

Prodigies 181

Chapter 181 Blood Kill Badge

The assessment came to an end and the thirty students, who each occupied a stone pillar, felt relieved, like a weight had been lifted off them.

Didn't they go through a year of extreme brutal training in Blood Kill Camp for this moment?

Now, they had passed the assessment and received the eligibility to enter the Dipper Transformation Lake. Once they broke through to the Spirit Dipper Stage, they would become top Spirit Dipper cultivators in the world!

That was their ultimate goal of coming to Blood Kill Camp.

"Damn, it's finally over..."

Ning Meng collapsed on his buttocks on the stone pillar, his face glowing with pride.

He had defeated Zhangsun Hen and had finally vented the hatred that he had suppressed in his heart for years!

"When I return home, let's see who dares stop me from going to find Zhao Zijin!" Shi Yu muttered, as though looking forward to something.

Lin Xun smiled, remembering the words of the old man from the Black Glory Sacred Hall when he was sent to Blood Kill Camp.

The training in Blood Kill Camp is about to end. Will he tell me about Xia Zhi now?

Each student had something different on their minds.

The one year of training felt like they were cut off from the world and made them almost forget about their previous lives. Now that the dull and cruel life was about to end, they realized that they needed to leave soon...

It was unknown when Xu Sanqi had arrived. He swept his razor sharp eyes across everyone as he said, "The stone pillar at your feet leads to the Dipper Transformation Lake. In three days, the passages will open. But before that, there is one thing you need to do."

All the students felt a chill in their hearts. We still need to do one thing?

Xu Sanqi signaled with his hand and a group of instructors came over in single file and awarded each student a blood-colored badge around the size of a copper coin.

A sword was engraved on the front of the badge and below it were a line of words: "Violet Glory Flower is undefeated because of blood kill and the empire exists forever because of continued expeditions!"

The blade of the sword pointed skywards and the writing resembled blood.

On the back of the badge was the identity number code name of the respective student in the camp.

The number nineteen was engraved on Lin Xun's badge.

"This is the Blood Kill Badge. Only students who have survived till the end of the training are qualified to wear one. After you leave the camp, the power of the badge is your most reliable support!"

Xu Sanqi's expression was unprecedentedly solemn and dignified. His voice was firm as iron and carried unquestionable strength.

Many students' hearts trembled as they held the Blood Kill Badge in their hands.

"Please look after it well!" Xu Sanqi said each word loud and clear.

As Lin Xun looked at Xu Sanqi, he suddenly thought about whether the name Xu Sanqi was also a number code name given to Instructor Xu when he was training in Blood Kill Camp.

Perhaps I can call myself Lin Shijiu.

Lin Xun shook his head and carefully put away the Blood Kill Badge. The badge not only symbolized honor, but also represented his one-year training in Blood Kill Camp.

It was an extremely precious item that marked his youthful times.

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After awarding the Blood Kill Badge, Xu Sanqi didn't waste any time and arranged for an instructor to introduce the students to the matters that they need to pay attention to when entering the Dipper Transformation Lake.

This instructor was the middle-aged fatty who often appeared beside Xiaoke.

The man had left an impression on Lin Xun, but Lin Xun had rarely seen him since Old Mo left.

It was also then that he learned that the middle-aged fatty was called Cao Shiliu.

Clearly, his name was a number code name like Xu Sanqi's.

"The Dipper Transformation Lake is a god-given opportunity. Every ten years, it produces abundant pure Origin Dipper Qi."

Cao Shiliu's voice was warm and calm as he explained, "You all know that there are many kinds of Dipper Qi, but the Origin Dipper Qi is the purest Dipper Qi in the world..."

Everyone was silent. Only Cao Shiliu's voice resounded throughout the space. All the students listened carefully, lest they miss any little detail.

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Three days later.

On the stone pillar site, Lin Xun and the other twenty nine students were waiting quietly.

Following a unique hum, the black rocks engraved with countless runes seemed to be awakening as they emitted dazzling shafts of light.

The shafts of light gathered around the thirty stone pillars, shrouding the body of each student. The dream-like scene was mysterious and extraordinary.

Rumble!

Within seconds, an aeth power storm suddenly emerged in the site, tearing and twisting the world in a terrifying manner.

Vortexes suddenly appeared out of thin air and dragged each student in.

The students had disappeared and the storm subsided. The rune light exuding from the black rocks on the ground also dissipated. Calmness was restored.

"It's finally open again. I wonder how many students can form a first-grade aeth power reservoir when they break through to the Spirit Dipper Stage."

The group of instructors couldn't help exclaiming emotionally as they watched.

"There should be quite a few. After all, the number of students who entered the Dipper Transformation Lake this time is the highest in history. Additionally, each student has supreme understanding and aptitude. I have a hunch that their breakthroughs in the Dipper Transformation Lake will break previous records," someone speculated.

"Certainly. There's no doubt that students such as Bai Lingxi, Li Duxing and Lin Xun will form a first-grade aeth power reservoir," said Cao Shiliu with a smile.

"Not necessary. As far as Lin Xun is concerned, it seems his strength isn't inferior to Bai Lingxi and Li Duxing but his foundation is still lacking."

Xu Sanqi looked calm as he said, "You all know that most of the students have reached the pinnacle of the ninth layer True Martial Stage a few years ago. They had suppressed their cultivation level for years to enter the Dipper Transformation Lake."

"But Lin Xun is different. He was only at the sixth layer True Martial Stage when he first joined Blood Kill Camp. He only broke through to the ninth layer True Martial Stage two months ago. Although his cultivation speed is astonishing, his foundation is indeed somewhat inferior."

The other instructors all nodded their heads in agreement.

Lin Xun's improvement was incredibly fast and had surprised them but a rapid progress wasn't necessarily a good thing. If a cultivator's foundation hadn't been solidified and stabilized, it could affect their overall strength after breakthrough.

After all, the Spirit Dipper Stage was completely different from the True Martial Stage. It was considered as truly entering the Way. The deeper a person's foundation, the greater advantage they had when breaking through to the next cultivation level.

Lin Xun had made several breakthroughs within one year, but it made people worry whether or not his foundation was solid enough.

"His foundation is very stable and not comparable to the average person."

Xiaoke said suddenly, "Don't forget that Lin Xun has already managed to defeat students in the ninth layer True Martial Stage when he was only at the sixth layer True Martial Stage. Also, his strength has

undergone transformations every time he broke through to the next cultivation level. Don't tell me that you really think that Lin Xun killed the level-two brute soldier on Demon Cloud Ridge because of luck?"

"Yes, even if Lin Xun has a poorer foundation, he shouldn't have a problem forming a first-grade aeth power reservoir when he enters the Dipper Transformation Lake," Xiaoman agreed.

The other instructors were dumbstruck when the twin sisters known for their bad relationship suddenly expressed the same thought.

"Whether he can or not, we will see it through the Figure Projector Compass," said Xu Sanqi as he turned around.

The other instructors hurriedly followed him. They knew that Xu Sanqi was about to open the Figure Projector Compass set above the Dipper Transformation Lake.

Through the Figure Projector Compass, they could see the characteristics of each student when they had a breakthrough. That way, they could determine the grade of the aeth power reservoir that they had formed.

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A wave of dizziness came over Lin Xun. When he woke up, he found himself standing in front of a lake.

The lake wasn't particularly huge and was only 20 yards in diameter. It wasn't an exaggeration to say that it was like a small pond. However, the lake water was extremely unique. It was crystal clear and reflected the clouds and sunlight. It looked as though it was integrated with the sky.

Mist spiraled up from the lake like dreamy smoke.

Floating in the middle of the lake were exactly thirty stone platforms shaped like lotuses.

It was the Dipper Transformation Lake!

It didn't look particularly striking but the lake contained liquid formed from the most pure Origin Dipper Qi!

Every drop contained terrifyingly unimaginable power.

However, the lake was also incredibly dangerous. According to Cao Shiliu, the terrifying Dipper Qi would immediately tear apart even a Spirit Sea cultivator if they sank into the lake!

Spirit Dipper cultivators could fly across the sky and summon the wind and rain yet they could easily lose their life in the Dipper Transformation Lake. The danger of the lake was evident.

"Is this the legendary Dipper Transformation Lake?"

"This is a great opportunity. In the entire empire, there are few known places with such an opportunity. But now, it is right in front of us. Hahaha," someone exclaimed.

The other students also drew closer to the Dipper Transformation Lake. Their eyes were blazing with anticipation.

"I heard that the longer you persevere in cultivating in the Dipper Transformation Lake, the greater the benefits during breakthrough. I don't know whether it's true though," Shi Yu said with undisguisable joy on his face. It was obvious that the Dipper Transformation Lake had a strong attractive force to him.

"Whether it is true or false, we will know after we try."

Ning Meng suddenly cried out on the other side and he was the first to rush forward and take a lotus stone platform floating on the lake.

The other students did the same. They controlled their excitement and raced to occupy a stone platform.

Just when Lin Xun was about to act, he was suddenly stopped.

It was Bai Lingxi, the beautiful maiden in white. She had approached Lin Xun without him knowing and was looking at him with her tranquil bright eyes. "I said a long time ago that when you reach the ninth layer True Martial Stage, I will challenge you. Do you remember?"

Lin Xun frowned. "Don't tell me you want to choose to fight here?"

Chapter 182 Cultivation Phenomenon

Lin Xun was somewhat irritated. The reason why he didn't want to fight Bai Lingxi was not because he was afraid of her but because the Dipper Transformation Lake was right in front of him. Who would be in the mood to fight?

If Bai Lingxi insisted on fighting, Lin Xun still planned to refuse.

Unexpectedly, Bai Lingxi shook her head and said, "A challenge doesn't necessarily mean we have to fight. You and I can compare when we break through to the Spirit Dipper Stage."

Lin Xun breathed a sigh of relief and said, "Compare what?"

Pointing to the Dipper Transformation Lake, Bai Lingxi said indifferently, "Compare who can cultivate longer in the lake and see who can form the higher-grade aeth power reservoir when they break through."

This wasn't really a challenge. Regardless of whether Bai Lingxi had made such a proposal, Lin Xun would still do his best.

After all, this was a god-given opportunity. Who would hold back at such a time?

After contemplating for a while, Lin Xun agreed.

Bai Lingxi didn't say anything more. Like an ethereal shadow, her robe fluttered in the air before she swiftly landed on a lotus stone platform.

Lin Xun didn't waste any more time. He headed straight to the last lotus stone platform on the lake and sat down cross-legged.

The two didn't try to conceal their conversation and so many students overheard it and couldn't help feeling a little irritated.

Since Bai Lingxi only challenged Lin Xun, did that mean the other students were inferior to Lin Xun in her eyes?

Many students felt indignant. They also wanted to compete to see who would last the longest in the Dipper Transformation Lake!

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The stone platforms floated on the lake like real lotus. It was unknown what material they were constructed from but their surface was smooth as jade and had a cold sensation upon touch.

Sitting cross-legged on it, Lin Xun immediately felt a stream of pure Dipper Qi rushing out and digging into his skin like a cold blade. It stung his skin and he felt like his blood had frozen.

Dipper Qi!

After all, it was an extremely special aeth power, but its power was incomparably strong and it had unbelievably mysterious effects.

There were thousand kinds of Dipper Qi in the world such as Yin-Yang Dipper Qi, Fire Fiend Dipper Qi, Ice Spirit Dipper Qi, and Wood Soul Dipper Qi

However, only very few types of Dipper Qi could be used to temper a cultivator's aeth power.

For example, the Origin Dipper Qi in the Dipper Transformation Lake was a top-class treasure in the world. It wasn't only extremely pure, but also could flawlessly integrate with a cultivator's power.

It was extremely rare and was considered a treasure that could only be found with luck.

