

## Prodigies 201

### Chapter 201 Sudden Unexpected Disaster

It was still early and there was still some time before the registration started. Numerous youths chatted as they waited on the white jade plaza in front of Haze Academy, creating a lively atmosphere.

The youths were mostly dressed in luxurious clothing and several of them had even brought servants with them.

There was no need to guess. They were definitely from rich and powerful backgrounds.

Of course, there were also commoner disciples who were ordinarily dressed. However, they were clearly the minority here.

Most people who could reach the Human Dipper stage in their teens and pass the prefectural exam were disciples from rich and powerful clans.

No matter how talented the commoner disciples were at birth, it was difficult for them to achieve much without sufficient cultivation resources.

This was reality.

Dozens of years ago, a prestigious and reputable Heaven Ascension expert from Qinglu Academy once said that it would be difficult for the poor to produce cultivators, causing a huge commotion at the time.

Many people criticized him for exaggerating and being too absolute. However, those who truly understood the current state of the empire knew that he was not wrong.

Although the empire was gradually growing stronger, most of the cultivation resources were monopolized by powerful factions!

Under such circumstances, although commoner disciples did not have zero hope of changing their destiny and soaring to the heavens, the chances were too minuscule. It was possible for no one to succeed even among ten thousand people.

This was the cruel reality of that Heaven Ascension expert's statement.

Fortunately, the upper echelons of the empire also realized this which resulted in the creation of the present-day district, prefectural, provincial, and national exams. Their goal was to fairly select true talents from the country.

Commoner disciples who performed well in the various exams would receive rewards from the empire. If they chose to enlist in the army, they would receive even more privileges.

All in all, the empire exams were relatively fair and were seen as the only opportunity for commoner disciples to change their fate!

Lin Xun had yet to properly understand the intricacies behind the exams. When he stepped onto the white jade plaza, however, he experienced an unexplainable hostility.

"Come and look, it's another country bumpkin."

“Haha, look at his attire. He doesn’t have a single aeth equipment and is wearing such plain clothes. I can’t believe that such a person is thick-skinned enough to come here and participate in the provincial exam. What a joke.”

“Don’t laugh at others. What if they’re sensitive and you hurt their pride? That would be too ungentlemanly of us.”

“Heh heh, a commoner is a commoner. They are too naive if they think they can pass the exam like a carp crossing the dragon gate. Don’t they know that nearly all of the commoner disciples from previous years have failed? Guess what happened to these people afterward?”

“What happened?”

“Simple. They were recruited by all the great factions and clans to become lackeys, attendants, or servants. It might seem impressive but all they can do is work for our factions their entire lives! Once they leave us, they will be akin to phoenixes that had all their feathers plucked and be less than chickens. Hahaha.”

Mocking laughter and voices could be heard. Numerous gazes fearlessly stared at Lin Xun as if looking at an ugly duckling that had wandered into a flock of swans.

Lin Xun was stunned by this scene. He never imagined that he would suddenly become the butt of the joke for no reason.

This was definitely a sudden and unexpected disaster!

He could not help but look around and found that those laughing were arrogant and well-dressed youths.

They were also in their teens but their words were unrestrained and had a tone of superiority.

Are these the noble disciples nurtured by the great clans and factions? Are these the cultivators who are about to participate in the provincial exam?

Lin Xun was skeptical but found it amusing instead of being angered.

Compared to the Blood Kill Camp students, these youths were childish imps who were arrogant and judged by appearances.

Lin Xun did not know that this was a common occurrence. In the noble disciples’ eyes, the commoner disciples were nothing but lowly and insignificant servants.

The most frightening thing, however, was that this hostility was present in every province of the empire.

Naturally, the commoner disciples did not dare to say anything despite being provoked and looked down upon. All they could do was grit their teeth and endure the mocking.

They knew that offending such noble disciples was equivalent to offending a great faction or clan. The consequences were not something they could afford.

A bunch of idiots.

Lin Xun inwardly remarked as he shook his head. He found a quiet corner, sat down, and began meditating.

There was no way for him to rebut because the other party wasn't a single person but a group!

He couldn't possibly deal with them one by one, right?

However, after experiencing this event, Lin Xun realized that although he had entered the Ziyao Empire, he still did not truly understand what kind of world it was!

Feiyun Village was too remote, Donglin City was too far from the capital, and Kill Blood Camp was too closed-off. Only in Haze City was Lin Xun finally able to see the true face of this world.

Of course, Lin Xun understood that these youths did not represent the entire empire. They were merely a small portion of society.

In other words, they were a group that had no worries, had never experienced real battle before, and had lived under the protection of their clans and factions since young.

Arrogance, frivolity, and conceitedness were common problems in their group.

Compared to them, Shi Yu, Ning Meng, Bai Lingxi, Zhao Yin, and Zhangsun Hen resembled true noble disciples more. They were mature, tenacious, wise, shrewd, were capable of employing unpredictable first-rate tactics, and had extraordinary power.

These noble disciples were the most terrifying!

In Lin Xun's opinion, it would be better if all of the participants were like this group of youths. At the very least, they were of little threat to him.

However, he soon discovered that there was no lack of formidable characters on the plaza. In fact, some of the cultivators gave off powerful auras that made Lin Xun not dare to underestimate them.

A commotion was suddenly heard.

"Gosh, the Wen Clan's First Young Mistress is here!"

"Who?"

"Who else but the Haze City Wen Clan's once in a thousand years girl genius, Wen Mingxiu!"

"So it's her. Didn't they say that she was sent to some mysterious place to train?"

"Correct. I heard she returned half a year ago but I did not expect her to appear on the first day of registration."

"Things are starting to heat up. From what I know, including Wen Mingxiu, there are already a few dozen top-class individuals participating in this year's exam."

Another wave of discussions swept through the crowd, surprising Lin Xun. Wen Mingxiu? Is it her?

Lin Xun could not help but look over and saw a beautiful carriage pulled by four white deer slowly come to a halt. A well-dressed, proud, and pretty young lady soon emerged from within.

It was the very same young lady who had always been hostile towards him and was subsequently defeated by him in a single attack, Wen Mingxiu!

Lin Xun's lips curled at an odd angle. So, she was the famous girl genius of Haze City.

If she was a girl genius, what would they call Bai Lingxu?

Lin Xun felt rather strange.

A student that had been eliminated from Kill Blood Camp at the quarterly assessment had suddenly become a figure admired by the numerous youths in Haze City. Lin Xun did not know whether to laugh or cry at this contrast.

It was not that Wen Mingxiu wasn't strong. During the year he had spent training in Blood Kill camp, Lin Xun had mostly been in contact with the empire's most elite younger generation. Due to this, his standards were far higher than normal.

Wen Mingxiu's appearance caused quite a commotion and made the scattered crowd in the plaza gather towards her. Even the noble disciples were no exception.

Gaze after gaze looked toward Wen Mingxiu in envy, admiration, and even infatuation.

Several people soon gathered at Wen Mingxiu's side like stars around a moon, making her stand out even more.

Wen Mingxiu was long accustomed to such treatment. She wore a slight smile and a composed expression that displayed confidence, pride, and elegance. However, she felt a little irritated inside.

The youths around her might have some fame in Haze City but they were now unable to enter her eyes after her experiences in Blood Kill Camp.

Of course, Wen Mingxiu knew that many participants would not be inferior to her and some would probably be even stronger.

Unfortunately, she had yet to discover a single one.

This was normal as it was only the first day of registration. The true experts would not appear together all of a sudden.

Eh!

A familiar figure in the distance suddenly caught Wen Mingxiu's eyes, causing her heart to shake as she subconsciously came to a stop.

Why is it him!?

Intense humiliation and hatred surged in her heart as she recalled what had happened in Blood Kill Camp. Her reserved smile suddenly turned frosty as well.

As the focal point of the plaza, Wen Mingxiu's strange behavior immediately drew many people's attention.

Someone beside her could not help but ask, "Miss Mingxiu, did you see someone you know?"

The others curiously followed Weng Mingxiu's gaze but did not find anyone noteworthy.

Wen Mingxiu withdrew her gaze. After some deliberation, she displayed a faint smile. "It's nothing. I just didn't expect to see an old friend here."

As she spoke, she casually glanced at Lin Xun.

This little gesture was instantly noticed by many people around her, causing all of them to look toward Lin Xun.

Several people were stunned by the sight of the unfamiliar youth in plain clothes. Old friend? Since when did Wen Mingxiu have an old friend like this?

One of the cultivators seemed to recognize Lin Xun and blurted out, "It can't be. Isn't that the country bumpkin from earlier?"

The cultivator was in complete disbelief.

With this reminder, many people began to faintly recall that they had ridiculed this very young man earlier.

They were also shocked by the revelation.

Wen Mingxiu was the First Young Lady of the Wen Clan, the once in a thousand years girl genius, and the dazzling pearl of Haze City. How had she become old friends with such a person?

Chapter 202 Sent Flying with a Slap

Wen Mingxiu did not immediately explain when she saw the crowd's stunned and confused faces. Instead, she began walking again until she reached an empty space.

Only then did she speak, "Hm, are you guys looking down on my old friend?" *novelnext.com*

The nearby crowd immediately felt embarrassed. They were all disciples of powerful clans and naturally looked down on the poor.

However, they could not admit it due to the risk of offending Wen Mingxiu.

Wen Mingxiu sighed and said, "My friend is far more formidable than you guys imagine. If my estimate is correct, no one here is his match."

These words drew an uproar from the surrounding crowd, their faces clearly unconvinced.

Someone could not help but retort, "Miss Mingxiu, are you looking down on us?"

Wen Mingxiu frowned. "Since when did I say that?"

Soon after, she displayed a helpless expression. "Every word I said earlier is true. If you guys don't believe me, there's nothing else I can say."

The more she acted this way, the more the nearby youths felt unconvinced. To think that she was saying they could not compare to a commoner disciple?

Such words were too hurtful!

If anyone else had dared to say such things, they would have already given the person a good beating.

“Humph. I’m interested to find out how capable he is to receive such praise from Miss Mingxiu!”

An arrogant youth in green robes finally snapped and turned his sights toward Lin Xun.

“Yuan Shi, why must you be like this? My old friend doesn’t have a good temper. It won’t be good if he injures you by accident.”

Wen Mingxiu tried to dissuade him as if she could not bear to watch him hurt himself.

Her words, however, were like a needle through the heart for Yuan Shi and he felt extremely humiliated.

“Am I really so pathetic in your eyes, Miss Mingxiu?” Yuan Shi’s expression darkened.

“No, please don’t misunderstand.” Wen Mingxiu smiled bitterly.

“Since that’s the case. Don’t try and stop me!”

