# Chapter 6771 - 6780

Time passed silently. Fine beads of sweat appeared on Lan Yuan's forehead, sliding down his pale cheeks and dripping onto the stone door with a barely audible sound.

His fingers trembled slightly; each output of spiritual energy required extreme focus and precision. The slightest mistake would lead to failure, or even trigger the restriction, attracting enemies.

His mind was focused solely on the runes and the flow of spiritual energy, shutting out everything outside. He had only one thought: break the restriction as quickly as possible and rescue Lan Xi.

Shen Liu stood behind him, not daring to relax for a moment. His eyes vigilantly scanned both ends of the passage, his ears pressed tightly against the wall, listening intently to any sounds outside.

The passage was eerily quiet, save for the faint sound of Lan Yuan's spiritual energy flowing through his palms and his heavy breathing.

Shen Liu could feel Lan Yuan's spiritual energy rapidly depleting, his face growing paler and paler. His anxiety grew, but he dared not disturb him, only silently praying for him.

After about the time it takes for an incense stick to burn, the last rune on the stone door flickered briefly before going completely dark, like a lamp being extinguished.

The stone door groaned and slowly opened a crack, releasing a rich seawater scent that carried a hint of Lan Xi's aura.

Lan Yuan breathed a sigh of relief, his body swaying slightly as he nearly fell. Breaking the seal had consumed a great deal of his spiritual energy, leaving him completely depleted and his face ashen.

He forced himself to stay upright and quickly squeezed through the crack, Shen Liu following closely behind. The two of them swiftly entered the space behind the door.

Behind the door was a circular space, resembling an abandoned underground pool, about ten zhang in diameter. The bottom was dried up, revealing cracked earth scattered with broken stones and discarded runes.

Above the pool was a circular opening, about ten feet in diameter, through which the starlight of the night sky could be faintly seen. It was the exit to the ground, with a faint spiritual energy barrier at the exit, presumably to isolate the energy between the underground and the surface.

Lan Xi was above it.

Lan Yuan looked up at the circular opening, then at the dried-up pool below, a strong impulse surging within him.

He could sense the aura of seawater above, and the faint fluctuations of Lan Xi's spiritual energy. It was the seawater that sustained Lan Xi's life, held aloft by an array, enveloping her body.

If he could pass through that opening, he could reach her, he could save her.

"Go up,"

Lan Yuan said softly, his voice tinged with weariness yet also with urgency.

He pushed off with his feet, his body shooting towards the circular opening like an arrow released from a bow, his spiritual energy surging to its limit, attempting to break through the faint spiritual energy barrier.

With a “bang,” Lan Yuan’s body slammed into the spiritual energy barrier, producing a soft thud. The barrier trembled slightly but remained intact.

Lan Yuan was startled; he hadn’t expected there to be another barrier at the exit. Without hesitation, he channeled his spiritual energy again, gathering it in his palm, and slammed it against the barrier.

With a “boom,” the barrier shook violently, a tiny crack appearing. Lan Yuan seized the opportunity, his figure flashing through the crack, instantly finding himself in a damp atmosphere.

The night wind from the plaza rushed towards him, carrying the salty smell of the sea and some strange fluctuations of spiritual energy. The chilly wind on his face invigorated Lan Yuan.

His gaze quickly swept across his surroundings. The plaza was brightly lit, dozens of stone lanterns illuminating the entire area like daytime.

The stone pillar was less than three zhang in front of him; Lan Xi was bound to it, her body wrapped in aquamarine chains.

The other end of the chain was connected to a stone pillar. The seawater beneath her, like a small pool, enveloped her lower body and waist, sustaining her life.

Her eyes were half-closed, her face as pale as paper, her breath weak, her lips cracked, and she looked extremely frail, as if she might die at any moment.

A surge of immense joy welled up in Lan Yuan’s heart, mixed with a pang of heartache.

He rushed towards Lan Xi, his steps hurried, even forgetting to conceal his presence, reaching out to grab her arm and untie her from the stone pillar.

“Xi’er! I’ve come to save you!”

Just as his fingertips were about to touch Lan Xi,

the seawater beneath his feet suddenly exploded, as if a giant boulder had been thrown in, creating waves several meters high.

The seemingly gentle and harmless seawater transformed in that instant into countless azure chains, coiling towards Lan Yuan from all directions.

The chains twisted, extended, and contracted like living things, whistling through the air with incredible speed, reaching Lan Yuan in an instant.

Lan Yuan was terrified and tried to dodge, but it was too late.

The chains instantly bound his wrists, ankles, waist, and neck, constricting him like iron clamps, rendering him immobile.

The moment the chains touched his skin, an intense, stinging pain spread through his meridians, and the restrictive runes on the chains operated wildly.

Like a hungry mouth, they were frantically sucking away his aquatic spiritual energy, which was draining from his body at a visible rate, making him weaker and weaker.

“Brother…run…don’t worry about me…”

Lan Xi’s lips moved slightly, her voice barely audible, her eyes filled with despair and worry, tears streaming down her pale cheeks, dripping into the seawater and splashing.

She knew this was a trap set by Chen Tianhai to lure the aquatic people to rescue her, then capture them all.

Lan Yuan's body stiffened abruptly, struggling to break free of the chains, but with each struggle, they tightened further.

The speed at which he absorbed spiritual energy increased, and the stinging pain grew stronger, almost unbearable.

Looking at Lan Xi's weakened state, his heart ached as if being torn apart, yet he was helpless.

"Xi'er, I won't leave! I must save you!"

"Lan Yuan!" Shen Liu's voice came from underground, filled with urgency and worry.

He leaped out from the opening, and the moment he saw Lan Yuan bound by several azure chains, his expression changed drastically. Without thinking, he rushed towards Lan Yuan, wanting to help him break free of the chains.

But the instant he took a step, three deep cracks suddenly appeared in the ground beneath his feet, three azure... Shen Liu struggled desperately, but the chains were incredibly strong, and he couldn't break free. His spiritual energy was rapidly draining away, and his face grew increasingly pale.

"Don't come any closer!"

Lan Yuan's voice was hoarse and urgent, his eyes filled with anxiety. "There's a trap! This is a net laid by Shen Tianhai. He knew we'd come. Retreat! Tell the leader not to come any further!"

But it was too late.

Several golden lights simultaneously shone from the shadows around the plaza, like lit lamps, illuminating the entire plaza as if it were daytime, even more dazzling than daylight.

From within the light, three elderly men dressed in magnificent robes slowly emerged, each surrounded by a dense golden divine light.

The aura of three Great Luo Golden Immortals of the second rank pressed down on the plaza like three invisible mountains, making it difficult for Lan Yuan and Shen Liu to breathe.

Shen Tianhai's voice came from the high platform, carrying an almost leisurely composure and a smug smile, like a cat playing with a mouse, full of mockery: "Young man, your aquatic tribe's stealth skills are indeed impressive, managing to find the underwater crevice and infiltrate here.

But every step you took was within my expectations. From the moment you entered the underwater reef area, your movements were monitored by my spies. I have been waiting for you for a long time."

He stood at the edge of the platform, hands behind his back, his golden gaze looking down at Lan Yuan and Shen Liu, who were bound by chains, as if looking at two prey caught in a trap.

His eyes were filled with smugness and contempt: "Lan Yuan, the rising star of the aquatic race, truly lives up to his reputation. It's a pity you're too young, too impulsive, bound by kinship, and ultimately fell into my trap.

