

Prodigies 131

[Chapter 131: Ulterior Motives](#)

The situation was about to change!

In the temporary 40th Campground, Savage Wolf's face was ashen and cold. His emotions roiled uncontrollably in his heart.

When he saw that Shi Yu had completely suppressed Di Jun by injuring himself, he knew that the battle situation had been reversed.

"Xiaoke, Xiaoke, I underestimated you..." mumbled Savage Wolf, his voice filled with indescribably complex emotions.

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"Once a pack of wolves runs into a group of fearless strong people, it has already lost in terms of boldness. Although this isn't a war, that kind of situation is very commonly seen in wars."

In the temporary 39th Campground, the middle-aged fatty let out a sigh of relief. It was unknown what he remembered from the past, but he suddenly looked emotional. "If we hadn't run into those fearless lunatics from the Darkness Kingdom back then..."

"Don't bring that up again!" Xiaoke interrupted, a deep frown creasing her brows. Her gaze was still on the light screen as though she didn't want to remember the past incident. But when she saw Lin Xun, Shi Yu and Ning Meng risk everything and fight for their lives, how could she control her emotions?

Back then, she, Xu Sanqi, and the middle-aged fatty were still young and had just completed the training in the Blood Kill Camp. They also possessed such boldness and courage.

It was just that...

Xiaoke suddenly felt a piercing pain in her heart. She tried to shake it off with a violent toss of her head. She didn't want to think about it anymore.

Only very few people knew that it was that incident back then that made her unable to forgive her older sister Xiaoman.

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Di Jun lost consciousness after the disastrous defeat, and although Shi Yu was critically wounded, his fighting strength was just as terrifying. The melee did indeed begin to change once he joined Ning Meng's battle.

After a short while, Ning Meng thrust his halberd into the abdomen of one of the opponents. The opponent was sent flying across tens of feet before losing consciousness.

Almost at the same time, Shi Yu swept his pair of bronze maces across the air and knocked one of the opponents out.

"I'm going to help Lin Xun. I leave the remaining two to you!" Shi Yu turned around without any hesitation and darted towards Lin Xun.

"Little White Face, what makes you think you can order me about?" Ning Meng cursed out loud but he didn't slow down his moves and fiercely charged toward the two remaining opponents.

At this point in the battle, the situation had been completely reversed, and Ning Meng, who was already mentally prepared to be eliminated from the battlefield, breathed a sigh of relief.

However, the battle wasn't over yet. He wouldn't go easy on the remaining two.

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On the other side, Gong Ming had already fled by the time Shi Yu rushed over.

In other words, Gong Ming realized that the situation had changed when Di Jun suffered a disastrous defeat and he promptly decided to retreat when he saw that Ning Meng had resolved his crisis.

It was difficult for Lin Xun to stop him from fleeing given his current strength, so he had no choice but to helplessly watch him run away.

"That little turtle is very cunning!" Shi Yu smiled coldly, feeling very bitter. Gong Ming had been pestering him since the start of the assessment and made him unable to acquire even one nameplate yet. This was a huge humiliation for Shi Yu.

Naturally, he hated the 'culprit' Gong Ming even more because of that.

However, Shi Yu couldn't dwell on it too much because Lin Xun suddenly collapsed to the ground with a thud and was gasping for breath.

He was riddled with bruises and cuts, and he felt a throbbing pain in every inch of his bones like they were about to snap. His aeth power was almost exhausted and his body was at its limit; his condition was extremely bad.

If it wasn't for his strong perseverance, he would have lost consciousness already.

"Take a good rest. As long as I, Shi Yu, am around, I won't let anyone lay their fingers on you!" Seeing the tragic state that Lin Xun was in made Shi Yu think about their sufferings. Gratitude and appreciation suddenly filled his heart.

Panting, Lin Xun said with a smile, "I didn't help you to make you grateful. I just don't want our 39th Campground to be eliminated."

"Hey, I didn't expect you to have such a great sense of honor." Shi Yu chuckled, shaking his head. He turned around and began to search Di Jun's body for nameplates.

On the other side, Ning Meng flew into a rage. "Little White Face, can you come over here and help first?"

"Oh, Young Master Ning Meng has to ask for help? What a rare sight." Shi Yu remarked in a relaxed manner.

"Little White Face, you're so shameless. If I hadn't saved you, you would have been eliminated already!" Ning Meng cursed in fury.

Lin Xun listened to them quarrel while he lay on the ground, his mind relaxed for a rare moment. There were less than ten minutes until the end of the assessment. It's finally over...

It was then that a clear and resounding whistle rang in the distance—

"Hey! There's indeed a fight here. Ning Meng, Shi Yu, don't worry. We will come to help you!"

Following the voice, Qi Can, Wen Mingxiu, Xin Wenbin, and Mu Lengxin were racing over from the jungle in the distance.

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. They didn't come sooner or later but appeared at this moment. Who would believe that they just happened to pass by?

Shi Yu curled a corner of his lips in a sneer and slowly stood up.

Ning Meng roared, "Who the hell needs you to help us. Get lost!"

As he was speaking, he increased his attack power and pushed the two remaining students from the 40th Campground into imminent danger.

Qi Can just smiled in response to Ning Meng, while the faces of Wen Mingxiu, Xin Wenbin, and Mu Lengxin darkened.

"Mingxiu, Lengxin, go and help him." Qi Can ordered. "Wen Bin, go and check on Lin Xun's wounds and help treat them."

They didn't care what Lin Xun and the other two wanted and acted like they were eager to help them.

Gleeful joy surged in Xin Wenbin's heart as he understood Qi Can's intention. He wanted him to take the opportunity to snatch away the nameplates on Lin Xun!

In the same way, Wen Mingxiu and Mu Lengxin were going to help Ning Meng and take a share of the spoils.

It didn't matter whether Lin Xun and the other two agreed or not. They had come to help them. Moreover, Lin Xun and the other two were severely wounded so they posed no threat to them. They couldn't disagree with what Qi Can wanted.

In short, Qi Can and the others came to take advantage of students from the same campground as them.

Aren't they a bit too shameless?

Indeed, even Instructor Xiaoke couldn't do anything if she learned about how they did something like that under the false pretense of helping.

It was because Lin Xun understood this that the hatred in his heart became even stronger. But he had no strength to stand up, let alone stop them. Gong Ming had almost shattered all the bones in his body with his club and left him with severe injuries. How would he have the energy to stop them?

What he felt most helpless about was that there were only a few minutes until the end of the assessment yet such a change had occurred. Anyone would feel aggrieved.

"I appreciate your kindness but I decline."

Shi Yu suddenly stepped forward and swept an indifferent glance over Qi Can and the others. "If you don't understand, I can say it more bluntly—If you want to take advantage of us, step over my body first!"

His voice was resounding and resolute.

Qi Can's expressions altered subtly, and the others were also hesitant to act.

They knew who Shi Yu was and they knew that Shi Yu had a gentle and easygoing personality. He was rarely bothered about anything but he had suddenly become so ruthless and determined.

Even if Shi Yu was riddled with wounds, he was still one of the strongest in the 39th Campground, so no one dared to ignore his stance.

Qi Can shot a glance at the distance and saw that Ning Meng had already got rid of the remaining two opponents. He couldn't help but feel a little upset and disappointed to have missed such a good opportunity.

With that thought, Qi Can said, "If that's the case, then never mind. But Lin Xun looks badly injured. It's better to tend to his wounds early."

The meaning of his sentence was obvious. Fine, we will not take advantage of Shi Yu and Ning Meng, but we have to take advantage of Lin Xun!

"Yes, that's correct!" Xin Wenbin fiercely nodded, unable to contain the wild joy in his heart. He had never thought that he could torture Lin Xun with his own hands after yesterday how Lin Xun humiliated him to the point that he couldn't lift his head up. Luck was directly brought to his door!

He had already decided to take away the nameplates on Lin Xun and take the chance to give Lin Xun a slap in the face!

After all, there wasn't any rule that forbade them from attacking each other in the monthly assessment!

He didn't care even if Instructor Xiaoke punished him afterward. I doubt Instructor Xiaoke would eliminate me from the camp.

Xin Wenbin impatiently rushed towards Lin Xun.

The expressions on the faces of Shi Yu and Ning Meng changed at the same time, but they also noticed that Qi Can, Wen Mingxiu, and Mu Lengxin had already locked their eyes on them from afar. Their hearts sank because they knew that Qi Can would definitely jump out and stop them from helping Lin Xun.

These guys deserve to die!

Shi Yu and Ning Meng were filled with hatred. If we weren't severely wounded, we wouldn't have fallen to such a state.

However, Shi Yu and Ning Meng absolutely wouldn't watch Lin Xun suffer. They wouldn't hesitate to stop them even if it meant they would have to fight Qi Can!

However, just when the two were preparing to act, an ear-piercing whistle rang from the jungle not too far away. It seemed that some kind of terrifying force was whizzing across the air, heading their way with incredible speed.

Everyone's countenance changed. The noise was very familiar. It was a very famous aeth tool in the empire—The Armor-Piercing Blood Crossbow!

With a pff, an arrow shot right through Xin Wenbin's thigh and a jet of blood spurted out and splattered across the air. He hadn't even neared Lin Xun yet.

Xin Wenbin let out an anguished scream and was blasted to the ground several meters away, looking extremely miserable.

Unfortunately for him, Shi Yu was standing where he fell with the faintest trace of a smile on his lips. Shi Yu suddenly yelled, "Enemies are attacking. Everyone, quickly hide. I will shield Young Master Xin!"

He suddenly leaned over Xin Wenbin. Although he said 'shield', he knocked Xin Wenbin out without any hesitation, searched his body and took the nameplates on him.

If Xin Wenbin was conscious, he would have spurted out blood in rage.

Chapter 132 Assessment Result

In truth, without Shi Yu's reminder, the others would have instinctively darted away. They had also quickly located the attackers' location.

Very quickly, three figures were coming towards them from afar. They were, of course, the short and chubby teenager Ye Xiaoqi, Lei Xinyue, and an unfamiliar youngster.

Their appearance had ruined Qi Can's plan. The faces of Qi Can and the others turned dark and unpleasant but no one dared to act recklessly.

The situation was very strange. Lin Xun, Shi Yu, and Ning Meng were seriously injured, and they were only united with Qi Can and his party on the outside. However, even if they all hoped for each other to suffer a disaster, they had to temporarily stand on the same side in front of Ye Xiaoqi and the others from the 40th Campground

After all, they all represented the 39th Campground. It would be ridiculous for them to attack each other since it would only create an opportunity for their opponents to take advantage of.

Ye Xiaoqi and the others came to a stop a dozen of feet away and didn't advance forward.

"Your performance just now was wonderful. I wouldn't have stopped you if it wasn't for the fact that I really admire that guy's blade art and couldn't bear to see him eliminated." Ye Xiaoqi sighed regretfully.

The guy he was referring to was, of course, Lin Xun.

Qi Can and the others suddenly looked even worse. Only then did they understand why the arrow was fired at Xin Wenbin.

“Lin Xun, when did you hook up with a little fat man from the 40th Campground?” Shi Yu asked in puzzlement.

“What do you mean by hook up?” Lin Xun snapped. “I hate the fact that I can’t slaughter that guy, okay?”

Shi Yu exclaimed in surprise, “No way, the little fat man just saved your life. You two seem to have a very complicated relationship.”

Lin Xun was amazed that Shi Yu could still joke around at such a time.

“Hehe, this is called appreciating each other. Shi Yu, people like you won’t understand.” Ye Xiaoqi laughed, his eyes were already small, but when he smiled they narrowed into straight lines.

“Don’t talk nonsense! Now that you’re here, don’t even think about leaving!”

Qi Can seethed with anger when he saw them chatting and ignoring their existence.

“Qi Can, I don’t think you’re stupid but you sound unbelievably stupid right now. Have you not realized that there are less than two minutes until the assessment ends?”