Rumble—

Feeling the stinging pain all over his skin, Lin Xun didn't dare to hesitate any more. He held his breath in concentration, cleared his mind, and began to mobilize the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture.

Almost instantly, streams of pure and ice-cold Origin Dipper Qi were swallowed into his body and started to temper his aeth power like blades.

Lin Xun felt like he had fallen into a thousand-year-old ice cave. His body was being assaulted by bone-chilling icicles. The Origin Dipper Qi seemed pure and crystal-clear, but it had a terrifyingly sharp power. Lin Xun still felt bursts of piercing pain with his current physique and cultivation base.

Lin Xun was finally convinced that what Cao Shiliu said three days ago was true.

Their one-year of training in Blood Kill Camp was to prepare their foundation for entering the Dipper Transformation Lake. It was impossible to withstand or refine the Origin Dipper Qi power without a powerful physique and cultivation base.

Muffled grunts and groans sounded in rapid successions. The students sitting cross-legged on different stone platforms were all shivering and their faces were ashen. They clearly were also suffering from biting coldness just like Lin Xun.

Some people even cried out in agony and paused their cultivation, looking a little distressed.

In comparison, Lin Xun's performance was already pretty good. At least, he had remained calm and composed and hadn't halted his cultivation.

However, he clearly was much more cautious than before. While operating the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture with all his strength, he was carefully checking the changes in his body.

As time went by, Lin Xun soon adapted to the attacks of biting coldness and was fully immersed in cultivation.

His back was straight as a spear and his expression was calm as he sat there in a motionless state.

Wisps of white mist swirled around him and added a sacred and ethereal quality to him.

A few days ago, Lin Xun had reached the pinnacle of the True Martial Stage. The aeth power inside and outside his body had been completely transformed. It could be called the perfect aeth transformation.

Therefore, Lin Xun was not worried about breaking through and advancing to the Spirit Dipper Stage since his foundation had long been tempered to an extremely solid and stable state, far exceeding his peers.

Furthermore, with the help of the four aeth power vortexes in his heart meridians as well as the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture, his aeth power had been tempered to the pinnacle level. Its grade was extremely high and its power was extremely strong. It could be described as terrifying.

Under such circumstances, Lin Xun was only uncertain about what sort of grade the aeth power reservoir formed in his sea of qi would be when he broke through to the Spirit Dipper Stage.

Everyone had the same worry. It wasn't just Lin Xun.

Everyone knew that the aeth power reservoir was the symbol of a Spirit Dipper cultivator and an accumulation of a cultivator's strength.

The grade of an aeth power reservoir was directly related to the cultivation problems that a cultivator would face in the future!

Furthermore, the grade of the aeth power reservoir was closely related to a cultivator's strength, combat powers and their cultivation path.

Who wouldn't be concerned?

The reason that students such as Bai Lingxi, Shi Yu and Ning Meng had suppressed their cultivation level was also to form the most perfect aeth power reservoir when they broke through to the Spirit Dipper Stage.

Cultivation in the Dipper Transformation Lake was a god-given opportunity to shape the grade of a cultivator's aeth power reservoir. Whether or not a person could form an aeth power reservoir that they would be satisfied with depended on their constitution, aptitude, background, and talent.

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Time flew like flowing water. Three days passed by in the blink of an eye.

The thirty students were meditating on the Dipper Transformation Lake like thousand-year-old statues. Different phenomena were happening around them.

For example, Bai Lingxi was shrouded in white star-like mist, glowing an ethereal hue. It was as though they were dancing gracefully in the air.

As Li Duxing was breathing in and out, the white mist around him was like arrows and produced roars of wind and thunder.

During cultivation, the white mist around Shi Yu rose in a unique and mysterious rhythm like the tide.

Ning Meng appeared to be extremely domineering. The waves of qi around him resembled smoke signals rushing into the air and produced metallic clangs.

On the other hand, Lin Xun was like a still calm sea. The mist seemed very ordinary and nothing special.

The phenomena differed from person to person. There were different characteristics due to each person's different cultivation methods. But many details would be noticed upon a closer look.

In the central campground of Blood Kill Camp, a giant light screen reflected each scene in detail.

Xu Sanqi and the other instructors silently watched the light screen, each analyzing the performances of each student in their minds.

Suddenly, Xu Sanqi said, "In the past, someone would break through after cultivating for around three days. Based on that, I speculate that some of this group of students would break through to the Spirit Dipper Stage today."

The other instructors nodded.

"Based on the phenomena displayed by each student, I can roughly tell that Bai Lingxi, Li Duxing, Gong Ming, Shi Yu, Meng Xiulin, Ouyang Zhun and Ning Meng would open up a first-grade aeth power reservoir," an instructor said softly and many instructors nodded in agreement.

"It's a shame that Zhao Yin has been eliminated. Otherwise, with his Violet Sun Body, he would also be able to open up a first grade aeth power reservoir." An instructor found it a pity that Zhao Yin had been eliminated.

"Zhao Yin was defeated because of his provocation. He can only blame himself for being too confident. It's not Lin Xun's fault," Xiaoke said indifferently.

"Speaking of Lin Xun, his performance is a bit mediocre. This may be because of his weak foundation. If I remember correctly, he only reached the pinnacle of the ninth layer True Martial Stage a few days ago, right?"

Many instructors were curious about Lin Xun since his previous performances had surprised them again and again.

However, some people couldn't help but suspect that Lin Xun was indeed inferior to other students in terms of cultivation foundation based on his ordinary performance on the Dipper Transformation Lake.

Xiaoke frowned and didn't say anything. She was also a little uncertain.

Lin Xun's cultivation had rapidly improved and his combat strength was indeed very strong. He had proved this time and time again and no one could question it.

However, a cultivator's foundation wasn't the same as battle strength. It was strongly linked to a cultivator's aptitude and constitution, and it was impossible to achieve a strong foundation in a short period of time.

For example, other students had been training since young. Moreover, in order to enter the Dipper Transformation Lake, they had been suppressing their cultivation level for years. It was easy to imagine how strong their foundation would be.

Compared to them, Lin Xun indeed seemed inferior.

"Since you look down on Lin Xun, why don't we have another bet?" Xiaoman suddenly said aloud as she smiled at everyone.

Everyone was taken aback. They all remembered that they lost to Xiaoman in the quarterly assessment bet and so they all instinctively shook their heads.

However, someone didn't want to give in and so couldn't help but say aloud, "Xiaoman, are you that confident in that kid?"

"Of course."

"Then what kind of aeth power reservoir do you think Lin Xun can form?"

Xiaoman said without hesitation, "It definitely will be the first-grade!"

Everyone was amused by her response. They felt that she was acting on impulse and didn't take her seriously.

They stopped arguing with Xiaoman since it would be obvious when the result came out.

Xiaoman took in everyone's expressions and couldn't help but feel annoyed. She wished that Lin Xun would quickly break through and slap them in the face with it.

Suddenly, someone shouted, "Someone has broken through!"

Chapter 183 Blessing of Heaven

The one who broke through was a young man called Yun Zheng. At that moment, his aura was pulsing around his body, his aeth power roaring and his imposing manner steadily soaring.*novelnext.com*

The stone platform that he was sitting cross-legged on was producing wisps of golden light resembling beautiful raindrops.

Many instructors couldn't help but sigh out loud. Golden dipper rain was a sign of a second-grade aeth power reservoir.

In other words, Yun Zheng had, with the help of the Dipper Transformation Lake, opened up a second-grade aeth power reservoir. It was a little disappointing.

As everyone knew, the Spirit Dipper Stage was divided into three further realms, namely the Human Dipper, Earth Dipper and Heaven Dipper.

When a cultivator reached the Spirit Dipper Stage, they were considered to have become a Human Dipper cultivator.

The opening of an aeth power reservoir in the sea of qi was a symbol of reaching the Human Dipper Realm. At that stage, dipper power would temper a cultivator's aeth power and transform it into spirit dipper power.

An aeth power reservoir was divided into three different grades according to its quality.

The first-grade aeth power reservoir was collectively referred to as heaven's blessing, which implied that the aeth power reservoir was formed with the blessing of heaven.

Such aeth power reservoirs could take different forms in a cultivator's body. In the thousands of years of history in the empire, there had been many different types of aeth power reservoirs. For example, the fire-born azure lotus, coffin of the blue water and wings of whirlwind, golden pagoda, and Xumi pearl. All of which were first grade aeth power reservoirs.

Those who possessed such an aeth power reservoir were often hailed as a genius seen in tens of thousands of years. Their cultivation foundation and power could suppress cultivators at the same cultivation level!

The second-grade aeth power reservoir was collectively referred to as the bell spirit of the earth, and the phenomenon it produced was an accumulation of earth qi. For example, the golden dipper rain produced when Yun Zheng broke through was a type of second-grade aeth power reservoir.

Those who possessed such an aeth power reservoir were called an outstanding and extraordinary talent seen once in a thousand years.

The third-grade was an ordinary aeth power reservoir. It was the most commonly seen aeth power reservoir and the majority of human dipper realm cultivators in the world only possessed a third-grade aeth power reservoir.

The difference between the three different grades of aeth power reservoirs was tremendous.

A different grade of aeth power reservoir was equivalent to taking a different cultivation trajectory. It determined a cultivator's future path, the power they possessed and the achievements they would obtain.

Of course, nothing in the world was absolute. It was just incredibly difficult and almost hopeless to change it.

This was the importance of an aeth power reservoir!

The second-grade aeth power reservoir that Yun Zheng opened up meant that there would be a gap between him and cultivators with first-grade aeth power reservoir. If he wanted to achieve greater things than them in the future, he would have to put in hundreds of times more effort.

This was the reason why the instructors were sighing.

Cultivation was similar to rowing a boat against the current. In a boat race, one step made a world of difference!

Having gone through the same thing in the past, the instructors knew how difficult it was better than anyone.

“It is still pretty good to possess the Golden Dipper Rain aeth power reservoir. At least, once Yun Zheng leaves Blood Kill Camp, he could be considered an outstanding figure and could become an influential figure of the empire with hard work.” Cao Shiliu reminded them gently. “Our expectations can’t be too high. Compared with most cultivators in the world, the students in our Blood Killing Camp are already rare top talents.”

All the other instructors agreed.

Indeed, it was rare to find a cultivator with a second-grade aeth power reservoir in the world. Only around one in a thousand people would have a second-grade aeth power reservoir. Yun Zheng was already extremely remarkable to obtain such an achievement.

However, compared with the other Blood Kill Camp students, he seemed very ordinary.

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Not long after Yun Zheng’s breakthrough, he awoke from cultivation and he immediately glanced around at the students still silently cultivating. A bitter smile came to his lips.

He hadn’t been successful in opening up a first-grade aeth power reservoir even with the help of the Dipper Transformation Lake. As a result, he couldn’t help but feel glum.

Before long, a vortex suddenly emerged near Yun Zheng’s stone platform. It immediately engulfed him and teleported him out of the Dipper Transformation Lake.

A few hours after Yun Zheng left, several other students made a breakthrough. The duration between each student’s breakthrough wasn’t particularly huge.

Unfortunately, Xu Sanqi and the other instructors who were closely watching hadn’t witnessed a single student opening up a first-grade aeth power reservoir.

All of them were second-grade aeth power reservoirs.

However, the number of second-grade aeth power reservoirs would no doubt cause a huge stir in the outside world and make countless cultivators dumbfounded in disbelief.

After all, second-grade aeth power reservoirs were very rare and were possessed by cultivators with a supreme aptitude.

However, in the eyes of Xu Sanqi and the others, the number of second-grade aeth power reservoirs was very normal and it wasn’t worth paying much attention to. After all, the students were originally exceptionally remarkable and they had the help of the Dipper Transformation Lake, a god-given opportunity. It would be more strange if they failed to form a second-grade aeth power reservoir.