Did you really think I would extend Lan Xi's life? That seawater, those seventeen restrictions, were all prepared for you. Now, you two are also caught, and the aquatic race has two more bargaining chips."

Lan Yuan gritted his teeth, his aquatic spiritual energy being frantically devoured by the chains. His vision blurred, his body grew weaker and weaker, and he could barely stand.

But he couldn't fall. Lan Xi was beside him, and Shen Liu was also entangled. If he fell, no one could save them.

His gaze swept over the aquatic chains, his mind racing, trying to find a way to break free.

Suddenly, he noticed a detail—the restrictive runes on the chains, though exquisite, were powered by the seawater in the underground pool.

If the spiritual energy connection between the seawater and the chains were severed, the chains' binding force would be greatly weakened, or even completely ineffective.

He took a deep breath, gathering all the remaining aquatic power within his body into his dantian, and then detonated it all in an instant.

Blue light exploded from his body, like a small water mine exploding in the water, the powerful impact spreading outwards, momentarily loosening the aquamarine chains binding him.

This was his last strength, his only chance.

Lan Yuan seized that moment of weakness, exerted his strength, broke free of the chains on his right hand, and then pushed with all his might towards Shen Liu. A thick stream of water gushed from his palm, pushing Shen Liu back into the circular opening.

"Go back! Go back quickly! Tell the leader that Shen Tianhai has laid a trap, tell him not to come and die again!"

Shen Liu's body plunged into the opening, disappearing into the darkness. He didn't even have time to utter a word, leaving only a gaze filled with resentment and worry.

Lan Yuan didn't even have time to confirm his safety before three new chains re-entwined his body, tighter and more forceful than before.

They pinned him to the spot, suffocating him so much he could barely breathe, and his spiritual energy drained away at an increasingly rapid pace.

The three elders on the plaza moved simultaneously.

They exchanged a glance, a cold glint in their eyes. Golden divine light coalesced in their hands, transforming into three sharp golden blades, radiating intense killing intent, slashing towards Lan Yuan.

Their objective was clear—to capture Lan Yuan alive, but first, to cripple his fighting ability, rendering him completely incapable of resistance.

Lan Yuan gritted his teeth, closed his eyes, and felt utterly hopeless.

He knew he couldn't withstand the attacks of three Grand Luo Golden Immortals of the second rank. This time, he was truly doomed; not only could he not save Lan Xi, but he had also lost his own life.

His only regret was failing to tell Shui Wuhen about Chen Tianhai's conspiracy and failing to protect Lan Xi.

Just as the three golden blades were about to strike him, less than a foot away from his body…

A gray light, like an invisible wall, suddenly rose in front of him, blocking the three golden light blades in mid-air.

Three crisp clangs rang out as the light blades struck the gray light, producing a series of muffled explosions. Golden fragments scattered like shattered golden glass, landing on the ground with a crisp sound.

Everyone's gaze turned to the direction from which the gray light had appeared, including Shen Tianhai on the high platform. His brows furrowed sharply, a sharp glint flashing in his golden eyes.

His heart was filled with doubt and vigilance: Who was it? To be able to withstand the combined attack of three Grand Luo Golden Immortals of the second rank… this power… it felt so familiar.

At the edge of the plaza, beneath a spirit tree, stood a figure in a gray robe.

He was tall and handsome, his purple eyes carrying a cold light. His aura was calm and restrained, yet possessed an extremely ancient and pure power.

His right hand rose slightly, a wisp of gray light still lingering at his fingertips—the very light that had blocked the attack of the three elders.

Kai.

Kai stood at the edge of the shadow of the spirit tree, his gray robes fluttering gently in the night breeze, the wisp of gray light still clinging to his fingertips.

The light, as thin as a hair, flickered like a silver thread in the darkness, its brightness changing with his breath.

His gaze passed over the three elders, landing on Shen Tianhai on the high platform. His purple eyes were utterly calm, like a still, deep pool.

Shen Tianhai's brows furrowed even more.

He recognized this young man—the one who had helped Lan Xi in the crowd, attempting to use gray power to shield her from the suppression of the laws.

He clearly remembered that he had casually dispersed the gray light with a wave of his hand, but now it seemed this young man's strength was far greater than it had appeared.

To be able to withstand the combined attack of three Grand Luo Golden Immortals of the second rank—this was absolutely… "It's you again."

Shen Tianhai's voice turned cold, like a blade chilled by ice water, carrying a hint of anger at being offended. "I've already warned you not to meddle in other people's business. Can't you understand human language?"

Kai glanced at him, his purple eyes devoid of any emotion, as if looking at something unrelated to him, and simply said, “One should be kind.”

Shen Tianhai paused for a moment, then let out a cold laugh.

The laughter carried on the night wind, with the absurdity of a superior being provoked by an ant: “Kindness? You, a rogue cultivator from out of town, dare to talk to me about kindness? Since you insist on courting death, don’t blame me for being impolite.”

He waved his hand, a small gesture, but with an undeniable command: “Take him down.”

The three elders moved simultaneously.

Golden divine light surged around them, like three golden suns exploding at the same time, illuminating the entire square as if it were daytime.

The aura of a second-grade Grand Luo Golden Immortal pressed down like three invisible mountains, completely locking down Kai’s aura.

The oppression was tangible, like billions of pounds of seawater squeezing in from all directions, making even breathing difficult.

The elder at the front formed a hand seal, golden light condensing in his palms, transforming into a golden light sword over ten feet long.

Intricate divine runes flowed along the sword’s blade, each line containing a complete strand of law power. Wherever the sword’s edge passed, space was torn apart with fine black cracks, emitting a sharp hissing sound.

The elder on the left blurred, transforming into a golden afterimage, flanking from the side.

He was even faster than the one in front, his figure like flowing gold, leaving several afterimages in the air.

He held a golden short blade in his hand, its blade shimmering with a cold, moonlight-like light, each afterimage simultaneously unleashing a strike.

Dozens of golden blade beams intertwined in the air, forming a gigantic golden lotus flower, its petals layered upon each other, each a deadly attack.

The elder on the right didn't draw his weapon; he stood still, his hands clasped in front of him, a dense golden sphere of light condensing, compressing, and spinning in his palms like a miniature sun.

The divine power within the sphere fluctuated more and more violently, emitting a low hum, like the growl of an ancient beast about to awaken.

He suddenly thrust the sphere forward, and it exploded in mid-air, transforming into three golden chains that writh and coiled towards Kai like living creatures.

The three attacks arrived simultaneously from three directions, their coordination so perfect it was almost instantaneous, reaching Kai almost at the same moment.

This coordination was the result of thousands of rehearsals, enough to render any cultivator below the second rank of the Great Luo Golden Immortal incapable of resistance in an instant.

Kai did not take the blows head-on.

His figure flashed, and chaotic power exploded beneath his feet. Gray light rippled outwards, pushing him backward. The

Dragon-Slaying Sword was drawn at that moment, its purple sword light intertwining with the chaotic power to form a gray-purple barrier, barely blocking the direct impact of the golden sword of light.

Clang—!

A deafening clang of metal clashing exploded, causing the surrounding air to vibrate violently.

Kai's arm went slightly numb, and his body involuntarily staggered back several steps, cracking the bluestone beneath his feet.

Although the golden sword of light hadn't breached his defenses, the power of law contained within it still flowed through his meridians like electricity.

He had no time to catch his breath.

