yunxiao and said excitedly, “I’m not worried anymore now. The arrival of the Lord Holy Herald is the help that heaven has sent to us! Just now, I felt an extremely warm and desirable power from the illusory phoenix Your Excellency conjured, and the ancient power lying dormant in my bloodline seemed to have slightly awakened. Your Excellency must have the Phoenix Divine Flame, right?”

The others were all staring at Yunxiao while Duan Yue was extremely shocked. A True Spirit Phoenix was a legendary being that existed in ancient times, and whether it was real or not remained to be verified. But now, he actually met a group of fish people transformed by the Phoenix True Flame, and the divine fire, which according to the legends could burn off everything and make one reborn, was owned by a young man.

Yunxiao did not expect this to be the case. He paused for a moment, and then he nodded his head slightly.

Everyone gasped and stared at him in horror. The clan chief was the only one who cheered as he knelt once again and burst into tears, “Heaven saves my clan! Heaven saves my clan!”

While frowning, Yunxiao said, "Even though I have the Phoenix True Flame, how can I help you? I can't just burn you all over again, can I?"

"This..."

That gave the clan chief a pause. He pondered for a moment and said, "Just now, when Your Excellency summoned the True Flame, I felt the revival and awakening in my bloodline. I think Your Excellency must have a way. Since heaven has sent you here, you must be here to help the Firefish clan!"

He said confidently while Tie Fan, Tie Ling, and Tie Fei looked at Yunxiao with respect. Tie Fei hurried forward and got down on one knee as he said, "I've offended Your Excellency just now, please punish me!"

Yunxiao felt a little dizzy and said hastily, "Don't be too courteous, I don't feel comfortable! I don't know how to help you, but if we can get inside the Kunwu Divine Tree, there will be no problem for me to fulfill the two things I mentioned earlier."

"Yes!" The Firefish clan chief said loudly, "It was inside the Kunwu Divine Tree that our ancestor was burned by the nirvana fire. The divine tree must be the key to the revival of our clan!"

His words soon struck a chord with Tie Fan and the others, and as they were already deeply convinced by Yunxiao's fire controlling technique, they immediately believed with great certainty that he was the Holy Herald sent by heaven. After that, things became much simpler. Since everyone had the same goal, they set out directly toward the Kunwu Divine Tree.

The clan chief had planned to hold a reception ceremony and ask all his people to pay homage to the Lord Holy Herald, but Yunxiao hastily stopped him. After that, Yunxiao, Duan Yue, the clan chief, Tie Ling, Tie Fan, and the other two leaders, as well as Tie Fei, a total of eight people quietly set out from the Firefish's territory, heading in the direction of the Kunwu Divine Tree.

Ten thousand years ago, the area where the Firefish people lived originally included the Kunwu Divine Tree, but it was later found that the vicinity of the divine tree was not suitable for living creatures. So, they gradually migrated out and only sent people to pick the leaves of the divine tree for their people to

eat from time to time. It was not until the divine tree was occupied by the Razor Clam clan that they gave up completely.

With the Firefish people leading the way, they soon entered a sea area where Yunxiao perceived a faint, strange fluctuation. The water here was unusually quiet, with not even a small fish to be seen, as if it were a dead sea. Yet, the water was full of life force.

He finally understood why the Firefish people had migrated. This should be the sea area where Kunwu Divine Tree was located, and there was a strange power in the seawater that seemed to make underwater creatures uncomfortable.

“Who goes there? Stop right now!” A loud shout came from the distance, spreading through the waves. Meanwhile, several sea people swam up. They were nearly the same size from top to bottom, with very thin, mud-black limbs, and two bean-sized eyes that glowed fiercely at Yunxiao and the others.

“So, they are from the Razor Clam clan?” Stunned, Yunxiao thought for a moment and then said, “I seem to have some impression of them.”

That gave the Firefish clan chief a pause, and he asked in surprise, “Did Your Excellency meet the Razor Clam clan before?”

“Oh, no! I have seen similar sea schools.” Yunxiao gave a vague answer. At that time, he was on the run and had killed heaven-knows-how-many sea people and many experts of the Nine Heavens realm. So, even though the Razor Clam clan had sent a large number of their people to stop him, he did not remember them much, and just felt a little familiar when he saw them.

“I see!” said the clan chief. “Your Excellency, do we rush over or...”

“Of course, we rush over!” Yunxiao analyzed, “With our strength, we can get through even when we meet their nine-stars Martial Grandmaster, unless we meet two nine-stars Martial Grandmasters at the same time. But, this sea area is so huge, and I don’t think our luck will be that bad. Kill these few people and speed up. Now that there are guards, I think the Kunwu Divine Tree is not far away from here.”