Ye Xiaoqi asked in bewilderment, “Do you think there’s a point in continuing to fight?”

He might have seemed like he was giving a friendly reminder but his tone was full of mockery.

Flushing with anger, Qi Can thundered, “Even if there is only one minute left, I will fight to the end!”

As he was roaring, he furiously charged forward and his spear shot beams of cold light everywhere. An imposing aura rushed out from his body.

Ye Xiaoqi raised his hand with a smile, and a dark Armor Piercing Blood Crossbow producing a blood-red sheen appeared in his grip. He pointed it at Qi Can who was rushing towards him from afar.

Buzz!

A sharp rune arrow was fired out with a terrifying whistle. It split the air and shot towards Qi Can with unbelievable speed.

With a swoosh, Qi Can threw himself to one side to evade the arrow, his pupils rapidly shrinking.

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!

Another round of arrows was quickly fired. Rune arrows shining with dazzling luster shot towards Qi Can from different directions like blades sent from hell to capture souls.

Qi Can had no choice but to evade and retreat from the rapid firing. By the time he escaped from the shower of arrows, he had returned to where he was previously standing.

Qi Can’s expression grew worse and worse, and he couldn’t help cursing. That damn fatty!

“Okay, let’s stop it. Everyone may become students of the same camp after the assessment. Why start a fight at this time and ruin our friendship?” Ye Xiaoqi said with a smile.

His simple and honest expression coupled with his innocent words unexpectedly sounded strongly sarcastic. He truly had a very special ability.

As Lin Xun, Shi Yu, and Ning Meng watched the situation unfold, the expressions on their faces turned a little strange.

The little fatty is simply an expert in making people hate him. Anyone who sees him would somehow feel an urge to beat him up.

Such an ability is very rare! *novelnext.com*

Qi Can was clearly suppressing his fury with all his might. Just as he was about to say something, a deep bell rang three times in a row in the sky.

It was the signal of the end of the assessment!

“Ah, it’s over so soon. I wanted to have a good chat with everyone. Never mind, there will be a chance again in the future. Farewell for now.”

Ye Xiaoqi sighed, gave a cupped fist salute to everyone, and left with Lei Xinyue and another teenager.

“So annoying!”

Qi Can squeezed out two words from between his teeth. He hated the little fat man to the bone.

On the other hand, Wen Mingxiu’s and Mou Lengxin’s expressions were changing indefinitely.

They had originally planned to take advantage of Lin Xun. Unexpectedly, not only did Xin Wenbin suffer a surprise attack, but Qi Can was also rudely mocked by Ye Xiaoqi and the others. The sudden change caught them off guard.

The assessment was already over by the time they were able to react!

On the contrary, Lin Xun, Shi Yu, and Ning Meng smiled in relief. They didn’t try to disguise the coldness in their eyes when they looked at Qi Can and the others.

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The tense and brutal first monthly assessment had come to an end.

In the evening of the same day, the assessment results were announced.

At the time, Lin Xun was treating his injury. He was so wounded that he had to be immediately sent to the treatment area in the 39th Campground. Shi Yu and Ning Meng were also there.

There were special medics in the Blood Kill Camp with superb medical skills. With such good medical care, they could recover regardless of how wounded they were as long as they were still breathing.

Very quickly, the assessment results were distributed to each student.

The first thing it read was: the 40th Campground has failed!

Lin Xun exhaled a long breath of turbid air. We finally won! This means that the 40th Campground won't exist anymore!

Cheers erupted from the campground. Although it was loud and lively, it was sparse and couldn't be compared to how it was in the past.

This was normal. In the month before the monthly assessment, twenty-six people had been eliminated from the 39th Campground. Afterward, another twelve of the remaining twenty-four students were eliminated in the monthly assessment. They were asked to leave the Blood Kill Camp due to their poor overall score.

In other words, only twelve people were remaining in the 39th Campground.

Lin Xun was one of them.

His overall score before the monthly assessment was 469 points and was only regarded as average.

He won a total of seven nameplates in the monthly assessment, which was a pretty good result. However, he was still only considered average when all his previous scores were added together.

Lin Xun was already very satisfied that he hadn't been eliminated.

"Damn it, I can't believe someone like Qi Can is above me..." Shi Yu looked a little troubled on the hospital bed.

He had very bad luck in the monthly assessment. Gong Ming had pestered him since the start of the assessment and consequently, his result was worse than Lin Xun. However, he was still ranked in the top when all his previous results were added together.

"Hey hey, hey hey..." Ning Meng smiled smugly on the other hospital bed. He had achieved pretty good results, which was better than Shi Yu, Qi Can, and even better than many others.

He was ranked first among the remaining twelve students in the 39th Campground.

"First place was given to a fool. This is a disgrace to our 39th Campground." Shi Yu mocked.

Lin Xun listened helplessly. He knew that the two were going to endlessly talk smack to each other again.

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Three days later, the patients in the 39th Campground had fully recovered after receiving medical treatment from a group of medics in the Blood Kill Camp, and they were leaping and frisking about.

The news that the 40th Campground would be removed and that the eighteen students in the 40th Campground would merge with the 39th Campground spread throughout the camp.

Gong Ming, Di Jun, Lei Xinyue, Ye Xiaoqi, and others were among them.

They and Lin Xun and the eleven other students formed the brand-new 39th Campground.

Like that, the 40 campgrounds of Blood Kill Camp now became twenty campgrounds. And like the 39th Campground, each one consisted of thirty students.

In total, there were still six hundred students in Blood Kill Camp!

A month ago, two thousand students came to participate in the camp. In other words, one thousand and four hundred people were eliminated in just one month of time!

The rate of elimination was astonishing.

Naturally, this indicated that the remaining students were the elites among the elites.

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Daily training resumed on the fourth day after the monthly assessment.

Many of the training sessions had changed. For example, practical training no longer involved fighting with savage beasts but changed to battles with low-level cultivators from the Darkness Races!

The three largest races in the Darkness Kingdom were the Magi Brute Race, Abyss Demon Spirit, and Moon Soul Race.

But the Magi Brute Race was the greatest enemy of the Ziyao Empire.

The Magi Brute Race was divided into nine sub-races, and each one had a special combat talent. The race had millions of fighters and many were distributed around the empire's border.

As a cultivator in the empire, the best and quickest way to understand the enemy was to fight against them!

Although large-scale battles between the empire and the Darkness Kingdom hadn't happened in hundreds of years and it was rare to see enemies from the Darkness Kingdom in the empire's territory, it was easy to battle with the Darkness Races in Blood Kill Camp.

Many fighters from the Magi Brute Race were imprisoned in some extremely secretive training grounds such as Fire Brutes, Water Brutes, Gold Brutes, Earth Brutes, Wood Brutes, Wind Brutes, Mad Brutes, Lightning Brutes, and Star Brutes.

However, they were all brute slaves, which were ranked at the bottom of the race.

Brute slaves were equivalent to True Martial Stage cultivators.

From that day on, a compulsory subject for each student of Blood Kill Camp was to fight with brute slaves!

As written on the sword-shaped stone tablet in front of the Blood Kill Camp's entrance: "Violet Glory Flower is undefeated because of blood kill and the empire exists forever because of continued expeditions!"

War would never completely end unless all the enemies perished.

[Chapter 133: Brute Totem Rune](#)

At first glance, there was no difference between fire brutes and ordinary people in terms of appearance.

However, one could distinguish the difference upon a closer look. For example, a fire brute's hair had a fiery shine that resembled starlight.

Their eyes were rhombus-shaped and sparkled like blood diamonds.

Most importantly, in the center of their chests was a flame-shaped totem rune.

It was a fire rune symbol that they were all born with and could transform into a totem fire armor to protect their heart area in battle.

Somewhere in the training ground, a fire brute descendant was standing in front of Lin Xun.

It was a strong and muscular man with rank 9 Brute Slave strength, which was comparable to the strength of a ninth layer True Martial cultivator.

Boom!

The instant the battle started, the fire brute man violently charged forward and his body released bright blinding flames. Every inch of his muscles was bulging, making him look extremely fierce and berserk.

He aimed a punch at Lin Xun.

Lin Xun drew a deep breath, gathered strength in his palm, and thrust it towards the opponent's fist.

With a boom, a blast of terrifyingly hot power furiously roared towards Lin Xun like a sea of lava, causing his wrist to tremble and almost rupture.

As I thought, everyone in the Darkness Race has abnormal strength. Cultivators can't compare to them in terms of physique.

This thought flashed through Lin Xun's mind but he didn't slow down his movements. He gathered strength in his arms, leaned forward, and fiercely pounced toward his opponent.

The fire brute man was blasted dozens of feet away with a bang, but he climbed back up like nothing had happened in the blink of an eye.

This was the terror of the Magi Brute Race. Each one of them was born with divine strength and an incredibly strong steel-like physique; they were natural fighters.

As mentioned in Xu Sanqi's anatomy class, cultivators could only fight Magi Brute Race experts at an equal cultivation level head-on by relying on various aeth tools and rune armaments.

The key reason was that most cultivators possessed less physical strength than Magi Brute experts.

"Hmph! Human beings, without aeth tools and rune armaments as protective shells, you are just a group of trash unable to withstand a single blow!"

The fire brute man charged towards Lin Xun once again, his body shrouded in raging flames and his eyes glinted with a bloodthirsty and berserk light.

Lin Xun frowned and drew a deep breath. He had decided to fight the opponent with pure strength.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

It was a cruel hand-to-hand fight with each strike inflicting significant damage.

Every punch of Lin Xun's could pulverize rocks and shatter steel but the fire brute man only swayed a little.

On the contrary, every punch of the fire brute man caused Lin Xun's blood and qi to churn frantically. Fortunately for Lin Xun, his opponent had limited battle experience and simple and unsophisticated combat arts. Lin Xun managed to avoid the majority of his attacks.

Even so, Lin Xun had to admit that he might have lost already if the fire brute man had mastered some combat techniques.

This once again demonstrated that Magi Brute Race experts were indeed born fighters. Their bodies and strength were their greatest weapons!

After a while.

Rumble!

Lin Xun suddenly mobilized his strength. Aeth power rapidly surged out from his body and gathered around his fist. Then, he slammed his fist forward.

The air exploded as his fist blasted forward with terrifying force.

The fire brute man was caught off guard. He had never thought that Lin Xun, who had been using physical strength in the battle, would suddenly change to aeth power.

With a loud boom, the center of the fire brute's chest caved in. He collapsed, screaming in agony.

"Despicable human!" He roared, but still couldn't stand back up. He writhed on the ground for a long while and finally lost his life.

"What an idiot. I just wanted to understand more about your strength and techniques so I didn't attack, but once I understood them, I won't hold back anymore. Is this despicable? No wonder Instructor Xu said that the greatest weakness of the Magi Brute Race is their stupidity."

Lin Xun stepped forward, crouched down, and tore off a piece of the opponent's totem fire armor. He couldn't help but nod.

As expected, a fire brute would instantly die once its heart area was destroyed.

However, it wasn't easy to crush its heart, mainly due to the totem fire armor, which was like a natural aeth armor that formed on the chest of every fire brute descendant since birth.

It was also known as the brute totem rune. It was activated in battles and transformed into an inner armor to defend the heart.

In addition to fire brutes, water brutes, gold brutes, wood brutes, earth brutes and other sub-races of the Magi Brute Race all had some sort of brute totem rune.

In other words, the presence of a brute totem rune was the most obvious sign to identify a descendant of the Magi Brute Race.

Lin Xun took out the Sky Breaker Blade and carefully carved out the part of its chest with the brute totem rune.

He was very interested in it.

It was rumored in the empire that, a long time ago, the first rune born in the world was influenced by the brute totem rune and was engraved by a legendary expert!

Although the rumors might not be true, Lin Xun had heard from Mister Lu that the brute totem rune was a type of natural mysterious rune that contained many unfathomable secrets. If Lin Xun could uncover them, he could create unimaginable rune patterns.