He had already stomped off before the last word left his mouth.

Wen Mingxiu, to think that you look down on me so much. I’m definitely going to show you how pathetic your old friend is before me!

Wen Mingxiu could not help but sigh. The crowd around her, however, was very excited. Yuan Shi was doing exactly what they wanted to see.

They were likewise exasperated by how highly Wen Mingxiu regarded that backwater chump.

Every movement on their side was naturally observed by the many cultivators on the plaza. As such, the sight of Yuan Shi suddenly stomping away from the group in a pissed manner immediately drew the attention of numerous people.

“From the looks of it, that little devil Yuan Shi is going to beat someone up again.”

“Tch tch, I wonder who offended him. To think he’s going to do it in front of Haze Academy. There’s going to be an entertaining show soon.”

“Brother, is this Yuan Shi very formidable?”

“Humph, if you haven’t heard of Yuan Shi, you’re definitely not a cultivator from Haze City. He’s from one of Haze City’s four first-class factions, the Yuan Clan, and was born with godly strength and talent. Although he’s only fifteen this year, it has already been three years since he advanced to the Human Dipper stage!”

“You mean he advanced to the Human Dipper stage when he was twelve? Amazing!”

Yuan Shi arrived in front of Lin Xun, crossed his arms, and arrogantly said, “Friend, I heard you’re pretty strong, Shall we spar?”

Lin Xun had already noticed what was happening some time ago although he had not expected someone to jump out so quickly to seek him out.

He was rather speechless. Are the youngsters these days so easily provoked?

“Friend, did Wen Mingxiu ask you to come?”

Lin Xun decided to be patient with this clearly irritable and arrogant young man. He was here to register for the provincial exam and did not wish to waste time on a petty spar.

“Nope.” Yuan Shi immediately denied it.

What a joke. Is the great First Young Master Yuan Shi someone who can be ordered around by others?

“I understand. You adore Wen Mingxiu and want to use this chance to gain her praise and goodwill, right?” asked Lin Xun with a friendly expression. The expression paired with his warm smile made him look completely harmless.

Unfortunately, Yuan Shi did not cooperate. He impatiently said, “Stop with your nonsense. Do you dare to accept my challenge or not? If you don’t have the ability, just obediently admit defeat and stop wasting my time!”

“Friend, don’t get so worked up. I suspect you’re being used by others. Think about it, if you lose to me, who will lose face?”

Lin Xun exercised great self-control as he did his best to show sincerity and patience.

Who could have expected that this final sentence would set Yuan Shi off? “Damnit, you also think I’m not your match? This is intolerable!”

Lin Xun immediately narrowed his eyes. There was much to unpack from this response. Wouldn’t this mean that someone had claimed Yuan Shi was not Lin Xun’s match earlier?

Who can it be?

There’s no need to guess, it must be Wen Mingxiu!

Bang!

Yuan Shi attacked before Lin Xun could say anything else. Yuan Shi pushed his foot back as power surged through his arm. The power condensed into a dazzling emerald-green glow on his palm as it violently swung at Lin Xun.

The air rippled erratically as terrifying fist-winds swiftly swept forth with mountain-crushing force.

This was the power of the Human Dipper stage. A Human Dipper stage cultivator’s aeth power contained powerful dipper qi and gained the ability to attack at range. The force of a Human Dipper expert’s attacks was not something a True Martial expert could withstand.

“Emerald Star Wave Pusher Palm!”

The eyes of numerous watching cultivators brightened as they gasped in amazement. This was the Yuan Clan’s signature move. A palm that struck like an emerald sea rising to the stars as giant waves pushed through the vastness of space!

Yuan Shi had clearly practiced this palm technique for many years. His attack felt like a surging emerald sea and gave off an oppressive aura of unstoppable momentum.

“He’s not bad.”

In the distance, Wen Mingxiu’s eyes also brightened. Yuan Shi’s performance had surpassed her expectations.

The crowd around her stirred in anticipation. Although Yuan Shi was not the most formidable among them, his strength was first-class.

With him immediately using the Emerald Star Wave Pusher Palm, it was clear that he intended to subdue the opponent in a single move as a show of dominance!

This fool. He doesn’t even know that he’s being used by others. What a waste of my advice.

Lin Xun cursed inwardly. However, he was not slow to react, responding with a sudden strike of his own as well the moment Yuan Shi attacked.

Boom!

A strand of illusory blue light drifted out of the simple punch, making it seem light and feeble.

Numerous people laughed at this sight. What kind of shitty punch is this? It’s like he forgot to eat.

However, their expression changed a split second later.

With a loud thud, fist-winds collided in the air, creating a frightening explosion as dipper power chaotically scattered in all directions.

At the same time, Yuan Shi was swatted away like a small boat in a tsunami. His body flew several hundred feet at a horizontal angle before crashing to the ground amidst a piercing yelp.

He had failed to block a single move from Lin Xun and was even sent flying!

All of this happened in an instant. No one could have imagined that the mighty First Young Master of the Yuan Clan, who was born with godly strength and outstanding talent, would not only fail to subdue the opponent in a single move but also ironically be defeated by a single attack instead!

The entire place became deathly silent.

Numerous people were dumbstruck, their mouths hanging wide open in disbelief.

Wen Mingxiu’s heart violently shuddered as her expression changed indeterminately. To think that he has already grown this much. Could he have passed Blood Kill Camp’s final exam and entered the Dipper Transformation Lake?

Lin Xun stood there in a daze. He had not fought anyone since advancing to the Human Dipper stage and had not put much power into his earlier attack because he was only trying to test the waters.

Who could have anticipated that such a casual attack would defeat Yuan Shi?!

Isn’t he a bit too weak? Are all the participants going to be so weak?

Lin Xun began to have some doubts about the provincial exam.

He did not know that it was not Yuan Shi who was too weak but Lin Xun who was too strong!



“Again!”

Yuan Shi climbed to his feet. With a furious roar, he ferociously charged at Lin Xun again.

He was clearly in denial about the events that had just transpired and assumed it was because he had been overly careless. Hence, he went all-out this time.

Boom~

After another thunderous clash, Yuan Shi was sent flying again like a kite with a broken string, already coughing blood and shrieking before he crashed to the ground.

An uproar erupted as gasps rang out in succession.

Several people present knew just how strong Yuan Shi was. He was born with superior talent, godly strength, and practiced a first-class martial art, Emerald Star Wave Pusher Palm. He was considered a top-tier expert in the Human Dipper stage.

Despite these advantages, he had been sent flying twice in a row without managing to put up any semblance of resistance. It was horrifying to think about.

Just how strong was his opponent?

In the distance, Wen Mingxiu sighed deeply, “Whoa, I already said that my old friend is very strong but Yuan Shi refused to listen. Now he has suffered a defeat in front of everyone.”

The expressions of the youths around her darkened. Yuan Shi’s loss both shocked and disappointed them. Wen Mingxiu’s words were like a slap to their faces and made them feel extremely sullen.

“Humph, I shall go experience this friend’s great skills!”

A figure dashed out from Wen Mingxiu’s side and zoomed towards Lin Xun like a thunderbolt. It was a young man in silver robes wielding a gleaming silver spear. Light flowed along his clothes, a sign that he was armed to the teeth in aeth equipment.

Countless people cried out in surprise.

“The Young Master of Jadelight Pavilion, Qi Yunxiao!”

“Things are going to become exciting now. Although Qi Yunxiao does not have the strongest cultivation among the Human Dipper experts in Haze City, he is one of our best fighters. I heard that managed to slay a brute race expert all by himself last year!”

“Equipment-wise, that young man is most certainly not Qi Yunxiao’s match.”

Lin Xun could not help but frown at this development. Was the strength he displayed not enough?

Or was the other party confident enough to face him?

Regardless of which it was, it put Lin Xun in a foul mood. A chilling light flashed in his black eyes. He was no longer going to hold back!

Chapter 203 Shocking Everyone

It was the first day of registration for the provincial exam. Although it was not yet time to register, the white jade plaza outside Haze Academy was already filled with numerous figures.

When the battle began, it instantly caused a commotion that drew everyone's attention. No one had expected someone would start a fight there and then!

However, they soon witnessed the Yuan Clan's First Young Master, Yuan Shi, being completely dominated without being able to put up any resistance. This shocked everyone and caused a huge uproar.

Numerous people tried to guess who the other party was and why his battle power was so overwhelming.

However, it was at this moment that a young man dressed in silver robes attacked with a silver spear, drawing the crowd's attention again. He was quickly identified to be Qi Yunxiao. It was like another wave rising again after the first had fallen.

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Swish!

Dazzling light rushed around Qi Yunxiao's body as he brandished his spear, giving off a fierce and threatening aura.

He wasted no time on the usual pre-fight banter. With a jerk of his wrist, the silver spear jabbed repeatedly and shot out streams of gorgeous light. They arced through the air and rained down upon Lin Xun.

Spear Flurry Art—Fire Tree Silver Flower!

Thousands of spears filled the sky in an instant as silver light blossomed like fireworks. It was a beautiful sight that was filled with endless killing intent.

Several people could not help but gasp in amazement. Qi Yunxiao's attack had fully displayed the elegance and power of a first-class Human Dipper expert!

It must be noted that Qi Yunxiao was only sixteen this year. The fact that he had such mastery at his age put him far above many of his peers.

Boom!

On the other side, Lin Xun also began to move.

He didn't take any evasive maneuvers. Instead, he dashed forward and threw the same simple punch.

However, Lin Xun was now using his true power. The Storm Grinder in his body rumbled as pure and terrifying dipper power burned like a sea of fire, flaring to its maximum output.

Clear glass-like sky-blue light covered his fist, giving off an ungraspable, compact, and unstoppable aura!

The punch smashed through the air, shattering all of the spears in its path!

With unstoppable power, the fist-winds shattered several thousand more silver spears as they headed straight for Qi Yunxiao.

A long, empty path was left by the power of the punch as it deafeningly whistled through the air.

Everyone's hearts began to shiver in shock and horror. What kind of fist art is this?

"So powerful!"

Qi Yunxiao's expression abruptly changed as he dodged to the side, avoiding the fist-winds. At the same time, his silver spear thrust forward again, howling loudly as it attacked once more.

Spear Flurry Art—Prairie Fire!

With a loud rumble, the silver spear descended like a streak of silver from the heavens as it pulsed with frightening power.

Boom!

Lin Xun's foot slammed into the ground, sending his figure soaring upwards. This time, he reached out and grabbed at the silver spear!

Crack!

The air was torn apart and shredded like cloth as an illusory giant sky-blue hand seemed to reach out from deep within the clouds like a dragon claw. It instantly grabbed the silver spear and crushed it!