Another two days had passed since Yun Zheng's breakthrough to the Human Dipper stage. In those two days, thirteen students had made successful breakthroughs.

However, no one had opened up a first-grade aeth power reservoir.

Many instructors couldn't help but wrinkle their eyebrows. Almost half of the students had broken through yet they still hadn't seen one first-grade aeth power reservoir. This wasn't a good sign.

Regarding the situation, Xu Sanqi remained silent.

The current students were indeed different from those in the past. The number of students who entered the Dipper Transformation Lake was already far more than that of previous years.

According to Xu Sanqi's estimate, even if six or seven students opened up a first-grade aeth power reservoir among the thirty students, it would already break the previous records.

Will that happen?

Xu Sanqi couldn't be sure.

Three days flashed by.

The instructors gathered in the campground felt a little tired. They had almost run out of patience from the long period of waiting.

At that moment, twenty one students had made breakthroughs, but the aeth power reservoirs formed were all second-grade

In other words, only nine students remained to break through in the Dipper Transformation Lake. How many of those could form a first-grade aeth power reservoir in the end?

No one dared to guess.

This was cultivation. Even things that seemed certain often had unpredictable variables.

This variable was also called luck in cultivation.

With luck, even a pig could obtain intelligence. But with poor luck, the most outstanding genius would suffer setbacks.

Amidst the dull atmosphere, someone exclaimed, "It appeared, it appeared!"

Shua!

All the instructors were startled, and their eyes moved swiftly to the huge light screen reflected by the Figure Projector Compass.

On the light screen, a striking fire cloud suddenly emerged above Gong Ming, who was sitting cross-legged on the stone platform. The cloud continued to expand and spread until it turned into a funnel-shaped pagoda.

The fire cloud pagoda blazed in the sky, illuminating the mountains and rivers!

It was a first-grade aeth power reservoir--Fire Spirit Pagoda!

Xu Sanqi and other instructors widened their eyes in amazement. The Fire Spirit Pagoda was just a name, but it referred to the fact that aeth power reservoir that Gong Ming formed resembled a pagoda and contained Origin Aeth Fire, which had unbelievable uses during cultivation!

It was a first-grade aeth power reservoir, also known as heaven's blessing. It was like a gift from heaven and contained unimaginable mysterious power.

"Gong Ming is from the Never Falling Geezer Gong Clan and the Fire Returning Yuan Art he practices is a perfect match with his aeth power reservoir. It is indeed remarkable," someone marveled.

It was then that another student made a breakthrough on the Dipper Transformation Lake. Thunder rolled and lightning flashed in the sky like silver snakes dancing wildly. The force shook the sky and quaked the earth.

It was Ning Meng!

He had also made a breakthrough. Moreover, the phenomenon he produced during his breakthrough clearly indicated that it was a first-grade aeth power reservoir.

Xu Sanqi and the other instructors were astonished again. They could clearly see that the lightning was intertwining in the sky to form a scroll-like shape.

That's—?

Many instructors were puzzled because they couldn't recall a first-grade aeth power reservoir in the world that produced such a phenomenon.

Xu Sanqi was silent for a moment before he said, "That should be the Thunder Spirit Scroll! If my guess is right, that type of aeth power reservoir hadn't been seen in hundreds of years."

Everyone trembled inwardly.

Gong Ming's Fire Spirit Pagoda and Ning Meng's Thunder Spirit Scroll appeared in succession and both were first-grade aeth power reservoirs. The scene was too astonishing.

However, it didn't end there. Not long after Ning Meng's breakthrough, Shi Yu, a youngster called Ouyang Zhun, and a girl called Meng Xiulin also made breakthroughs, entering the Human Dipper Realm at the same time!

In an instant, three completely different phenomena appeared in the sky.

Silver tides undulated like the galaxy.

Several bright and pure flowers competed to blossom in the void.

A majestic azure divine eagle spread its wings and roared proudly towards the nine heavens.

The three phenomena represented three completely different aeth power reservoirs, all of which were first-grade!

"Tidal Galaxy! Enlightenment Spirit Flower! Azure Underworld Eagle!"

The instructors including Xu Sanqi were completely stunned, their eyes wide with shock. Everything happened so fast that they couldn't take in everything at once.

A first-grade aeth power reservoir hadn't appeared in the previous days but five had appeared successively!

Moreover, each one was a rare first-grade aeth power reservoir.

This fact alone could shake the empire, stir up waves in the world, and cause an uproar among countless cultivators!

However, it still hadn't ended!

Five students still hadn't made a breakthrough, including the three most high-profile students, Lin Xun, Bai Lingxi and Li Duxing!

"Based on the current situation, the number of students with first-grade aeth power reservoirs are bound to break previous records!" an instructor exclaimed.

Everyone else nodded in agreement. In the past, only five students at most opened up a first-grade aeth power reservoir. Now, five students had already achieved that and the remaining five students would no doubt do the same.

Therefore, they would no doubt break previous records.

Chapter 184 Extraordinary Phenomenon

As the students made breakthroughs one after another, they were successively taken away from the Dipper Transformation Lake.

Only five students remained cultivating in the lake, including Lin Xun, Bai Lingxi and Li Duxing.

It was already the seventh day since they entered the Dipper Transformation Lake!

In the past seven days, Lin Xun had forgotten how much Origin Dipper Qi he had absorbed as he was fully immersed in cultivation.

The Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture had displayed its incredible power during his cultivation. All the Origin Dipper Qi that Lin Xun absorbed was continuously tempered and integrated with his aeth power regardless of the amount.

It was unknown when Lin Xun had started to feel an intense piercing pain spread from his chest. The pain was so agonizing that it made his soul tremble.

Only then did he notice that his four heart acupuncture points were undergoing a strange change!

The four heart acupuncture points, namely the Jade Rotator, Splendid Cover, Violet Palace and Jade Hall, were located in the center of the chest. The four aeth power vortexes that Lin Xun had formed during cultivation were also born from those four acupoints.

Those four acupoints were located in the heart area and formed a straight vertical meridian that exactly protected the heart area.

The four acupoints weren't particularly important to ordinary cultivators, but they had a very special meaning to Lin Xun—The Origin Aeth Artery that he was born with was originally stored in the four heart acupuncture points!

Although his Origin Aeth Artery had long been taken away, he had still managed to defy the heavens and change his fate with the help of the Omega Secret Realm. The four aeth power vortexes also brought him unimaginable benefits on his cultivation path.

However, his four heart acupuncture points were currently undergoing changes!

Those four aeth power vortexes had become much more violent than they were before, rotating at an unprecedentedly fast speed.

The incomparable piercing pain was precisely from the four aeth power vortexes.

Lin Xun didn't know whether the changes were good or bad, but also couldn't do anything. If he stopped them from operating, the four aeth power vortexes would instantly collapse!

He could only do everything to try to remain calm and control the speed of cultivating the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture to ensure that he wouldn't be possessed by the devil during the intense cultivation.

However, as time passed, the painful sensation grew stronger and stronger. He felt as though his heart was being ripped apart.

Boom!

Just when Lin Xun almost couldn't bear the severe pain anymore, a blast of terrifying vibrating force spread out from his four heart acupuncture points.

Instantly, the four aeth power vortexes rapidly rotating merged with one another along the heart meridian to form a new vortex!

The vortex spanned down his heart area and covered the four acupoints, Jade Rotator, Splendid Cover, Violet Palace and Jade Hall. It looked like a giant abyss and seemed like it was born there.

It didn't rotate particularly fast but it was very stable and released a terrifying devouring power. It instantly pulverized the Origin Dipper Qi that was circulating his body to powder and completely refined them!

The tempering power of the previous four aeth power vortexes was nothing compared to it!

The piercing pain like he was being torn apart vanished instantly and a joyous feeling spread throughout his body.

Only then did he believe that his four heart acupuncture points had changed again. It had created a new special use.

An aeth power vortex that could engulf the eight wastelands had perfectly integrated with his four heart acupuncture points!

Unexpectedly, the change triggered a series of changes within Lin Xun's body like a fuse had been lit.

Lin Xun's power continued to steadily rise and the Origin Dipper Qi he absorbed was constantly being refined and integrated with the aeth power in his body.

At the same time, his muscles, bones, skin, qi and blood...were constantly absorbing the Origin Dipper Qi and being tempered.

In his mind-sea, the dim starry sky and the blurry spirit stars were gradually lighting up!

The spirit star represented the strength of his spirit power.

In the past, Lin Xun had to spend a lot of time and effort to illuminate one spirit star. He had been cultivating the Little Divine Meditation Art for over one year and he had only just lit up eight spirit stars.

However, the spirit stars in the mind-sea were growing brighter at an astonishing rate—nine stars, ten stars, eleven stars, twelve stars...

The sea of qi in his abdomen was producing a rhythmic pounding that resembled a heart beating. It was as though something was about to break out.

All signs indicated that Lin Xun would soon break through!

.....

In the campground, the light screen was flashing.

"Li Duxing is about to break through!" exclaimed Xu Sanqi said, his eyes unblinking and as illuminating as torches.

The other instructors reacted in the same way.

They could see dreamy clouds and mist silently gathering above Li Duxing's head. The mist seemed soft and gentle yet was glaring and sharp at the same time.

Gradually, the clouds and mist began to gather and took the form of a shaft of golden light. it resembled a razor-sharp black divine sword about to pierce the blue sky!

Xu Sanqi's body stiffened and his heart throbbed faster and faster.

The other instructors also looked stunned and had lost their calm.

Sword of Darkness!

This was an incredibly rare aeth power reservoir even among first-grade aeth power reservoirs. It was a gift bestowed from heaven that had been extinct for thousands of years in the empire!

It wasn't until the phenomenon vanished that Xu Sanqi and the others recovered from the astonishment. They glanced at one another and saw the disbelief in the depths of each other's eyes.

"Thousands of years ago, the legendary Lord Sword Servant from the Black Glory Sacred Hall also opened up a sword of darkness aeth power reservoir when he broke through to the Spirit Dipper Stage, isn't that right?" an instructor muttered, his expression complicated.

Black Glory Sacred Hall!

Lord Sword Servant from one thousand years ago!

A legend that had been circulating for thousands of years ago emerged in everyone's mind. They cast their minds back to the story about the strange man who helped the founding emperor to expand his territory and massacred everyone in the way with his sword.

The strange man called himself Servant of the Sword and he worshiped the art of sword. The legends about him were still circulating throughout the world, but no one could confirm whether he was indeed from the Black Glory Sacred Hall!

"I have a hunch that the Black Glory Sacred Hall will take notice of Li Duxing once he leaves Blood Kill Camp!" someone sighed.

"That's for sure, but..." Xu Sanqi frowned. He had always been afraid of the Black Glory Sacred Hall because it was an unrivaled huge monster in the dark world of the empire. It was mysterious, bloodthirsty and cruel.

Therefore, Xu Sanqi didn't want Li Duxing to have anything to do with the Black Glory Sacred Hall, but he knew his hope was unrealistic. The Black Glory Sacred Hall would undoubtedly take notice of Li Duxing when he left Blood Kill Camp.

Li Duxing's aeth power reservoir was too unique!

At that moment, another student made a breakthrough and attracted everyone's attention. It wasn't Lin Xun or Bai Lingxi, but a student called Huang Feijia.

In addition to Huang Feijia, two other students were successively breaking through. Unfortunately, all three only formed a second-grade aeth power reservoir. Xu Sanqi and the others couldn't help but feel disappointed for them.

They thought that the longer they persevered in the lake, the greater their hope of opening up a first-grade aeth power reservoir, but that didn't seem to be the case.

Only Lin Xun and Bai Lingxi remained on the Dipper Transformation Lake.

The two were the ones that the instructors were most curious about. Of course, they were more optimistic about Bai Lingxi compared to Lin Xun.