“Your Excellency is truly wise! The Kunwu Divine Tree is just some three hundred miles ahead.” Looking murderously at the few Razor Clam people swimming toward them, the clan chief said in a cold voice, “Tie Fan, kill them quickly. Don’t waste the Lord Holy Herald’s time!”

“Understood!”

Tie Fan suddenly bent his body and then catapulted himself out, his speed faster than a bird flying in the sky. Before the few approaching Razor Clam people knew what was happening, they saw their upper and lower bodies separate and then their consciousness vanish.

“Speed up and rush into Kunwu Divine Tree without a stop!” Yunxiao shouted lightly, and the eight people immediately turned into a sharp arrow, flying ahead at top speed.

The sea was really vast and boundless. Apart from the few Razor Clam people, they did not encounter any other marine creature. Soon, Yunxiao’s divine sense discovered a towering tree, which was coiled at the seabed like a huge ancient city and was shocking to look at.

“Since this Kunwu Divine Tree is the place where the True Spirit Phoenix was reborn, why is it on the seabed?” The question popped into his head, and he asked it unknowingly.

The clan chief said, “Your Excellency, this divine tree was indeed on an island in those days. Later on, the sea changed countless times and brought it down to the bottom.”

#### Chapter 198: The Sap of the Divine Tree

“I see. Everyone, be on your guard! There are many Razor Clam people inside this divine tree!” Yunxiao reminded them in advance. His divine sense was the strongest, and it had enveloped half of the divine tree in just a flash.

“Come with me! As long as we enter the divine tree, they will definitely not find our trace!” The Firefish clan chief was very confident as he led the way in front. Soon, the eight of them sped up and rushed forward.

Glup! Glup! Glup!

Suddenly, a strange force weighed down at the direction where the eight people were heading. It was like they had entered a kind of highly concentrated liquid from water. Their bodies became sticky and kept producing a large number of bubbles that rose to the surface, as if it were difficult for them to move forward. Yunxiao, on the other hand, sensed a power in this liquid that gave him a faint feeling as if the Primordial Qi in his body were about to boil, a very comfortable and enjoyable sensation.

“This is...” The clan chief’s expression suddenly changed drastically as he roared in fury, “AHHHH! Those animals! This is the sap of Kunwu Divine Tree! I can’t believe they actually destroyed the tree! So much sap...To what extent have they destroyed the tree!” He was completely mad. After all, the tree was the sacred relic of his clan!

He did not have much anger after the divine tree was taken by the Razor Clam clan. After all, the sacred relic was still there, and as long as his clan was strong enough, he could take it back sooner or later. But now, they actually began to destroy the sacred relic, and once it was destroyed, his clan would lose it forever. How could he not be mad, and how could he explain to all the ancestors of the Firefish clan?

“My lord, don’t be angry yet. Now that it has been destroyed, it is too late to stop it. Let’s figure out the situation before we make any plans. If my prediction is correct, they are using the sap of this Kunwu Divine Tree to enhance the strength of the whole clan. The Razor Clam clan is more talented than you, and it will be troublesome if they can directly absorb the divine tree’s power.”

Yunxiao said worriedly, “There are indeed several powerful forces in this divine tree, but as they lay dormant, I couldn’t tell the actual situation. I feared the tree had been destroyed for a very long time. Let’s go inside the divine tree first.”

They were about to swim over when a cold voice suddenly called out, “Who are you? How dare you trespass the restricted area of the Razor Clam clan? You’re courting death!”

The seawater in front of them began to roll and kept spinning outward, revealing seven Razor Clam people, each with a steel fork in hands. Judging from the aura emanated from one of them, he was clearly a Martial Grandmaster.

These sea people all had one thing in common, that was, their favorite weapons were steel forks. So, no matter what clan, three-pronged steel forks were the most commonly used weapons. Apart from



imitating a divine weapon of the Bo family, steel forks were a kind of extremely material-saving weapon, and they were easy to use in water.

Whoosh!

This time, seven people except the clan chief struck out at the same time without Yunxiao's order, beheading the few enemies before they could even respond. The Martial Grandmaster was taken aback by the aura that exploded out from them, and he roared hoarsely in the next instant, "You... you are... AHHH!"

All seven enemies were killed in a flash!

"Who goes there?"

That finally alerted a Razor Clam expert. A domineering voice rang out of the Kunwu Divine Tree, and a powerful aura gradually approached.