However, Lin Xun had no interest in creating rune patterns. He was curious to know what kind of mystery was concealed in the natural brute totem rune.

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At noon, the practical training was over.

Lin Xun didn't join the other students in the canteen; instead, he went to Old Mo's warehouse.

This was a special treatment that only he could enjoy. Everyone in the 39th Campground was aware that a rune master regarded Lin Xun highly and kept him as his assistant.

Although Lin Xun still participated in daily training, he didn't stay in the campground in his spare time. This aroused many people's curiosity, but unfortunately for them, Lin Xun had never told anyone what he did in Old Mo's warehouse.

When Lin Xun arrived, Xiaoman had already prepared a spread of fine dishes while Old Mo was still working on the newly improved aeth engine.

Xiaoman was a sexy beauty with a voluptuous and fiery hot figure and a stunning face. Lin Xun was one of the rare people who got special treatment from her; she was very warm towards him, like an older sister doting on her younger brother.

She would prepare food for Lin Xun every time he came by and then ask about his training in the campground.

Today was no exception. Lin Xun had gotten used to Xiaoman's friendliness and knew that the sexy and beautiful woman treated him very well. He also felt very warm towards her.

"It's okay. I should have another breakthrough within two months." Lin Xun said casually while eating.

Ten days had passed since the monthly assessment. Lin Xun had resumed the intense but fulfilling training sessions. Although it was brutal, he had eventually adapted to the environment. Furthermore, Lin Xun could distinctly feel he was growing stronger every day, which made him feel very satisfied and pleased.

"Don't slack off. While your performance in the previous monthly assessment was pretty good, there is still a gap between you and some of the others." Xiaoman reminded him.

Lin Xun laughed. "Of course I won't. If I dare to slack off, big sister, you would be the first to not let me off."

"The quarterly assessment is in less than two months. It is much more brutal than the monthly assessments. If you can't reach the True Martial eighth layer by then, you should pack up your stuff and leave Blood Kill Camp." Xiaoman spat out, her watery eyes glinting at Lin Xun.

Lin Xun raised his eyebrows. "Is the quarterly assessment that difficult?"

Xiaoman said seriously, "You will understand when the time comes. Your opponents are no longer students from other campgrounds but real experts from the Magi Brute Race!"

Lin Xun felt a chill in his heart. He nodded. "I understand." *nOveLnext.com*

Suddenly, Old Mo stopped eating and beamed, "Kid, within two months, the Violet Hero Battleship will undergo a transformation. When it happens, I'll invite you to test its power and show you what I can do!"

His eyes were glowing with pride.

Before Lin Xun could reply Xiaoman said disdainfully, "Old Mo, I know that the transformation of the Violet Hero Battleship is Lin Xun's idea. I don't know why you look so proud."

Old Mo's expression suddenly froze and then he snorted and buried his head in the food. But his gaze occasionally swept across Xiaoman's full chest like he was retaliating.

Xiaoman couldn't be bothered to pay attention to the old pervert and just kicked him away from the table. She grinned charmingly as if she was saying 'what can you do to me'.

Lin Xun couldn't help but smile.

One month flew by.

During that month of painstaking training, Lin Xun had successfully illuminated the fourth spirit star in his sea of consciousness, thereby expanding his spirit perception to a radius of forty feet

He was only one step away from reaching the perfect realm of the True Martial seventh layer. His rapid progress was no doubt attributed to the Lengning pills.

During that period, he had consumed twenty Lengning pills every day for aeth power cultivation. One pill was worth ten silver coins, and twenty equaled two hundred silver coins!

The consumption of two hundred silver coins a day would make many cultivators smack their lips. Only a few people could afford such an amount in the long term.

In fact, Lin Xun wouldn't be able to afford such an expense in the past. Fortunately, he was at Blood Kill Camp and he had Xiaoman's help. He was able to enjoy such treatment without spending any points.

Otherwise, Lin Xun wouldn't dare to be so extravagant even if he was beaten to death.

His huge consumption was due to his special physique—the four aeth power vortexes in his four heart acupuncture points, which allowed him to refine and absorb greater amounts of purer aeth power.

Perhaps, this was also an innate talent that only Lin Xun had. He just didn't know whether it was different from the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer that he originally had.

In addition to being amazed by his progress, Lin Xun couldn't help but feel a little troubled. He was only at the True Martial seventh layer yet he had to consume Lengning pills that cost two hundred silver coins a day. If he continued to grow stronger, what sort of cultivation resources would he require to support his cultivation?

Ultimately, cultivation progress was indeed inseparable from wealth.

In the past month, the only thing that surprised Lin Xun was that unexpected things had occurred in the Omega Secret Realm!

[Chapter 134: Strong rise](#)

Since coming to Blood Kill Camp, Lin Xun had challenged the Omega Secret Realm every three days.

This had become his habit.

The benefits of passing the Omega Secret Realm were unquestionable—It greatly helped to temper a person's physique.

Yesterday, when Lin Xun attempted the second level of the Omega Secret Realm for the 67th time, he was only a dozen feet away from reaching the mountain peak where countless waterfalls were gushing down!

A month ago, Lin Xun could only make it half way up the mountain. The difference in progress clearly showed how fast Lin Xun's physical strength had improved during the period.

Lin Xun speculated that he should be able to pass the Thousand Heavy Wave Sea within two months!

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Lin Xun's improvement in the past month also greatly improved his score in the camp. He was now considered above average among the thirty students in the 39th Campground.

His progress might seem nothing special but it was already amazing considering his background.

It had to be said that everyone remaining in the 39th Campground were elites among the elites and the fact that Lin Xun was now ranked in the upper-middle demonstrated how fast Lin Xun's strength had improved in the past one month.

His improvement brought a great deal of pressure to the other students.

It was not an exaggeration to say that all the students in the 39th Campground except for Lin Xun were at the True Martial ninth layer. Only Lin Xun was still at the True Martial seventh layer.

His results were at the upper-middle despite only having True Martial seventh layer cultivation. It was easy to imagine what sort of pressure it brought to the students ranked below him since they possessed a much higher cultivation base than him.

Just as Xiaoman had previously said to Xu Sanqi, Lin Xun's cultivation base might seem weak but he had a much greater room of improvement compared to the other students.

This was because the other students already had the cultivation base to break through to the Spirit Dipper Stage. It would be difficult for them to have any other breakthroughs in strength.

On the other hand, Lin Xun was different. He was only at the True Martial seventh layer yet he was ranked above average in the rankings. What would happen if he broke through to the True Martial eighth layer?

Going further, what would happen when he reached the True Martial ninth layer?

Those who realized this wouldn't dare to underestimate Lin Xun anymore.

.....

Some people were delighted about Lin Xun's strong rise, such as Ning Meng, but some others were not as happy, such as Qi Can.

Xin Wenbin had failed miserably in the last monthly assessment and had been eliminated from the Blood Kill Camp; however, his hatred for Lin Xun hadn't been resolved as a result.

At least, everyone in his circle, such as Qi Can, Wen Mingxiu, and Mu Lengxin, knew that their relationship with Lin Xun was like fire and water even though there hadn't been any deep grudges between them.

The stronger Lin Xun became, the more discontent they were.

What annoyed them the most was that they knew they would have countless ways to stop Lin Xun's progress or even completely suppress him if they were in the outside world.

However, they were at Blood Kill Camp, where the rules were very strict, so they didn't dare to openly create trouble for Lin Xun. They could only hope that Lin Xun would be eliminated in the training or fail miserably in the upcoming quarterly assessment.

However, the possibility of that happening was very slim because Lin Xun had tremendous room to grow stronger and he was improving hugely every day. It was impossible to stop him.

Qi Can and the others felt extremely annoyed every time they saw Lin Xun. It was as though they had eaten a fly. But there was nothing they could do about it.

It wasn't only Qi Can and the others who felt pressure facing Lin Xun's strong rise, the students from the 40th Campground who had merged with the 39th Campground did too.

This was because Lin Xun was the only one making rapid progress in the entire camp. Other people's progress was mostly reflected in their combat techniques and combat experience.

Whereas Lin Xun's progress was in his aeth power cultivation!

Aeth power cultivation was a cultivator's fundamental strength and also their source of power in battle. *NoVelnext.cOm*

As cultivators at the True Martial ninth layer, they might be able to suppress Lin Xun with combat strength, but their advantage would gradually lessen as time passed and they might even be surpassed in the future!

This was indeed possible. Lin Xun could already suppress many students at the True Martial ninth layer despite being at the True Martial seventh layer. How terrifying would he be when he possessed a cultivation base of the ninth layer True Martial Stage?

Many people had begun to realize that disregarding Lin Xun now would be stupid. Although Lin Xun might have been of little importance back then and was likely to be eliminated, his circumstances had completely changed now. Anyone stuck in the past were truly foolish.

.....

Time flew and ten days quickly went by.

On that day, Lin Xun had successfully broken through to the True Martial eight layer, reaching the Big Cycle Stage. As a result, his aeth power underwent a complete transformation!

In the fighting arena.

Wen Mingxiu knitted her brows as she studied Lin Xun who was standing opposite her. She somehow felt that Lin Xun was a little different from the past, but she couldn't put her finger on it.

Within the past month, Wen Mingxiu and Lin Xun had around four to five training spars in the arena. At first, she won more than she lost, but later on, they had an equal number of victories.

The change made Wen Mingxiu realize that, although she might be improving, Lin Xun's progress was clearly much faster than hers.

Even if Wen Mingxiu felt bitter about the change, she had to admit that Lin Xun was strongly rising. She could only close the gap between her and Lin Xun if she disregarded everything and broke through to the Spirit Dipper Stage. Otherwise he would surpass her one day.

Regrettably, Wen Mingxiu wouldn't choose to break through to the Spirit Dipper Stage at this point. Her purpose of coming to Blood Kill Camp was to enter the Dipper Transformation Lake, so how would she choose to break through before she entered the Dipper Transformation Lake?

Most importantly, she would have to leave Blood Kill Camp once she broke through, since the rules stated that no Spirit Dipper cultivators were allowed in Blood Kill Camp!

Hmph, the quarterly assessment is in ten days. I don't believe that the True Martial seventh layer guy will be lucky enough this time around to not be eliminated!

Wen Mingxiu drew a deep breath, tossed away all the distracting thoughts in her mind and charged towards Lin Xun in a flash as though she was raising the curtains to the battle.

Although she still hated Lin Xun, she wouldn't be careless. She wasn't stupid so she knew that she could lose the battle if she didn't concentrate.

As soon as the battle started, she activated her ancestral unique technique, the Jade Flame Finger!

Shua!

Her slim and fair finger was sharp as a blade, glowing an unearthly jade hue. It suddenly released a terrifying power that seemed capable of penetrating into a person's soul.

In the past, it was her unique art that helped her win against Lin Xun.

Wen Mingxiu knew very well that Lin Xun had grown stronger and so she didn't hesitate to perform the killing move right away. She wanted to immediately crush Lin Xun's fighting spirit and push herself into a favorable position in the battle.

However, she didn't expect Lin Xun to not evade her ultimate killing move and instead meet it head-on.

Boom!

He had used the Fight Bloody Battles On All Directions from the Marching Army Fist Art.

Unlike before, his punch was now enveloped in a vast, unparalleled and unstoppable force that seemed like it could swallow the world!

With a rumble, the air exploded before the fist came, as though it was unable to withstand the terrifying force.

Wen Mingxiu became stifled and seemed to vaguely see a sacred mountain descending from beyond the heavens and about to crush her. All the pores on her body exploded as she felt an unprecedented danger.

Bang!

Before she could change her move, she felt as if a giant hammer had flattened her finger and an incomparably terrifying fist force was crashing down like raging waves. Her body trembled uncontrollably and she was almost blasted out of the arena.