Golden blade light from the side was already pouring down like a torrential rain. Kai lowered his body slightly, shifting his weight to his feet, and then suddenly spun to the right.

The Dragon-Slaying Sword traced a semi-circular gray-purple arc in the air, colliding with the dozen or so golden blade beams one by one.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

A series of dense, rain-like metallic clangs exploded across the plaza, like hundreds of iron birds striking simultaneously.

Each impact of the golden blade beams against the Dragon-Slaying Sword caused Kai's arm to tremble slightly, leaving a tiny burn mark in his meridians.

But he didn't retreat a single step; the Dragon-Slaying Sword in his hand acted like a rotating shield, deflecting all the blade beams.

At that moment, danger descended from his right.

Three golden chains, like venomous snakes, coiled around him from the side, whistling sharply, instantly binding his left ankle, left wrist, and waist.

The instant the chains touched his body, a powerful devouring force emanated from them, like hungry leeches trying to suck away his spiritual energy.

Kai coldly snorted, and chaotic power exploded within him.

A gray light surged from his body, sweeping over him like a tsunami and enveloping the three golden chains.

The moment the chaotic power touched the chains, the golden divine runes on their surface melted, dissipated, and shattered rapidly, like ice crystals thrown into a raging fire.

In less than a breath, all three chains shattered, turning into golden specks of light that vanished into the air.

The elder on the right's expression changed drastically: "He…he can devour divine rune laws?"

But the three elders' attacks did not stop there.

The second round of attacks was even more ferocious than the first; the three elders were clearly enraged by Kai's earlier performance.

The golden light sword transformed into a palm, a massive golden palm print descending from the sky, striking Kai's head like divine punishment;

golden blade light transformed into countless tiny needles of light, covering all of Kai's escape routes like a torrential rain;

the golden sphere of light reformed, this time even larger and more violent.

Kai was forced to focus all his attention on defending himself.

Chaotic power surged rapidly within his body, gray light intertwining with purple sword light. The Dragon-Slaying Sword in his hand

transformed into a continuous gray-purple light curtain, constantly colliding, tearing, and exploding with the attacks.

But he knew in his heart that he couldn't hold out for long.

With each blow he took, his meridians suffered further damage, and each collision consumed a large amount of his chaotic power.

The attacks from the three elders grew increasingly fierce, like endless waves, one after another.

Blood seeped from the corner of Kai's mouth, a gash appeared on his tiger's mouth, and several rips appeared on his gray robe, cut by golden light blades.

"This kid... a fourth-grade Golden Immortal, and he's actually managed to hold out this long?"

Shen Tianhai narrowed his eyes, his golden pupils surging with surprise, and a hint of fear he didn't want to admit.

He had seen countless talented cultivators, but no one at the fourth grade of the Golden Immortal realm had ever survived a single breath under the combined attack of three second-grade Grand Luo Golden Immortal elders.

Let alone three, even one second-grade Grand Luo Golden Immortal... Just then, two figures burst forth from the shadows at the edge of the plaza.

Blue light exploded around them, like two bursts of deep-sea energy, transforming into two water arrows that accurately struck the backs of two elders.

It was Shallow Sea and Deep Current.

They hadn't fled at all. After being pushed back into the underground opening by Lan Yuan, Deep Current didn't return the way he came.

Instead, he joined forces with Shallow Sea, who was waiting for him. The two of them circled up through another passage, waiting in the shadows for their opportunity.

Their breathing was rapid, clearly indicating they had been holding their breath for a long time, but now their eyes held only determination.

“Go!”

Shallow Sea’s voice was urgent and decisive.

He rapidly formed hand seals, his fingers flying like butterflies, each seal leaving a blue shadow in the air.

The blue light condensed, expanded, and spread in his palms, stirring the seawater in the underground waters beneath the plaza.

Boom—!

A deafening roar echoed from the depths of the earth.

The entire plaza trembled violently. One by one, the paving stones buckled, shattered, and overturned, revealing the surging waters beneath.

A wave several meters high erupted from the crack in the ground in the center of the plaza, carrying the coldness and roar of the deep sea, like a sea beast that had slumbered for millennia finally breaking free of its shackles.

The wave soared skyward, tens, even hundreds of meters high, like a giant wall stretching across the plaza, completely obscuring the three elders’ vision and attack routes.

The golden blades of light struck the water curtain, cutting through it, but the water curtain was too thick and too swift; the cut sections were instantly filled by new waves.

The golden light refracted, scattered, and attenuated within the water curtain, becoming fragmented.

“Quick!”

Qianhai’s voice was hoarse; his face was pale, and his spiritual energy was visibly depleting, but his hand seals didn’t stop, nor did the surging water.

Shenliu attacked simultaneously.

He pressed his hands down sharply, and the surging water, guided by his spiritual power, transformed into several azure chains that precisely bound the ankles of the three elders.

The chains tightly constricted their ankles, fixing them in place. Although they could only hold them for a moment, that moment was their only chance of survival.

“Take him away!”

Shen Liu shouted towards Kai, his voice urgent as if burning with the life force of his being, as if he were exhausting all his resources.

Kai did not hesitate.

He flashed forward, grabbed Lan Yuan’s arm, and lifted him from the ground.

Lan Yuan’s body was astonishingly light—after the chains had absorbed a large amount of his spiritual power, he was like seaweed drained of its moisture, withered and weak.

Kai tucked him under his arm and swiftly sped towards the direction of the spirit tree’s shadow, chaotic power erupting beneath his feet like an arrow released from a bow.

“Go through the sea!”

Lan Yuan said hoarsely, his voice broken. “Once we leave the island, we’ll reach the Void Sea. As long as we enter the water…”

Before he could finish, a massive golden pillar of light shot into the sky from the direction of the high platform.

The pillar, as thick as a tree trunk, exploded in the night sky, transforming into countless golden specks that rained down like a storm.

The specks of light covered the entire island and the surrounding sea, as if every inch of space had been simultaneously locked by countless golden eyes.

The moment those specks of light fell into the seawater, the entire Void Sea began to churn violently, and dense golden patterns appeared on the surface, like a giant spider web spread across the water.

Lan Yuan’s face instantly turned deathly pale: “He… he also set up a restriction in the sea… the Sinking Heaven Sea has already surrounded the entire island…”

“Shut up, save your energy.” Kai’s voice was flat, but his pace quickened.

He led Lan Yuan into the shadow of the spirit tree.

Shallow Sea and Deep Current followed closely behind, the three of them moving swiftly through the shadows.

The furious roars of the three elders echoed from the plaza behind them, along with Shen Tianhai’s suppressed rage: “Chase them! They can’t have gone far! Seal off all exits from the island!”

The four evaded the elders’ pursuit, circling out of the plaza area through an empty alley.

The alley was flanked by mottled walls, their bases covered in moss. Moonlight couldn’t reach them; only the light from distant stone lanterns pierced through the alleyway, casting a narrow shadow on the ground.

As they reached the edge of the island and prepared to leap into the sea, Kai abruptly grabbed Lan Yuan's collar.

"You can't go into the sea,"

Kai's voice was urgent and low. "Shen Tianhai's enchantment covers the entire outer waters of the island. Entering the water now is like walking into a trap.

Once those golden lights sense the power of the aquatic creatures, they will immediately converge, trapping you in the net."

Lan Yuan froze.

He turned to look at Kai, his deep-sea eyes gleaming coldly in the moonlight, churning with wariness and suspicion: "Who are you? Why do you know all this? Why did you save us?"