"Ignore that, let's go inside first!" Yunxiao snorted coldly as he took the lead in rushing into the huge Kunwu Divine Tree and disappeared into it instantly. The others followed closely behind.

This Kunwu Divine Tree was an ancient divine artifact. Inside it was a world of its own, with tree branches that stretched so long that no one knew how far they went, and so wide that it felt like standing on flat ground. They extended and connected in all directions; it was so confusing that even the Firefish clan chief had to stop and think for a moment after taking every few steps.

Yunxiao's most urgent goal was to find the Soul Nourishing Wood, which could only be produced after the Kunwu Divine Tree absorbed a large amount of life force and souls, and generally it could only be found near the core of the divine tree. The simplest way was to cut a way through the tree, but the Firefish people would obviously not agree to that, and it would attract enemies as well.

The deeper they went, the uglier the clan chief's face grew. There was a lot of sap here, and the concentration was very high. Clearly, the divine tree had been seriously damaged. After walking for about ten minutes, they came to a stop. Looking at a huge broken branch, the clan chief's face turned

extremely dark. A large amount of sap was overflowing from the fracture, and a very strong scent came blowing into their noses.

As he sniffed at the scent, Yunxiao felt that his cultivation base, which had just broken through, begin to show signs of improving. And the Phoenix True Flame, which hid in the depths of his soul, seemed to have sensed something as well and began to turn active. Under the twitching of the flame, his body became extremely warm and flushed faintly.

“Are you alright, Young Master Yun?” Duan Yue was the first to discover Yunxiao’s anomaly, and he asked in shock.

“I’m fine,” Yunxiao said lightly, but the look in his eyes grew fiercer. He gently swept the fracture with a hand, and his One Qi of Destiny absorbed the almost solidified sap into his body. A refreshing and comfortable sensation immediately flowed through him while the endless Primordial Qi contained in the sap transformed into a stream of energy and repeatedly circulated in his body, before finally sinking into his dantian and turning into his power.

What delighted him even more was that the flame in the depths of his soul also seemed to be nourished and become somewhat active.

He had been unable to control the Phoenix True Flame and could only summon its illusory form. If he could use the power of this Kunwu Divine Tree to completely control the Phoenix True Flame, it would definitely bring him unimaginable benefits.

“It is indeed a treasure of the heaven and earth!” His eyes gleamed with cold light and his heart was filled with anger. “And yet, such a precious treasure was destroyed to such an extent! Damn these people!”

The Firefish clan chief said in a deep voice, “Your Excellency, the divine tree is divided into three outer layers and three inner layers. We are at a junction between the outer and inner layers now. If we go further inside, we will find the inner three layers. We have not seen any Razor Clam people along the way, I fear they must be hiding and cultivating in the inner three layers.”

Yunxiao narrowed his eyes and said coldly, “Exactly! I’ve already sensed that there are many strong auras inside. They must be adopting the method of ‘killing the goose that lays the golden eggs’, which

drains the power of the Kunwu Divine Tree at once to enhance the strength of their whole clan. I wonder how long this has been going on for. I'm worried that the Razor Clam clan's strength may be greater than what we expected."

The clan chief said in horror, "How could it be? What should we do then?"

Yunxiao said, "Hmph! Let's see who wins first! They are robbing the sap, so we will rob as well. Let's see who robs more!"

"Hehe! That's a good idea, but too bad that you will die now!"

A figure suddenly appeared over them, and he was the Razor Clam who pursued them just now. With an unruly expression, he looked coldly at them and mocked, "I was wondering who had intruded this place, but it turns out to be the pieces of rubbish from the Firefish school. How dare you come back here! It is a great honor to your school that my clan occupied this divine tree. How could you be so ignorant?"

The expressions of the few Firefishes changed drastically. They were from a 'clan', and yet this Razor Clam mocked them as a 'school'. It was a great insult, and among sea people, such an insult was a feud that could only be resolved by death.

The Firefish clan chief gnashed his teeth and said in a voice thick with hatred, "We, the Firefish clan, have been yielding and retreating, but you keep pushing your luck. This time, even if it takes the strength of my whole clan, I will fight with you!"

"Fight?" The Razor Clam chuckled as if he had heard some funny joke. "You and what army? If it weren't for not wanting to create too much disturbance, do you think shrimps like you could live to this day? You always thought that the C-grade sea clan was protecting us, but in fact, they were saving your shrimps' lives!"

"Bah!" The clan chief flew into a rage. "When you first came to the South Sea, the strongest one among you was just a peak nine-stars Martial Grandmaster. At that time, if I had made up my mind, none of you would have lived! How I hate myself now! It was my indecision that led to the present situation!"