Rumble!

All Qi Yunxiao could feel was berserk stormy-sea-like power ferociously flooding into his body through the spear, causing him to spasm violently as endless intense pain assaulted his senses. He coughed blood and shrieked in pain as his body was smashed into the ground.

Dust filled the air as Qi Yunxiao lay there with his face twisted in pain, feeling as if all of his bones had been broken.

Gasps sounded all around. The attack was too swift and ferocious and had easily subdued Qi Yunxiao!

In the distance, Wen Mingxiu's expression could not help but change as her heart trembled. Lin Xun's strength had completely surpassed her estimation.

She was unable to fathom how strong Lin Xun had grown after a year of training in Blood Kill Camp.

The expressions of the youths around her also changed, now filled with shock, doubt, horror, and confusion.

Yuan Shi's one-sided defeat had already made them realize that Lin Xun was strong but they had still believed that Qi Yunxiao would be able to get back some of their dignity. Who could have imagined that he would also be subdued after only two attacks?!

This was too frightening!

"Nooo!"

Qi Yunxiao roared as he struggled to get up. He felt as if he was about to go crazy from the humiliation of being publicly beaten to the ground after only two moves.

He was the Young Master of Jadelight Pavilion and a well-known genius in Haze City. Since when had he ever suffered such shame?

Before he could rise, he heard a thud as Lin Xun stepped on Qi Yunxiao's body, causing his face to have another intimate exchange with the ground.

"You're asking for death!"

Qi Yunxiao angrily howled with a distorted expression.

Numerous youths who were friends with Qi Yunxiao were also enraged. This bastard is too arrogant. He should be killed!

"You were the one who jumped out to fight but now you're threatening others after being defeated. Didn't your parents teach you basic manners? Trash."

Lin Xun's face was filled with disdain.

A girl shrieked, "You're even scolding him?"

Lin Xun lifted his head, looked at the girl, and suddenly displayed a faint smile, "Sorry, you might have misunderstood. I'm not scolding him but all of you..."

As he spoke, his gaze swept across the crowd around Wen Mingxiu. When he was done, he said, "All of you are trash!"

The watching cultivators on the plaza were immediately dumbstruck when they heard this.

This fellow was so arrogant he had scolded everyone from Wen Mingxiu's group. Was he not afraid of revenge?

Wen Mingxiu and the others were stunned, unable to believe what they had just heard. This person...called all of them trash!?

Several people's faces had already turned white with rage as their bodies trembled uncontrollably.

Arrogant!

He's way too arrogant!

Before they could respond, Lin Xun kicked Qi Yunxiao aside and began walking toward Wen Mingxiu.

His posture was straight, his brows were shaped like blades, and his black eyes seemed to flash like lightning. Although he wore plain clothes, he seemed to give off an oppressive and overbearing pressure.

Crushing Yuan Shi and then Qi Yunxiao in succession had already proved how terrifying Lin Xun's battle power was. As such, many could not help but feel alarmed at the sight of him advancing toward Wen Mingxiu and the others.

Does he still want to fight?

“What are you doing!?”

“This bastard is too much. He’s clearly looking down on us!”

Stern shouts rang out from beside Wen Mingxiu. Although they were loud and sounded confident, a slight hint of cowardice could be felt.

Lin Xun’s gaze remained steady and ignored them as if they were not worth any attention. This made the usually proud young men and women furious as their expressions darkened.

In the end, Lin Xun stopped ten feet in front of Wen Mingxiu. His deep eyes stared at her pale and panicked face and he said, “I can let bygones be bygones since you and I were from the same place back then and there was no real grudge between us. But after what happened today, I suddenly want to ask you something: are you really choosing to be my enemy?”

His voice was completely calm and composed.

Although the events that had transpired today might seem baffling, Lin Xun knew everything had started with Wen Mingxiu.

He originally felt no hostility towards this girl but he had no choice but to rethink this stance now.

The nearby crowd was shocked by this turn of events, unable to understand the relationship between these two.

From the same place?

However, his words were filled with hostility and made it sound like they were enemies.

This was no ordinary relationship.

Wen Mingxiu’s expression rapidly changed as her chest heaved in uncertainty. She recalled the humiliation she felt when she lost to Lin Xun in Kill Blood Camp and the scenes of him defeating Yuan Shi and Qi Yunxiao.

She was certain that she was not Lin Xun’s match. Not now and not ever!

The others might not truly understand the depth of Lin Xun’s strength but Wen Mingxiu knew that a student who could survive against all odds in Blood Kill Camp without being eliminated was not someone any ordinary expert could hope to compare to!

However, it was also impossible for her to admit defeat. Haze City was her territory and there were so many cultivators present. How could she possibly bow her head here as a descendent of the Wen Clan and the famous girl genius of Haze City?

“You’d better think about it. My patience has always been pretty good.”

Lin Xun seemed to read Wen Mingxiu’s thoughts. “However, if I find that you decided to become my enemy in the future, I will not hold back like today.”

Numerous youths cursed and scolded, "Arrogant! How dare you threaten Miss Mingxiu. You're basically asking to die!"

Lin Xun ignored them and turned to leave after leaving these words behind. No one dared to stop him from start to end.

This was the power of deterrence. After defeating Yuan Shi and Qi Yunxiao, anyone who wanted to make an enemy out of Lin Xun would have to first see if they had sufficient qualifications.

Wen Mingxiu did not say a single word. Her mind was a mess, filled with worry, anger, sullenness, and fear.

Use the clan's power to kill Lin Xun?

The thought was immediately shot down the moment it flashed in her head. Strictly speaking, Lin Xun was a true student of Blood Kill Camp. The instructors of Blood Kill Camp would never let it go if he was killed.

In addition, Wen Mingxiu knew that if the operation to kill Lin Xun failed by some chance, he would definitely become a nightmare for the Wen Clan given the terrifying potential he displayed in Blood Kill Camp.

One of the young men confidently slapped his chest and said, "Miss Mingxiu, there's no need for you to worry. Let him do what he wants for now. I will find someone to teach him a lesson after leaving Haze Academy!"

"That's right. Haze City is our home ground. How can we allow a bastard of unknown origins to act as he pleases?"

"It's not convenient to take action now with so many people watching. We'll settle the debt with him at a later date!"

"Damnit, since when did a country-bumpkin dare to bully us?"

The other youths also spoke up and ground their teeth in anger.

Loathing rose within Wen Mingxiu.

These people were so afraid earlier but are now acting so arrogant. They might have impressive capabilities compared to other normal cultivators, however, they are indeed all useless trash compared to Lin Xun!

The Prodigies War - Chapter 204 Ripples

The fight in front of Haze Academy had ended but the resulting ripples did not stop here.

Numerous cultivators gathered in groups of three to five to discuss the sudden battle that had just occurred. There was a different look in their eyes when they looked at Lin Xun now.

Lin Xun was seated alone on the stone steps at the side of the plaza. He was lost in thought, seemingly oblivious to all the attention he was receiving.

The earlier battles were the first time he had experienced the difference of the Human Dipper stage.

It was needless to say that the ability to attack from a distance made the battles more dangerous and filled with variables.

What he had not anticipated was the tremendous power produced by Storm Grinder.

Under normal circumstances, the dipper power Lin Xun cultivated was already extremely pure, clean like unblemished glass, and of extraordinary quality, which allowed him to display tremendous battle power.

After activating Storm Grinder, his battle power would be amplified even further and reach crazy heights!

This was what surprised Lin Xun.

After carefully reviewing the previous battles, Lin Xun soon understood the reason. Storm Grinder utilized a unique circulation method that had the same effect of suppressing a spring to the limit, creating a terrifying explosive force.

In addition, the power was released like a high-speed rotating drill, resulting in far more destructive power than the norm!

Lin Xun hypothesized: This might be one of the functions of the aeth power reservoir. Different grade aeth power reservoirs generate completely different amounts of power.

His aeth power reservoir was very unique indeed and was far more mysterious than ordinary first-grade reservoirs.

Moreover, there was a mysterious resonance between his aeth power reservoir and the aeth power vortexes above his four heart acupuncture points!

Human Dipper experts who could cultivate second-grade aeth power reservoirs were already praised as first-class experts in this world, while those that possessed first-grade reservoirs were considered apex-level cultivators.

In comparison, Lin Xun's aeth power reservoir was superior even to first-grade reservoirs!

It was impossible to measure people like him using common sense.

.....

The registration time soon arrived. A bell chimed and the tightly shut doors of Haze Academy slowly opened.

Everyone waiting in the plaza felt a surge of excitement and they began to flood into Haze Academy.

Lin Xun also awoke from his thoughts and rose to his feet. With the already prepared certification in his hand, he followed the crowd in.

Suddenly, an extraordinary-looking young man in simple clothes approached and said in a low voice, "Greetings Young Master, I'm Cao Yunxiu and come from the Taixing District of Qingfeng County."

Lin Xun was taken aback. "Friend, how may I help you?"

Cao Yunxiu said in admiration, "I saw Young Master ruthlessly crush those noble disciples earlier and it was truly impressive. It was also satisfying to see you stand up for us commoner disciples."

Lin Xun raised his brow and said, "Apologies, what I did earlier was not to seek redress for the commoner disciples."

His attitude had become a little cold. Cao Yunxiu's words had put Lin Xun in the commoner disciple camp, which made him feel very uncomfortable.

It was not that he looked down on them but he hated to be put in groups by others.

Cao Yunxiu was stunned. "Young Master, me and a few other friends witnessed what you did earlier. In my view, we share many similarities. If we can become friends, the combined power we can gather in the future will allow us to be unafraid of those noble disciples."

Lin Xun frowned. "What exactly do you want to say?"

Cao Yunxiu took a deep breath and quickly scanned the surroundings. After confirming no one was watching them, he said in a low voice, "I and a few friends who share the same aspiration have established a group called Achievers Society. Our goal is to gather people who possess first-class cultivation talent but come from poor backgrounds. We seek to help and support each other on the journey of cultivation. Does Young Master have any interest in joining?"

Lin Xun finally realized that he was being recruited.

"Sorry, I'm not interested."

He had already begun walking again as he spoke. He had no interest in this Achievers Society or an alliance between commoner disciples.

Cao Yunxiu was stunned. His expression gradually darkened as he watched Lin Xun walk away.

Someone came over and asked, "Big Brother Cao, how did it go?"

"What else? Our Achievers Society can't attract such a person."

Cao Yunxiu laughed in a self-mocking manner.

The person coldly snorted. "Humph, he's too arrogant. He's clearly from a poor background like us. Is he looking down on us?"