Xiaoman's heart was incredibly tense and her eyes were intently fixed on Lin Xun. She couldn't even bother to argue with the other instructors.

Xiaoke's graceful and beautiful face was as calm as usual, though her attention was clearly more focused on Lin Xun.

After all, Lin Xun was her student. After spending one year together, they had developed a good relationship and so it was natural that she cared more about Lin Xun.

As for Bai Lingxi, there was nothing that Xiaoke could say. She had the talent of Eternal Shining Star and was destined to open up a first-grade aeth power reservoir. They just didn't know what sort of characteristic her aeth power reservoir would possess.

To everyone's surprise, another two days passed and neither Lin Xun nor Bai Lingxi showed any signs of breakthrough.

Just when everyone was growing impatient from waiting and couldn't help but feel a little irritable, something changed around Bai Lingxi! The change lifted everyone's spirits and they all immediately turned their gazes her way.

Rumble!

The sky was vibrating above the Dipper Transformation Lake, as though it was about to collapse. It was a terrifying scene.

At that moment, Xu Sanqi and the others felt a tingling pain in their eyes and suddenly couldn't see anything. By the time they regained their vision, thousands of dazzling stars had emerged in the sky. Tens of thousands of stars were clustered together like a universe had appeared out of nowhere.

Shock uncontrollably emerged in the bottom of everyone's hearts. Stars appeared in daylight and illuminated the nine heavens. What kind of earthshaking spectacle is this?

They had never heard of anyone able to produce such a phenomenon when forming an aeth power reservoir during breakthroughs!

Xu Sanqi and the others were unable to identify the name of Bai Lingxi's aeth power reservoir, but they didn't doubt that it was a first-grade aeth power reservoir!

However, Xu Sanqi and the others all had a feeling that the aeth power reservoir that Bai Lingxi opened up was more powerful than other first-grade aeth power reservoirs.

"Leader, could it be...could it be a supreme-grade aeth power reservoir?" an instructor muttered with difficulty.

His one sentence made everyone's heart jump to their throats and their expressions dramatically changed.

Legend had it that supreme-grade aeth power reservoirs were ranked above first-grade aeth power reservoirs, and it symbolized the most perfect breakthrough. Only those blessed by heavens would possess a supreme-grade aeth power reservoir.

It was just that the legend was too illusive and no one had been able to confirm the truth of the legend since ancient times.

"Impossible! How can such an absurd legend be taken seriously?"

Many instructors objected.

"Leader, what do you think?" someone asked Xu Sanqi.

Many people shifted their gazes to Xu Sanqi.

Xu Sanqi's brows were furrowed again and his gaze drifted off in thought like he had suddenly remembered something.

Chapter 185 Earthshaking Changes

Xu Sanqi's silence puzzled the other instructors as they didn't know what he was thinking about.

Very soon, Xu Sanqi revealed his thoughts. "Decades ago, I went to visit a friend at Qinglu Academy and I overheard him say that the founding emperor possessed a supreme-grade aeth power reservoir and that it was called the Four Spirits of the Saint. The surroundings of the aeth power reservoir produced images of the four divine beasts—azure dragon, white tiger, vermilion bird and the black tortoise..."

Before he finished speaking, the instructors had already lost their composure and cried out in shock. If what Xu Sanqi said was true, supreme-grade aeth power reservoirs indeed existed in the world.

Xu Sanqi continued, "That friend is staid and prudent, and he only inadvertently mentioned the matter after drinking too much. I wanted to confirm if what he said was true later on, but the friend avoided the topic and only said that it was just a rumor and I shouldn't take it seriously."

All the instructors were utterly dumbfounded.

"But regardless, the aeth power reservoir that Bai Lingxi has formed is definitely not ordinary. It seems different from other first-grade aeth power reservoirs. This is unquestionable."

Xu Sanqi's words still couldn't dispel the bewilderment in the instructors' minds.

However, they were also aware that it was a taboo to investigate further given that it concerned Bai Lingxi's cultivation secret.

"Huh?"

Suddenly, Xiaoman inadvertently glanced at the light screen and her eyes snapped wide with shock. She cried out in disbelief, "How could that be?"

Xu Sanqi and the others felt their hearts jump. They followed Xiaoman's gaze and saw that Bai Lingxi had already left the Dipper Transformation Lake. Lin Xun was the only one left meditating on a stone platform.

However, the lake water was rapidly vanishing at a speed visible to the naked eye and the lake water level was constantly dropping.

Xu Sanqi and the others stood aghast at the sight. Contained in the Dipper Transformation Lake was the purest Origin Dipper Qi and it took a good number of years for it to accumulate to its current level.

However, the purest Origin Dipper Qi accumulated in the lake was draining at a frightening speed!

How could that be?

At that moment, everyone's expression dramatically changed. If the Dipper Transformation Lake were to disappear completely, Blood Kill Camp would no longer exist!

"Could it be that the phenomenon brought about by Bai Lingxi's breakthrough was so earth shaking that it caused the lake to change?"

"Impossible. Have you ever seen such a change during other breakthroughs?" someone refuted.

“Could it be related to Lin Xun?” someone else suspected.

Many instructors couldn’t help but look at Lin Xun, only to see him still cultivating and his aura was calm as a still sea. There seemed nothing unusual about him.

However, the more ordinary his performance, the more unusual it looked to the others. They felt that Lin Xun shouldn’t be like that given that he had been cultivating for nine days already. How could it be normal that he still hadn’t shown any signs of breaking through?

However, it was absurd to say that the changes in Dipper Transformation Lake were related to Lin Xun.

While Xu Sanqi and the others were in utter bewilderment, the water surface of Dipper Transformation Lake continued to drop and an unknown amount of Origin Dipper Qi was being lost.

If it continued, the consequences would be far too serious.

Xu Sanqi and the other instructors assumed solemn expressions. They couldn’t pay any attention to Lin Xun anymore.

Boom!

It was then that an earthshaking rumble rang out from Lin Xun, who was cultivating, and engulfed everything.

Rumble—

It was as though a terrifying storm was wreaking havoc upon the world from the Dipper Transformation Lake and throwing everything into chaos.

The Figure Projector Compass buzzed and hummed and the light screen it casted started to tremble violently. Even the scene it reflected became blurred and distorted.

“Let’s go take a look!”

Xu Sanqi left in a flash.

Evidently, he couldn’t contain his shock or maintain his composure any longer. He had to urgently find out the reason for the destruction.

The other instructors hurriedly followed after him like they were snapped awake from a dream.

The changes had happened too suddenly and caught them all by surprise. If unimaginable changes had indeed happened to the Dipper Transformation Lake, they wouldn’t be able to bear the responsibility.

.....

Xu Sanqi and the others were aghast at the sight when they arrived.

The Dipper Transformation Lake seemed to have dried up, and only a thin layer of water remained. Even the rocks at the bottom of the lake were exposed in parts.

That dried up lake water was liquid transformed from Origin Dipper Qi. It wasn’t ordinary lake water. Xu Sanqi and the others felt like their flesh was aching with pain and their hearts bleeding.

What had happened?

Many instructors subconsciously shifted their gazes to the remaining stone platform on the lake. On the stone platform, Lin Xun scrambled to his feet, his clothes torn and his hair disheveled. He also seemed to have been affected by the explosion.

But he was unwounded.

Could there be a connection between the dried up lake water and the discomposed youngster?

No one could be sure what happened just now because it was too unbelievable. It was as though the entire Dipper Transformation Lake had exploded. Everyone couldn't help but shudder inwardly, not knowing what to do.

Such a matter had never happened in the past!

However, Xiaoman didn't care about that and instead anxiously asked, "Little brat, have you broken through yet?"

Lin Xun nodded. "I luckily succeeded."

His expression seemed a little strange—his eyes were dazed and he seemed to be pondering about something difficult to solve.

Xiaoman breathed a sigh of relief. "I'm glad you broke through, I'm glad you broke through..."

"Xiaoman, leave with Lin Xun first. I have something to ask him later." Xu Sanqi said with an unprecedented stern expression as though he allowed no refusal.

Xiaoman nodded and shot a strange glance at Lin Xun. Then, she said in a displeased tone. "Why are you still standing there? Hurry up and come with me."

Lin Xun responded like he had just awakened from a dream. With a flash, he darted to the edge of the lake but the moment his foot landed on the ground, a deep footprint was blasted into the incomparably hard ground and a cloud of smoke whirled up into the air.

The corners of the instructors' lips twitched as they stared at Lin Xun like they were looking at a monster.

Lin Xun looked a little surprised and a little embarrassed.

"What's the big deal? It's normal for someone to be unable to control their power just after breaking through to the Human Dipper Stage, isn't it?"

Xiaoman rolled her eyes at the instructors, grabbed Lin Xun by the arm, and left.

"Normal? The ground is made of fine diamond stone, which is the hardest material. No ordinary human dipper cultivators can shake it! You call this normal?" muttered an instructor.

"Is that kid an ordinary human dipper cultivator? It might be normal for a little monster," an instructor chuckled and disagreed with the other instructor.

“Fortunately the foundation of the Dipper Transformation Lake hasn’t been destroyed. It will gradually accumulate Origin Dipper Qi with time, but it will take a long time for it to restore to its previous scale.” Xu Sanqi had already carefully investigated the state of the Dipper Transformation Lake. Although he couldn’t find out the cause of the explosion, he discovered the lake hadn’t been completely destroyed.

The other instructors breathed a sigh of relief. Though their hearts ached a little when they saw the mess the lake had become.

A place of god-given opportunity had been completely drained of its essence and only a pitiful amount of Origin Dipper Qi remained. The loss was too tremendous!

Someone couldn’t help but ask, “Leader, what actually happened here?”

Xu Sanqi thought for a moment and said, “I will go and ask Lin Xun later. Maybe I can find out the answer.” His voice sounded strange.

The other instructors were all flabbergasted. Could the changes really be related to Lin Xun’s breakthrough?

.....

In a secret chamber in the campground.

Lin Xun had changed into a new set of clothes and sat down quietly, but his expression was a little blank and distracted.

Why is it like that?

This was Lin Xun’s greatest puzzlement after his breakthrough.

Indeed, he had successfully made a breakthrough and opened up an aeth power reservoir in his sea of qi.

However, the aeth power reservoir was too unusual as it was formed from a giant storm vortex!

The vortex was a pure azure color like a lake as it constantly rotated and released wisps of pure spirit dipper qi.

A storm vortex indicated instability.

Moreover, it was opened up in his sea of qi, meaning that if it collapsed, it would instantly tear apart his sea of qi and cause irreparable damage to his body!

However, Lin Xun wasn’t worried about that because, after a closer observation, he noticed that his storm vortex-like aeth power reservoir was as stable and steady as a mountain despite it still rapidly rotating.

Lin Xun felt like his sea of qi was a bottomless abyss and his aeth power reservoir was a storm vortex formed within the abyss and was capable of engulfing heaven and earth.

What kind of aeth power reservoir is it?

Lin Xun didn’t know.

He was most surprised that, when he operated the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture, it triggered astonishing changes using his aeth power reservoir as the core!

Suddenly, the sound of footsteps awoke him from his chaotic thoughts.

Xu Sanqi pushed open the door and entered. He glanced at Lin Xun and sat down opposite him. His razor-sharp eyes were unusually calm and without any deterrent power.

He quietly studied Lin Xun and said, "You're also aware of the incident that happened right?"

Lin Xun nodded. "I'm also surprised."

Xu Sanqi said, "Does it have anything to do with you?"

Lin Xun was silent for a moment, and then he smiled bitterly. "I also can't be sure. I was in the process of breaking through and so was completely focussed on myself. I hadn't noticed why the Dipper Transformation Lake underwent such a change."