“Hmph! None of us would have lived? How arrogant! When my clan was in the East Sea, we ruled over millions of sea areas, and even the Kings of the East Sea treated us with courtesy when we met. Shrimps like you are not even worthy of carrying shoes for my clan. It is a great honor for you to offer the divine tree to my clan, and yet you still complain? You really deserve to die!”

“Haha!” Tie Ling could not help but sneer, “You were really mighty, with all your Martial Emperors and above slain by a human being, and then tucking your tail between your legs to flee all the way to the South Sea. Amazing, how amazing!”

It was exactly the pain point of the Razor Clam clan, so the Martial Grandmaster immediately flew into a rage and roared like a madman, “You’re courting death!”

He threw out his arms abruptly, and two great forces appeared in his palms as he clenched them together. Suddenly, two whirlpools emerged in the water and merged together, stirring all the surrounding water as they converged into a tremendous force and pressed down like a drill. All the branches of the divine tree broke and shattered under the force.

“A nine-stars Martial Grandmaster!”

Tie Fan was shocked. ‘It seems that, as the Lord Holy Herald said, we underestimated the Razor Clam clan’s strength. It is likely that they have progressed significantly during the time when the Kunwu Divine Tree was in their possession! This Razor Clam is not one of the leaders we’ve seen in the past, and yet he actually has the strength of a nine-stars Martial Grandmaster!’

“Tie Fan, get out of the way!” Suddenly, the clan chief said in a deep voice as a mighty power exuded from his body, pushing Tie Fan to one side.

That startled Tie Fan, and he said in horror, “My lord, your body...”

“I’m fine!” The clan chief’s face was livid as his aura began to climb, and a terrible aura soon spread out and instantly stopped the falling whirlpool. “I will not die before I kill all these animals!” he said coldly.

“You...This power...” The Razor Clam was shocked. Looking at the clan chief’s murderous face, he cried out in horror, “You...you are the clan chief of the Firefish clan!”

“Hmph! Now that you know me, you can die!”

The Firefish clan chief’s aura exploded out in a flash; a terrifying force suddenly targeted the Razor Clam, and then the seawater in all directions plunged toward him.

The Razor Clam hurriedly turned to flee in horror, but how could he run away now? He was crushed out of shape on the spot, and his whole body began to twist, even rolling in water, as if he were about to twist into a rope!

Alarmed and panicky, he roared, “How dare a lowly school like you attack me! Are you really not afraid of the wrath of the Razor Clam clan!”

Chapter 199: Cavities

“Wrath? Hmph! Now, it’s time for the Razor Clam clan to taste the wrath of the Firefish clan!” The Firefish clan chief roared furiously, “Starswirl Double Kill, die!”

He clapped his hands, causing two currents to immediately rush up and devour the grotesquely twisted Razor Clam.

“Ahhh! You all will die like dogs! You lowly sea school will soon be completely wiped out by the Razor Clam clan! Ahhhh!”

The Razor Clam uttered a heartrending cry, and he was ripped to pieces by the currents in an instant, turning into gore and being washed away by seawater.

“My lord, are you alright?”

Tie Fan held the clan chief in grief and indignation. After killing the foe, the clan chief lost his spirits, and his body aged instantly, looking wizened. With his eyes turning red, Tie Fan said bitterly, “It’s all my

fault! I should have cultivated harder! I can't even finish a nine-stars Martial Grandmaster and had to rely on you!"

"Dad, dad, you'll be alright!" Tie Ling hugged the clan chief and burst into tears.

"Your...Your Excellency." The Firefish clan chief grabbed Yunxiao with a trembling hand and begged, "Your Excellency, I have to entrust the future of the Firefish clan to you! I'm afraid I can't walk to the core of the Kunwu Divine Tree... Tie Fan will lead you there."

While frowning, Yunxiao lifted a hand with a slender gold needle between the fingers and quickly stabbed the clan chief a few times. Then, he took out a medicinal pill and made him swallow it as he snorted coldly and said, "Don't make it like you are about to be parted by death. You're just running out of vitality. We are inside the Kunwu Divine Tree, the place with the richest life force between the heaven and earth. Even if you want to die, it's not going to be so easy."

"Ugh?" After taking the medicinal pill, the clan chief immediately felt the weariness gradually fading away from him, and he began to feel refreshed. He looked at his body in shock and said, "This... this..."

"This what? Lead the way!" Yunxiao looked at him with a smile.