Cao Yunxiu smiled faintly and calmly said, "That might not be the case. He might have his considerations. However, I believe that when our Achievers Society rises to power, he will definitely regret the decision he made today!"

The person said in admiration, "Big Brother Cao, only someone with a generous and forgiving heart like you can bring us to success!"

Cao Yunxiu laughed. "Let's go and register for the exam. The provincial exam will be the first step for our Achievers Society. In the future, the Achievers Society will definitely establish a place for ourselves in the empire!"



.....

Some distance from the white jade plaza, a middle-aged man in white robes suddenly asked as he watched the young cultivators enter Haze Academy. "Brother Dongtu. What do you think about that guy from earlier?"

"Pretty good. He's a rare talent."

Beside him, a man in black clothes with wide sleeves nodded. He had stern eyes and gave off a powerful aura just by standing there.

If any of the Haze City bigwigs were present, they would immediately be able to identify that the middle-aged man in white robes was the Haze Academy Principal, Wei Lingzhen. He was also a famous great cultivator in the southwest province with unfathomable strength.

The one beside Wei Lingzhen was the commander of the Violet Plume Army stationed in the southwest province, Du Dongtu. The only person in the southwest province who could match him in status and power was Governor Liu Wudiao!

Wei Lingzhen chuckled and said, "Hehe, someone who is praised as a talent by Brother Dongtu must be remarkable. I wonder which clan he belongs to. I've never heard of him before."

Du Dongtu thought a bit and said, "He's definitely not a noble disciple. Given what he has shown today, I'm interested in recruiting him into the Violet Plume Army. From the strength he displayed, he will certainly achieve great things in the future."

Wei Lingzhen was shocked. "I can't believe Brother Dongtu is interested in taking him in. However, I feel he was too fearless and didn't consider the consequences of his actions. It might have felt great to show off his capabilities but he also offended several people in the process. This just seems too reckless to me."

Du Dongtu seemed unconcerned. "Young people should naturally be hot-blooded. If he had sucked it up earlier, I would look down on him instead."

Wei Lingzhen was finally certain Du Dongtu was serious and could not help but chuckle. "What a pity. Given his character, I'm afraid he won't be interested in joining the army. In his eyes, the national exam would probably be more attractive."

Du Dongtu frowned. "If so, there's nothing I can do."

Wei Lingzhen said, "From what I know, there are still several outstanding individuals who will be participating in the provincial exam. They will not lose to this kid in terms of strength."

Du Dongtu seemed interested. "Who are they?"

Wei Lingzhen answered, "My Haze Academy's Xue Shaolin, Yu Wenjing, Le Zhiyou, and Yun Zitong are all apex-level among the Human Dipper stage. Governor Liu Wudiao's young daughter, Liu Qianhuan, is also extraordinary."

He paused for a moment before he continued. "From what I've heard, Yao Tuohai's son-in-law, Lian Fei, is also an outstanding cultivator. These people are all amazing talents of the younger generation."

Besides them, there are probably numerous undiscovered geniuses like that young man earlier. Once the provincial exam begins, we'll find out just how many of these dark horses will appear."

Du Dongtu nodded. "We'll see when the provincial exam begins."

Wei Lingzhen chuckled. "Naturally. With Governor Liu Wudiao as the chief examiner and us two as witnesses, the three of us will definitely be able to sift out the true cream of the crop."

Lin Xun was unaware that he was already receiving attention from the Haze Academy Principal Wei Lingzhen and the Violet Plume Army Commander Du Dongtu before the registration started.

Lin Xun was busy queuing in the registration zone. When it was finally his turn, he handed over his certification and the ten silver coins fee and was given a token to acknowledge his participation in the provincial exam.

Lin Xun did not linger around and left immediately.

A Haze Academy Instructor was in charge of distributing the tokens. He was a stern middle-aged man called Lu Zizheng.

When Lin Xun left, Lu Zizheng picked up Lin Xun's certification and closely observed it for a moment before putting it back without batting an eyelid.

Donglin City, Lin Xun, fourteen-years-old...it should be him.

Lu Zizheng pondered for a brief moment before calling over another instructor to take over his station before he hurriedly departed.

An incense stick of time later.

Haze City. In front of a magnificent hall.

Lu Zizheng passed a letter to the old servant at the entrance. "Pass this to your master. Tell him the person he's looking for has appeared."

Afterwhich, Lu Zizheng turned around and left.

Moments later, the letter entered the hands of the master of the hall.

"Lin Xun! I did not expect that he would appear..."

The master was a pretty young lady. Excitement was revealed on her face when she opened and read the letter.

"Susu, who did you say appeared?"

A young man, who was meditating in a corner of the hall, abruptly opened his eyes as a chilling light shone within them.

"It's Lin Xun. He registered for the provincial exam today!"

The young lady happily waved the letter in her hand. "Brother Fei, you can finally have your revenge!"

The young man stood up and seized the letter. His expression also turned excited and somewhat sinister.

“Lin Xun, it’s been a whole year. I’m glad that you’ve finally appeared. It’s time to resolve the grudge between us!”

The letter turned to dust as chilling intent flowed out in the young man’s eyes.

If Lin Xun was present, he would definitely recognize that it was Lian Fei and Yao Susu!

The Prodigies War - Chapter 205 A Storm is Coming

For the past year, not once had Lian Fei forgotten the person who had murdered his father.

For the sake of revenge, he had not relaxed at all and spent nearly all of his time raising his strength.

With Yao Tuohai’s help and support, Lian Fei obtained a tremendous amount of cultivation resources, allowing his cultivation to rapidly progress. When he advanced to the Human Dipper stage, he managed to construct a second-grade aeth power reservoir. It was an event that shook Qingfeng County and made others call him a cultivation genius.

It was also then that Yao Tuohai finally agreed to betroth Yao Susu to Lian Fei, making him the son-in-law of the Yao Clan. His status changed tremendously and could no longer be compared to before.

Although life was going well for him, Lian Fei did not feel the least bit happy because his father’s killer was not dead!

After finally obtaining news about Lin Xun after a year, the long-suppressed hatred in Lian Fei’s heart was lit anew.

Lian Fei took a deep breath and said through gritted teeth, “Susu, he must be somewhere in Haze City. I’ll go search for him now!”

Susu suddenly frowned and scolded, “Brother Fei, you’re being too rash!”

“Susu, are you going to stop me?” Lian Fei’s expression turned ugly.

Yao Susu coldly said, “Do you know Lin Xun’s current cultivation?”

Lian Fei was stunned. “He can’t be anything more than the Human Dipper stage!”

Yao Susu said, “Since he can participate in the provincial exam, do you think he’s just an ordinary Human Dipper expert?”

Lian Fei’s heart shivered as he began to calm down. He knew that he had overly focused on revenge and had neglected several details.

“In Donglin City, Lin Xun survived despite our constant efforts to crush him. Someone like him isn’t so easy to deal with.”

A cold, calculating light shone in Yao Susu’s eyes as she swiftly said, “Now, he possesses the qualifications to participate in the provincial exam and is definitely going to be even more difficult to deal with. Given these factors, how much of a chance do you think you stand if you seek him out now?”

Lian Feng returned to his senses as if he had been smacked on the head and scolded. "Susu is right. I was too rash."

Yao Susu smiled as her expression softened. "Brother Fei, your status is different now. How can you allow yourself to be put at risk for mere revenge?"

Lian Fei returned to his seat and asked, "Susu, what do you think I should do?"

"Simple. Send someone to assassinate him!"

A chilling light flashed in Yao Susu's eyes. "As for us, we only need to patiently wait for news of his assassination."

Lian Fei frowned. "But I want to personally kill him!"

Yao Susu sighed. "Brother Fei, remember your identity. You're my husband, my father's son-in-law, and a core member of the Yao Clan. You should be learning how to solve problems like a bigwig."

Lian Fei was taken aback. "A bigwig?"

Yao Susu nodded. "That's right. A bigwig only needs to use his authority and power to make countless people do his bidding. A single command from you will decide others' life and death! You can have rain or sunshine with a flip of the hand, and a single thought will decide life or death for others!"

An indescribable sensation surged in Lian Fei's heart. "Susu, do you think I can become a bigwig like that?"

Yao Susu smiled tenderly. "In my heart, Brother Fei definitely can!"

"Alright! I'll listen to you!" Lian Fei made his decision.

The doors were suddenly pushed open and Yao Tuohai's tall and slim figure walked in, surprising Yao Susu and Lian Fei as they hurriedly rose to greet him.

"Susu is right."

Yao Tuohai offhandedly remarked. He looked at Lian Fei and said, "I just received news that Lin Xun defeated Yuan Shi and Qi Yunxiao outside Haze Academy. If you don't know who they are, Susu will tell you."

By this time, Yao Tuohai had already turned around. "The two of you shall handle this matter. I will only observe and will not interfere."

After Yao Tuohai left, Lian Fei could not help but ask, "Susu, who are Yuan Shi and Qi Yunxiao?"

Yao Susu's expression fluctuated indeterminately as if in disbelief. After a long time, she finally answered in a low voice, "Brother Fei, Lin Xun is stronger than we estimated..."

She began to give a detailed explanation of Yuan Shi's and Qi Yunxiao's identities.

After hearing everything, Lian Fei's expression turned cloudy. "How is this possible? It's only been a year. How can his battle power have grown faster than mine?"

Yao Susu sighed. "Brother Fei, you should understand now that we have no choice but to use our power and authority against him."

Although Lian Fei still found it hard to accept, he knew that this was the only way for now. He clenched his jaw and asked, "Susu, what should we do?"

A look of resolve surfaced in Yao Susu's eyes. "Among Haze City's underground factions, there is a group that specializes in assassination called Rain Listener House..."

Rain Listener House.

In a clean room with clear windows, smoke wafted from an incense burner adorned with sacred beasts. A man was currently seated at the table, sampling his tea.

Outside the window was a lush bamboo forest with the dark silhouettes of mountains in the back. It was very peaceful; the only sound to be heard was the occasional chirping of birds.

The man was dressed in blue scholarly robes and was reading an old book in his hand.

He gave off the aura of an elegant intellectual and the sight of him silently seated there made one feel a sense of serenity.

However, his face was covered by a dark golden mask, revealing only a pair of cold black eyes that added a certain strangeness to his presence.

The man was called Rain Listener.

Although it was a poetic name, in the hearts of numerous bigwigs in Haze City, this name represented a frightening power akin to a devil.

This name represented the mysterious master of Rain Listener House!

Suddenly, the tinkling sound of wind chimes rang out.

"Speak."

Rain Listener's voice was low and pleasing to the ear. Although it was only a single word, it seemed to cast peculiar magic that drew people toward it.