Xu Sanqi knitted his brows in deep thought, and then he said after a moment. "If possible, can I examine your aeth power reservoir?"

His request was clearly taboo. After all, the sea of qi was the cultivation foundation of a cultivator.

Xu Sanqi was clearly aware of this so he asked calmly and was expecting Lin Xun to refuse.

Surprisingly, Lin Xun readily agreed, "That would be good. I was also wondering what my aeth power reservoir would be called."

Xu Sanqi was stunned for a moment. Then, he took a deep look at Lin Xun and said, "Don't worry. No matter what the result is, I will keep it a secret for you."

Chapter 186 Eye of the Storm

Eye of the storm!

As Lin Xun walked out of the secret chamber, that name continued to hover in his mind.

It was the answer that Xu Sanqi gave him after around an hour of thorough examination.

Lin Xun still remembered the undisguisable puzzlement on Xu Sanqi's face when he told him the name. Clearly, Xu Sanqi also wasn't entirely sure whether it was correct.

In truth, Lin Xun already had the answer in his mind. He was certain that although the aeth power reservoir he formed was similar to the Eye of the Storm, a legendary first-grade aeth power reservoir, it was completely different!

This was because when he practiced the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture, his aeth power reservoir not only produced a terrifying whirling force but the new aeth power vortex that spanned across his four heart meridians also generated a whirling force.

The two completely different vortexes, one above the other, one clockwise and one counterclockwise, produced a unique and mysterious change.

The spirit dipper power in his body would be continuously tempered between the two vortexes similar to grains being crushed between two grindstones. The tempering power was simply earthshaking and terrifying!

The mysterious effect would not only allow Lin Xun to absorb greater power during cultivation but also cultivate the purest spirit dipper qi.

This was the greatest change brought to Lin Xun after he broke through to the human dipper stage and formed an aeth power reservoir.

However, he didn't mention this change to Xu Sanqi when the man examined him because it concerned the secret of the Origin Aeth Artery that had been taken away from him. He couldn't possibly let other people know about it.

The sunset clouds glowed like fire; it was late in the evening.

After walking out of the secret chamber, Lin Xun headed directly towards the 39th Campground.

He had just broken through to the human dipper stage and his body had undergone earthshaking changes. He had to quickly accustom himself to his new power.

The human dipper stage was the first realm of the Spirit Dipper Stage. Once a cultivator reached this realm, it was equivalent to setting foot onto the Dao and becoming completely different from True Martial cultivators.

If Lin Xun didn't quickly familiarize himself with the new realm and power, it could affect his future cultivation.

.....

After Lin Xun left, Xu Sanqi sat alone in the secret chamber for a long while.

In the end, he took out a book made from special rune materials and turned to the last page, which was completely blank.

Chi!

He carved a line of words on the page using his fingertip like a sharp blade. "Lin Xun, fourteen years old, first grade aeth power reservoir—Eye of the Storm.

After writing, Xu Sanqi frowned and he seemed a little dissatisfied. He couldn't help but sigh and cast his mind back to when he examined Lin Xun.

At the time, he carefully investigated Lin Xun with his spirit sense and he detected a unique storm vortex aeth power reservoir in Lin Xun's sea of qi.

However, just when Xu Sanqi was about to closer investigate the aeth power reservoir, his heart inexplicably throbbed as though he feared a mysterious power in the depths of the aeth power reservoir.

This terrified Xu Sanqi. He hesitated and finally gave up the plan to investigate further.

He knew that this was a secret of Lin Xun, and even if the secret might be related to the chaos in the Dipper Transformation Lake, he shouldn't continue the investigation.

The matter had already happened and couldn't be changed. Even if he proved that the chaos was related to Lin Xun, so what?

Lin Xun was certain that his aeth power reservoir wasn't the Eye of the Storm, so how would Xu Sanqi not know?

However...

Xu Sanqi didn't intend to expose him. Lin Xun had already shown too many special abilities. His mastery in the art of runes was already enough to shock the world. The fact that he possessed a mysterious aeth power reservoir could be a disaster for him!

Xu Sanqi knew very well that once the influential figures of the empire noticed Lin Xun, Lin Xun's fate would be out of his own control!

Xu Sanqi still had a headache because even if Lin Xun's aeth power reservoir was the Eye of the Storm, it would still attract many people's attention.

This was because the Eye of the Storm was also a very rare first-grade aeth power reservoir and it hadn't appeared for almost hundreds of years.

"That kid is really abnormal. Everyone wants to have outstanding abilities to make themselves more outstanding, but that kid is full of outstanding abilities yet I have to rack my brain to help him hide them. Who has ever seen someone like him in the world?"

Xu Sanqi smiled wryly, shook his head, and stopped thinking about it. Then, he put away the book, got up, and left the secret chamber.

The book was very important as it recorded the final assessment results of the top thirty students. It wouldn't be long before it reached the hands of the true top influential figures in the Forbidden City.

No matter how reluctant Xu Sanqi was, he had to fairly deal with the matter because it was the will of the empire and the will of Blood Kill Camp. He couldn't defy it!

However, Xu Sanqi only wrote a brief and concise evaluation for Lin Xun. He didn't put any other description except from the Eye of the Storm aeth power reservoir.

Xu Sanqi just hoped that Lin Xun would understand his efforts when he grew up. He did that to help cultivate true talents for the empire!

.....

Outside the 39th Campground.

Lin Xun noticed a graceful and beautiful figure in white waiting for him.

Bai Lingxi!

The stunningly beautiful maiden was only fourteen years old, but she had already shown unrivaled magnificence.

She was blessed by heaven and was destined to be as dazzling as the sun and receive countless attention in the empire.

Although she was just a student of Blood Kill Camp, her wisdom, beauty, strength and talent had far surpassed everyone else's. Many students willingly admitted that they were inferior to her.

The setting sun cast a golden glow on the clouds like fire and bathed Bai Lingxi with a sacred and ethereal glow.

The wind blew gently, ruffling the maiden's jet-black hair. Her fair and beautiful face was as delicately beautiful and tranquil as always and her eyes were as bright as stars. She resembled a fairy from a painting and didn't seem to belong to the mortal world.

The blood-red setting sun.

The maiden in white.

The shimmering golden desert.

They combined to create a delightfully peaceful scene.

Lin Xun was mesmerized for a moment, and then he suddenly remembered that he had accepted Bai Lingxi's challenge before his breakthrough in the Dipper Transformation Lake.

"What grade is it?"

Bai Lingxi asked directly as she turned around and fixed her bright eyes on Lin Xun. She had been waiting there to know the result.

"First-grade," said Lin Xun after a thought.

Bai Lingxi was silent for a moment before she said, "I lost to you in terms of cultivation time, but I'm better than you in terms of the aeth power reservoir grade."

Lin Xun looked surprised. Is there really an aeth power reservoir better than first-grade in the world?

"It's a draw this time. I hope that when we meet again next time, we can determine who is better between you and I." Bai Lingxi said solemnly before she turned around and left.

As she walked under the blood-red sunset, her robe fluttered and her entire body was shrouded in an illusory glow.

"I can't tell anyone about my aeth power reservoir."

That was the last time that Lin Xun saw Bai Lingxi in Blood Kill Camp. That night, the unpredictable girl left the camp.

Lin Xun still didn't know why Bai Lingxi treated him in such a way and found it very strange.

However, the grade of Bai Lingxi's aeth power reservoir still surprised Lin Xun.

"You can consider that you won." Immediately, Lin Xun smiled, turned around and headed into the campground.

Were they really evenly matched in the competition?

At least, Lin Xun felt that his aeth power reservoir wasn't inferior to Bai Lingxi's!

He was only surprised because he realized that there was indeed an aeth power reservoir more special than a first-grade aeth power reservoir!

As for the challenge, Lin Xun didn't care. Bai Lingxi had her own path and Lin Xun had his. It was too early to tell who the winner was on the path.

.....

Lin Xun froze as he entered the campground.

He saw a large table of various dishes and fruits set up in the center of the campground and dozens of wine jars on the ground.

There was a fine selection of dishes and all looked and smelled great.

The drinks were clearly aged wine as its aroma filled the air.

At that moment, Shi Yu, Ning Meng and Gong Ming were already sitting around the table.

When Ning Meng saw Lin Xun, he sprang up and yelled, "Boy, you made us wait for you for so long. We have to punish you with three bowls of wine" *novelnext.com*

Ning Meng brought over a jar of wine and poured three bowls.

Lin Xun stared at them blankly before asking, "What are you doing?"

"Drink the wine first and then we'll talk about it," Shi Yu said with a smile.

"Hehe, drink, quickly drink." Gong Ming also smiled.

Before Lin Xun could respond, Ning Meng shoved the wine bowl to his mouth and shouted, "Don't talk nonsense! Hurry up and drink it! Today, we must drink until we are drunk!"

Lin Xun knew he had to drink it when he saw their stances. He delightfully downed three bowls and, without asking more questions, he sat down at the table. "You want to drink? Count me in! Whoever uses aeth power is a loser!"

His bold and lofty spirit suddenly ignited Shi Yu and the others, and they sprang into action.

Even one thousand cups of wine wasn't enough when drinking with friends. The four teenagers let go of everything and drank to their hearts' content under the twilight sky.

They gulped down one bowl after another.

It was the first time that Lin Xun drank like that in his life. He felt his head swell and spin, and his vision blurred.

However, his heart was filled with delight.

It was only until later that he vaguely realized that Ning Meng had dragged Li Duxing over from somewhere. Li Duxing was clearly very reluctant, but how would Ning Meng, who was already very drunk, care about his response? He just continued to force Li Duxing to stay and poured him wine.

Before long, Lin Xun saw Li Duxing totter and fall asleep on the table with a thud, causing everyone to burst into laughter.

The drunken laughter echoed throughout the night. It was noisy, lively but beautiful.

Chapter 187 Reunion

Early next morning.

When Lin Xun woke up, his head ached and his body was uncomfortable. These were the side effects from over-drinking.

He drew a deep breath, circulated his spirit dipper qi around his body, and instantly dispelled the discomfort throughout his body.

Only then did Lin Xun feel refreshed and his spirits lifted.

He realized that he had somehow made his way back to Old Mo's warehouse.

"With your alcohol tolerance, you competed with others in drinking?"

Looking contemptuous, Xiaoman came over with a cup of hot tea and handed it to Lin Xun.

Lin Xun smiled bitterly, drank the tea in one go and said, "Miss Xiaoman, did you bring me back here last night?"

Xiaoman snorted, her beautiful eyes sparkling as she stared at Lin Xun. "However, although you don't have a good alcohol tolerance, you performed very well in your breakthrough yesterday. I heard from Chief Xu that you opened up a first-grade aeth power reservoir called Eye of the Storm. You are indeed worthy of being called my little brother. Good job!"

She affectionately pinched Lin Xun's cheek and smiled proudly. "Did you know that you have helped vent my anger earlier? When they heard what kind of aeth power reservoir you opened up, they were all astonished like they saw a ghost. Hahaha."

Lin Xun smiled bitterly. "Big Sister Xiaoman, you didn't gamble again, right?"

Xiaoman sighed regretfully. "I wanted to, but they were too scared. How would they dare to bet against me?"

Lin Xun was at a loss for words.

Xiaoman suddenly asked, "When do you plan to leave?"

The question surprised Lin Xun. He suddenly remembered that the assessments in Blood Kill Camp had ended and all the students had made breakthroughs. It was finally time to leave.

"Where are Shi Yu and Ning Meng?" Lin Xun asked.

"Their families have sent people to collect them this morning," Xiaoman said casually.

Lin Xun finally understood why they drank with him last night. It turned out that they already knew that they would be leaving the next day.

Inexplicably, Lin Xun sighed. After this parting, I wonder when we will meet again. This feeling is indeed upsetting.