Before Kai could answer, the aquatic power within him began to surge again.

This time, the surge was stronger than before, like a disturbed undercurrent, swirling, churning, and rising in his dantian.

Gray chaotic power surged in his dantian, and the aquatic power briefly broke through the envelopment of the chaotic power, bursting through the breach in the dam like a tide, releasing a pure and ancient aquatic aura.

That aura drifted in the night wind, lasting only a brief moment, but enough for Lan Yuan and the other two to detect.

Lan Yuan's body trembled violently.

He felt the pure aquatic primordial power emanating from Kai's body.

That aura was of the same origin as the power within him, even more ancient and pure, like the source of a thousand-year-old deep current.

His pupils contracted sharply, his lips parted slightly: “You… how can you possess the power of the aquatic race? This aura… is even purer than mine… who exactly are you?”

“It’s a long story,”

Kai’s voice remained calm, his purple eyes unwavering. “But I’m not one of Shen Tianhai’s men. If I wanted to harm you, I wouldn’t have acted just now.

Shen Tianhai’s people are currently searching everywhere; you wouldn’t last a day like an incense stick burning if you went out like this. Come with me.”

Lan Yuan’s gaze briefly met that of Qian Hai and Shen Liu.

The three saw the same hesitation in each other’s eyes—the aquatic aura emanating from this stranger was like an unsolvable mystery, leaving them both confused and wary.

But they also saw the same judgment—this person truly meant no harm.

If he wanted their lives, he could have done it in the alley earlier; there was no need to… Kai led the three through winding alleys, like a shadow moving through cracks in the stones, avoiding several patrolling groups of cultivators.

The golden lanterns in the cultivators’ hands flashed past the alley entrances, their footsteps fading quickly on the stone pavement.

He led them through the back window of an inn into an empty room. The window frame creaked very slightly, then he silently masked the sound with his chaotic power.

The room wasn’t large, but it was enough for the four of them to stay temporarily.

He closed the window, drew the curtains, and then raised his hands. Gray chaotic power surged from his palms, transforming into a layer of warm light that slowly covered Lan Yuan and the other two.

That light, like an invisible veil, gently yet firmly adhered to their skin, slowly seeping into their meridians and dantian.

The moment that light covered their skin, all three felt the suffocating feeling that had been suppressed and eroded by the laws of the celestial realm significantly lessen.

It was as if a huge boulder had been pressed against their chests and finally released, and their breathing became smooth.

Lan Yuan looked down at the faint gray light on his arm, feeling the spiritual energy slowly circulating through his meridians again, his eyes filled with shock and disbelief.

“This power… can isolate the suppression of the laws?”

Lan Yuan’s voice carried an unprecedented surprise. “I’ve lived for thousands of years and seen countless powers, but I’ve never seen any power that can isolate the suppression of the celestial laws…”

“Temporary.”

Kai withdrew his hand, his tone calm. “It will last for at most three hours. You stay here, don’t go out, and don’t make any noise.

The people outside won’t be able to find you, so they’ll leave naturally. We’ll think of something else once the storm has passed.”

Lan Yuan was silent for a moment, looking at Kai, his voice hoarse and low: “Who exactly are you? The aquatic power within you is even purer than mine… I’ve only sensed that kind of aura in the deepest part of the aquatic race’s sacred spring.”

“I don’t know either.”

Kai's voice carried a trace of sincere confusion, a confusion like an unfathomable deep fog, shrouding his voice. "I came to the Void Sea to find this answer. The

Netherworld Elder of the Netherworld Abyss told me that the power within me belongs to the aquatic race. So I came here, hoping to find the source."

Lan Yuan looked into his purple eyes for a long time, those deep sea-like eyes surging with complex light.

Finally, he slowly nodded, his voice tinged with solemnity: "My name is Lan Yuan. Our aquatic tribe owes you a life."

Kai waved his hand, saying nothing more.

He turned and walked to the window, peering through the crack at the faint outline of the stone pillar in the distance, like a silent silhouette against the direction of the plaza.

Lan Xi was still bound there, motionless in the moonlight, like a stranded fish forgotten on the shore, unsure if she had the strength to wait for the next tide.

On the streets, golden light flickered between alleys and streets, like countless hungry eyes scanning every corner in the darkness.

The people of Shen Tianhai were searching street by street, footsteps and shouts rising and falling, but no matter how they searched, the small room with its tightly closed windows and low-hanging curtains remained as if it didn't exist, never having been pried open.

Kai stood there, his purple eyes reflecting the blurry outline of the stone pillar in the distance.

This play had only just begun.

Lan Xi remained bound there, like a string hanging over everyone's heads, ready to snap at any moment.

The night, like a piece of silk soaked in ink, weighed heavily on Bibo Island.

The moonlight was obscured by thick clouds, only a faint, silvery-white halo piercing through its edges.

In the small room on the second floor of the inn, there were no lights, only the faint glow of a stone lantern in the distance seeping through the window cracks, casting a very narrow, pale golden line on the wooden floor.

Lan Yuan sat cross-legged in the corner of the room, leaning against the wall, his eyes closed.

The layer of gray chaotic energy flowed slowly across his skin like mercury, each breath carrying a warm sensation that seeped into his meridians.

He could feel his depleted dantian slowly reviving, like the first trickle of water finally seeping from the bottom of a long-dry riverbed.

The spiritual energy devoured by the restrictive chains was returning little by little, slowly but tangibly.

He opened his eyes and looked down at the faint gray light on his arm.

The light was quiet and gentle, yet it contained a power he had never seen before—the power to isolate the suppression of the celestial laws, allowing aquatic cultivators who had left the waters to maintain their lives on land.

He had lived for thousands of years and had never seen this power recorded in any ancient texts.

Shallow Sea and Deep Current sat on the other side of the room, their backs against the wall, also meditating with their eyes closed.

Their injuries were not as severe as Lan Yuan's, but the restrictions set up by Shen Tianhai had still damaged their meridians.

Now, under the protection of the chaotic power, those damages were slowly healing, and their complexions were better than before.

Deep Current opened his eyes, his gaze sweeping across the dimly lit room before finally landing on Kai by the window.

Kai stood there, turned to the side, looking out at the street through the crack in the window, like a silent sculpture.

He stood there for a long time, his posture almost unchanged, only occasionally shifting his gaze slightly to follow the golden lights patrolling the street.

"How is it outside?" Deep Current asked in a low voice, his voice hoarse and restrained.

"They're still searching."

Kai's voice was soft, but he didn't turn around. "It's a bit more intense than before. Shen Tianhai has sealed off all the exits from the island, and even the docks are guarded."

"If he can't find us, he'll narrow down the search area sooner or later."

Qian Hai also opened his eyes, his voice tinged with worry. "Although this inn is remote, it's not completely hidden."

"So we have to wait."

Kai's voice remained calm. "Wait until their vigilance lowers, until they think we've already left, until they shift their attention elsewhere."

Lan Yuan was silent for a moment, then asked, “How long do we have to wait?”

“At least a day.”

Kai said, “The isolation effect of the Chaos Power can last for twenty-four hours, enough for us to wait for the right opportunity. Going out now will only lead us into Shen Tianhai’s trap.”

Lan Yuan didn’t speak. He clenched his fist, his knuckles turning white from the force.

His gaze pierced through the darkness of the room, landing on the blurry light outside the window, as if searching for something.

He couldn’t see the plaza, the stone pillar, or Lan Xi, but he knew she was there.