A respectful voice sounded outside the door, "There's a rather special request that requires the master's decision."

"Okay, tell me."

Rain Listener slowly closed the book and gently picked up the teacup on the table.

"Someone made a request an incense stick of time ago. They are willing to pay three thousand gold coins to assassinate a Human Dipper stage youngster and have requested Remnant Snow, Ghost Moon, and Gray Marten."

Rain Listener acknowledged and said, "Remnant Snow is a first-class Human Dipper stage assassin. Since arriving at Rain Listener House, Remnant Snow has undertaken seventy-three missions and has no record of failure."

“Ghost Moon and Gray Marten have the best teamwork among the Earth Dipper assassins. If they take on this mission together with Remnant Snow, it will be a perfect assassination. It seems that the customer is very well informed about our Rain Listener House.”

Rain Listener put down his teacup and gazed at the bamboo forest outside the window. “Three thousand gold coins is a high price but it is odd to use such power to deal with a mere Human Dipper stage youngster.”

“Master, we’ve already done the preliminary investigation. The youngster is called Lin Xun and comes from Donglin City of Qingfeng County. He is fourteen this year and recently registered for the provincial exam this afternoon at Haze Academy.”

The respectful voice outside the door swiftly elaborated, “It’s said that Lin Xun’s battle power is extremely high. He defeated the Yuan Clan’s First Young Master, Yuan Shi, and Jadelight Pavilion’s Young Master, Qi Yunxiao, outside Haze Academy today.”

Rain Listener chuckled softly. “No wonder they wish to hire Remnant Snow and the others for such a high price. So the target is a young genius who has the qualifications to participate in the provincial exam.”

“Master, you might not be aware of this yet but from the information we’ve collected, Lin Xun defeating Yuan Shi and Qi Yunxiao in public has infuriated numerous Young Masters and Young Mistresses from the powerful factions of Haze City. We predict that many of these factions will soon dispatch agents to deal with Lin Xun.”

“Under these circumstances, we do not know if we should accept the request to assassinate Lin Xun.”

Rain Listener said, “Heh, this young man called Lin Xun is quite interesting. He’s only fourteen but so many people are already after his life...”

He gently tapped his teacup as if thinking about something. After a long time, he finally said, “Interesting people are sometimes the most dangerous. Since Lin Xun dared to do this, he must have some trump card to fall back on. Tell the customer that we can accept the request but we will need to wait a while before we move.”

“Wait?”

“Correct. We’ll wait for the factions to move first and see the outcome before we take action. If he dies, there will be no need for us to move but if he doesn’t...”

Rain Listener was silent for a moment before he continued, “If he doesn’t, tell the customer that three thousand gold coins is far from enough. They’ll need at least...ten thousand gold coins.”

“Your subordinate understands!”

The voice outside the door disappeared. Rain Listener sighed and looked out the window again.

After a long time had passed, he unhurriedly said, “That person was not wrong to say it is difficult for cultivators to come from the poor. In the empire, the thing these noble factions will not tolerate the most is a challenge from the low-class commoner cultivators, right?”

His low voice echoed in the quiet room.

Outside the window, rain had begun to fall at some unknown time, the tiny raindrops slowly wetting the bamboo forest like mist.

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The first day of registration for the provincial exam ended at night. More than eight hundred participants had registered today.

Of course, this was only the first day. Many more cultivators would be registering over the subsequent days.

On this day, news of the Yuan Clan's First Young Master's, Yuan Shi, and Jadelight Pavilion's Young Master's, Qi Yunxiao, defeat at the hands of a youngster called Lin Xun spread to the entire city, causing countless uproars.

When it was known that Lin Xun was very likely to be a commoner cultivator, numerous cultivators were shocked.

Such an identity was too sensitive!

Since when did the commoner disciples dare to challenge the noble disciples? Moreover, he had won!

Although this made the commoner cultivators feel ecstatic, Lin Xun's actions had undoubtedly offended the noble factions.

Many people realized that a disaster would soon befall Lin Xun!

The Prodigies War - Chapter 206 Surging Undercurrents

The Wen Clan.

In a detached little courtyard at the back of the residence, Wen Mingxiu was seated beside the window with her brows tightly furrowed. Light rain was falling outside like a mist, seemingly reflecting the melancholy in her heart that refused to be scattered or blown away.

Suddenly meeting Lin Xun today was a huge surprise to Wen Mingxiu. As she recalled the warning he had given, she felt extremely conflicted, angry, and frustrated.

Was she going to let this go and let bygones be bygones?

Wen Mingxiu did not know. She only knew that the matter had started because of her. If she did not do anything, the others would view it as her admitting defeat which would undoubtedly hurt her reputation and influence among Haze City's younger generation.

"What should I do?"

Wen Mingxiu blankly stared into space.

"Young Mistress, there's news."

A servant girl hurriedly entered the room with an excited face. "The Yuan Clan, Jadelight Pavilion, Qian Clan, Zhou Clan, Zheng Clan..."

After reciting the names of several factions in succession, the servant girl finally said, "They've all decided to dispatch forces to deal with Lin Xun!"

Wen Mingxiu's heart shook. "Why have so many factions taken action?"

The servant girl displayed a pleased smile. "Young Mistress, Lin Xun is merely a commoner from some backwater place. Which noble faction would allow him to continue running wild? A despicable and lowly person like him should be immediately smote for his crimes. Otherwise, the other commoner disciples will also become bold like him, bringing chaos unto the world."

Wen Mingxiu frowned and frostily said, "Who told you Lin Xun is from a poor background?"

The servant girl's body trembled as she mumbled, "I...I heard it from others."

Wen Mingxiu laughed in anger. "A bunch of fools!"

If Lin Xun was just some commoner, how could he enter Blood Kill Camp? Why would Steel-Blood King Ning Bugui's grandson become friends with him? Why would Fortune God Shi's third son regard Lin Xun so highly?

Most importantly, Lin Xun had enjoyed special treatment even in a place like Blood Kill Camp!

Even the most stupid person would understand that Lin Xun was no commoner disciple!

However, the city's numerous factions were viewing Lin Xun as a lowly commoner and called him a country bumpkin to humiliate him. Weren't they no different from fools?

The servant girl's face turned pale with fear as she stammered, "Young Mistress, you...do you not plan on dealing with Lin Xun?"

Wen Mingxiu was stunned. She suddenly felt her interest waning and her anger began to dissipate. She waved her hand and said, "You are dismissed."

The servant girl hurriedly withdrew from the room.

"Maybe doing nothing is the best course of action..."

After a long silence, Wen Mingxiu ultimately made her decision.

.....

As the major city of the southwest province, Haze City was an extremely bustling place. The vast territory it covered was also home to dozens of factions and clans.

For ordinary people, today was no different from any other. However, the same could not be said for the numerous factions and cultivators in the city.

When night arrived, nearly all of the city's great factions knew that misfortune would soon befall the youngster called Lin Xun!



Some of the more well-informed cultivators were also aware and could not help but sigh. Was a young expert who could defeat the likes of Yuan Shi and Qi Yunxiao going to die just like that?

The City Lord's residence.

Governor Liu Wudiao could not help but frown a little as he read the report he had received. "These guys are being too anxious."

Beside him, a middle-aged scholar with a beard separated into three long bundles hanging from his chin chuckled and said, "Lord, they're planning to make an example out of him as a warning to all the commoner disciples in the city and to deter such things from happening again in the future."

Liu Wudiao icily snorted. "But have they considered that Lin Xun has already registered for the provincial exam? A talent like him will be highly regarded by the empire in the future even if he comes from a poor background. They have gone overboard this time."

The middle-aged scholar replied, "Indeed, the provincial exam is to select true talents for the empire. Given that Lin Xun had the strength to defeat Yuan Shi and Qi Yunxiao, he is definitely a young man with outstanding talent and has high hopes of passing the provincial exam. If he does, he will have the chance to take part in the national exam. Taking all this into consideration, it will be rather bad if he is killed."

After a slight pause, he continued, "However, there are so many talented people in this world. The death of a single commoner youngster is insignificant to the empire. In your subordinate's view, the Lord does not need to worry about this matter. You only need to tell the noble factions to suppress everything that occurs as a result of his death. That will be sufficient."

Liu Wudiao pondered for a while before he nodded. "I shall task you to handle this matter."

The middle-aged scholar cupped his hands together. "Your subordinate shall do as you command."

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Haze City southwest district.

In the people's eyes, the southwest district was where commoners gathered. All kinds of characters could be found there and people of status would feel it was beneath them to step into this area.

At a certain courtyard in the southwest district, Cai Yunxiu suddenly laughed and rejoiced, "It's fortunate that Lin Xun rejected us. Otherwise, we'd likely be implicated by him."

The few dozen youngsters around Cao Yunxiu could not help but laugh upon hearing this. They were also members of the Achievers Society.

Cao Yunxiu suddenly withdrew his smile and sighed. "However, the events that have befallen Lin Xun have also made me realize that it is truly difficult for us commoner disciples to rise up in society."

The others were stunned and fell silent.

Indeed, merely defeating Yuan Shi and Qi Yunxiao had caused Lin Xun to incur the wrath of Haze City's numerous noble factions. It was frightening to think that such a small matter would make them seek to eliminate him.

Someone sneered. "Hmph, those noble factions always act as if they are superior and view us, commoners, as lowly slaves to be stepped on, abused, and slaughtered as they please. They clearly intend to use Lin Xun as an example to intimidate us!"

"You're right. The reason why I established Achievers Society is to help everyone break free from these shackles and no longer be bullied by the noble factions."

Cao Yunxiu took a deep breath and said with determined eyes, "Regardless of what we've said, although Lin Xun has rejected to join our Achievers Society, he is still a fellow commoner disciple. The injustice he suffered today has gone too far. I've decided to do something for him!"

The others were taken aback. Cao Yunxiu had just been rejoicing about how they were lucky to not have been implicated by Lin Xun. Why did he suddenly have a change of heart?

Cao Yunxiu said, "I'm doing this for our future. We will use this affair to probe the noble factions' bottom line. Only by doing this will we be able to avoid similar situations occurring in the future."

The others jerked to attention. "What does Big Brother Cao plan on doing?"

Cao Yunxiu smiled faintly. "Spread the news and make sure the entire city knows about it. Tell everyone that Lin Xun is a commoner disciple who has qualified for the provincial exam but is now being targeted by the noble factions and might even lose his life as a result!"

Someone asked, "That's all?"

Cao Yunxiu laughed. "Although it might appear simple, the more people know the harder it will be to resolve this matter. Who knows, it might even draw the attention of the real bigwigs in the Forbidden City. If that happens, we'll be able to determine the true attitude of the empire toward us commoner disciples!"