"Yes, yes! Thank you, Your Excellency! Haha! I don't have to die now!" The clan chief's eyes glowed and his face filled with great joy. He turned and looked at Tie Ling and the others with tears on their faces as he snorted coldly, "Why are you crying? I'm not dead yet! Are you so eager to see me dead? Hmph!"

"Ah!"

They were all dumbfounded and did not understand what Yunxiao had done. Tie Ling was a sea refiner, and his eyes lit up as they filled with desire when he thought of the other's gold needle technique.

Suddenly, Yunxiao sent a voice transmission, "Clan Chief, I just temporarily held back the failing of your body. When we get to the core, I'll construct an array and add a hundred years to your life. But before that, you must not strike again, or you will definitely die!"

The clan chief's body trembled slightly, and he gave Yunxiao a grateful look over his shoulder.

Yunxiao chuckled and said, "Don't look at me with such ambiguous eyes, let's leave quickly. I sense several powerful auras approaching."

The clan chief's eyes flickered and sped up.

Just a moment after they left, a dozen figures suddenly appeared at the place where the Razor Clam turned into gore. They were all slender Razor Clam people.

One of them had a faint yellow glow over his body, and his aura was totally beyond the others. He glanced coldly around and said, "I sensed eight different auras—the weakest one is a Great Martial Master, and there is a Martial Emperor as well."

"What?" A Razor Clam was taken aback, and he said shockingly, "I can't believe there is a Martial Emperor! What should we do, Lord Da Lei? Do we need to inform the other Lords?"

"No need, they are all meditating in seclusion," Da Lei said lightly. "Judging from the aura, the Martial Emperor is not very strong. He should be just a one-star Martial Emperor. The other seven are not a concern. Recently, it has become more and more restless. I wonder how long this divine tree can be absorbed by our clan."

The Razor Clam laughed and said, "This Kunwu Divine Tree is the largest one I've ever seen in my life, I think we'll have no problem absorbing its power for another one hundred years. That Firefish clan is really a lowly race, I can't believe they didn't use such a precious treasure when it was in their possession."

"Hmph! Such a precious treasure can actually be enjoyed by everyone," Da Lei sneered. "If we can absorb its power for another one hundred years, even if our clan cannot return to our peak thirty years ago, it is very likely for us to produce at least one to two Martial Sovereigns. By that time, we will return to the East Sea and kill all those ungrateful clans who bully the weak and fear the strong!"

The Razor Clam chuckled, and then he suddenly asked, "Lord Da Lei, what about the eight people who broke in this time?"

Da Lei thought for a moment and snorted coldly as he said, "Since there is a Martial Emperor among them, let them be! This Kunwu Divine Tree is too huge. We could not have swallowed it without the Manta Ray clan's help. As the saying goes, finders keepers. As long as they don't affect our clan's plans, why not let them have a piece of the pie?"

"Understand! Lord Da Lei is indeed wise!" The Razor Clam immediately flattered.

As the saying went, flattery would get one everywhere. Even experts would inevitably feel complacent of themselves, and Da Lei seemed to enjoy the flattery very much as well. He gave a soft snort and brought the group, disappearing from the place.

Led by the Firefish clan chief, Yunxiao and the others soon came to a place where tree branches were messily intertwined. Space was growing smaller here, and the life force was getting richer.

The clan chief said happily, "Your Excellency, this is the core! Although it seems that the space is extremely small, there are cavities of different sizes in it. We just have to find one and cultivate inside."

"Not bad!"

Yunxiao said faintly as he pointed a finger at a branch beside him. A glob of green liquid burst out, and the branch quickly opened to both sides, revealing a cavity. "Is this one of the cavities you mentioned?"

The Firefish clan chief's eyes grew wide as he said in shock, "How did Your Excellency do that? Although there are many cavities here, they are very difficult to find, because even though the branches here are weak, they can repel divine sense."

Yunxiao said nothing and swam straight into the cavity. He also did not understand why he knew there was a cavity next to him. Maybe it had something to do with the Phoenix True Flame inside him.

The cavity was the size of a basketball court and surrounded by branches of the Kunwu Divine Tree. Yunxiao inspected the surroundings and said in satisfaction, "Not bad! I'll construct an array here and let everyone enjoy!"



As soon as he finished speaking, he began to construct the array. From time to time, he asked Tie Ling to help him while the others carefully guarded the entrance. Soon, a simple array took shape in the cavity, surrounded by various Primordial Crystals, which would provide Primordial Qi to make the array run.