Bound to a stone pillar, barely clinging to life by the seawater, she gradually withered under the suppression of the laws of nature.

Kai seemed to sense his gaze, slightly turning his head to glance at him: “Your sister can still hold on. Shen Tianhai won’t let her die; she’s his biggest bargaining chip.”

“I know,” Lan Yuan’s voice was soft, “but I can’t…” Meanwhile

, at the Island Lord’s Mansion.

Shen Tianhai stood in his study, his face as gloomy as the sky before a storm.

On the table before him lay a map of Bibo Island, marked in vermilion with all the exit routes, patrol routes, and sentry positions.

Mr. Liu stood beside him, slightly bowed, a fine layer of sweat beading on his forehead.

“Still haven’t found it?” Shen Tianhai’s voice was low, but every word carried an unyielding chill.

Mr. Liu swallowed hard, his voice dry. “Reporting to the Island Lord, the three elders have led men to search every body of water on the entire island.

But… they haven’t found any trace of Lan Yuan or the other two aquatic cultivators.”

“Impossible.”

Shen Tianhai’s voice remained calm, but the suppressed anger beneath that calm sent a chill down Mr. Liu’s spine. “They are severely injured. One had a large amount of spiritual energy devoured by the restriction, and the other two are just useless people who overexerted their spiritual energy after forcibly triggering the tsunami.

In this state, they couldn’t possibly have escaped from Bibo Island, let alone live on the island. They can only be in the water.”

“This subordinate thinks so too.”

Mr. Liu nodded quickly. “This subordinate suspects that they might be hiding on the island or… they might have some way to resist the suppression of the laws.”

Shen Tianhai’s brows furrowed sharply.

He closed his eyes and spread his divine sense like a tidal wave.

The divine sense of a peak second-grade Great Luo Golden Immortal was like thousands of invisible tentacles, instantly covering the entire Bibo Island.

The tentacles burrowed into every house, every crack, every tree canopy of the spirit trees, even exploring the soil three zhang deep underground.

But there was nothing.

His divine sense detected no trace of the aquatic race.

There was no gentle, flowing energy fluctuation unique to aquatic spiritual power, no faint aura that should have emanated from Lan Yuan and the other two.

On the entire island, only a faint, fading aura of Lan Xi remained on the stone pillar in the direction of the plaza.

Shen Tianhai opened his eyes, his golden pupils swirling with doubt and confusion.

He had lived for tens of thousands of years and had seen countless concealment techniques, but he had never seen any technique that could allow an aquatic cultivator to completely hide their aura after leaving the water.

The aura of the aquatic race naturally resonated with the seawater; even when concealed with spiritual power, it would always leave a trace of regular, tide-like fluctuations.

But Lan Yuan and the other two seemed to have vanished into thin air, leaving not a trace.

“Could they really have left?”

Shen Tianhai muttered to himself, his fingers tapping lightly on the table, producing a dull thud. “Impossible… They were severely injured; it’s impossible for them to cross the sea’s restrictions in such a short time.”

Mr. Liu cautiously spoke up, “Island Master, could someone have helped them? That young man who blocked the three elders… he possesses a very strange power.”

Shen Tianhai’s pupils contracted slightly.

He recalled that gray figure, those purple eyes, that eerie power capable of devouring divine runes and laws.

That young man, despite only possessing the aura of a Golden Immortal, had managed to withstand the siege of three Grand Luo Golden Immortal Second-Rank Elders for so long.

Moreover, the timing of his appearance was too coincidental—appearing just as Lan Yuan was about to be captured, and retreating just as the tsunami erupted.

“That young man…”

Shen Tianhai’s voice deepened, “He possesses a strange power, like the power of chaos, or something else entirely.

But he’s only at the Golden Immortal realm. Even with some strange methods, it’s impossible for him to escape Bibo Island with three heavily injured aquatic cultivators in such a short time.”

He paused for a moment, his gaze falling on the coastal area marked with vermilion on the map: “They must be hiding somewhere on the island.

But aquatic cultivators can’t stay on land for long; the suppression of the laws will constantly erode their bodies. Even if someone helps them conceal their aura, they won’t last more than a few days.”

Mr. Liu’s eyes brightened slightly: “The island lord means… wait?”

“Wait.”

Shen Tianhai’s voice carried a confident composure. “They need seawater to restore their spiritual power and water to alleviate the suppression of the laws.

As long as they remain on the island, they will inevitably need to come into contact with seawater. I have laid down seventeen layers of

restrictions in the sea; as soon as they enter the water, they will be captured immediately."

He sat back down in his chair, picked up the now-cold teacup, but did not drink it, merely holding it in his hand. "Pass down the order: keep all restrictions in the sea fully open, and have all sentries keep a close watch on the coastline.

The search on the island can be reduced somewhat, giving them the illusion of 'escaping.' If they really leave by sea, they will be walking into a trap."

"Yes." Mr. Liu bowed and replied, turning and leaving the study.

Shen Tianhai sat alone in the room, his golden gaze passing through the window, landing on the distant sea surface shimmering with tiny silver lights under the moonlight.

A slight smile curved his lips: "The aquatic creatures cannot live without water… As long as you remain on Azure Wave Island, you will eventually return to the sea. And once you return, you will be fish in my net."

…

Over the next few hours, the search on the island did indeed gradually slow down.

The golden lights of the patrols became sparser, and the searching cultivators went from groups of three or five to pairs.

Shen Tianhai's order was relayed—the restrictions in the sea were fully activated, and while the search on the island seemed to have weakened, the number of sentries had not decreased; they had simply changed to a more covert method.

Kai stood by the window, observing the movements outside.

His purple eyes, like two quietly burning lamps in the darkness, reflected the gradually diminishing golden light on the streets.

His perception, enhanced by the power of chaos, extended outwards, capturing every subtle change.

Although Shen Tianhai had reduced the overt search, he could sense that the covert surveillance had become even more rigorous.

Those sentries hidden in the shadows of rooftops and lurking in the darkness of alleyways were more vigilant than before.

“That’s about enough.

” Lan Yuan stood up. His spiritual energy had recovered to about 50%, still not strong enough, but at least enough to maintain basic mobility.

He clenched his fist, feeling the power flowing through his meridians again, then looked up at Kai, his voice hoarse: “My sister is still in the plaza.”

Kai looked at him, his purple eyes devoid of any emotion: “I know.”

“I can’t leave her behind.”

Lan Yuan’s voice held an almost stubborn firmness. “She’s my sister. I came here to save her.”

“Going back now will only worsen her situation.”

Kai’s voice remained calm, yet carried an undeniable coldness. “You can’t defeat those three elders, nor can you defeat Chen Tianhai. If

you go back, you’ll only be captured again, becoming his new bargaining chip. Then, not only will you fail to rescue your sister, but you’ll also be doomed.”

Lan Yuan's lips moved slightly, wanting to refute, but he found himself unable to.

Every word Kai spoke was true.

In his current state, he didn't even possess 30% of his peak strength; going back would only be suicide.

"I promise you, I will definitely find a way to rescue your sister."

Kai's tone softened slightly, but still carried an undeniable certainty. "But now, we must leave first.

Only by leaving Bibo Island and returning to the depths of the Void Sea can we make further plans. Staying here is just waiting to die."

Lan Yuan remained silent for a long time.

His gaze pierced through the window, looking towards the outline swallowed by the night in the direction of the plaza.