Everyone soon understood and looked at Cao Yunxiu in admiration. It was indeed an ingenious plan.

Someone could not help but excitedly remark, "It will be best if Lin Xun is killed. That way, it will draw even more people's attention."

"I don't think that's something we should be saying, right?" Someone else spoke up in response. He believed that Lin Xun was a fellow commoner disciple and it was too much to curse him.

Cao Yunxiu waved his hand to stop any potential arguments. "There is no need for us to concern ourselves with such things. We only need to use this affair to achieve our goal."

Despite saying this, he knew that Lin Xun's death would indeed help to better spread the news and cause an even bigger commotion!

Cao Yunxiu took a deep breath and solemnly said, "Let's wait. There should be an outcome tonight. When the time is right, all of us will have to move immediately and use all of our power to seek justice for Lin Xun!"

Several people laughed when they heard the words 'seek justice for Lin Xun', knowing that it was merely a cover. Who would care whether Lin Xun died?

.....

In the evening.

Lin Xun was seated in the courtyard. The table in front of him was covered in various delicious dishes and a jar of Ghost Burn Wine.

Opposite him, Xue Jin was enjoying the alcohol as he gorged himself on the feast.

Light rain was falling from the sky but the two continued their meal.

Xue Jin chewed on a piece of meat as he asked, "The provincial exam only begins in the 9th month. Do you have other plans for the next six months?"

Lin Xun's reply was simple, "Training and earning money."

Xue Jin spat out the bone he was gnawing and glanced at Lin Xun. "Heh heh. That's a good plan. However, I have a feeling that plenty of trouble will come knocking at your door soon."

Lin Xun shrugged. "What's done is done. Why would I be afraid of any trouble? What's more, even if it does get too big for me to handle, I still have you, Old Jin, right?"

Xue Jin was stunned. He jabbed his finger at Lin Xun and said, "Blast it, you've become a bad kid."

Lin Xun grinned. "What else can I do? There are too many bad people in this world and I have no choice but to become bad as well. Good people don't live long lives after all."

Xue Jin angrily retorted, "Stop trying to be cheeky. Let me ask you a serious question, are you prepared to face the coming storm?"

A little astonished, Lin Xun asked, "I only beat up two pampered young masters. Is the situation really that serious?"

Before Xue Jin could reply, the main door was pushed open as Chu Feng rushed in.

The usually neat and refined appearance of the Rune Master Association President had been replaced by a deeply anxious look. He cried out, "Brother Lin Xun, you're still in the mood to eat and celebrate with such a huge disaster heading your way?"

The Prodigies War - Chapter 207 Bloody Ten Days

A big disaster is heading my way?

Lin Xun was astonished. He quickly put down his chopsticks and asked in surprise, "Big Brother Chu Feng, what do you mean?"

He was not surprised that his accommodation had been found by Chu Feng. Otherwise, the Rune Master Association President would not live up to his name.

When the originally flustered Chu Feng saw Xue Jin happily eating beside Lin Xun, his pupils immediately shrank as he recalled the expert mentioned by Old Diao, causing respect to rise in his heart.

Chu Feng took a deep breath and forced a smile. "Brother, could it be that you didn't go out today?"

Lin Xun was taken aback. "I just returned from Haze Academy this afternoon."

From his appearance, Chu Feng realized that Lin Xun genuinely did not know his current situation.

Chu Feng wasted no time and quickly informed Lin Xun about the various news that had stirred up the entire city.

As he spoke, Lin Xun's expression turned serious as faint hints of iciness began to flow in his eyes.

"So far, we can confirm that the Yuan Clan, Jadelight Pavilion, Zheng Clan, Zhou Clan, and nine other factions will be taking action against you."

Chu Feng's expression turned grave. "Do you understand now?"

Lin Xun nodded but still felt extremely puzzled. "I did anticipate some trouble after defeating Yuan Shi and Qi Yunxiao but I did not expect so many to pop up and create such a huge commotion. It seems that they think very highly of me."

Chu Feng explained, "You don't understand. These noble faction disciples can be defeated and even killed but the culprit can never be a commoner. This is the noble factions' bottom line. If such a thing happens, it would be a challenge to their status and dignity, and that's something they would never permit."

Chu Feng paused for a moment before he worriedly said, "Moreover, I suspect that they're stirring up such a fuss because they wish to make an example out of you to deter others. Killing you is merely an excuse!"

Lin Xun asked in surprise, "Have things already become so serious between the nobles and commoners?"

At this point, Xue Jin suddenly interjected, "It's more serious than you think."

A sliver of reminiscence appeared on Xue Jin's tipsy face as he began to recount a story with a complicated expression.

A hundred and thirty-seven years ago during winter, a murder occurred at an inn in the empire's capital.

The disciple of a fallen clan had gotten drunk and raped the inn owner's daughter.

That night, a beautiful young girl, who was only thirteen, was raped and killed!

After it happened, the inn owner tried to seek justice but was ultimately killed along with his wife and their entire family of a few dozen members.

It was because the inn owner and his family were commoners. Although the noble disciple tried his best to keep the incident under wraps, a cultivator unintentionally heard about it. On that same day, he killed the noble disciple, drawing praise from many, and was even called a hero of justice.

Who could have imagined that a storm of blood would soon follow?!

The very next day, the cultivator called Ren Changyuan was personally captured and killed by General Blood Slaughter, Wen Zhongqing, who was very famous in the Forbidden City at the time.

On the same day, dozens of noble factions and Wen Zhongqing began a ten-day manhunt targeting the commoner cultivators, claiming they were eliminating rebels in the capital.

It rained blood for the next ten days with several tens of thousands of commoner cultivators mercilessly killed each day. The entire city was in an uproar and everyone felt as if they were in mortal danger.

Towards the end, the emperor had to personally step in to put a stop to the bloody massacre.

These ten days were called the Bloody Ten Days.

After the event, General Blood Slaughter Wen Zhongqing was stripped of his rank and dispatched to the northwest border. It was basically only a light tap on the wrist.

The factions that had participated in the slaughter were also let off with light punishments.

As for the countless commoner cultivators who had been killed, they became a bloody warning from the nobles to the commoners for many years after.

Even today, it was very rare for anyone to mention the Bloody Ten Days. Those who knew about it understood that the noble factions would do anything in order to preserve their status and power.

After telling the story, Xue Jin looked at Lin Xun and said, "This tragedy started with what should have been a trifling matter of a commoner cultivator killing a disciple from a fallen noble clan. What do you think about this?"

Lin Xun found that he was unable to remain completely calm. He never imagined that the relationship between the nobles and commoners had already deteriorated to such an extent.

After a long silence, he finally said, "In other words, my current circumstances are somewhat similar to Ren Changyuan?"

Xue Jin let out a carefree laugh and did not comment.

Chu Feng nodded and said, "It is indeed very similar. However, there are some differences between you and Ren Changyuan. For example, you're not just a cultivator but also a rune master of the Rune Master Association."

However, Chu Feng soon said in frustration, "However, only a few people know about your other identity at the present, making it rather useless in this situation."

Lin Xun was speechless. "That's the least of my concerns. I'm still confused about why there are such serious disagreements between the nobles and the commoners."

Chu Feng sneered and said, "Brother, allow me to put it to you in simple terms: it's to protect their status and interests! In the empire, there are only so many positions of power and resources to go around. If the commoners were to rise up, they would definitely take away a slice of the pie. Which noble faction would allow such a thing to happen?"

Lin Xun frowned. "Status and interests?"

Chu Feng confidently said, "Correct. The higher your status the greater the benefits which can also be referred to as cultivation resources! Haven't you noticed that the cultivation resources in the empire, especially the highest tiers, will always end up in the hands of the noble factions?"

"A noble has access to various cultivation resources since birth. On the other hand, even the simple act of cultivating is an uphill task for a commoner and they have to constantly risk their lives to fight for cultivation resources. This is the gap between the nobles and the commoners!"

Lin Xun found that this indeed made sense and could not help but fall into deep thought.

For the first time, he realized that internal issues were not the only factor that would make a cultivator stumble in his cultivation journey. There were also numerous unforeseeable difficulties that could hinder someone.

Today's matter was an excellent example. All he did was defeat two noble disciples and as a result, he now had to face many potential problems. Although it seemed ludicrous, the cruel truth behind it made Lin Xun feel threatened.

Xue Jin suddenly asked, "Now that you know, what are your plans?"

Lin Xun was silent for a moment before the corners of his lips suddenly curved as if smiling. However, there was no trace of emotion in his smile.

He calmly answered, "Although Ren Changyuan ended up dying, it does not mean I will follow in his footsteps. In my eyes, there is no difference between nobles and commoners, not now, not ever. The only distinctions I make are between friends and enemies."

Chu Feng was stunned. Alarmed, he asked, "You...what do you plan on doing?"

Xue Jin seemed to understand and his drowsy, drunk eyes gleamed without anyone noticing. "Kid, are you sure?"

Lin Xun shrugged. "Will they let me off if I admit defeat now?"

Soon after, he took a deep breath. There was nothing but calmness in his black eyes as he said, "Since they've chosen to be my enemy, they must pay the price for their decision!"

Xue Jin let out a hearty chuckle and downed an entire bowl of alcohol. "Showing courage in the face of adversity and viewing death as mere sleep. That's how men should be!"

Comprehension suddenly dawned upon Chu Feng as he gazed at the composed Lin Xun and the laughing Xue Jin. This might be what true cultivators are: always armed with courage and fearing nothing in this world!

.....

Chu Feng soon bid them goodbye and hurriedly left.

He already knew Lin Xun's decision and also decided to go crazy with him this time!

Upon knowing that Lin Xun needed the most up-to-date information, a short bow, healing and recovery medication, Chu Feng immediately declared that he would take care of it.

Information and resources were things that the Rune Master Association never lacked.

Chu Feng even wanted to use his influence and power to aid Lin Xun but this was immediately turned down by Xue Jin.

After Chu Feng left, Xue Jin finally said, "I wish to hear your plan." *novelNext.com*

Lin Xun's reply was simple. "Take the initiative and strike first."

Xue Jin asked, "Do you need me to do anything?"

Lin Xun grinned. "You just need to appear in time when I need you."

Although the request seemed shameless, Xue Jin rather admired it. "That's how Blood Kill Camp students should be. I had thought you had already forgotten everything you learned when you arrived in Haze City."

Lin Xun rubbed his nose and said, "That's true. I realized that I can't seem to get used to the lack of blood and violence ever since coming here."

A dazzling smile suddenly formed on his lips. "However, that chance is finally here!"

.....

When night arrived, Lin Xun departed from the residence alone.