Her face blanched in horror as she coughed out a mouthful of blood. Her pretty face contorted with uncontrollable fear. The last time we fought was only ten days ago...how did he become so strong in that short period of time?

The scene drew gasps from all around.

Some students' pupils constricted and their faces twisted with fear. They had never thought that Lin Xun would become so powerful.

"He has made a breakthrough..." Someone muttered in an indescribably complex voice.

A tossed stone raised thousands of ripples. Many people finally realized that Lin Xun had broken through to the True Martial eight layer in less than two months!

"How could he progress so fast?!"

"Why have I never noticed that guy is so talented in cultivation?"

"Some people are mediocre all their life and then somehow, suddenly astonish everyone. Lin Xun was a nobody, but he has risen strongly and he will surpass more and more people in the future."

Many people wore complicated expressions. Some were envious, some surprised, but the majority were mixed with fear and pressure.

Lin Xun had broke through too fast!

Since the last monthly assessment, his potential seemed to have exploded and his cultivation base had been improving crazily. It was difficult for him to not attract other people's attention.

"Hehe, did you see? He's my brother. Many people have joked that he would be eliminated soon but it turns out that you all are blind!"

Ning Meng laughed proudly as he looked at his opponent.

Qi Can's face grew overcast.

Shi Yu ruminatively looked at Lin Xun from afar. Lin Xun's potential had far exceeded his expectations many times in a row, which was very unusual.

The gazes of Gong Ming, Di Jun, Lei Xinyue and Ye Xiaoqi also subtly changed when they looked at Lin Xun.

"I really have underestimated him..." At the entrance of the fighting arena, Xiaoke's slender figure was still straight as a brush and her short jet black hair glistened under the twilight sky.

Gazing at Lin Xun afar, she cast her mind back to the changes that had happened to him in the past few days and she couldn't help falling into a trance.

Since that day, Lin Xun's ranking rose once again in the 39th Campground and he finally entered the top ranks!

There were only three days until the quarterly assessment.

[Chapter 135: Reward for Passing](#)

There were only three days until the quarterly assessment, and the rules for the assessment had been announced much earlier.

The rules were very simple. Each student had to act alone and kill a real Magi Brute expert!

Those who failed would be eliminated.

Those who ranked low would also be eliminated.

The ranking would be decided in a simple way: the less time a student took to kill the Magi Brute expert, the higher they would be ranked. On the contrary, the longer it took, the lower their ranking.

After the quarterly assessment, ten out of the remaining twenty campgrounds would be removed and the number of students eliminated was based on the quarterly assessment results.

.....

The atmosphere in Blood Kill Camp had turned very tense as everyone was anxiously preparing for the upcoming quarterly assessment.

The Magi Brute expert that they would have to kill alone in the quarterly assessment was a brute warrior with a strength comparable to a Spirit Dipper cultivator. Even top students such as Shi Yu, Ning Meng, Qi Can and Gong Ming were under enormous pressure.

According to the cultivation levels, only Spirit Dipper cultivators and above could compete with brute warriors!

However, all the students in Blood Kill Camp were at the True Martial Stage. It was easy to imagine how much pressure they would feel having to fight a brute warrior.

“Fortunately, although it’s a solo fight, we can use our points to exchange for aeth tools and armaments for the battle. As long as we give it our all, it shouldn’t be that difficult to kill a brute warrior.” Shi Yu said thoughtfully in the canteen.

“The most important thing is that the brute warriors that Blood Kill Camp has prepared for us definitely won’t be that strong. Otherwise, even true Spirit Dipper cultivators will struggle to kill them, let alone us.”

Li Qiu, who was next to him, nodded.

Brute warriors had strength comparable to the Spirit Dipper Stage but because they were different cultivation levels, they were ranked differently.

First-level brute warriors were equivalent to Human Spirit Dipper cultivators, second-level brute warriors were equivalent to Earth Spirit Dipper cultivators, and third-level brute warriors were equivalent to Heaven Spirit Dipper cultivators.

In the Blood Kill Camp’s quarterly assessment, the opponents prepared for the students would all be first-level brute warriors. Otherwise, even top students such as Shi Yu, Ning Meng, Qi Can and Gong Ming would no doubt lose.

“Hmph, Little White Face, are you afraid?” Ning Meng said disdainfully.

“If you know yourself and your enemy, you can win hundreds of battles without a single loss.” Shi Yu smiled pensively. “I’m not like you. You only know how to kill recklessly and have only courage but no brains!”

“F* your grandma!” Ning Meng slammed the table and fumed, “What do you mean by having only courage and no brains? Are you saying that I’m stupid?”

“You said it, not me.”

“You dare to say it but don’t dare to admit it? Little White Face, you’re so cowardly!”

“Whether or not I’m cowardly is none of your business!”

These two were like oil and water and would fight whenever they saw each other. The students in the 39th Campground had long grown used to it.

If Lin Xun was here, he might have been able to resolve the situation but he wasn't there, leaving Li Qiu, sandwiched between the two. He pretended to not hear anything and continued to eat with a bitter smile.

.....

Rune battle realm—Thousand Heavy Wave Sea.

While Shi Yu and Ning Meng were smack talking each other, Lin Xun was standing atop a mountain peak in the center of a vast ocean.

Waterfalls roared down like white dragons from the mountain and produced thunder-like rumbles. It stirred up thousands of waves in the sea and created a spectacular scene.

Lin Xun gasped for breath. The long wet hair and clothes sticking to his body made him look even more discomposed.

He stood atop the mountain as waves surged around his feet. The sky was high and the ocean was deep. Although he was exhausted and was aching with pain, lofty feelings were rising in his heart.

He had succeeded!

He had finally passed the Thousand Heavy Wave Sea level after nearly three months at Blood Kill Camp.

Standing at the edge of the mountain peak, Lin Xun surveyed the surroundings. He felt the joy of overlooking the world as everything under his feet felt smaller than usual.

As emotions swirled in Lin Xun's heart, he heard a cold voice devoid of emotions—

"Dao Seeker, you have successfully passed the second level of the Great Azure Cloud Path on the 72nd attempt."

Buzz!

A cryptic undulation washed over Lin Xun and he felt his vision beginning to blur and fade like bubbles.

By the time he regained his vision, he had returned to the Great Azure Cloud Path of the Omega Secret Realm. At the end of the path stood the Omega Door that seemed to have been standing there since ancient times.

"Dao Seeker, an average score will be rewarded with the first part of the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture and the first part of the Heavenly Yuan Blade Art."

Two spheres of light floated into the air.

Lin Xun was stunned. He had already guessed that a reward would follow but he didn't expect the reward to be differentiated by his score!

An average score is rewarded with two sets of cultivation arts, then what special reward would be given to an outstanding score?

Lin Xun suddenly felt a little regretful. He would have strived for an outstanding result if he had known earlier!

Unfortunately, Lin Xun couldn't change anything. He could only treat this experience as a lesson and not make the same mistake again.

Lin Xun stretched out his hand and gently caressed the two spheres of light. Instantly, a gush of mysterious and obscure cultivation mantras flooded his mind like a tide.

The Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture was a secret cultivation art. The darkness of the mystery grotto was connected to the mystery of all things. The devouring of nature formed the ten directions to return to the great wilderness. The wilderness was the ancient, the ancient was the source, and the source housed the body of cultivation, giving birth to wonders.

In short, it was a mysterious cultivation art for practicing aether power. Using the body as a vessel, a cultivator could pry into everything in the world as well as understand the mystery of cultivation. A cultivator could swallow the spirits of heavens, refine them into their body, and produce unbelievable wonders.

Although it was only the first part, according to the mantra itself, its cultivation methods could help a cultivator reach the Heaven Ascension Stage!

The Heaven Ascension Stage was the fourth stage of the five great cultivation stages and was extremely obscure and difficult. However, the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture had records about the Heaven Ascension Stage. This fact alone showed how remarkable this cultivation art was.

It was hard to imagine what sort of mysterious and remarkable cultivation methods were recorded in the second part of the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture. *novelNext.COM*

The first part of the Heavenly Yuan Blade Art was a blade art divided into Stars Gathering, Moon Catching, and Burning Sun.

Each move was extremely powerful and profound. But given Lin Xun's current power of understanding, he wouldn't be able to comprehend much!

This terrified him. This blade art is too incredible. Although I have obtained the blade art, I can't wrap my head around it. It's so mystical like a heavenly book.

Lin Xun suddenly remembered that the Little Divine Meditation Art was also divided into three realms: Star Cycle, Moon Phases and Sun Illumination and was a spirit tempering art.

The three great moves of the first part of the Heavenly Yuan Blade Art are called Stars Gathering, Moon Catching and Burning Sun and it is a type of combat art.

The two seem completely different but they both involve the sun, moon and stars. Could there be some kind of connection between them?

Lin Xun wasn't certain.

"Dao Seeker, the Omega Secret Realm will open again in one year. The third level of the Great Azure Cloud Path is called Hundred Battle."

The icy voice rang again, reverberating throughout the vast Omega Secret Realm, making it impossible to locate where the voice came from.

"There will be three chances to pass. If you fail after all three chances, the Omega Secret Realm will fall into a sealed state until an opportunity comes by to open again in one thousand years..."

As the voice faded, everything before Lin Xun darkened and a familiar feeling of dizziness flooded his consciousness. Instantly, he left the Omega Secret Realm.

.....

Old Mo's warehouse.

Xiaoman rested her chin in her palm while her bright eyes were staring at Lin Xun, who was sitting cross-legged. A trace of puzzlement came to her sexy and beautiful face.

Lin Xun was right in front of her but she couldn't detect his presence with her perception. It was impossible to locate any traces of the boy.

This is too strange? Could the kid be practicing some special arts?

Xiaoman looked bewildered. She couldn't be certain because she had never heard of any cultivation art that had such an effect.

Suddenly, Lin Xun's body quivered and his eyes snapped open. Xiaoman's beautiful face was right in front of him, almost touching his face. Her bright, star-like eyes were misty and her breath was as sweet-smelling as an orchid. He couldn't help but jump up. "Big Sister, what are you doing?"

He looked startled.

Xiaoman patted his forehead and giggled, "Don't worry, your big sister isn't the kind of woman who would throw herself into someone's arms!"

Sighing, Lin Xun stood up straight. He found that wisps of bizarre power were surging all over his body and tempering his physique at an unimaginable speed. He felt like he was floating into the air and walking on the clouds.

This was one of the benefits of passing the Thousand Heavy Wave Sea. It had an incredible effect on tempering physique.

"You seem to have become stronger again." Xiaoman raised her eyebrows and looked at Lin Xun in surprise.

She could feel that Lin Xun's bearing had subtly changed again and he seemed to have become more ethereal. His every gesture and movement gave off an indescribable charm.

"Isn't this better?" Lin Xun laughed. "The quarterly assessment is in three days. I just wish I could become even stronger."

Xiaoman shot a glare at him. "Don't talk nonsense. Let's get down to business. Given your current strength, it will be difficult to deal with a first-level brute warrior. What is your plan?"

Lin Xun said without hesitation. "I definitely can't fight force with force. I will have to prepare some aeth tools and will be armed to the teeth."

Xiaoman nodded and said, "From what I know, the other students have the same plan as you. Many students have gone to the supply warehouse to exchange for aeth tools in the past few days. You better hurry and prepare, otherwise all the good stuff will be gone."

Lin Xun smiled. "Leave those things to them. I will prepare something else."

Xiaoman exclaimed, "What?"

Lin Xun shifted his gaze to Old Mo, who was busy working, and grinned. "With a rune master like Old Mo around, I can have whatever aeth tool I want. Isn't it easy?"

Xiaoman chuckled and stared at Lin Xun with her bright eyes. "Cunning! I didn't know that you're that kind of person!"

Lin Xun rubbed his nose and said seriously, "It's not cheating right? I have helped Old Mo a lot. He will feel bad if he doesn't help me."