In that direction, there was a stone pillar, and his seventeen-year-old sister was bound to it, slowly losing her life force under the suppression of the laws.

He clenched his fist, his nails digging deeply into his palm, then slowly relaxed.

"Okay." His voice was hoarse, carrying a forced resentment and pain. "I'll go with you."

Kai nodded, saying nothing more.

He walked to Lan Yuan and the other two, raised his hands, and gray chaotic power surged from his palms, transforming into a layer of even denser light that covered the three of them.

The light was thicker and denser than before, completely enveloping and isolating their aquatic aura, leaving no trace to leak out.

“From now on, you must completely imitate the walking posture of human cultivators. Do not emit any aquatic spiritual power, and do not show any aquatic characteristics.

The layer of light on your arms will help conceal your aura, but you must also control the fluctuations of spiritual power within your bodies.”

Lan Yuan and the other two nodded simultaneously.

They stood up and followed behind Kai, vaulting out of the back window of the inn.

Kai walked in front, his steps extremely light, each step precisely placed at the boundary between shadows, avoiding any ray of moonlight that might reveal them.

Lan Yuan and the other two followed closely behind, imitating Kai, lightening their steps and suppressing their breathing.

They passed through three alleys, avoiding the surveillance of two hidden sentries, each turn perfectly placed in the blind spots of the patrol team.

Kai seemed extremely familiar with the layout of the island, like a feline walking in the dark, each step precise and silent.

When they reached the edge of the island, the night was already deeper.

There were no patrolling cultivators on the shore, only a few stone lanterns still lit up on the distant dock, swaying slightly in the night breeze.

Fine golden patterns rippled on the sea surface—the restrictions laid down by the Shen Tian Hai, like a sleeping behemoth lurking beneath the water.

“If entering the water doesn’t work, then fly out,”

Kai’s voice was extremely soft, like the wind rustling through grass. “I’ll use the power of chaos to form a barrier around you, isolating you from the aura of the seawater’s restrictions. Stay close to me, don’t separate, and don’t look back.”

Lan Yuan and the other two exchanged glances, then nodded simultaneously.

Kai took a deep breath, and gray chaotic power suddenly erupted around him, transforming into a soft yet resilient light that enveloped all four of them.

That light, like a transparent giant cocoon, wrapped their bodies and rose into the night sky. The

Azure Wave Island beneath their feet grew farther and farther away, the golden lanterns grew smaller and smaller, and the golden patterns on the sea surface spread out below them like a giant spider web.

Just as they were about to leave the area of Azure Wave Island, a golden gaze suddenly rose from the direction of the Island Lord’s Mansion.

Shen Tianhai stood by the window of his study, watching the blurry gray dot of light in the night sky rapidly receding into the distance.

His brow furrowed slightly—someone was flying away from Azure Wave Island, and at a considerable speed.

But then, he lowered his gaze.

In his understanding, aquatic cultivators couldn’t fly for long after leaving the water.

Once out of the water, the laws of the celestial realm would quickly erode their bodies, causing their spiritual power to dissipate rapidly.

Moreover, the sea-based restrictions he had set up only targeted aquatic beings in the water, and were not sensitive to targets flying in the air.

The gray dot of light flew further and further away, eventually disappearing at the edge of the horizon.

Shen Tianhai turned around, sat back down in his chair, picked up his teacup, and his gaze fell on the topographical map on his desk.

He still believed that Lan Yuan and the other two were still on the island, still surviving in the shadows of some house, waiting for the sea to save their lives.

He only needed to wait, wait until they couldn't hold on any longer, wait until they voluntarily returned to the sea.

At this moment, the gray light had vanished into the night sky above the Void Sea, carrying three aquatic cultivators whose auras had been concealed, and was rapidly flying away towards Deep Blue City.

Moonlight shone upon them, illuminating the four…

A gray dot of light streaked across the night sky of the Void Sea like a shooting star, leaving a long, thin trail in the moonlight as it hurtled towards the depths of the ocean.

The sea breeze howled in their ears, and the salty, briny air assaulted their senses. The chaotic power surrounding Kai acted like an invisible membrane, enveloping the four of them and shielding them from the chill of the night wind and the dampness of the sea.

Lan Yuan leaned against Kai, feeling the Azure Wave Island receding into the distance beneath their feet. The tension that had gripped them for days finally eased slightly.

He glanced back; the island had shrunk to a tiny black dot, like a speck of dust on the sea, almost invisible in the moonlight.

“We…we’re really out,”

Lan Yuan’s voice was hoarse, carrying a mixture of relief and exhaustion from surviving a close call. “Chen Tianhai didn’t catch up.”

“He thought you were still on the island,”

Kai’s voice remained calm. “All his restrictions were placed in the sea; he didn’t expect you to come from the sky.”

Qian Hai and Shen Liu followed behind, their faces still pale, but much better than before.

Looking at the approaching deep sea, Shen Liu’s voice carried a hint of urgency: “How much further to Deep Blue City?”

“At this speed, about an hour,”

Lan Yuan said. “Pass through that reef area ahead, dive another three hundred feet deeper, and we’ll be there.”

Kai didn’t ask further, simply adjusting the direction of his chaotic energy and accelerating towards the direction Lan Yuan indicated.

The seawater beneath their feet grew increasingly dark, changing from light blue to deep blue, then to an almost inky, ghostly blue.

Moonlight pierced the surface, absorbed, refracted, and attenuated by layers of water, until only a faint halo remained.

About an hour later, Lan Yuan pointed to a surface of water that appeared indistinguishable from the rest of the sea: “We’re here. It’s right below.”

Kai nodded, gray chaotic energy condensing around him, and the four of them submerged into the water.

The instant they entered the water, a warm yet powerful pressure surged from all directions, enveloping them.

Kai could sense that the concentration of spiritual energy in the water far exceeded that on land. This spiritual energy flowed through his meridians like living water, carrying a gentle and nourishing power.

The pallor on Lan Yuan and the other two's faces noticeably lessened the moment they entered the water.

The suffocating feeling suppressed by the laws of the Heavenly Realm completely disappeared. The seawater embraced them like a mother's hand, revitalizing their meridians and dantian.

The four descended about three hundred feet, where all light had vanished.

But just as Shen Liu raised his hand and pointed forward, a soft blue-green light suddenly appeared ahead.

A massive underwater city appeared in Kai's vision.

Deep Blue City.

The city's buildings were constructed of pure white coral stone and blue glazed tiles, layered upon each other on the gentle slopes of the underwater mountains, like a giant pearl embedded in the deep sea.

Glowing seaweed and spiritual plants grew on both sides of the streets. The seaweed emitted a soft blue-green light in the darkness, enveloping the entire city in a dreamlike halo.

Aquatic cultivators moved through the streets, some riding tamed sea beasts, some gathering spiritual materials among the reefs, and others practicing water magic in the plaza—everything appeared peaceful and orderly.

A relaxed expression appeared on Lan Yuan's face as he quickened his pace, swimming towards the city entrance.

The entrance to Deep Blue City was marked by heavy coral stone gates, the pillars inscribed with ancient aquatic runes that now emitted a ghostly blue light.

Four guards clad in blue water-scale armor stood on either side of the gate, each a first-grade Grand Luo Golden Immortal, their gazes sharp as knives, vigilantly scanning every approaching figure.

As Lan Yuan led Kai near the entrance, the four guards' gazes simultaneously fell upon them.