The bustling streets were even busier than they were in the day, the pedestrians seemingly weaving together into a never-ending tapestry of activity.

The busiest places were naturally the inns, brothels, and gambling houses. Places where people could get drunk and make merry.

Drunken Cloud House.

In the hearts of numerous men, Drunken Cloud House was a first-class pleasure-seeking establishment where they could forget all their troubles. It was also an irreplaceable haven where they could be pampered and feel loved.

The women here were all very pretty and gentle. Some were sexy and seductive while others were cold and arrogant, and each had their own special charm.

It was not cheap either. When Lin Xun arrived, he had to pay an entrance fee of three silver coins.

Chapter 208

Drunken Cloud House's interior decor was filled with elegance and had no hint of vulgarness at all. The servers were beautiful, dressed in thin silk, and were polite and refined when they spoke.

Even most of the customers looked classy, making it completely different from an ordinary brothel.

When Lin Xun entered, he saw a stage at the center of the building bordered by white jade railings and paved with flowers. There was a group of musicians on the stage playing an assortment of musical

instruments such as drums, harps, pipes, flutes, and guqins. They produced calm and soothing music that gently echoed around the building.

The seats in front of the stage were already filled with guests that seemed to be waiting for something.

A servant girl with her hair combed up into twin buns smiled and asked in a cute manner, "Young Master, are you acquainted with any of our young ladies?"

Lin Xun shook his head. "I am not here for the girls."

The servant girl winked flirtatiously and said, "Without the company of a girl, eating, drinking, or listening to music will be very boring. How about this humble servant introduce you to one of our kind-hearted girls?"

In her view, although this young man seemed calm and confident, it was clearly his first time here. He was likely embarrassed to openly ask for the company of one of their girls.

She had seen many young men like him without any experience in such establishments and did not find it strange.

To the servant girl's surprise, Lin Xun merely smiled and said, "I'm here to look for someone."

He pointed at a room on the second floor. "He's up there."

The servant girl glanced at the room and her expression immediately turned much more respectful. "Oh, you're elder Yuan Shan's friend. Please go ahead."

Lin Xun nodded. Just as he was about to climb up the stairs, he suddenly heard the sound of cheering and turned his head to look. A girl dressed in white had appeared on the stage. She had a graceful body and her long, jet-black hair hung over her shoulder and ended at her waist, revealing a refreshingly beautiful face like a lotus emerging from the water.

There was also a pipa in her arms. It was her appearance that had drawn cheers from numerous people present. Adoration could be seen on the faces of many cultivators.

"Miss Luo Xiaoyi has finally appeared. She's a popular art cultivator from Haze Academy and is amazingly talented with the pipa. Our boss paid a huge price to invite her here to perform."

The servant girl looked at Luo Xiaoyi in reverence.

Lin Xun acknowledged her comment, withdrew his gaze, and began walking up the steps to the second floor.

.....

Yuan Shi had a huge smile on his face and a beauty in one arm. Amidst the eating and drinking, he sighed comfortably and said, "Viewing mountains from a tall building, looking at the snow from the city walls, gazing up at the moon from a boat, or watching the sunset by the lake are great but all of them can't compare to admiring a beauty."

The beauty in his arms giggled flirtatiously and said, "What a sweet tongue."



Yuan Shan laughed heartily and suddenly kissed the beauty's rosy lips. "It's regrettable that I have something urgent to attend to tonight. Otherwise, I would have definitely let you experience how formidable my tongue truly is."

The tightly shut doors were suddenly pushed open and a young man walked in.

The young man very naturally closed the doors behind him before he smiled and asked, "Yuan Shan?"

"Who let you in?" Yuan Shan frowned, growing slightly angry.

The young man smiled warmly, displaying a look of pure innocence. "Looks like you're Yuan Shan. It's good that I found the right person."

Yuan Shan suddenly became alert. He pushed away the beauty in his arms, stood up, and said in an unfriendly tone, "Little fellow, you're here to cause trouble?"

The young man only smiled and raised his hand as a black blur suddenly shot from his sleeve.

Omm!

A rushed, piercing buzzing noise rang out.

Yuan Shan's expression abruptly changed. Before he could try to avoid it, he felt a sudden pain in his neck and a large bloody hole appeared on it. His vision went dark and he lost consciousness.

Crash~

Yuan Shan's body fell to the ground as a stream of blood spurted from his neck, splattering red all over the room.

The beauty's face had already turned deathly pale in terror. Yuan Shan's death was the final trigger, causing her to open her mouth to scream.

However, something suddenly struck the back of her head knocking her unconscious.

The young man muttered, "Can't even recognize the person he was preparing to kill. What an idiot."

The young man was naturally Lin Xun. The small crossbow he had used earlier was called Soul Fang and was given to him by Chu Feng. It was worth three hundred gold coins and boasted tremendous power. When used at close quarters, it could even kill a Spirit Sea expert who was caught off guard!

The only flaw was that it would be rendered useless after being used once.

"At least your life is worth three hundred gold coins."

Lin Xun turned around and left. He closed the door behind him and called over an attendant. "Make sure not to disturb this room tonight. If you spoil Big Brother Yuan Shan's fun, you'll be in a lot of trouble!"

The attendant hurriedly nodded and promised.

Lin Xun walked back down to the first floor. When he arrived at the main entrance, music suddenly blasted behind him.

It sounded like armored troops galloping through the sandy battlefield. The music filled one with excitement and the impulse to charge into battle to kill the enemy.

Lin Xun could not help but turn his head and found that the girl called Luo Xiaoyi had started to sing.

An intense and rousing battle song thundered in the pleasure establishment, instantly silencing the place.

Numerous customers were shocked, clearly not expecting a lovely young lady like Luo Xiaoyi to sing such a heroic song.

Many cultivators were also infected by the music and felt their blood surge in excitement. They suddenly had an impulse to join the army and kill enemies on the frontlines.

Lin Xun was also stunned and his heart stirred a little in response. He could not help but ask a passing attendant, "Who wrote this song?"

The attendant proudly answered, "Who else can it be but Steel-Blood King Ning Bugui!"

Lin Xun nodded and finally left the Drunken Cloud House.

Rumble~

Thunder suddenly boomed across the night sky as silver serpents seemed to rip through the darkness.

Pitter-patter pitter-patter~

The wind howled as torrential rain fell. The originally busy streets suddenly descended into chaos as figures hurriedly moved to shelter.

Lin Xun's clothes were soon drenched as he walked amidst the rain. However, he seemed oblivious to it all.

He was recalling the latest update Chu Feng had sent.

The man he had just killed, Yuan Shan, was a Spirit Dipper expert from the Yuan Clan. Although he was not strong, he played an important role in issuing instructions.

According to the information Chu Feng had given, Yuan Shan had been tasked to gather forces belonging to the Yuan Clan and launch an ambush on Lin Xun.

However, Yuan Shan probably never imagined that he would lose his life to Lin Xun before the operation could begin.

"Waiting till it's too late will only result in regret. The circumstances tonight make it an excellent chance to kill people. I cannot afford to fail."

Lin Xun took a deep breath. His black eyes were filled with cold indifference.

It was not long before he turned into an alley. A small, dim light wavered deep in the alley, unable to chase away the darkness.

Lin Xun stopped in front of the small, dim light. The door was not closed completely, allowing the occupant's lively laughter to be heard amidst the pouring rain.

He laughed noiselessly as a pitch-black saber appeared in his hand. It was two feet and three inches in length and three fingers wide. The blade was simple but sharp.

This saber was called Black Spirit and was a high-quality article among human-grade mid-tier aeth weapons. It was also from Chu Feng.

Creak~

The door was pushed open and Lin Xun walked in.

Inside was a decent-sized courtyard. A large old building could be seen deep in the courtyard and was currently lit by lantern light. It was where the laughter had originated from.

Lin Xun walked up the steps and arrived in front of the building. He hesitated whether he should go right in or hide first and wait for a chance. At this moment, a figure suddenly walked out.

It was a thin middle-aged man. He was clearly stunned by the sight of Lin Xun and instinctively asked, "Who are you?"

Lin Xun raised his head, revealing a faint smile as rainwater flowed down his face. "I'm here to take your lives!"

Swish!

Before his words faded, Lin Xun had already dashed forward like a black flash and swung his blade at the middle-aged man.

To his surprise, the thin middle-aged man's response was lightning-quick. Black light rushed out of his body as a copper shield appeared in front of him.

However, the thin middle-aged man had clearly underestimated Lin Xun's attack. With a loud clang, the copper shield shattered as he was knocked back. Several of his bones were fractured as he screamed in pain.

The scream immediately elicited furious shouts from the building.

"That's Old Three's voice!"

"Our enemies must have come!"

"Damnit, there are people who still dare to attack us in Haze City? I want to see which blind idiot dares to cause trouble at this time!"

A spear emerged, quickly followed by a muscular figure. However, he was greeted by a saber that seemed to appear from nowhere like a phantom!

Swish!

The saber slashed at an inconceivable speed. Soft sky-blue light seemed to rise from the blade, creating a bizarre sight amidst the rain.

The muscular figure failed to avoid the attack and was bisected through the waist. The two halves of his body fell to the ground as blood splashed everywhere.

“Old Nine!”

Amidst the enraged roar, four figures charged out and saw Lin Xun beside the stone pillar at the door.

#### Chapter 209 Killing in the Rain Part One

Rain poured, thunder roared, and lightning bared its fangs and claws in the night sky, creating an atmosphere of unrest.

The courtyard was still illuminated by lamplight but there was now a thick stench of blood and chilling killing intent mixed with the smell of rain.

Rumble~

Thunder boomed and rippled across the land. A battle became unavoidable the moment those four figures dashed out.

Lin Xun’s expression was cold and ruthless as he swung his blade. Its plain edge gleamed brightly under the lightning’s light, suffused with an intimidating iciness.

With a loud clang, a dual-ax-wielding cultivator with a large frame met Lin Xun’s attack head-on.

Blade and axes crossed for an instant as terrifying power poured out from Lin Xun’s thin body. The cultivator’s large body was sent flying. He crashed through two walls before hitting the ground but did not get up after.

At the same time, a fist swiftly smashed toward Lin Xun’s head from the side. It pulsed with frightening black dipper qi as it punched through the air with great destructive power like a cannonball.

Lin Xun did not take any evasive measures. His left fist was suddenly thrown upwards to meet the attacker’s punch.

Crack!

The sound of bone cracking rang out and the attacking fist along with the entire arm exploded into chunks of flesh and bone.

The attacker howled in pain, unable to endure the power of the counterpunch. He was flung away and slammed onto the ground some distance away, instantly losing consciousness.

In the blink of an eye, two people had been incapacitated in succession. The entire process had been fluid and unstoppable.