Seeing Lin Xun being so bold and righteous when asking for help, Xiaoman couldn't help but giggle out loud. Her expression could melt any man's heart.

[Chapter 136: Flying Star Crossbow](#)

Old Mo frowned as though he was in deep thought while staring at the aeth engine.

There was only one key stage left. If he could solve it, a newly transformed aeth engine would be completed and the Violet Hero Battleship would be reborn.

However, this last stage was also the most difficult. Old Mo estimated he had less than a ten percent chance of succeeding.

He was troubled about how to guarantee the greatest rate of success.

Old Mo looked a little irritated when Lin Xun came to look for him. Just like other rune masters, Old Mo hated being disturbed the most when he was focused on work.

Fortunately, Lin Xun was the one who came. If it were anyone else, Old Mo would have driven them away already.

"You want me to help you make a crossbow?"

Lin Xun's purpose of coming surprised Old Mo but his eyes suddenly gleamed with interest. He patted his small chest and said confidently, "This is a simple matter, leave it to me! I owe you a huge favor from last time. I haven't had the time to properly thank you yet. I have always felt bad. Let me compensate you this time. I will make the finest crossbow for you!"

Lin Xun cast a glance at Xiaoman as if he was saying, 'See, I'm not cunning! Old Mo wants to return my favor.'

Xiaoman pursed her lips and ignored him.

"What kind of crossbow do you want? Seven Star Crossbow? Divine Arm Crossbow? Chain Crossbow? Or is it an Armor-Piercing Blood Crossbow?" Old Mo rapidly threw out many options.

All the crossbows he mentioned were standard crossbows in the empire that were considered lower human-grade aeth tools. They all had tremendous power and were suitable for Lin Xun, who was only at the True Martial Stage.

Lin Xun thought for a moment and then spread out a piece of paper. He dipped a rune brush in ink and quickly drew a complicated rune pattern.

Then, he sketched a short crossbow with a circular body and a sophisticated hand rest at the end of the bow. It seemed to be a very ordinary design.

"I want to make this. I think it's called Flying Star Crossbow." Lin Xun said in an unsure tone.

Before Lin Xun had left the mine prison, Mister Lu had given him an ancient animal skin book and a dark gray brush. Later on, the two items coincidentally merged into one and became the Omega Door floating in his sea of consciousness.

The ancient animal book contained the records of many rune patterns. It was similar to the handwritten notes of a rune master. Mister Lu had always treated it as a treasure.

Lin Xun had been following Mister Lu since he was a child and so he had long memorized the contents of the book. The rune pattern to create a Flying Star Crossbow was also recorded in the book.

Of course, Lin Xun not only memorized the rune pattern. He had watched Mister Lu make the Flying Star Crossbow based on the rune pattern and, of course, he had learned it from him. However, he lacked the skills and abilities to create an aeth tool right now.

It was one thing to know how to make it, but it was another to actually make it.

For example, he could only advise Old Mo on how to transform the aeth engine of the Violet Hero Battleship but it was impossible for him to engrave the runes because it involved far too many rune arrays.

This was the difference between a rune apprentice and rune master.

It was not easy to know but difficult to do.

Lin Xun, who was casting his mind back to the past, didn't realize that Old Mo was staring intently at the rune diagram on the piece of paper like it was a peerless treasure. His wrinkled face was crossed with shock, surprise, bewilderment, and joy.

Lin Xun didn't notice but Xiaoman was sharply aware that something was wrong, but she didn't know much about runes and could only watch helplessly to avoid disturbing Old Mo. *noVELNext.coM*

She could tell that Old Mo was already absorbed in the runes. It would be worse than death for him if he was disturbed.

Xiaoman was just curious about what kind of crossbow Lin Xun wanted to make that could make Old Mo so excited.

.....

Three days passed by in the blink of an eye, and the curtains to the quarterly assessment would be lifted tomorrow.

The students in all twenty campgrounds were stepping up their preparations. By now, the supply warehouse had become the most popular place in every campground.

Everyone knew that, without any powerful equipment, it was impossible for them to kill a brute warrior, who had a strength comparable to a Spirit Dipper cultivator.

In order to not be eliminated, none of the students held back from spending their points. The supply warehouses were quickly emptied.

They scrambled for all kinds of armor, inner armor, wrist guards, shoulder pads, combat boots, battle shields, crossbows, aeth bows...

Out of all the weapons they could choose, the short crossbow was the most popular weapon among the students.

This was understandable. The short crossbow had destructive power and could shoot across a long-range without consuming much aeth power. It could inflict huge damage to brute warriors with proper usage.

Unfortunately, there was only a small stock of short crossbows in each campground and it cost a huge amount of points. Therefore, only a small number of students could own a crossbow.

Ye Xiaoqi, who already possessed an Armor-Piercing Blood Crossbow, rejoiced inwardly. He had exchanged his points for the crossbow before the first monthly assessment and so he didn't need to compete with the others.

However, Ye Xiaoqi and all the other students were aware that it was impossible to kill a brute warrior with a standard crossbow in one blow.

Brute warriors were not arrow targets. They possessed strength, combat skills, and experience comparable to Spirit Dipper cultivators. Standard crossbows could, at most, inflict a certain amount of damage.

In other words, students had to depend on their own strength to win.

.....

Old Mo's warehouse.

Old Mo caressed the newly made Flying Star Crossbow. His face lit up with indescribable excitement, as his fingertips ran down the cold surface of the crossbow.

He couldn't imagine how such a short crossbow could have so many complicated runes and such an exquisite structure.

He had never seen a Flying Star Crossbow before in the empire. It was only a crossbow at the lower human grade but it had such a complicated rune structure.

Its power was no doubt extraordinary!

Matched with the Flying Star Crossbow were twenty-four starry frost rune arrows. The arrows were six inches long and were razor sharp. Detailed rune patterns ran down their surfaces like flowing water and they glowed with a heart-chilling cold light.

Although Old Mo hadn't tested the power of the Flying Star Crossbow combined with the starry frost rune arrows, he could already imagine the astonishing power.

Perhaps the only drawback of the Flying Star Crossbow was its high cost. The rune materials and rune ink alone could cost at least eight hundred silver coins!

The price would be even higher if the labor of a rune master was factored in!

"It's a pity that ordinary rune masters can't make this sort of weapon. Also, the cost to make them is too high. Otherwise, they could be mass-produced and every army in the empire could be equipped with them. If that happened, the empire's strength could be upgraded to another level!"

Old Mo sighed regretfully.

Xiaoman couldn't help but tremble with shock when she heard about how amazing the Flying Star Crossbow was from Old Mo. That thing is a huge killing weapon!

The look in her eyes turned a little strange when she glanced at Lin Xun again. How many secrets is that boy hiding in his brain? How can he always inadvertently bring out such earthshaking treasures?

Lin Xun didn't try to explain. He just took the Flying Star Crossbow from Old Mo's hand and left. The quarterly assessment was tomorrow and so he had to make some preparations.

"The boy's master is a remarkable rune master. At the very least, he must be at the level of rune founder in the art of runes. No, even rune master isn't enough. After all, I suspect that even the damn old thing in Qinglu Academy can't develop such a unique crossbow!" Old Mo sighed.

"Where do you think his master comes from? One of the four rune families? Or a secret sect or clan?" Xiaoman asked curiously.

She knew that the 'damn old thing' whom Old Mo spoke of was the culprit who forced Old Mo to escape to Blood Kill Camp.

He was one of the most well-known rune founders in the empire. The fact that Old Mo actually said that Lin Xun's master was even more powerful than him was enough to show how remarkable Lin Xun's master was.

"I don't know. At least I have never seen anyone who can make a Flying Star Crossbow and I've never seen anyone who can improve the aeth engine of the Violet Hero Battleship."

Old Mo scrunched his brows and pondered bitterly for a long while. He still couldn't think of anyone who could do the things he mentioned.

"I'm going to find Chief Xu."

Suddenly, Xiaoman suddenly thought of something and left.

"Where are you going?" Old Mo asked in puzzlement.

"I'm going to make a bet with him!"

Her slender and graceful figure had already vanished from the warehouse before the last sounds of her voice disappeared.

.....

Blood Kill Camp, the central campground.

The quarterly assessment was being held tomorrow. Consequently, the instructors and experts of the twenty campgrounds were all summoned to gather in the central campground.

Xu Sanqi was sitting in the center. He swept his razor-sharp gaze across the surrounding people and said, "Forty-nine, have all the brute warriors been selected?"

A burly middle-aged man with a tower-like figure said in a low muffled voice. "I just caught them from the front line. I guarantee they are all first-level brute warriors."

Xu Sanqi nodded. "In order to prevent any accidents from happening, everyone must be prepared for the quarterly assessment tomorrow. We have to ensure that the students won't die in the hands of brute warriors."

Everyone nodded.

After a thought, Xu Sanqi suddenly asked, "Everyone, who do you think is the most likely to kill a brute warrior first among the six hundred students in the twenty campgrounds?"

His one sentence made the gazes of many instructors and experts turn contemplative.

"Of course it's our Bai Lingxi from the 7th Campground!" A bearded man said without hesitation and many people nodded in assent.

Indeed, Bai Lingxi had the innate talent of Eternal Shining Stars and was the most remarkable girl in the entire Blood Kill Camp.

However, the instructors of the other campgrounds looked unconvinced.

"Bai Lingxi is pretty good, but when it comes to combat strength, she isn't as good as our Zhao Yin from the 15th Campground."

"Zhao Yin? Hmph, the Violet Sun Body is powerful, but Zhangsun Hen from the 22nd Campground won't lose to him!"

The central campground broke out in a clamor. Everyone was unwilling to concede and they argued until their faces turned crimson.

What would their students think if they saw their usually dignified instructors quarreling like common women on the streets?

[Chapter 137: Quarterly Assessment](#)

The instructors squabbled endlessly, their faces flushing with anger. They almost even rolled up their sleeves to settle the matter.

Xu Sanqi couldn't help but wrinkle his brows. He ran his eyes around and noticed Xiaoke sitting there silently. He couldn't help but ask, "Xiaoke, is there a student in your 39th Campground able to be the first to kill a brute warrior?"

His voice was sharp like a sword and resounding like metal clashing. It instantly quelled the arguments and made everyone turn their heads to look at Xiaoke.

Some people seemed curious, some people didn't think she had such a student, and some people were already preparing to refute when Xiaoke gave out a name.

Xiaoke was taken aback. She didn't expect Xu Sanqi to ask about the situation in the 39th Campground.

After a thought, Xiaoke shook her head.

There were quite a few outstanding students in the 39th Campground, such as Gong Ming, Shi Yu, Ning Meng, and Qi Can, but compared to Bai Lingxi, Zhao Yin, and the others, they were slightly inferior.

Gong Ming had extremely remarkable defense but his attack power was lacking.

Shi Yu was good at outflanking tactics, and he often waited for the opportunity to kill in one blow. This particular tactic was undoubtedly terrifying, but it would be difficult to use such a method to be the first to kill a brute warrior.

Ning Meng and Qi Can had powerful combat strength but students with innate talents such as Bai Lingxi and Zhao Yin still had advantages over them.

After pondering for a long while, Xiaoke still couldn't give out a name.

This made many people who were preparing to refute Xiaoke a little disappointed. Some people chuckled as though they already knew that Xiaoke would respond in such a way.

"It's really difficult to know which student would be the first to kill a brute warrior. Perhaps we could only get a clear answer in the quarterly assessment tomorrow," said Xu Sanqi.

He was about to end the meeting when a fiery red and beautiful shadow sped over and exclaimed, "Chief Xu, I think the first to kill a brute warrior among the six hundred students in the twenty campgrounds will definitely be from the 39th Campground."*novelnext.com*

Accompanying the voice was Xiaoman's alluring and perfectly curved figure. Her sexy and stunning face made many people's eyes light up.

However, Xiaoman's words made many people scrunch their faces and become irritated. She had ruled out all the students in the other campgrounds other than those in the 39th Campground. She is underestimating everyone else.