Perhaps, they didn't want to make a huge fuss about the parting and so left without saying goodbye.

Xiaoman teased, "Hey, you're so young but you're already so sentimental? Don't worry, as long as you guys are still in the empire, you will have an opportunity to see each other again."

Lin Xun nodded and then he asked, "Then, it's time for me to leave now?"

Xiaoman said in a slightly surprised tone, "What, you don't want to leave? I forgot to tell you that all the other students had left Blood Kill Camp early in the morning."

Lin Xun was taken aback.

It finally hit him that his one year in Blood Kill Camp had come to an end.

Would he miss it?

Perhaps.

However, when he had to truly leave, he realized that the world was so vast that he didn't know where to go...

As though Xiaoman could tell that Lin Xun was upset, she clapped him on the shoulder and reassured him, "Blood Kill Camp is too isolated from the world. You have to leave here if you want to achieve greater things on your cultivation path."

Lin Xun smiled wryly. "Sister Xiaoman, are you trying to drive me away?"

At that moment, Xiaoman was unusually calm and she no longer had a flirtatious look on her sexy and beautiful face. Instead, it was replaced by a solemn and serious expression. She looked at Lin Xun directly and said, "Little brat, you really should go."

"You have a lot of secrets and you also have a lot of things on your mind that I don't know about. I know that you must have a lot of things you need to do. So, even if I'll miss you, I won't keep you."

Such a few simple words made Lin Xun's heart tremble. He stared at Xiaoman for a long moment and then suddenly smiled, spread out his arms, and hugged her for the first time.

"Sister Xiaoman, remember what I said that night. You have to tell me if you have any troubles!"

After that, Lin Xun turned around and walked out of Old Mo's warehouse in large strides.

At that moment, the young man's back seemed unusually resolute, like a spear that had been thrust out; he never turned his head back around once.

As Xiaoman stared blankly as Lin Xun left, her beautiful eyes misted over.

“That damn little bastard!”

...

The campground was extremely quiet and empty. It was no longer as lively and clamorous as it was in the past.

As Lin Xun walked alone, he recalled his purpose of enduring the hardships to go to the Ziyao Empire.

He thought about Mister Lu who had vanished when the mine prison was destroyed.

He thought of Xia Zhi.

He thought of Old Mo, who was taken away to protect him...

As Xiaoman had said, Lin Xun indeed had many things that he couldn't let go. Only by leaving could he truly solve them!

Xu Sanqi suddenly appeared in front of Lin Xun and handed him his storage ring. “This is the storage ring you brought here. I now return it to its true owner.”

Lin Xun received it and asked, “Instructor Xu, to tell you the truth, I came to Blood Kill Camp to...”

Before he finished, Xu Sanqi interrupted, “Someone will soon talk to you about your problems, so you don't need to tell me.”

Lin Xun looked bewildered.

Soon, Lin Xun vaguely guessed the answer. An old, shabby treasure ship produced an ear-piercing roar and whizzed towards their direction while swaying like a drunkard.

The treasure ship looked very familiar; it was the shabby treasure ship that sent Lin Xun, Ning Meng and Shi Yu to Blood Kill Camp one year ago.

Lin Xun still remembered that the man who operated the ship was a bearded middle-aged man called Xue Jin.

“They are here to collect you.” A strange look crossed Xu Sanqi's rock-hard face as he stared at the shabby ship.

Rumble—

The treasure ship swayed violently like it was short of breath and landed on the periphery of Blood Kill Camp.

A big head stuck out from the treasure ship and shouted, “Little guy, hurry up, I don't want to stay in this hell for too long!”

He had ruddy cheeks, a drowsy look, and a full beard that framed his face. He showed a hint of a tough and imposing manner within his laziness. It was Xue Jin.

Lin Xun nodded at Xue Jin, and then looked at Xu Sanqi. "Instructor Xu, thank you for your care in the past year. I will definitely bring Old Mo back one day!"

Xu Sanqi didn't comment on his promise and just took out a simple silver hairpin. "If you have the chance to enter the Forbidden City and encounter trouble there, take this to the Spirit Vulture Residence. The owner there is my friend."

Lin Xun was about to decline when he heard Xu Sanqi add, "Xiaoke may be there too. Don't you want to see your instructor again?"

Lin Xun no longer hesitated and carefully accepted the hairpin.

Xu Sanqi said solemnly, "Go now. Take care. Remember, don't forget the sentence engraved in front of the entrance of Blood Kill Camp."

Violet Glory Flower is undefeated because of blood kill and the empire exists forever because of continued expeditions

Lin Xun recited it in his heart, and bowed to Xu Sanqi with a rare seriousness.

Before leaving, he couldn't help but turn his head around one last time to peer into the distance.

He saw Xiaoman fold her arms in front of her chest. Her slender figure was standing upright and her long wine-red hair fluttered in the wind, highlighting her sexy and beautiful smiling face.

Lin Xun waved enthusiastically and smiled. Then, he turned back around and walked out of the gate of Blood Kill Camp.

"Goodbye, little brat," Xiaoman muttered.

As Xu Sanqi stood alone, his figure was as straight as a spear and his face was as cold and stern as usual. He silently watched Lin Xun depart.

Lin Xun was the last student to leave Blood Kill Camp. He couldn't help but wonder if he would have new students in the future...

.....

Rumble—

When Lin Xun boarded the treasure ship, Xue Jin, who had been waiting impatiently, steered the ship and it roared into the sky like a cannonball.

Lin Xun staggered, almost unable to steady his body. His face looked terribly bad, and his already upset mood due to the parting also worsened.

"Hey hey, little guy, don't look so unhappy. There aren't many people in the world qualified to be on my ship." Xue Jin laughed loudly and chugged down a jar of alcohol as though he didn't care about Lin Xun's view.

Lin Xun snorted, turned around, and walked into the cabin.novelnext.com

He froze when he walked in, and all the distracting thoughts disappeared from his mind.

An old man in black court robes was sitting in the cabin, his silver hair combed perfectly and his warm and wrinkled face was full of kindness.

It was the old man from the Black Glory Sacred Hall!

A year ago, when he was in Donglin City, the old man had appeared with the mysterious Queen of Darkness, took Xia Zhi away with unquestionable authority, and sent him to Blood Kill Camp.

Now that a year had passed, the old man reappeared, causing Lin Xun to lose his composure.

“Sit.” The old man said softly.

Lin Xun suppressed all sorts of puzzlement in his heart and sat down opposite the old man.

The old man stared at Lin Xun for a while and then said, “In one year, you broke through from the sixth layer True Martial Stage to the human dipper stage, successively achieved first place in the quarterly assessments in Blood Kill Camp as well as the war zone assessment, and finally opened up Eye of the Storm, a first-grade aeth power reservoir.”

The old man didn’t try to disguise his admiration for Lin Xun. “I have to admit that, a year ago, Miss and I both underestimated your potential. But there is a possibility that you encountered another opportunity in your one year in Blood Kill Camp.”

“Elder, you’re overpraising me,” said Lin Xun.

However, he was inwardly shocked that the old man was already aware of his performance in Blood Kill Camp!

The old man continued, “I had promised you that if you survived Blood Kill Camp, I would tell you something about that little girl.” But he suddenly stopped and wrinkled his forehead imperceptibly like he had sensed something.

Almost at the same time, Xue Jin wildly yelled out from the operation room. “Goodness gracious, we only just left Blood Kill Desert but someone already came to block us! How damn exciting!”

Rumble—

Before his voice faded, Lin Xun felt the treasure ship that was flying at full speed shake violently and then it came to a rumbling halt.

In the sky, a long distance from the treasure ship was a giant, jet-black, fortress-like battleship appearing. It was at least one hundred feet long and was shining with glaring rune light!

Chapter 188 Abuse of Power

It was a standard intermediate-grade battleship in the empire called Prestige. At 136 feet long and covered with rune formations, it resembled a fortress in the sky and could accommodate three thousand people.

Prestige Battleship was equipped with seventy-two rune cannons called Melting Flame, which could vaporize Spirit Sea cultivators in an instant!

The only people able to mobilize such an intermediate-grade battleship were the influential people who wielded tremendous power in the empire.

"Damn, I thought I could enjoy another tough battle but who would have thought that it turns out to be the dogs of the Imperial Army," Xue Jin couldn't help cursing when he identified the mighty battleship.

Lin Xun frowned. The Imperial Army? The elite force of the Forbidden City, the most loyal army of the imperial family.

Why would an army with such special power and identity appear here? And why would they stop us?

Rumble—

Under Xue Jin's control, the shabby treasure ship landed.

At the same time, the Prestige Battleship also slowly landed in the distance and a middle-aged man in military uniform strode out, shouting loudly, "Who is Lin Xun? Quickly come out!"

The voice rumbled like thunder.

"Yo, it turns out that they're here for that kid. No wonder they're so arrogant." With a playful look, Xue Jin whistled.

In the cabin, Lin Xun was taken aback. They're looking for me?

"Since they're looking for you, you should go out and take a look." The old man smiled gently.

Lin Xun nodded, opened the cabin door, and left.

"I am Lin Xun. Can I ask who is looking for me?" Lin Xun studied the middle-aged man in military uniform standing under the Prestige Battleship from afar. He was puzzled because he didn't remember that he had anything to do with the Imperial Army.

"Hahaha, Lin Xun, we finally meet again!" Suddenly, a triumphant laugh rang out and a youngster in a luxurious robe stepped off Prestige Battleship.

The youngster had a long face and a slightly pale complexion. It was Xin Wenbin!

When Lin Xun first entered Blood Kill Camp, Xin Wenbin saw him as an enemy and had even provoked him several times.

However, Xin Wenbin failed the first monthly assessment, and failed miserably, and was eliminated as a result.

Lin Xun would have forgotten Xin Wenbin if he hadn't appeared.

"I was wondering who it could be. It turns out to be Young Master Xin. Could Young Master Xin be waiting for me here to see me off?" Lin Xun smiled, his expression calm.

He remembered that Xin Wenbin's father was the commander of the Imperial Army in the Forbidden City, but he still didn't think that Xin Wenbin could mobilize such a majestic battleship and so he couldn't react right away.

“Hmph! Stop pretending, you know about the hostile relationship between us. I’m not in the mood to waste time talking to you.” Xun Wenbin snorted as he swept a cold glance over Lin Xun.

“From what you said, Young Master Xin, it seems you’re here to get revenge?” Lin Xun raised his eyebrows.

“Revenge? Haha, you really think highly of yourself!” Xin Wenbin laughed, “I don’t need to mobilize the Prestige Battleship to deal with you. Don’t think so highly of yourself.”

Lin Xun also smiled. “Indeed, the Prestige Battleship is an important weapon of the empire. If you use it to only deal with me, it will be too unnecessary. But without the battleship, I highly doubt that you would dare stand alone in front of me today.”

Xin Wenbin’s face reddened and he was about to refute when a deep voice sounded.

“Wenbin, move aside.”

The voice was filled with indescribable majesty as it seemed capable of reaching the depths of one’s soul and sending a chill to one’s heart.

When Lin Xun heard the voice, the smile faded from his lips and an ice-cold glint flashed across his jet-black eyes.

He recognized the voice!

As he thought, an elegant man clad in a tall hat and a wide-sleeved robe strode out from the Prestige Battleship.

Like a king who ruled the mountains and rivers, he looked down on everything. His arrival caused the atmosphere to instantly still and the wind to subside, as though they were afraid.

Xin Rutie!

He was the one who had taken Old Mo away from Blood Kill Camp and made Xu Sanqi unable to utter a word!

Lin Xun finally understood what was happening. Although Xin Wenbin might not have the ability to mobilize a Prestige Battleship, Xin Rutie no doubt did.