“Your Excellency, what kind of an array is this? A few parts of it seem to have violated some basic principles of arrays.” Tie Ling could not help but ask. In the process of setting up, he was sure that Yunxiao’s knowledge was far superior to his. Together with Yunxiao’s current status, he did not dare to question him. But, the sea refiner’s instinct for knowledge still made him ask.

“Haha! Not bad, you have a pair of keen eyes. This array is a simplified version of the One Qi of Destiny array, which can directly absorb the Spirit Qi in precious plants and minerals, and convert it to one’s energy. It is an ancient array, but as the precious plants and minerals in the Heavenly Martial Realm have dried up, it is no longer as famous as in the past. But, there are still many treasures in the Four Seas. When we get out of here, I’ll teach you this array.”

He gradually grew fond of Tie Ling, who was a talented youth. Had it not been for his race, Yunxiao might have considered taking him as a disciple.

“Really? Thank you, Your Excellency!” Tie Ling said excitedly and loudly.

Alerted by the voice, the Firefish clan chief and the others came over. Looking at the complicated array on the ground, Duan Yue felt dizzy. He only recognized those glinting Primordial Crystals. “Young Master Yun, can this array alone help us break through?” he asked while the others looked expectant and dubious as well.

“Yes. Don’t underestimate this array. It is an array that was frequently used by almighty experts in ancient times. It’s a pity that the natural Primordial Qi is growing thinner and thinner now. Apart from the sea, where can we find such amazing precious plants and minerals to use this array? You don’t have to doubt, just go into the array!”

Everyone rushed in and sat cross-legged down. Yunxiao sent out a few incantation seals, causing the Primordial Crystals to burst into light and begin supplying Primordial Qi to the array. The Primordial Qi contained in ordinary Primordial Crystals was greater than Primordial Stones, and this was the reason why marine resources were richer.

Soon, a strange feeling began to spread in the cavity.

“This feeling of Spirit Qi...” The clan chief was the first to have his eyes lit up, and he said in great joy, “Haha! So strong! I can’t believe it can be directly absorbed and converted into energy! Heaven! Lord Holy Herald, you are so amazing!”

Others began to gradually feel the overwhelming amount of Spirit Qi as well, and they were all extremely astounded. Tie Ling said excitedly, “Such a high concentration of Spirit Qi...If we can cultivate here for one year or half a year, I think it is very likely that we can break through to the realm of Martial Supremes or even Martial Sovereigns!”

Looking at their cheerful and excited expressions, Yunxiao smiled in his heart. No amount of Kunwu Divine Trees could stand the absorption of his One Qi of Destiny array, and if the eight of them used it at the same time, the divine tree might not last ten days or half a month, not to mention one year or half a year.

Moreover, this array directly absorbed the Spirit Qi in precious plants and minerals, which would turn into ordinary objects after all of their Spirit Qi was drained. It was more destructive than the Razor Clam clan’s method of cutting the tree and sucking its sap. As long as the tree was alive, it could still recover with its branches cut, but the method of directly absorbing its Spirit Qi was like killing the goose that laid the golden eggs. Unless this Kunwu Divine Tree could survive for another tens of thousands of years or even longer, it could never recover to its previous condition.

He wondered what these few Firefish people would think if he told them the truth, but Yunxiao could not bother so much at this moment. Even he could not help but be tempted by such incredible Spirit Qi, and he soon began to absorb it crazily.

As time went by, they were completely immersed in great joy. The Firefish clan chief clearly felt that his body was gradually coming back to life, and a long-lost feeling of youth was returning as well.

Chapter 200: Triple Ghost Eyes Seal

The three leaders headed by Tie Fan all came here with injuries, but it did not take long for them to fully recover after absorbing the Spirit Qi in the array. Moreover, they had begun to push for higher realms subsequently. Tie Fei and Tie Ling were overjoyed as well, and they were all stunned by the rapid growth of their energy.

Yunxiao benefited even greater. He had used a small trick when operating the array, so the position he sat at was the array core in the center, where the Spirit Qi was the richest. Although he had just advanced to a two-stars Great Martial Master not long ago, he quickly reached the peak of the two-stars and began pushing for the three-stars.

A moment later, he opened his eyes slightly and said with a smile, "Oh, I'm already a three-stars Great Martial Master? That's a pleasant speed."

Duan Yue, who was on the side, also noticed Yunxiao's advancement. He was startled, and then a wry smile brushed his lips as he frowned and sighed.

"Sir Duan, what's going on? Why hasn't your energy changed at all?" Yunxiao frowned and his pupils constricted slightly as he stared at Duan Yue's body, as if he wanted to see through it.