Even Xiaoke couldn't help but frown. Xiaoman's appearance made her elegant and fair face turn cold. Despite the fact that Xiaoman mentioned the campground she was in charge of and was subtly supporting her, she still felt uncomfortable.

Someone couldn't help but sneer, "Xiaoman, everyone knows what the situation is like in the 39th Campground. What you just said is too absurd."

The others agreed one after another. "Yes, which student can achieve first place in the 39th Campground?"

The voices were filled with mocking and disagreement.

Xu Sanqi frowned. "Xiaoman, don't mess around here."

In the past, Xu Sanqi's words would have made Xiaoman obediently step back, but she wasn't her usual self today. She continued to stride towards the meeting table, sweeping her watery, bright eyes across everyone. She smiled. "Since you want to know who it is then I won't hide it from you anymore. The student I'm talking about is Lin Xun from the 39th Campground."

Lin Xun?

The atmosphere fell still and silent and many people donned puzzled expressions. Who is that? Why have I never heard of the name before?

Xiaoke wondered who Xiaoman would say, but to her surprise, she threw out Lin Xun's name. She couldn't help but feel angry that Xiaoman deliberately came to mess around.

Of course, she knew that Xiaoman and Lin Xun had a good relationship, but this was no time to joke around regardless of how good their relationship was.

"Instructor Xiaoke, who is Lin Xun?" Someone couldn't help but ask.

Xiaoke contemplated and decided to tell the truth. "Lin Xun is indeed a student of the 39th Campground, but he is only at the True Martial eighth layer. Although he has remarkable combat strength, to be honest, I'm not sure whether he will be the first to kill a brute warrior."

Many people's expressions turned strange. True Martial eighth layer? It's indeed not easy for someone at such a cultivation level to last until now in Blood Kill Camp. Still, no one would believe someone he would be the first to kill a brute warrior.

Also, Xiaoke was the instructor of the 39th Campground. So, if even she didn't have confidence in Lin Xun, who else would believe what Xiaoman said?

"Xiaoman, is this a joke?" Someone burst into laughter.

"Haha, True Martial eighth layer? Xiaoman, have you fallen for the kid? Why do I feel like something is fishy?"

Others also followed suit and took the opportunity to tease and mock Xiaoman.

Xu Sanqi grew increasingly annoyed as the situation became more and more noisy and chaotic. But before he could say something, Xiaoman suddenly smiled sweetly and said, "Everyone, why don't we make a bet? If I win, each of you will give out one thousand points. If I lose, I will also give each of you one thousand points."

Everyone was dumbstruck. Is Xiaoman serious?

“Hahaha, Xiaoman, don’t get in a huff. There are around fifty to sixty people present, you would lose 50,000 to 60,000 points when you lose the bet. From what I know, you don’t even have 20,000 points.” Someone burst into laughter.

“As long as you dare to take the bet, I promise that you won’t be any point short!” Xiaoman’s bright eyes glimmered and her voice was full of determination.

“Enough!”

Xiaoke couldn’t stand it anymore. She stood upright and stared coldly at Xiaoman. “If you are messing around, then disappear from here now!”

Everyone fell silent.

Everyone knew that the twin sisters’ relationship was like water and fire after the incident back then.

Xiaoman's pretty face froze, and there was an indescribably complicated look in the depths of her bright eyes. Finally, she smiled and said, “Xiaoke, I can concede to other things, but I will persist to the end regarding today's matter!”

She turned to look at Xu Sanqi. “Of course, if Chief Xu wants to, he can also participate in the bet.”

Unexpectedly, Xu Sanqi raised his eyes and gazed at Xiaoman for a long moment. Finally, he nodded. “Okay!”

His one word was like a decree and stunned everyone. They all took on a strange expression while preoccupied with their own thoughts.

“Hmph!” Xiaoke's face was frosty when she turned around and left.

A hint of bitterness came to Xiaoman’s heart but she still had an indifferent exterior as though she was now used to her little sister treating her in such a way.

The crowd dispersed, leaving only Xiaoman and Xu Sanqi.

“Why did you do this?” Xu Sanqi asked, studying Xiaoman with his sharp, blade-like eyes. His voice seemed to contain an indescribable oppressive power.

“Because I know that Lin Xun will definitely succeed.” Xiaoman’s beautiful eyes were unwavering and unyielding.

“I want to hear the real reason.” Xu Sanqi said solemnly, “You should know that you won’t have enough points to leave Blood Kill Camp for at least ten years if you lose the bet.”

“That is the real reason,” Xiaoman said stubbornly.

Xu Sanqi rubbed his temples, looking a little worn out. He waved dismissively and said, “You are no longer a little girl. You will have to bear the consequences of what you did yourself. You can go now.”

“See you tomorrow.” Xiaoman waved with a smile, turned around, and left.

However, she wasn't as calm as she looked on the exterior. She constantly muttered to herself, "Little handsome guy, I, your big sister, have bet everything I have on you. Whether or not I can make a comeback will depend on you. You have to win..."

Xu Sanqi sat alone in silence for a long while before he finally got up. He had decided to have a talk with Xiaoke. He didn't want the sisters' rocky relationship to be completely ruined because of this incident.

.....

That night, Lin Xun learned about the bet that Xiaoman had made and he was flabbergasted for a long while. He finally smiled bitterly and said, "Big Sister Xiaoman, you really think highly of me..."

Xiaoman sighed pitifully and said weakly, "In my heart, you are the best. If you don't succeed, I will have to stay in Blood Kill Camp for the rest of my life. Can you...bear to see that happen?"

Goosebumps spread all over Lin Xun when he heard Xiaoman's forlorn cry. He quickly said imploringly, "Okay, okay, I will do my best to not disappoint you!"

Xiaoman's eyes widened and the bitter and pitiful look on her faded immediately. Instead, it was replaced by a murderous expression as she exclaimed, "What do you mean by 'you will do your best'? You have to succeed!"

Lin Xun rubbed his nose helplessly and was speechless. What else could he say?

.....

Early next morning.

In a desert three hundred miles away from Blood Kill Camp stood twenty incomparably huge battle areas.

Each area was further divided into thirty battle arenas.

The quarterly assessment was held there.

The twenty battle areas corresponded to the twenty campgrounds and each of the thirty students in each camp was given a specially set up battle arena.

At the first glimmer of dawn, under Xiaoke's leadership, the students from the 39th Campground came to the battle area on the easternmost side.

In the huge and empty battle area stood thirty battle arenas, each one spanning across thirty feet on every side and producing a metallic sheen.

Lin Xun and the others immediately noticed an iron cage set up in every arena when they arrived. Imprisoned inside each one was a strange-looking fire brute expert!

The fire brutes emanated a fiendish aura like imprisoned savage beasts itching to choose people to feed on.

Brute Warriors!

All of them were comparable to Spirit Dipper Cultivators in terms of strength!

From the bloodthirsty and fiendish auras being released by them, it was obvious that they were experts in battles and were not ordinary characters.

Many students assumed a serious and solemn look. Even though they were far away, a chill rose in their hearts when they made eye contact with their foes.

Their opponents in the quarterly assessment were really pervertedly strong!

[Chapter 138: Dazzling Starlight](#)

There was only a quarter of an hour left until the quarterly assessment began and all the students were quietly waiting while trying to adjust themselves to the most optimum fighting state.

The opponents they would have to face were fiendishly strong and they would be eliminated from the Blood Kill Camp if they failed the assessment. Under those circumstances, no one dared to be careless.

Lin Xun silently stared at the battle arena in the distance. As he looked at the fire brute experts imprisoned in the cages, wisps of information about fire brutes surfaced to his mind.

“Hey, who bet that guy would be the first to succeed? That’s the most ridiculous thing I have heard!”

Suddenly, a harsh sneer sounded.

Lin Xun didn’t have to turn his head around to know that he was ‘that guy’ they were referring to.

He knew that many students were looking at him with mocking and disdainful gazes.

Even Shi Yu and Ning Meng wore bewildered expressions.

This was all a result of the bet that Xiaoman had made with the other instructors. The details of the bet rapidly spread throughout Blood Kill Camp and sparked a commotion.

Consequently, Lin Xun had become the “focus” of the entire Blood Kill Camp and many people spoke contemptuously of him.

He received the same treatment from the people of the 39th Campground. Although he had already proven himself through his hard work and had made it to the top ranks with his score, many students still didn’t believe that he would be the first to kill a brute warrior in the quarterly assessment.

In their view, the bet was absurd!

In the 39th Campground alone, Gong Ming, Shi Yu, Ning Meng, and Qi Can were all stronger than Lin Xun. Even Li Qiu, Mu Lengxin, and Ye Xiaoqi weren’t inferior to him. Based on those facts, no one would believe that Lin Xun would be the first to kill a brute warrior!

Most importantly, all students from the twenty campgrounds would participate in the quarterly assessment. Most of the students from the other campgrounds were as equally skilled and remarkable as Lin Xun and many were much more powerful.

For example, Lin Xun couldn’t be compared to students such as Bai Lingxi, Zhao Yin, Zhangsun Hen, and Li Duxing, who had long made a name for themselves in Blood Kill Camp.

No one took the bet seriously. It was more like a ridiculous farce to make people laugh.

Even Shi Yu and Ning Meng were shocked as if they had seen a ghost when they heard about it. They grabbed Lin Xun and questioned him for a long time, wondering if he had lost his mind. Otherwise, how would he be involved in such a ridiculous bet?

Lin Xun couldn't say anything and just smiled wryly.

How could he tell them that all this was caused by the woman Xiaoman?

Therefore, Lin Xun could only turn a deaf ear to the occasional sneers and laughter and ignore all sorts of gazes.

"Lin Xun, can you actually do it?"

Ning Meng suddenly stormed over and ran his eyes up and down Lin Xun. He then frowned. "Look at you, you have nothing on you except a blade and a broken crossbow. But look at the others, which one of them isn't armed to the teeth?"

Surprised, Lin Xun turned his head and glanced around. Sure enough, except for him, all the other students from the 39th Campground were covered in aeth tools from head to toe, including armor, shoulder pads, wrist guards, battle boots, battle blades, crossbows, and aeth bows...Everyone was like a shelf of aeth weapons, radiating dazzling and blinding light.

"Isn't that too much?" Lin Xun hadn't noticed previously but his eyes widened when he took a closer look. Those guys have invested a lot to pass the quarterly assessment!

Even Ning Meng, Shi Yu, and Qi Can were fully armed.

Lin Xun sighed regrettably. If this is a real battlefield, I could become rich if I stripped those guys of their aeth tools. The amount I made from selling them would be enough to purchase a property in the Forbidden City.

Ning Meng suddenly felt uncomfortable. The way that Lin Xun looked at him was like a dishonest businessman eyeing a little fat sheep.

"Did you hear what I said!?" Ning Meng snapped.

"Oh, don't worry. I have some confidence." Lin Xun said casually. He wasn't particularly worried despite not being equipped with any aeth tools or rune armaments except a blade and the Flying Star Crossbow.

"My heart is about to shatter because of you, but you still seem like you don't care!" Ning Meng grew angrier and angrier. "Never mind, just be careful. If you dare to fail this assessment, I will beat you to death!"

He stormed off.

Lin Xun helplessly watched Ning Meng leave. Gazing at the Flying Star Crossbow in his hand, he muttered, "With this, it's impossible that I won't pass the assessment, right?"

.....

While waiting for the assessment to begin, the people in the other assessment areas were also discussing the bet about Lin Xun.

There were all sorts of comments—mocking, disdainful, surprise, ridicule...

Some people were even furious that Lin Xun acted so arrogant and looked down on other students. They felt he should be beaten up to teach him a lesson.

As for the incomparably dazzling top students such as Bai Lingxi, Zhao Yin, Zhangsun Hen, and Li Duxing, they only treated the bet as a joke and didn't take it seriously.