When their eyes passed over Lan Yuan, the shallow sea, and the deep current, landing on Kai, their gazes instantly turned wary and cold.

Leading them was a burly aquatic cultivator with a rugged face, skin a deep-sea dark blue, and eyes like two ghostly flames.

His gaze swept over Kai from head to toe before turning to Lan Yuan, his voice carrying a suppressed chill: "Lan Yuan, you brought back a human cultivator?"

"Captain, he's the savior of me, Qian Hai, and Shen Liu,"

Lan Yuan said urgently. "He saved our lives. If it weren't for him, we would have been captured by Shen Tianhai."

The captain's brows furrowed even more, his voice unwavering: "No human cultivator has ever set foot in Deep Blue City for ten thousand years.

This is the rule of the Water Clan, you know it better than I do. Moreover, the location of Deep Blue City is an absolute secret of the Water Clan. If outsiders knew, it could be leaked to the Divine Race and other forces, bringing annihilation to the Water Clan."

He waved his hand, and the three guards behind him simultaneously stepped forward, blocking Kai's retreat.

Blue water light had already condensed in their hands; although they didn't attack directly, their guarded posture spoke volumes.

"Lan Yuan, as a leading figure among the younger generation of the Water Clan, you should know the rules."

The captain's voice grew even colder. "Bringing an outsider into Deep Blue City has violated the clan's rules. Send him away immediately, and we can pretend we never saw him."

"He saved us! Without him, Qian Hai, Shen Liu, and I would have died on Azure Wave Island!"

Lan Yuan's voice rose several decibels. "Are the Water Clan's rules more important than the lives of our own kind?"

The captain was silent for a moment, but his steps did not move. "Rules are rules. I don't know how he saved you, but the secret of Deep Blue City concerns the survival of the entire Water Clan.

I cannot let him in. Unless—the chief himself approves."

Lan Yuan gritted his teeth. "Then go find the chief! Send someone to invite Chief Shui Wuhen to make the decision himself! You're wasting time by keeping him outside!"

The captain looked at Lan Yuan for a long time, a complex emotion flashing in his eyes.

Finally, he turned to a guard beside him and said, "Go and fetch the leader. Tell him that Lan Yuan brought back a human cultivator, but they were stopped at the city gate. Ask him to make a decision."

The guard turned and quickly swam into the depths of the city.

The wait wasn't long.

After about the time it takes to drink a cup of tea, a silver-white figure quickly emerged from the depths of the city.

Shui Wuhen was still wearing that silver-white water-patterned robe, his long hair flowing slowly in the water like a silent flag.

His gaze swept over Lan Yuan and the other two, confirming they were all still alive, before landing on Kai.

The moment his deep-sea-like eyes saw Kai, a very subtle glint flashed within them.

"We meet again."

Shui Wuhen's voice was low and calm. His gaze lingered on Kai for a moment before turning to Lan Yuan. "What happened?"

Lan Yuan quickly recounted what had happened on Bibo Island.

How they had infiltrated through the underwater fissure, how they had fallen into Chen Tianhai's trap, how Kai had blocked the attacks of three Grand Luo Golden Immortals of the second rank, how the Shallow Sea and Deep Current had unleashed a tsunami to cover their retreat,

and how Kai had used the power of chaos to conceal their presence and fly them away from Bibo Island.

Shui Wuhen listened, his expression unchanged, but the current around him accelerated slightly, like an undercurrent churning in the depths.

After Lan Yuan finished speaking, he remained silent for a long time before slowly saying, "You mean... he used a power to isolate you from the suppression of the Heavenly Laws?"

"That's right."

Lan Yuan nodded. “That power is miraculous. After it attached itself to us, we no longer felt the pain of the suppression of the laws. He calls it the Power of Chaos.”

Shui Wuhen’s gaze fell on Kai again, his deep-sea-like eyes surging with complex light.

He looked at him for a long time, then said to the guard captain, “Let him in.”

The captain was stunned. “Chief, but he is, after all, a human…”

“I said let him in.”

Shui Wuhen’s voice remained calm, yet carried an undeniable authority. “He saved the people of the Water Clan, so he is the Water Clan’s benefactor.

Rules are rigid, but people are flexible. If we refuse even our benefactors, what right does the Water Clan have to call themselves compassionate and righteous?”

The captain opened his mouth, but ultimately said nothing more, stepping aside to make way.

Kai followed behind Lan Yuan, passing through the heavy coral stone door, and officially entered Deep Blue City.

The ground beneath their feet was paved with white coral stones, offering a slightly springy feel.

The glowing seaweed lining the streets bathed the entire city in a soft light, the rays refracting through the seawater to create countless dazzling bands of color, making this underwater city appear like a fairyland.

Along the way, the aquatic cultivators stopped, scrutinizing Kai, this rare visitor, with curious, wary, and appraising gazes.

Some whispered amongst themselves, others pointed, but no one stepped forward to stop them.

Shui Wuhen led the group through several streets to a large white hall in the city center.

This was the council hall of Deep Blue City, its walls inlaid with numerous large and small luminous pearls, illuminating the entire hall as if it were daytime.

In the center of the hall was a huge round stone table, its surface engraved with intricate sea charts. These charts, illuminated by the luminous pearls, slowly swirled with a blue spiritual light, appearing to move across the surface as if alive.

“Sit,” Shui Wuhen gestured for everyone to sit, taking the seat of honor himself.

Kai sat down at the stone table, his gaze sweeping over the wary faces of the elders around him, saying nothing.

He knew that here, he was the one who needed to explain.

“What’s your name?” Shui Wuhen asked.

” Kai!”

” Kai?”

Shui Wuhen looked at Kai, his voice low: “You have the power of the aquatic race within you, how did that happen?”

“I don’t know.” Kai shook his head, not hiding anything, “I have a wisp of aquatic race power within me, it appeared when I absorbed Yin energy, I don’t know exactly how it came about.

I can neither refine this power nor expel it. The Netherworld Elder of the Netherworld Abyss said that the power belongs to the aquatic race, so I came to the Void Sea to find the answer."

Shui Wuhen was silent for a moment, then stood up and walked to Kai: "Let me see."

Kai nodded, relaxing the chaotic power within his body, allowing the aura of the aquatic race power to naturally overflow.

Shui Wuhen raised his hand, a wisp of pale blue water light condensing at his fingertips, and gently pressed it against Kai's chest.

The moment that wisp of water seeped into Kai's body, Shui Wuhen's brows furrowed sharply.

His fingers trembled slightly, and his deep-sea-like eyes churned with shock and disbelief.

He could sense that the purity of the aquatic power within Kai far surpassed any aquatic primal power he had ever seen.

It was a source-like existence, more ancient and purer than the power within him, like a drop of water concentrated with the essence of an entire ocean.

"This power..."

Shui Wuhen's voice was hoarse, "is purer than any aquatic origin I've ever seen... even purer than the power in the Sea Soul Pearl.

I've only ever seen this level of power recorded in ancient texts... It must be the primordial power left behind by the ancestors of the aquatic race."

Kai's brows furrowed slightly: "Left behind by the ancestors? Then why is it mixed with a large amount of Yin energy? And how is it inside my body?"

Shui Wuhen shook his head: “I don’t know. But I know one thing—this power is inside you. You can’t refine it, nor can you drive it away. It’s like something that doesn’t belong to you, residing in your body. If you don’t deal with it, it will cause problems sooner or later.”

He withdrew his hand, remained silent for a long time, and then spoke: “I have a way that might help you solve this problem.”