Only then did Lin Xun finally link the relationship between the two. It was rumored that Xin Wenbin’s father was a great commander of the Imperial Army in Forbidden City and that great commander was Xin Rutie!

“The training in Blood Kill Camp has already ended. Lin Xun, come with me.”

Xin Rutie looked at Lin Xun, his gaze as frightening as a flash of lightning and it made Lin Xun feel an indescribable terrifying oppressive power.

His expression altered subtly. This guy still hasn’t given up on taking me away!

Lin Xun took a deep breath and asked, “Is this your decision?”

"It's the will of the empire," Xin Rutie said indifferently, "Master Mo is waiting for you to come. He hopes to see you as soon as possible."

Lin Xun coldly sneered, "But in my opinion, all this has nothing to do with the will of the empire, nor is it Old Mo's wish. It's just revenge for you and your son!"

He couldn't let go of this point and absolutely couldn't let them take him away. Otherwise, according to Instructor Xu Sanqi, he might completely lose his freedom forever!

"Nonsense! How dare you defy the will of the empire! You deserve to die!" Xin Wenbin roared, his eyes filled with contempt.

Xin Rutie smiled and spoke in a high and mighty manner, "Little guy, you're a smart person. You should know that no one can save you now. It's best for you to obediently come with us."

Lin Xun uttered coldly, "What if I refuse?"

Xin Wenbin fumed, "Father, this little bastard refused to listen. You don't need to waste time talking to him anymore. Just take him away!"

Clearly, he couldn't wait to teach Lin Xun a lesson.

As though persuaded, Xin Rutie strode towards Lin Xun and every step of his released a wave of terrifying oppressive force that filled the air. Even the world started to pale.

Lin Xun felt like he had been imprisoned and couldn't move an inch!

"If a smart person is confused, they will only suffer more pain. Young man, in my eyes, you are still as small and insignificant as an ant even if you have reached the human dipper stage. I can tell you now that no one can change the result of you being taken away today!"

Xin Rutie abruptly halted his footsteps as he reached the end of his sentence. His eyes flashed and he suddenly made a grabbing motion in the air.

Rumble—

A terrifying palm glistening like white jade formed in the air. The light around it was incredibly bright and glaring as it came crashing down at Lin Xun like an inescapable net.

There was no room to escape and there was no space to evade!

However, Lin Xun seemed unusually calm and he just looked at Xin Rutie with his lips curved imperceptibly.

"Sometimes it's difficult to tell the difference between smart and confused. For example, now, if you want to take this little guy away, you should at least ask me first."

Suddenly, a kind and gentle voice sounded.

Almost at the same time as the voice rang out, Lin Xun felt the oppressive power crushing him fade and his body felt lighter.

The glistening white palm inches away from him suddenly exploded into a shower of light and vanished without a trace.

Even the austere and terrifying atmosphere faded and calmness had been restored.

When the voice died away, Xin Rutie's expression turned grave and his body quivered. He stumbled back uncontrollably like he had suffered a terrifying attack.

One step, two step, three steps...

He only managed to steady his body after the tenth step. But at that point, his face was ashen and veins had popped on his forehead. He couldn't help but spew out a mouthful of blood.

A voice had caused all that!

It was hard to imagine what kind of terrifying cultivation one must possess to achieve such divine power!

Although Lin Xun knew that the old man wouldn't sit back and watch, the earthshaking scene still astonished him.

"Father—!"

Xin Wenbin screamed and rushed forward, but there seemed to be an invisible wall blasting him away. He cried in agony as he staggered back and sank to the ground.

"Don't come over!" Xin Rutie yelled, an unprecedented grave expression on his face and his brows knitted together with indescribable fear.

He looked at the shabby treasure ship behind Lin Xun, inhaled deeply and said, "I am Xin Rutie, the commander of the Imperial Army. Dare I ask who you are and why you are obstructing me?"

No one answered; no one cared.

This was a direct disregard. It was as though Xin Rutie wasn't qualified to talk to him.

Xin Rutie's expression turned worse, and at the same time, he was gripped by fear. He had already stated his identity, but the other party ignored him. This could only mean one thing: his identity was simply insignificant in the eyes of the other party!

The atmosphere was deathly still. The situation had dramatically changed. Xin Rutie and his son both were trembling with fear.

At that moment, Lin Xun suddenly stepped forward and came to stand in front of Xin Wenbin. He slapped him right in the face, causing him to vomit blood and scream in agony.

"What are you doing?" Xin Rutie was livid with rage and his hair stood up in anger.

"Did you not see? I am a fox bullying others using the might of a tiger. If I don't take this chance to vent my anger, wouldn't I have to wait a long time?"

Lin Xun explained with a smile and then he lashed out with a savage kick at Xin Wenbin. Xin Wenbin screamed in pain and curled up on the ground twitching.

“You...”

Xin Rutie had never seen such a daring young man beat his son in front of him. He has gone too far!

“Do you think I’m shameless? But compared to you and your son, I’m nothing at all. After all, I can’t mobilize a grand battleship and I don’t have a tyrannical old man to stand up for me. I can only take this chance to abuse my power to vent my anger.” Lin Xun said with a smile as he launched another merciless kick at Xin Wenbin. Blood splattered everywhere and it was unknown how many bones Xin Wenbin had broken. Lin Xun beat up Xin Wenbin until he lost consciousness.

Xin Rutie was both shocked and furious. He was so exasperated that he almost went berserk. If he hadn’t sensed that an aura had firmly locked onto him, he would have already murdered Lin Xun with one slap!

He has simply gone too far!

Chapter 189 White Jade Letter

Lin Xun finally gave up on hitting Xin Wenbin because he could take his life if he continued.

This wasn’t the time to stir up trouble and anger Xin Rutie.

He turned around and saw Xin Rutie’s livid and exasperated face.

The high and mighty commander of the Imperial Army of Forbidden City was an illustrious powerful figure with impressive military achievements. He had never thought that he would run into an arrogant and daring youngster outside of Kill Blood Desert.

The youngster beat his son unconscious in front of him. He would become a laughingstock if this matter were to spread to Forbidden City!

Xin Rutie was filled with murderous rage, but he showed not a hint of this on his face.

He knew very well that he couldn’t do anything to the youngster as long as the powerful cultivator was still on the dilapidated treasure ship.

However, he knew there would be an opportunity in the future!

“Let’s leave.” Suddenly, the old man’s kind and gentle voice sounded again.

Lin Xun sighed inwardly, knowing that the old man’s limit was allowing him to beat up Xin Wenbin. The old man wouldn’t tolerate him or stay quiet if he were to personally deal with Xin Rutie.

If possible, Lin Xun really wanted to completely get rid of Xin Rutie and his son. Unfortunately, that wasn’t possible.

This was the limit of a fox bullying people using a tiger’s might. He could take advantage of another person’s power to bully people but there was a limit. He didn’t have a say on whether his enemies could keep their lives

“You took away Old Mo last time but I will make you personally bring him back.” Lin Xun drew a deep breath, calmly glanced at Xin Rutie, and turned away.

“Little trash, you admit that you’re a fox exploiting a tiger’s might. But I wonder how long you can survive without the tiger!” Xin Rutie muttered as he watched Lin Xun leave. His voice was filled with hatred.

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“Boy, you’re too naive. That’s not how the fox uses the tiger’s power to bully people.” As Xue Jin stepped on the shabby treasure ship, he sighed, as though looking down on Lin Xun.

Lin Xun was taken aback. “Then what should I have done?”

Xue Jin’s rough and drunken face was alight with triumph as he said, “Watch!”

As he was speaking, the shabby ship unleashed a beast-like roar and he steered it into the sky.

Boom!

Then, like an arrow fired from the bowstring, the ship changed direction and charged towards the grand battleship at full speed.

Lin Xun was aghast. Could he be trying to ram the treasure ship into it?

Xue Jin’s drunken red face looked crazy, and he constantly chuckled strangely.

With a loud boom, the shabby ship fiercely rammed into Prestige Battleship’s incomparable tough surface and pierced right through it!

It left a ghastly hole in Prestige Battleship and a huge mess on the ground, causing people to scream in panic.

In the cabin, Lin Xun swayed and stumbled. He almost fell to the ground but that didn’t quell his shock

Xue Jin was too fierce!

Prestige Battleship was an intermediate-grade battleship in the empire with incredible defense. Not even Spirit Sea cultivators could shake it yet Xue Jin crushed it by steering a shabby ship into it.

“Hahahaha, little guy, see, this is an example of bullying. Your little tricks won’t vent any anger at all.” Xue Jin burst into laughter. He took several sips of his alcohol, looking triumphant.

Lin Xun smiled wryly. He had to admit that he was indeed inferior.

The hole blasted into Prestige Battleship meant that the rune arrays were damaged or destroyed and it would cost a lot of money and materials to repair them.

Most importantly, the battleship belonged to the empire. In other words, the damage would not only anger Xin Rutie and his son, but the empire.

Lin Xun thought that he was already very brave but he realized that he was nothing compared to Xue Jin.
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Of course, Lin Xun knew very well that Xue Jin did so not because he was taking advantage of a tiger’s might but because he wasn’t worried about the revenge he would have to face!

That was the key!

What Lin Xun was most surprised about was that Xue Jin's shabby treasure ship remained undamaged after crashing into the Prestige Battleship. He realized that the ship wasn't as simple as it looked.

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Xin Rutie was completely stunned and in disbelief.

An old shabby treasure ship dared to destroy the imperial Prestige Battleship without the slightest scruple?

Xin Rutie felt unprecedentedly helpless as he looked at his son who was knocked unconscious, saw the battleship with a hole blasted into it and heard the panic filled screams echoing from the battleship. Who is the owner of the broken ship? How would they dare act so unscrupulously?

A gust of wind swept over the area, bringing a cloud of sand that transformed into Xu Sanqi's thin, spear-like figure.

He scanned the ghastly scene and roughly understood everything that had happened. The worry in his heart faded and was quickly replaced by delight.

"Who is it that took away Lin Xun?" Xin Rutie asked, his low voice sounding gloomy.

"Do you remember the person I told you about when you took Old Mo away?" Xu Sanqi asked in response.

Xin Rutie looked blank and then his expression dramatically changed. "The driver of the Queen of Darkness from the Black Glory Sacred Hall?"

His heart pounded violently. He felt glad as he cast his mind back to the terrifying power contained in the gentle and kind voice!

He knew that he would have become a corpse if that person truly wanted to deal with him!

There were many drivers in the world, but only one driver could always follow the Queen of Darkness from the Black Glory Sacred Hall!

"It turns out to be him...but how could it be him? Could Lin Xun have some sort of relationship with the Black Glory Sacred Hall?" Xin Rutie muttered, his emotions roiling about and unable to settle.

"I advise you to give up on getting revenge on Lin Xun. Otherwise, even if the Black Glory Sacred Hall doesn't care, I won't ignore it!" Xu Sanqi coldly left those words before he turned around and disappeared.

Xin Rutie's face grew overcast. "You didn't come all the way here to stop me, did you?"

"That's correct." Xu Sanqi's voice sounded from a distance.

"He isn't a student of Blood Kill Camp anymore!" yelled Xin Rutie.

"As long as he holds the Blood Kill Badge, he is always a member of Blood Kill Camp!" Xu Sanqi had disappeared before his voice died away.

“So annoying!” Xin Rutie uttered through gritted teeth, his expression altering constantly.

After a long moment, he drew a deep breath and his gaze turned determined. He lifted up Xin Wenbin who had lost consciousness and headed toward the Prestige Battleship.

Anyone familiar with Xin Rutie would know that he wouldn’t leave the matter at that!

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In the cabin.

“Using other people’s power to bully people only brings temporary relief, but it will bring a lot of trouble to yourself. Why did you do that?” The old man looked at Lin Xun with a kind face but there was an unfathomable look in his deep ocean-like eyes.