Only clowns would be involved in such a farce. They would be lowering themselves if they paid attention to it.

.....

A temporary central campground was set up outside the main assessment areas. It was built on a low hill and provided a complete view of the different assessment areas.

"It's too late for you to regret it now." Xu Sanqi said, retracting his gaze.

"Chief Xu, do you think I'm the kind of person who would regret my actions? I still believe that you all will fall in front of me this time!" Xiaoman smiled, her sexy and beautiful face beaming with confidence.

Xu Sanqi narrowed his eyes and in the end he chose to keep quiet when he looked at Xiaoman and saw her smiling calmly beside him.

.....

A quarter of an hour later, the bell rang, and the assessment began!

In the 39th Campground assessment area, students started to board the arena one by one before curtains descended and covered the entire arena.

The students in the arena weren't able to see the situation in the other areas to prevent them from being affected by the other students.

Lin Xun calmly ascended one of the arenas and stood quietly. His elegant figure had an air of ethereal calmness.

Lin Xun indifferently looked at the fire brute expert roaring furiously inside the cage opposite him.

"Little human bastard. I am Fire Brute Warrior Bafu. I have killed many little bastards like you in the past. If you're afraid, hand over your heart and I will let you die a painless death."

The fire brute warrior called Bafu was a middle-aged man with a ruthless and sinister appearance. His eyes resembled a pair of blood-colored flames and he emitted a bloodthirsty and violent aura.

Even if he was imprisoned in a cage, his aura was still extremely terrifying. It was an aura unique to people who had fought hundreds of battles. Any timid True Martial Stage cultivators would have collapsed from fear in the presence of his fighting spirit.

However, Lin Xun seemed unaware of the stifling atmosphere, and his deep jet-black eyes had a detached indifference as he quietly studied his opponent.

The Magi Brute Race was the greatest enemy of the empire. They were ruthless, tyrannical and savage!

In the past, they would hold a large-scale ceremony to worship the Magi Brute God every time they captured a city in the empire.

In their hearts, human beings were scumbags of the world and the most filthy and despicable trash that the Magi Brute God couldn't tolerate.

It was understandable that Lin Xun didn't have a good opinion of the Magi Brutes.

"Hahaha, little bastard, could it be that you are frightened out of your wits? So useless! You don't even dare to let out a fart! Humans are so cowardly!" Bafu laughed sinisterly as he slammed the iron cage.

"I can tell that you're eager to die."

Lin Xun thought for a moment and continued, "I understand your desire to die. After all, all Magi Brutes are stupid."

Bafu's eyes reddened with murderous rage and he roared furiously.

Lin Xun was finally convinced that Instructor Xu Sanqi was right. It was easy to provoke a Magi Brute—just call them stupid, because they had been trying to wash away the name stupid for hundreds of years. They still hadn't got what they wanted and there was a long story behind that.

It was just a name but the Magi Brute Race regarded it as their greatest shame. Perhaps, it was something that only someone stupid cared about and it also proved that Magi Brute experts were indeed stupid...

Clang!

Suddenly, the bell signaling the start of the quarterly assessment rang, and the iron cages imprisoning fire brute experts automatically opened.

With a rumble, Bafu who was about to go berserk with rage rushed out, his body enveloped in a terrifying glow of flames. **Novel** **Ext.com**

"Little bastard, die!"

Like the god of death descending upon the world, Bafu leapt into the sky while gripping blinding flames in both hands. He fiercely aimed them at Lin Xun.

Rumble—

The air sizzled as a blast of terrifying power swept across the air like a raging wave. It produced deafening explosions in the air.

This was the power of an expert comparable to a Spirit Dipper cultivator. Its power could threaten the life of any True Martial Stage cultivator.

Lin Xun felt a piercing pain across his skin and he couldn't help but wince. He could feel the terror of that blow, so much so that he didn't have the confidence to withstand it.

However, he hadn't budged an inch and just locked his eyes on his opponent, analyzing his movements and attacks.

Lin Xun had raised his right hand when his opponent soared into mid-air. In his left hand was a short black ordinary-looking crossbow. He firmly hooked his right index finger around the crossbow trigger.

Pfssttt!

Instantly, a peculiar, low-pitched noise resounded like a flute.

Bafu curved his lips in a disdainful smile. A crossbow? You want to kill me with that?

How funny!

He had lost count of how many human trash had tried to sneak up on him with a short crossbow and had been killed by him, so he wouldn't take such an attack seriously.

However, his pupils suddenly shrank and he felt something was wrong. The short crossbow seemed different from those he had previously seen...

Silvery starlight suddenly bloomed like fireworks in his field of vision. It was so dazzling and beautiful that it almost felt oppressive and suffocating.

That's—?

A strong feeling of danger surged to Bafu's heart and his spirit violently shuddered. The incomparably stunning starlight almost drowned his body and mind.

[Chapter 139: Victory and Defeat](#)

Xiaoke and the middle-aged fatty were already outside the assessment area before the monthly assessment started, and their gazes, intentionally or inadvertently, were fixed on one of the battle arenas.

"This bet...Hey, it's actually pretty interesting." The middle-aged fatty's expression was somewhat strange.

"It's ridiculous. Only she would do something like that!" Xiaoke frowned, her graceful and fair face flushing with anger.

Even now, she couldn't forgive Xiaoman for what she had done.

"It's not that bad. Don't forget that Lin Xun has been with Old Mo these days. Maybe Xiaoman made the bet because she saw a certain possibility." The middle-aged fatty consoled her in a gentle voice.

"Old Mo?" Xiaoke's beautiful face grew colder. "If she dares to help Lin Xun cheat, I won't forgive her!"

The middle-aged fatty felt a headache coming on. Xiaoke clearly hated Xiaoman to the bone, and she was very stubborn and wouldn't easily change her views.

He said helplessly, "Don't you have confidence in Lin Xun?"

Xiaoke fell silent and then she said, "He should be able to pass the quarterly assessment, but to be the first to kill a brute warrior—Do you believe it?"

The middle-aged fatty contemplated her question and smiled wryly as he said in an uncertain tone of voice. "Perhaps...there will be an unexpected miracle?"

Xiaoke scrunched her brows and swept a cold glance over the middle-aged fatty. "Even you don't believe it could be possible, but you want to convince me? The miracle that you mentioned, I think..."

Before she finished, her gaze was drawn to the far arena and her pupils rapidly shrank. She suddenly froze.

Almost at the same time, the middle-aged fatty's body also stiffened and his small eyes almost spewed out terrifying lightning.

A dreamy and stunning shower of arrows was blooming on Lin Xun's battle arena!

It was as gorgeous as fireworks, as mysterious as starlight, and it radiated a soul-stirring beauty like frost spreading in nothingness.

Its beauty seemed to make the heavens pale and drown a person's spirit!

Instantly, Xiaoke and the middle-aged fatty felt stifled and their minds started to wander. What a stunning arrow light and terrifying power!

With their eyesight, they could, of course, see that it all came from the inconspicuous crossbow in Lin Xun's hand.

However, they couldn't imagine what sort of crossbow could release such a terrifying yet beautiful illusion-like power?

Ding!

A bizarre wave rippled, snapping Xiaoke and the middle-aged fatty awake. They lifted their heads and saw the light screen around a battle arena had already disappeared, revealing Lin Xun's handsome figure.

At Lin Xun's feet was the body of the fire brute expert called Bafu. He had died a tragic and horrifying death with his body riddled with several bowl-sized holes. His face particularly was split with a smooth bloody hole. The sight of his mangled corpse would make anyone's scalp numb.

In addition, more than twenty sharp arrows emitting a silver sheen had been stabbed into different areas of the arena and were releasing a heart-chilling coldness.

The scene clearly shocked the middle-aged fatty as he muttered, "It's only been five seconds since the quarterly assessment started, right?"

"Three seconds." Xiaoke lightly spat out, a strange expression on her face.

Then, they both fell silent. A fire brute expert who had strength comparable to a Spirit Dipper cultivator had been killed in three seconds. The two knew what it signified.

"Isn't this a miracle?" exclaimed the middle-aged fatty.

Xiaoke was speechless.

.....

In the central temporary campground.

Xu Sanqi was watching the light screens showing the situations in the assessment area. His gaze was intently fixed on the assessment areas of the 7th, 15th, 22nd, and 31st campgrounds.

More specifically, his eyes were hovering between Bai Lingxi, Zhao Yin, Zhangsun Hen, and Li Duxing.

Occasionally, he would glance at the 39th Campground and check on Lin Xun. His expression also turned strange then.

Before the assessment began, Xu Sanqi turned his head to glance at Xiaoman who was next to him. She looked calm and relaxed on the exterior but he knew she wasn't what she appeared.

At least her clenched hands and her enlarged pupils proved that she was extremely nervous.

Xu Sanqi sighed inwardly. Is it worth the trouble?

Ding!

Suddenly, a light screen suddenly rippled and Xu Sanqi perked up. The assessment has just begun but someone has already killed their opponent?

However, when he saw who was the student to first kill a brute warrior, his expression altered subtly. What...it's really him?

Xiaoman was also astounded. She frantically rubbed her eyes in disbelief and it wasn't until she confirmed that it was true that she giggled out loud. Her face beamed and she almost jumped up in joy.

"Chief Xu, I won!" Such a simple sentence was filled with indescribably joy and excitement when it came from Xiaoman's mouth. Her bright eyes were shining brilliantly.

Xu Sanqi's heart was also trembling. He drew his finger across the light screen and the scene of Lin Xun killing the brute warrior reappeared before him.

The shower of arrows was akin to stars dancing in the sky and silvery frost illuminating the mountains and rivers. There was an unparalleled dreamy and enchanting beauty to the scene.

Even Xu Sanqi who had a firm, rock-like mind couldn't help but fall into a daze. On the other hand, Xiaoman looked entranced. What a beautiful thing!

Xu Sanqi soon regained his composure and said, "That doesn't seem like a standard crossbow in the camp."

Xiaoman nodded. "Indeed. But Old Mo definitely didn't help Lin Xun cheat. He also isn't that capable to be able to create such a beautiful but terrifying aeth crossbow."

Xiaoman thoroughly told Xu Sanqi about how Lin Xun came about to create the Flying Star Crossbow and starry frost arrows.

Xu Sanqi tried to digest what he heard and then said, "It seems that Old Mo is right. That little guy's master has to be a remarkable expert."

As he was speaking he couldn't help but shoot a glance at Xiaoman. "Since you knew about this, why didn't you tell me earlier?"

"If I told you, would you still want to bet with me?"

Xu Sanqi was at a loss for words, but he somehow felt a little emotional. Xiaoman hasn't changed after so many years. Is it good to stake everything and walk on the edge of the sword?

Xiaoman suddenly asked, "Chief Xu, this isn't cheating, right?"

Xu Sanqi shook his head. "There is no rule in the camp that forbids students from making their own aeth tools."

Xiaoman immediately relaxed, raised her chin, and said proudly, "It only took him three seconds. He was the first to kill a brute warrior. Who else in the camp could compete with my little handsome guy?"

Xu Sanqi frowned. "Although he didn't break the rules of the camp, ultimately, he still had an unfair advantage over the others. From now on, similar incidents won't be allowed in the camp!"

Xiaoman smiled disapprovingly. "Should I tell Lin Xun that the miracle he unintentionally created had made Chief Instructor Xu Sanqi change the rules in the camp? This is an honor for ordinary people."

Xu Sanqi glared at her and was about to say something when a bell rang and another light screen rippled.

Someone killed a brute warrior again!

Xu Sanqi and Xiaoman turned their heads at the same time and saw it was Bai Lingxi from the 7th Campground.

"Thirty-six seconds. Her score is brilliant when compared to the scores in the past. It's even better than your score, Chief Xu. Unfortunately, the little girl of the Bai Family can only act as a backdrop for my little handsome guy."

Xiaoman smiled triumphantly.