The elders in the hall raised their heads at the same time, their eyes filled with vigilance and doubt.

An old man with white hair spoke: “Chief, what do you want to do?”

Shui Wuhen’s gaze fell on a secret chamber shrouded in blue light at the back of the hall, his voice carrying a calmness born of decisiveness: “The Sea Soul Pearl.”

As soon as these words were spoken, the entire hall erupted in chaos.

“The Sea Soul Pearl?! Chief, the Sea Soul Pearl is a sacred object of the Water Clan, only one can be formed every ten thousand years!”

“It’s the foundation of the Water Clan, how can we give it to an outsider?”

“Even if he saved Lan Yuan’s life, it doesn’t warrant using the Sea Soul Pearl!”

“Once the Sea Soul Pearl is lost, it takes at least ten thousand years to reform! Chief, you must reconsider!”

The elders’ voices rose and fell, some surprised, some angry, some confused, some trying to dissuade them.

The white-haired elder stood up, his voice trembling: “Chief, the Sea Soul Pearl is a sacred object that the Water Clan’s ancestors have protected with their lives.

It’s not just for improving cultivation; it carries the Water Clan’s bloodline and the origin of the Great Dao. If we give it to an outsider like this… the Water Clan’s foundation will be shaken!”

Shui Wuhen listened to the opposing voices, his expression unchanged.

He waited until all the voices quieted down before slowly speaking: “I know what you’re saying. The Sea Soul Pearl is indeed precious, and it certainly cannot be used lightly.” “They will become Shen Tianhai’s bargaining chips to blackmail the aquatic tribe,”

Shui Wuhen’s voice was low and firm. “Shen Tianhai will use them to constantly extort the aquatic tribe until he has drained them dry.

He saved the lives of three aquatic cultivators, preserved the dignity of the aquatic tribe, and prevented them from compromising under humiliation. Compared to all that, what is a Sea Soul Pearl?”

The white-haired elder opened his mouth, wanting to refute, but ultimately said nothing.

Shui Wuhen stood up and walked towards the secret chamber shrouded in blue light at the back of the main hall: ” Kai, come with me.”

Kai followed Shui Wuhen into the secret chamber.

The secret chamber was not large, only about three zhang square, with thousands of tiny luminous pearls embedded in the walls, illuminating the entire chamber as if it were daytime. In

the very center of the secret chamber, there was a stone platform carved from white coral stone, on which rested a bead the size of a thumb.

The bead was a deep blue, as if the entire deep sea had been condensed into a small round bead.

Fine blue patterns flowed within the bead, moving slowly as if alive, radiating an extremely rich water-attribute spiritual energy.

The entire bead emitted a soft and warm light, like moonlight reflected in water.

The Sea Soul Bead.

Shui Wuhen stood before the stone platform, gazing at the bead, silent for a long time.

His eyes churned with complex emotions—cherishing, reluctant to part, but ultimately settling into a relieved tranquility.

He turned to Kai and said, “The Sea Soul Pearl is the essence of the entire Void Sea, taking ten thousand years to condense into a single pearl. It contains the purest primordial power of the aquatic race. If

you consume it, you should be able to guide the wisp of aquatic power within you, allowing it to completely merge with your own power.” ”

Why?” Kai asked, “Why are you willing to help me?”

“Because you saved the aquatic people on Azure Wave Island,”

Shui Wuhen said calmly. “The aquatic race always repays kindness. Moreover, the wisp of aquatic power within you is originally from the same source as the Sea Soul Pearl. Perhaps this was all part of fate.”

He reached out, picked up the Sea Soul Pearl from the stone platform, and handed it to Kai: “Swallow it. Then use your chaotic power to guide it, allowing it to merge with your dantian.”

Kai took the pearl.

The moment his fingertips touched the surface of the pearl, an extremely warm yet powerful force surged into his body from his fingertips, as if he were enveloped by a warm tide.

He could feel the aquatic power within his dantian, which he had been unable to refine, throbbing violently, as if sensing a shared origin, cheering and leaping with joy.

Without hesitation, he swallowed the Sea Soul Pearl.

The instant the Sea Soul Pearl entered his stomach, a massive power exploded within him.

That power swept over his limbs and bones like a tsunami, enveloping him entirely in azure light.

He felt himself sinking, sinking deeper and deeper, passing through layers of water, through the dark depths of the sea, through millennia of sediment, as if plunging into an endless abyss.

Then, he stopped.

He felt himself become the seawater itself.

He could feel the flow of every stream, the temperature changes of every layer of water, the surging of every undercurrent.

He could feel the breath of the entire Void Sea, that slow and deep rhythm, like that of a living thing, resonating with his very soul.

He could feel the undulations of the underwater mountains, the depths of the trenches, the rise and fall of the waves, and even the swimming sea beasts traversing hundreds of feet below the surface, stirring up tiny undercurrents.

Kai felt his soul expanding and extending, as if merging with the entire void sea.

The aquatic power that had been flowing within him finally found its home, merging into the boundless ocean and becoming a part of him.

In his dantian, the chaotic power and the aquatic power completely merged, transforming into a new and purer force that surged and flowed through his meridians.

He could feel his cultivation level rapidly rising.

The barrier of the fourth rank of the Golden Immortal Realm shattered like thin ice, and the barrier of the fifth rank also loosened and crumbled, finally disintegrating completely under the impact of the tidal wave of power.

Sixth rank of the Golden Immortal Realm.

Kai suddenly opened his eyes.

A deep blue light flashed in his pupils, like a glimmer of light shining from the depths of the ocean, before quickly fading and returning to a clear purple.

He could feel that the power within him was several times stronger than before. After the chaotic power and the aquatic power had completely merged, it possessed a gentle yet resilient quality, like flowing water.

He slowly stood up, looking down at his hands, feeling the warm and powerful energy flowing through his meridians.

Shui Wuhen stood at the entrance of the secret chamber, watching the slowly dissipating blue light on Kai's body, his deep-sea-like eyes swirling with complex emotions.

"You've succeeded."

Shui Wuhen's voice carried a hint of relief. "That aquatic power has completely merged into your chaotic power. From now on, it will no longer trouble you."

Kai looked at him, a trace of gratitude flashing in his purple eyes: "Thank you."

Shui Wuhen waved his hand: “No need to thank me. It was the Sea Soul Pearl that chose you. That kind of resonance is not something anyone can trigger.”

He turned around and walked out of the secret chamber: “Come out. Those people outside are still waiting to see the result.”

When Kai walked out of the secret chamber, everyone in the hall turned their gazes to him.

Those gazes, filled with scrutiny, curiosity, vigilance, and an undisguised expectation, surged like a tide, enveloping him from head to toe.

The twelve elders sat around the stone table, some with furrowed brows, some with clenched fingers, some leaning forward slightly, trying to see the changes in Kai.

Lan Yuan, Qian Hai, and Shen Liu stood in the corner, their gazes also fixed on Kai, their breathing becoming shallow and cautious.

When Kai fully emerged from the secret chamber and stood in the center of the hall bathed in light, the entire hall fell silent for a moment.

Then, like deep water tossed with a stone, the silence was broken by a suppressed gasp.

“His…his aura has changed…”

“That’s the aura of the Water Tribe? How can it be so pure?”

“Purer than the Grand Elder I’ve ever seen, almost comparable to the primordial aura of the Sacred Spring…”

“I can’t even sense any alien aura on him…”