“I didn’t think about it too much. I just wanted to vent,” Lin Xun explained after a thought. “If you weren’t here, they would have taken me away. I would have suffered unimaginable humiliation and torture so I wanted to vent in advance.”

The old man seemed a little surprised as he only said ruminatively after a while, “You never seem to be afraid of the disaster brought about by your actions.”

Lin Xun shook his head. “I am not a reckless person. I only did what I thought I should do.”

The old man nodded and said nothing.

Then, he took out an exquisite white jade letter and handed it to Lin Xun. “This is from the little girl Xia Zhi.”

Lin Xun inwardly quivered. He inhaled deeply, received it, and quickly looked through it.

He was only disappointed that there was only a very simple paragraph on the letter. “I’m well, but I occasionally feel lonely. Remember what I said before: you must live well before I come back to find you.”

The little paragraph was simple like a conversation in daily life and had no strong emotional words but Lin Xun still fell into a daze.

For a split second, he seemed to see a black-robed little girl raise her beautiful and tranquil face and gaze at him seriously.

Only after a long while did Lin Xun silently and carefully put away the letter like it was a piece of treasure.

“You don’t suspect that it’s fake?” asked the old man.

Lin Xun took a deep breath, trying hard to shake off the rambling thoughts in his mind. Then, he said with a smile, “It’s not fake. I know it.”

“Then you should know that you still can’t see her, at least for now,” the old man said warmly.

Lin Xun nodded with difficulty.

“Is there anything you want to say?” The old man asked as though he couldn’t bear to see him like that.

Lin Xun smiled. “Elder, I just want to know where you are taking me now.”

From the moment he set foot on the shabby ship, he knew that he couldn't choose the path to embark on.

He hated that feeling, but he knew he had to accept it.

This was because Xia Zhi was still in their hands. Even if she hadn’t been kidnapped and threatened, Lin Xun still found it hard to let go of the matter.

“Haze City, the capital of the Southwest Province,” the old man unexpectedly answered, surprising Lin Xun.

It was unexpected because Lin Xun had already planned to head there!

This was because Instructor Xiaoke had given him the prefectural examination pass certificate back when he was in Blood Kill Camp, so his first thought after leaving the camp was to head to the southwest province to participate in the provincial examination.

Once he passed the provincial exam, he could participate in the national examination in Forbidden City and, if successful, he could enroll in Qinglu Academy.

Lin Xun believed that, as long as he could enter Qinglu Academy, he could find out something valuable.

For example, information about the innate talent Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer that he was born with and whether something related to that innate talent had happened in the empire fourteen years ago. If he could find out that information, he might be able to learn the truth about his Origin Aeth Artery being taken away!

He could also find out about the Black Glory Sacred Hall and Old Mo’s whereabouts.

This was the extraordinariness of Qinglu Academy. It was a first-class academy in the empire, where the most outstanding talents in the world gathered, and so it had unimaginable resources and power.

Once he entered Qinglu Academy, it would be much easier to find out about any matter!

Chapter 190 Rune Transmission Light Screen

Lin Xun didn’t expect the old man to take him to Haze City, the capital of the Southwest Province!

“To cultivators in the empire, including the children of the powerful and prestigious families and the children at the bottom of the society, the national exam is the fairest system to select talents,” the old man patiently explained as though he noticed Lin Xun’s puzzlement.

“If the poor grasped such an opportunity, they could leap to the dragon’s gate, soar to the top and break free from the life of poverty. Similarly, the examination could identify the true pillars among the younger generation of the prestigious and noble families and not the incompetent youngsters who only know how to drink and spend extravagantly.”

“When you can enter Qinglu Academy, you may perhaps have the mind and power to understand the truth.”

Lin Xun felt a chill in his heart. “Elder, dare I ask what is the truth?”

The old man smiled, a secretive look in his unfathomable, wrinkly eyes. “The truth you want to know.”

Lin Xun was first taken aback and fell into deep thoughts.

Emotions roiled in his heart. Could the old man know something?

Lin Xun suddenly remembered that, when he was still in Donglin City, the old man had mentioned that the Queen of Darkness had traveled to the depths of the Great Three Thousand Mountains to search for an old friend, only to find that the old friend’s residence had been destroyed and not a trace remained.

At the time, Lin Xun suspected that they were searching for the mine prison, where he previously lived, but he wasn’t entirely sure.

However, after hearing the old man’s implicative words, he couldn’t help but draw a link between the two and vaguely felt that the old man knew something.

Still, Lin Xun couldn’t be entirely sure.

He couldn’t question further because the mine prison involved many matters including Mister Lu’s whereabouts, Lin Xun’s background, and his enemy!

The old man stopped talking and brought out a snow-white handkerchief. In gentle and careful motions, he wiped a simple-looking three-inch black pendant that resembled an ancient sword.

The look of concentration and seriousness on the old man’s kind and wrinkled face caught Lin Xun’s attention.

However, Lin Xun was unaware that the sword-shaped black pendant had a name that shook the world thousands of years ago—Evernight Sigh!

It was the name of a rune armament.

For thousands of years, very few people knew about it.

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Three days later.

Haze City.

As the provincial capital of the southwest province of the empire, Haze City was bustling and prosperous with a population of millions. A frontier city such as Donglin City couldn’t be compared to it.

At night.

In a little secluded and old courtyard in Haze City, Lin Xun surveyed a cleaned and tidied room. It finally felt like a home.

At nightfall, the old man prepared a residence for Lin Xun before leaving. Lin Xun had no servants and so he had to tidy and clean everything by himself.

The courtyard wasn't particularly big but it had the benefit of being remote and quiet. Lin Xun was already very satisfied to be able to live in a little courtyard without paying anything in the expensive Haze City.

However, Lin Xun had to face a practical problem—he needed more than a place to live. He had to solve the problem of resources for daily cultivation and daily necessities.

After he left Blood Kill Camp, no one would supply him with such materials for free.

Lin Xun had already counted his properties—two hundred gold coins, a Jade Wave Blade and two bottles of Lengning Pills as well as some miscellaneous rune materials.

He had nothing else apart from those.

In the past, that amount of wealth would be enough to sustain Lin Xun for one month, but now that he had reached the human dipper stage, that amount of wealth was just a drop in the bucket to support his cultivation and living requirements.

In other words, Lin Xun had to deal with an extremely realistic problem in Haze City—make money!

“The provincial exam starts in September, which means that I have to survive in Haze City for almost half a year first...”

Lin Xun contemplated before he got up. He decided to first familiarize himself with Haze City.

“Hey kid, wait.”

Suddenly, a tired voice sounded from the corner of the courtyard.

He looked closer and saw a burly figure lying there. The figure had a rugged face, rosy cheeks, drunken eyes and exposed chest like a drunkard.

It was obviously Xue Jin. He also stayed behind after bringing Lin Xun to Haze City. According to the old man, he was there to take care of Lin Xun until the provincial examination was over.

Logically speaking, it was a superb arrangement. Only that Lin Xun had no expectations of Xue Jin now.

Xue Jin had only drank and slept since arriving at the courtyard. Lin Xun would already feel blessed if Xue Jin didn't bring him trouble, let alone take care of him.

“Is there something?” asked Lin Xun.

“Hey, remember to bring me a bottle of alcohol when you come back. The stronger the better. I remember that there is a very famous spirit in Haze City called Burning Soul. Yes, that should be its name...” Xue Jin muttered, like a drunkard talking in his sleep.

“Okay, but Old Jin, you should take it easy. Don't go out and cause trouble,” Lin Xun urged helplessly.

He still vividly remembered how Xue Jin rammed into the empire's Prestige Battleship and so he couldn't help but worry that Xue Jin would destroy the courtyard when drunk.

“You sound like a woman now. Hurry up and go. I’ve been drinking for thirty years and hadn’t done anything stupid once,” Xue Jin shouted impatiently.

Lin Xun sighed, shook his head, and walked out of the courtyard.

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Haze City at night was as lively as in the daytime. The streets were brightly lit like fire dragons and illuminated half the night sky.

The spacious streets were densely lined with all sorts of buildings like cobwebs. Even if it was night, an endless stream of carriages and people continued to weave their way through the streets. It was a bustling scene.

So bustling!

Lin Xun found it a little uncomfortable to return to the city after one year.

Everything in Blood Kill Camp was dull and peaceful. His every day consisted only of training, fighting, battles, cultivation, and exams.

As he wandered down the bustling streets, watching people shuttle in and out the alleys and hearing the various lively sounds, he felt somewhat isolated from the world.

Soon, he shook off the distracting thoughts with a brisk toss of his head.

His first stop was a grocery store to buy some daily necessities such as firewood, rice, oil, salt and aeth grains. After that, he went into a store that specialized in rune materials and purchased fine rune ink and materials. He easily spent twenty gold coins.

Then, he spent another fifty gold coins to buy sixty bottles of azure jade dipper pills. Although costly, they were essential to his cultivation.

After running up and down seven different streets, he finally managed to find a bottle of Burning Soul Spirit from an unknown wine shop. Lin Xun had already spent half of his riches and had only one hundred odd gold coins left.

Lin Xun’s heart ached a little. He fully realized how expensive it was to live in Haze City.

After all the errands, Lin Xun unknowingly arrived at the center of Haze City. Magnificent and gorgeous buildings towered into the sky and many various well-known chambers of commerce, businesses, and entertainment venues, such as brothels and taverns, were clustered together.

Such a place was simply unaffordable to ordinary cultivators. All the people on the streets were clearly wealthy and respectable people from their appearance and the way that they were dressed.

Lin Xun was in no mood to wander around, but just as he was about to leave, a grand building in the distance caught his attention.

The building was quaint and interesting. It stood hundreds of feet tall like a majestic mountain.

At that moment, an incomparably huge light screen emerged on the surface of the building and a meticulously dressed woman began to broadcast the news on the light screen.

“According to reliable sources, three days ago, the Governor’s office had stated that Governor Liu Wujun will personally serve as the examiner in the upcoming provincial examination in September. This news caused a stir when it came out.”

“Yesterday, reports from the battlefield in the western frontier of the empire said that the Iron Blood Army had successfully defeated the thirty thousand elite soldiers of the Magi Brute Race after half a month of fierce battle!”

“This morning, the Imperial Divine Workshop announced that a new generation of small-scale Violet Hero Battleships will launch soon. According to reliable analysis, the power of the new generation of Violet Hero Battleships will break previous records and become a new battle weapon of the empire.”

The beautiful woman’s dignified face was devoid of expression as she spoke calmly. “News about cultivation will follow. The most eye-catching news today is undoubtedly...”

Lin Xun raised his head, quietly staring at the light screen.

The light screen was called a rune transmission light screen, and ultimately, it was a large-scale projection rune array. It had a very simple purpose and that was to broadcast news.

However, the rune transmission light screen was extremely expensive and was considered a luxury gimmick. Operating it cost tens of thousand gold coins every day.

The kind of price was unmanageable to even some top forces, let alone ordinary people. Only the officials of the empire could spend such an amount of money to maintain the operation of a rune transmission light screen.

Lin Xun had once heard that the provincial capital of each of the thirty four provinces in the empire had a rune transmission light screen. It could send communications between each other and immediately report major incidents that happened.

Lin Xun found it amazing when he heard about them, but when he saw one with his own eyes, he was much calmer because, as a rune master, he understood the nature and mystery of the rune transmission light screen.

Soon, Lin Xun narrowed his eyes as a piece of news caught his attention—

“Rumor has it that Lian Fei, the son-in-law of Yao Tuohai, a Heaven Ascension cultivator in Qingfeng County, has successfully formed a second-grade aeth power reservoir when he broke through to the human dipper stage. He has been known as a talent in Qingfeng County and caused a sensation. It is also said that Lian Fei will participate in the provincial examination in September...”