"I..." Duan Yue pondered for a moment before he said embarrassedly, "My body is sealed by someone."

"What!" Yunxiao was taken aback. He hurried over and threw out a palm, the force of which ripped Duan Yue's clothes, revealing a muscular body. Three small dots that looked like tadpoles could be clearly seen on his chest, forming a circle.

"This..." Yunxiao was momentarily stunned, and he blurted out, "A Triple Ghost Eyes Seal!"

Duan Yue trembled, and his eyes were full of fear as if he had recalled something horrible. But, what shocked him even more was that Yunxiao recognized the seal. "How...How did you know about this Triple Ghost Eyes Seal?"

Yunxiao was speechless. He swallowed and asked, "Who put this seal on you?"

“Who? Since you recognized it, can’t you guess who put it on me?” Duan Yue was somewhat puzzled. “Are there many people who know how to use this seal? I’ve found many alchemists, but none of them could do anything about it.” He paused for a moment and asked, “Young Master Yun, can this seal be removed?”

“Hua Qianshu? Mo Xiaochuan? Jun Ruyun? Or Haolian Shaohuang? It can’t be Yang Di, as he doesn’t have the ability.” Yunxiao read the names of his disciples one by one, and then he smiled and said, “You must be more than a seven-stars Martial Grandmaster in the past. Once this Triple Ghost Eyes Seal is cast on a person, not only can he not absorb any Primordial Qi to cultivate, but his cultivation base will be constantly devoured by the seal and gradually decline. Tsk, tsk, what level were you in the past? A nine-stars Martial Grandmaster? Or a Martial Emperor?”

Duan Yue froze for a moment, and then he said bitterly with a remembering look, “The man who sealed me is none other than Haolian Shaohuang from Softsong Woodland, the City of Mercenaries! I was a mercenary of Softsong Woodland, and I offended Haolian Shaohuang because of an incident. He wanted to kill me, but he chose to seal me in the end, which perhaps was an act of kindness? Over the years, I’ve tried to break the seal, but to no avail. The reason I’m working so hard in Qinghai now is to save enough money to go to the Sea of Soul Formation and find higher-grade alchemists.”

He paused as he looked expectantly at Yunxiao and asked, “Young Master Yun, since you recognize this seal and can name so many people who know how to use it, then you must also know the method to remove it, right?”

“So, it was that little boy Shaohuang.” A strange look came over Yunxiao’s face as he scolded under his breath, “All these little bast\*rds know is how to give me trouble.”

“What?” Duan Yue did not hear that clearly. “Can it be removed or not, Young Master Yun?”

Yunxiao smiled playfully as he nodded repeatedly and said, “Of course it can be removed, and the method is very simple. You can do it yourself.”

“Really?!” Duan Yue was overjoyed and grabbed Yunxiao’s hand fiercely. He was too excited to control himself. “Quickly tell me, Young Master Yun! I beg you! This seal has kept me from getting a good night’s sleep!”

“The method of removing the seal is very simple. You just have to castrate yourself, and the seal will be lifted automatically.”

“...”

The cavity suddenly fell silent.

“Haha!” Tie Ling burst out laughing, clutching his stomach with both hands. The other Firefish people wanted to laugh as well, but they choked back their laughter, because they thought it was extremely impolite to laugh in the face of the Lord Holy Herald. But, their faces were twisted as they tried their best to suppress themselves.

Duan Yue’s forehead was dripping with cold sweat. “Young Master Yun, I’m already in such a miserable state, and yet you’re still in the mood for a joke.”

Yunxiao looked at him and said seriously, “I’m not joking. This seal is an ancient seal accidentally found by Haolian Shaohuang’s Master, Gu Feiyang, who later modified it slightly. He left the option to crack the seal to the person sealed by it, and it depends on whether the person is determined enough to do it. There were many people sealed by Gu Feiyang with it, and most of them disappeared and were never seen again. But, there was a Martial Sovereign name Ren Bubai, who forcibly castrated himself and cracked the seal.”

The expressions of the few Firefish people changed drastically when they heard Gu Feiyang’s name. They did not like him at all.

“Ah?” Duan Yue’s mouth grew wide. He had also heard of Ren Bubai. An expert with an extremely solitary and eccentric character, the Martial Sovereign had committed innumerable murders and was a psychopath who only loved handsome men. He did not expect that was the reason, and he was completely frozen. “That Gu Feiyang is a fu\*king animal! How could he invent such a cruel means of torture? He should die like a dog!”

Duan Yue kept cursing madly.