"She has true strength." Xu Sanqi said coldly. "Could Lin Xun achieve this without the Flying Star Crossbow?"

"Chief Xu, what you said isn't right. Why don't you say that the imperial army would be no match for the Magi Brute bastards if they didn't have any aeth tools and rune armaments?" Xiaoman frowned.

Xu Sanqi looked annoyed. "Ultimately, cultivators seek to strengthen themselves and not gain material objects. If a person blindly pursues stronger material objects, that's the same as abandoning their fundamentals and fishing in a tree."

Xiaoman pursed her lips. She knew it was pointless to argue any further. *NOVELNext.COM*

Ding!

The light screens rippled constantly, indicating students had successfully killed their opponent and passed the assessment.

Some students in imminent danger were rescued in time, but they were also eliminated as a result.

Scenes of victory and defeat in every battle arena were being swiftly shown.

Xu Sanqi intently stared at the light screen, rewatching the battle records. The purpose of the Blood Kill Camp was to discover the most elite youngsters for the empire, and as the Chief Instructor of the Blood Kill Camp, Xu Sanqi had to research and learn about each student.

Xiaoman restored her calmness and folded her arms in front of her chest. She was trying to quickly think of a way to deal with the people who mocked her for the bet in order to vent her anger.

Before long, an instructor rushed over, glanced at Xiaoman, and said with a grin, "Little Sister Xiaoman, you look very upset. What's the matter? Did you lose the bet? Cheer up, in life, you will always win some and lose some."

Xiaoman coldly snorted and her expression didn't ripple in the slightest.

The instructor smiled and looked at Xu Sanqi with anticipation. "Chief Xu, is Bai Lingxi from the 7th Campground number one?"

Xu Sanqi glanced at the instructor with a strange look and shook his head.

"Eh? What!" The instructor's eyes widened like he was struck by lightning. "The first isn't the one with a record of thirty-six seconds? Then who is it? Zhao Yin? Zhangsun Hen? Or Li Duxing?"

Xu Sanqi frowned. "Calm down, I will announce the results when the assessment is over."

The instructor's face changed and he didn't utter a word.

After a while, the instructor from the 22nd Campground rushed over and looked expectantly at Xu Sanqi. He asked anxiously, "Chief Xu, is Zhao Yin from the 22nd Campground the first?"

Xu Sanqi responded with a shake of his head.

The instructor stood there dumbstruck.

Similar situations repeatedly happened while Xiaoman anxiously watched. She was itching to reveal the answer right away and strike a blow at the other instructors.

However, she held back in the end, and even tightened and strained her face. Everyone isn't here yet. The blow won't be as impactful if the answer is announced too soon.

[Chapter 140: Mixed Reception](#)

As twilight descended, the quarterly assessment also came to an end.

A total of six hundred students participated in the quarterly assessment, but only two hundred and thirty-seven managed to kill a fire brute expert and passed successfully.

The other three hundred and sixty-three students were all eliminated!

It was no doubt a shocking number of people. The students able to make it to the quarterly assessment were already elites among the elites. They were outstanding whether it was in terms of qualifications, fundamentals, cultivation base and battle experience.

But even so, more than half of them had been eliminated. It could easily be imagined how brutal and pervertedly hard the assessment was.

The 39th Campground had a much lower elimination number. A total of thirteen people were eliminated and seventeen people passed the assessment. In contrast, more than half of the students had been eliminated in the other campgrounds. The performance of the students from the 39th Campground was remarkable compared to those in other campgrounds.

“The result is much better than in the past. At least, it was already very difficult to retain one hundred and fifty students in the previous quarterly assessment.” The middle-aged fatty sighed emotionally.

Xiaoke nodded. The performance of her current class of students was indeed outstanding, but her mind started to drift again at the thought of Lin Xun’s achievement.

Before long, Xiaoke was called away.

.....

In the center of the temporary campground.

As the assessment came to a close, the instructors and the experts from all twenty campgrounds gathered.

They had already learned about the accomplishments of all the campgrounds. It was absolutely worth celebrating that two hundred thirty-seven students passed the assessment.

The atmosphere was very lively and loud but it was mainly due to quarreling and discussions centered around the student who was ranked first in the assessment.

“Three seconds? How can Lin Xun achieve that with his strength? He must have cheated!”

“Yes, he’s just at the True Martial eighth layer but he fought against a fire brute expert with a strength comparable to a Spirit Dipper cultivator. It’s impossible for him to win in three seconds. There has to be a problem!”

“Chief Xu, it’s not that we’re jealous of talent and like to target that little guy, but his record is really too ridiculous. If he hadn’t cheated, how could he, who was previously a nobody, do this?”

Disbelieving voices and criticism constantly rang out.

Among them, the most agitated was, of course, the instructor of the 7th Campground. In his opinion, his student Bai Lingxi would have no doubt ranked first in the assessment if Lin Xun hadn’t cheated!

Xiaoke frowned and said nothing. But she looked at Xiaoman with an indescribably complex expression.

On the contrary, Xiaoman stood gracefully beside Xu Sanqi. Her arms were crossed in front of her plump chest and her bright eyes were full of smiles as she glanced at the people around her. It was as though she didn’t notice the heated atmosphere brewing.

She enjoyed the feeling a lot. She grew happier and happier and amused seeing the exasperated looks on their faces.

Yesterday, they were laughing and mocking her like she was a joke and now it was her turn to laugh at them!

"Chief Xu, please say something." Someone urged, quelling all the other voices and directed all gazes to Xu Sanqi.

Xu Sanqi had kept quiet ever since the final result was announced. It was as though something was on his mind and he couldn't care about the farce.

It wasn't until now that Xu Sanqi's eyes regained their fierceness like he had awakened from a dream, and he swept the surroundings with his icy blade-like gaze.

The atmosphere suddenly became deathly still.

Xu Sanqi got up without wasting any time. He drew his finger across the air and formed a light screen, which showed the scene of how Lin Xun killed the fire brute expert. Everyone was able to see it very clearly.

The handsome youngster standing tall, the dreamy and enchanting shower of arrows, Bafu's body riddled with bloody holes when he died...all of it combined to form a beautiful, bloody and spectacular scene.

Immediately, many people felt stifled. Their eyes widened and their hearts trembled. Even Xiaoke, Xiaoman, and the middle-aged fatty, who had already seen the scene, felt suffocated and couldn't maintain their composesures.

It was the Flying Star Crossbow, a completely new short crossbow they hadn't seen before. It was a terrifying killing weapon with unimaginable destructive power!

"You all saw it. This is the truth." Xu Sanqi uttered coldly.

Everyone looked as though they had just awoken from a dream. Someone couldn't help but shout out, "Chief Xu, that might be the truth, but that short crossbow isn't a standard aeth tool in the empire. There isn't one in Blood Kill Camp. So, how did Lin Xun get his hands on one?" **novelExt.COM**

"Yes, anyone with a great killing weapon like that would come first. It's no different from cheating."

The others agreed.

"Have you ever seen that kind of short crossbow before?" As though he predicted their response, Xu Sanqi asked.

Everyone shook their heads. Indeed, they had never seen a spectacular short crossbow that resembled a star streaking across the sky.

"This is a crossbow that Lin Xun created and was completed by Old Mo. There is no rule in the camp that students can't create their own weapons in the assessments," said Xu Sanqi calmly.

He created the crossbow?

Many people were stupefied. What does that mean? Lin Xun is a rune master with unbelievable abilities and skills?

However, when they heard that Old Mo was the one who completed the crossbow, many people realized that the crossbow, which they had never seen before, was inseparably linked to Old Mo.

“Chief Xu, Old Mo is a rune master. That kid clearly cheated if he made that thing with Old Mo’s help.” Someone said bitterly.

“If the students in your campground can design such a powerful short crossbow, let alone ask Old Mo for help, even if they ask me, I won’t refuse!”

Xu Sanqi frowned. He basically implied you can do it too if you are that capable!

Everyone could only shut up. Regardless of how unwilling they were to accept the result, they knew no one could take the first place away from Lin Xun.

Xiaoman grinned. She was about to settle accounts. She cleared her throat and said, “Everyone, do you still remember the bet we made yesterday?”

A strange expression of awkwardness and embarrassment came to many people’s faces. Xiaoman actually won the ridiculous bet. This is simply...absurd!

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The first place in the quarterly assessment: Lin Xun, with a score of three seconds!

Second place: Bai Lingxi, with a score of 36 seconds.

Third place: Zhao Yin, with a score of 41 seconds.

Fourth place: Li Duxing, with a score of 44 seconds.

Fifth place: Zhangsun Hen, with a score of 45 seconds.

...When the results and rankings of the quarterly assessment were announced, it was like a storm had descended, it instantly set off monstrous waves in Blood Kill Camp. Uproar broke out as if a pot of boiling water had exploded in every campground.

“Lin Xun? Who is this bastard Lin Xun? How can he kill his opponent in three seconds? He must have cheated!”

“Yes! He must have cheated. Look at his score. He beat Bai Lingxi by 33 seconds. How could he be stronger than Bai Lingxi?”

“Damn it, I’m going to pay the 39th Campground a visit to see what kind of person this Lin Xun is, and see how he can get first place! I won’t leave this matter until I get a satisfactory answer!”

The same cursing and skeptical remarks were heard in almost every campground. Lin Xun didn’t receive the slightest praise or applause for achieving first place. Instead, he became the target of criticism. Even Xiaoman wouldn’t have imagined this would happen.

Even the people from the 39th Campground almost went crazy when they heard the assessment results. Lin Xun is first?

That's too absurd!

It's more absurd than the bet yesterday!

Some people couldn't help but question the result.

Lin Xun was also there and he couldn't help but smile coldly when he saw the strange gazes he received and heard the skeptical and angry comments.

These guys seem to be filled with indignation but aren't they just jealous and bitter?

What's more, even Instructor Xiaoke didn't say anything about my result. This is undoubtedly a kind of acknowledgment of my result, but they have to accuse me of cheating. Are they really blind?

However, Lin Xun paid little attention to it all. Of course, he knew he had made too great of a scene. He had beaten both Bai Lingxi and Zhao Yin. Anyone would be unwilling to accept the result.

But Lin Xun didn't regret his action. He would do the same even if it wasn't to help Xiaoman win the bet.

Dissatisfied?

Okay, try creating a Flying Star Crossbow then!

This was what Lin Xun thought. Although he sounded a little arrogant, he was a little upset that he had become the target of accusation after he had finally achieved first place.

With a bang, a punch was slammed into Lin Xun's shoulder, and then Lin Xun saw Ning Meng exclaiming in excitement, "Damn it, you are amazing!"

Lin Xun grinned. "Aren't you worried that I cheated and would make you lose face?"

Ning Meng said disdainfully, "What do you mean cheated? Those guys are jealous. If they're so awesome, they can try to cheat too. The instructors didn't say anything, but they keep complaining, so annoying."

Lin Xun laughed. He realized that Ning Meng seemed carefree, but the simpler a person, the better they were at seeing the truth of a matter.

"A scholar who has been away for three days must be looked at in a different way. I didn't believe in this sentence before, but now, seeing you, I finally believe it." Shi Yu suddenly came over with a smile and looked at Lin Xun with a strange gaze.

"Is this a compliment, or a fake praise?" Lin Xun asked.

Ning Meng was the first to laugh. "In my opinion, it's neither a compliment or a fake praise, but Little White Face kissing up to you."

Shi Yu's expression froze, and his gaze turned hostile towards Ning Meng.

Lin Xun sensibly shut up and furtively moved away from the two. He knew that the two were going to smack talk again.

As expected, a battle of words broke out...

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The monthly assessment came to a close amidst various discussions and doubts. Regardless, Lin Xun's name had spread to every corner of the Blood Kill Camp overnight, and he had become well-known to all the instructors and students.

However, at the same time, his fame came with criticism. The controversy was endless, and Lin Xun became the most talked-about figure with mixed reception.

This was the price of fame.