If that were real, he could only choose between having his cultivation base gradually decline or become a eunuch. How could he not be mad? The hope he had held for so many years was suddenly destroyed, and he was on the verge of complete collapse.

Meanwhile, Yunxiao's expression changed slightly, and he said in a cold voice, "Gu Feiyang is the man I respect the most. He is not only invincible in martial arts, but also unparalleled in literary grace, and a peerless handsome man that only appeared once in ten thousand years. If you insult him again, you can prepare to castrate yourself!"

"Blargh!"

Tie Ling suddenly vomited, but when he saw Yunxiao's murderous glance, he hastily closed his eyes and continued to meditate, not daring to speak a word.

The Firefish clan chief and the others looked at each other. They did not expect their Lord Holy Herald to admire Gu Feiyang so much.

Upon hearing that, Duan Yue immediately came to his senses. He rushed over and grabbed Yunxiao's hand as he said, "Young Master Yun, judging from what you said, the seal can be removed without self-castration, right?"

"Yes, but someone seems to have no respect for Lord Gu Feiyang!"

"How could I? Lord Gu Feiyang is the invincible warrior of the Heavenly Martial Realm, the great savior of mankind, the moon shining in the sky, the most handsome man in ten thousand years..."

"Blargh! That's enough!" Yunxiao suddenly felt his stomach tumble, and he hastily stopped Duan Yue. "Alright, let me be honest with you. This Triple Ghost Eyes Seal can only be cracked with the blood essence of the person who cast it, but I can teach you a secret method that can let you break the seal for an hour every day!"

"Doesn't that mean I must get Haolian Shaohuang's blood?" Duan Yue had a sudden sense of despair as he said bitterly, "Haolian Shaohuang is a genuine Martial Supreme, and I guess he is just one step away

from becoming a Martial Sovereign. If I had the ability to get his blood, I would have captured him and made him remove the seal for me.”

But, he also felt slightly relieved when he heard he could break the seal for an hour every day. It was better to break it within a limited time than being unable to break at all. Besides, if he could recover his strength, even if it were only an hour, he could accomplish many things.

“You don’t have to worry too much about that. As long as you follow me obediently and listen to my orders, when the time comes, I’ll have Haolian Shaohuang respectfully extend his neck and let you take his blood,” said Yunxiao with a smile. “Now, you just need to learn it carefully. Moreover, if you practice this technique, it will not affect your meditation at normal times, and there will be not much difference between having or not having a seal.”

“Just go ahead and brag. If you had the ability to get Haolian Shaohuang to stick his neck out, you would not have stayed in Firecrow, a place so remote.” Duan Yue looked disdainful, but he still listened nervously to Yunxiao’s teaching. Soon, a technique emerged in his mind. While frowning, he began to slowly study it.

Yunxiao smiled and entered the state of meditation again. ‘I didn’t expect Duan Yue to have a Triple Ghost Eyes Seal on his body. In this way, if he wants to completely remove the seal, he must follow me. I’ve accidentally gotten myself another expert. Shaohuang, you’ve done your Master a great favor.’

Meanwhile, in Softsong Woodland that was tens of thousands of miles away...

The sound of making love kept ringing out of a luxurious bedroom. Inside, a golden bed carved with dragons and phoenixes was shaking violently while the moans of a few women could be heard coming from behind the gauze curtain.

Suddenly, all the sounds stopped.

“Why did you stop suddenly, my lord?” A woman said in a delicate voice. “I want more.”

“Yeah, I want more too.” The few women complained noisily, their faces filled with desire.

The man sighed. "Somehow, I suddenly thought of my Master who had died so early."

"Lord Haolian's Master? He must be very strong, right?" A woman blinked and chuckled meaningfully.

"Hehe!" The man grinned as he ran his hands up and down the woman, making her moan. "My Master's way of picking up girls is to stay loyal to the one he loves. Hmph, in my opinion, there is nothing more stupid than that in the world. I think my way is better, keeping every girl I meet and then having fun together! This is the right way!"

All the women in the bed laughed. "You're so bad, my lord! You should be his Master!"

Between moans and gasps, a woman said, "My lord, you're so strong! Why is your Master so loyal to the one he loves? Is it because he can't do anything in a bed?"

"Hehe!" There was laughter again behind the curtain, but it quieted down instantly.

A faint chill spread behind the curtain as the man said lightly in a cold voice, "I forgive you this time. But, if any of you talk bad about my Master again, I'll kill your family." His voice was devoid of emotion, but it made the group of women tremble with fear and feel as if they had plunged into an ice cellar.