Lin Xun remained composed from start to end. Amidst the torrential rain, his thin figure stood as straight as a spear, the saber in his hand dripping blood. He looked like a reaper from the underworld: cold, cruel, and merciless.

It was too terrifying!

The expressions of the remaining two cultivators changed drastically. They were seasoned thugs who were used to murder and violence. Although their cultivation was only at the Human Dipper stage, their battle experience and cruel methods were incomparable to an ordinary cultivator.

Despite this, seeing the youngster's simple, violent, practiced, and bloody killing methods made them feel fearful and uneasy.

Such killing methods could only belong to a slaughterer who had fought countless times on the battlefield. There was no hint of elegance or fanciness but every attack was aimed to kill! It was not something an ordinary youngster should possess.

They had seen numerous ruthless characters over the years, but this was the first time they had witnessed such a freakish fighting style.

It was like an even more frightening version of how soldiers fought!

Who was this youngster?

The remaining two cultivators were already overwhelmed by fear. They repeatedly dodged the deadly attacks, wishing they could escape but did not dare to do so.

The youngster had locked onto them. The moment they tried to escape, they would definitely receive a fatal blow.

One of the cultivators shouted, "Friend, who are you? We have no grudge with you, so why did you come here to kill us?"

Swish!

The only response he received was another slash. Amidst the torrential rain, Lin Xun's figure abruptly arrived like a flash of lightning.

The cultivator felt his entire body turn cold as he instinctively tried to dodge. However, the attack was akin to an inescapable net that made it impossible to avoid.

The cultivator roared and swung his sword with all his might in hopes of blocking. However, he miscalculated this time.

The blade slid down his sword and chopped off his hands.

At the same time, Lin Xun's figure dashed forward, grabbed the falling sword with his left hand, and ruthlessly thrust it into the opponent's heart.

Shlick!

The cultivator's eyes bulged in disbelief as if he had been struck by lightning. His lips trembled as if he was trying to say something but nothing came out and his body fell to the ground.

Rustle~

The other cultivator had taken the opportunity to dash toward the courtyard entrance.

Lin Xun's figure did not give chase. Instead, a crossbow appeared in his hand and he swiftly activated the mechanism. With a loud rumble, a ball of light that was as gorgeous as the sunset blossomed in the pitch-black rain.

The beautiful sight disappeared in a split second, leaving a corpse lying at the courtyard entrance.

The corpse had died a horrible death. The entire body was riddled with holes and blood was flowing out from all of them.

Lin Xun kept the crossbow and dashed out of the courtyard.

The six enemies had already been killed. Although the disturbance might have been masked by the rain and lightning, it would not escape a cultivator's senses. Hence, he needed to leave immediately.

However, the moment Lin Xun stepped out of the courtyard, an ominous feeling rose in his heart and he abruptly threw himself to the side.

Swish!

An arrow struck the ground where he had been just a split second ago, soundlessly creating a deep hole.

Lin Xun shivered. A real expert had finally arrived!

The arrow had arrived without any noise and had only been detected by Lin Xun at the very last second. Moreover, it had surprising power and had clearly come from a formidable expert who was skilled at assassination.

Lin Xun immediately took cover behind the door and looked in the direction the arrow had come from. A rooftop far away, he could just barely make out a blurry figure amidst the pouring rain and the darkness of the night.

If not for Lin Xun's superior spirit sense, it would have been very difficult for him to detect the gray figure.

The figure began to escape upon seeing the arrow had missed.

At the same time, a cold viper-like voice rang out by Lin Xun's ear, "Kid, your life is mine tonight."

The blurry figure swiftly vanished. This mysterious assassin clearly knew some kind of stealth technique.

Lin Xun icily chuckled but was no longer in a rush to leave. He squatted down and started to carefully inspect the hole left by the arrow.

After a long time, Lin Xun surmised that it was not shot from a crossbow but a bow. It had a strange power and was most importantly soundless and almost impossible to guard against.

From the power of the arrow, the other party's cultivation was at least the Human Dipper stage.

"So you want to play with me. Let's see if you'll survive the night..."

A cold smile rose from the corners of Lin Xun's lips.

In the year he had spent in Blood Kill Camp, there had been several training sessions related to art of assassination. Only a small handful of people knew that the pretty and sexy Xiaoman was actually a master of the art!

After spending a year with Xiaoman, Lin Xun's mastery of the assassination art was far better than any of the other students.

During the Demon Cloud Ridge assessment, Lin Xun had spent several days setting up a trap to kill a top-tier assassin from the Water Brute Tribe.

That assassin was called Shui Ying and was a second-level Brute Soldier that was comparable to a human Earth Dipper expert. The stealth art he used was even more strange and frightening than the bow-wielding assassin.

However, Shui Ying had ultimately died at the hands of Lin Xun, who had only been at the True Martial ninth layer back then!

.....

It was not long before Lin Xun noiselessly left the courtyard.

The rain was growing heavier and heavier, drowning the entire Haze City in beads of water, booming thunder, and wildly dancing silver snakes.

There was almost no one left on the streets, only scurrying wild dogs and cats barking and mewing in the heavy rain.

Lin Xun walked in the shadows. He was completely drenched by the rain but it seemed to have no effect on him as he continued on his way.

The second group of targets had already been dealt with and he was heading for the third group that was from Jadelight Pavilion.

They were composed of cultivators working for Jadelight Pavilion.

According to the information from Chu Feng, Jadelight Pavilion had dispatched nine cultivators. Among them, two Earth Dipper experts were the biggest threats!

One was called Chang Henshui and had joined Jadelight Pavilion more than ten years ago. His Earth Dipper cultivation gave him high status among the other cultivators under Jadelight Pavilion's payroll.

The other was called Lu Zhong and was a cultivator that had retired from the frontlines. His battle style was rumored to be extremely fierce and ruthless.

The Jadelight Pavilion group's plan was to strike right before dawn.

Lin Xun intended to go right to their gathering spot again. However, he found the place empty when he arrived. After quickly assessing his options, he decided to head back home.

It was normal for the information to be not entirely accurate at times. Since Chang Henshui, Lu Zhong, and the rest of the group were not at their gathering spot, they must have started the operation ahead of schedule.

Since their target was Lin Xun, there was only one possible location: his home.

However, Lin Xun suddenly stopped at a street near his house. He raised his eyes and peered into the distance

Rumble~~

Deafening thunder suddenly boomed across the sky as beautiful silver lightning arced through the darkness, instantly illuminating the surroundings.

Omm!

However, Lin Xun's ears seemed to ignore the thunder, focusing on the faint piercing sound of something rushing through the air.

The sound suddenly became a piercing whistle. Moreover, it was not just one but many from all directions.

Lin Xun's heart shook. He abruptly curled his body like a pulled bow and kicked his body backward.

Boom!

The area in a several hundred feet radius around Lin Xun was enveloped in dazzling light.

Countless arrows gleaming sharply and filled with astonishing penetrating power seemed to weave together, creating unimaginable destructive power.

Amidst the sound of a frightening explosion, a giant hole was blasted open in the center of the street, causing the nearby buildings to collapse.

Lin Xun gasped. If he had been just a little slower, he would have been turned to chunks of flesh!

It was clearly a carefully prepared ambush!

Who had leaked his movements?

The blurry figure of the assassin he had just seen immediately appeared in his mind. Lin Xun was certain that he was the culprit.

"Kill!"

"Friends from the other great factions, please work with us and kill this kid!"

Loud shouting could be heard from all directions, sounding especially frightening amidst the pouring rain at night.

Within Lin Xun's spirit sense, numerous figures were swarming toward him from various streets within a ten thousand feet radius. There were so many that it was difficult to count them all!

However, Lin Xun could still tell that this ambush had been prepared by the factions that were after him!

In other words, they had very likely colluded for an all-out assault against him!

I can't believe that these bastards sent so many people. They really give me too much credit...



Lin Xun mumbled inwardly. His black eyes were already filled with iciness as killing intent surged in his heart.

A split second later, he had already twisted his body and dashed into one of the side alleys like an inconceivable quick shadow.

There were too many enemies. He was dead if he allowed himself to be surrounded.

In Lin Xun's view, the complicated alleys of Haze City enveloped by pouring rain and darkness were the perfect battlefield for someone using assassination tactics.

Although there were many enemies, he would kill them all sooner or later as long as they failed to trap him!

The Prodigies War - Chapter 210 Killing in the Rain Part Two

The torrential rain and thunder failed to drown out the arguing voices in Tide View Pavilion.

Tide View Pavilion was located in Haze City's east district. It bordered mountains and a river and was a thousand feet tall. If someone looked out from the building, they would be able to view nearly half of Haze City.

Tide View Pavilion's interior was currently brightly lit in contrast to the pouring rain of the night outside and several long tables had been placed on the top floor.

A few dozen cultivators in embroidered clothes were seated on the two sides of the table. There were both men and women in the group and each individual gave off a princely air that ordinary cultivators did not possess.

Qi Tianxing was slouched back on the most north table as he absent-mindedly stared at the pitch-black night outside. He did not participate in the arguing.

Qi Tianxing was from Jadelight Pavilion and was the Pavilion Master's nephew, which also made him the Pavilion Young Master's cousin.

Tonight's joint operation against Lin Xun tonight consisted of dozens of Haze City factions and was headed by Jadelight Pavilion.

As such, Qi Tianxing naturally became the overall person in charge.

However, several factions had conflicting opinions about the operation, causing them to argue endlessly.

Qi Tianxing could not be bothered with their bickering. Since the operation had already begun, what was the point in arguing now?

Most importantly, although everyone here was a representative of their respective faction, he knew that there were merely representatives and not anyone important.

Due to these circumstances, Qi Tianxing saw no reason to say anything.

However, he began to frown because the squabbling showed no signs of stopping and instead grew increasingly intense.

Someone sneered, "What a joke. Our target is merely a Human Dipper youngster and yet we've made such a huge fuss of it. If the outside world hears of this, we will become a laughing stock!"

Someone retorted, "What do you mean by huge fuss? This is called making an example! The goal of killing Lin Xun is to let those lowly commoners see what happens to anyone who dares to offend us!"

"Hehe, things are different from the past. Lin Xun has already registered for the provincial exam. If we are going to kill such a commoner disciple, we shouldn't cause a huge ruckus. Otherwise, who knows what will happen when people find out?"

"Agreed. Don't forget that the empire created these exams to prevent another tragedy like the Bloody Ten Days event that occurred more than a hundred years ago. If a commoner disciple that can participate in the provincial exam is killed by us, who will take responsibility if the higher-ups of the empire decide to pursue this matter?"

"How laughable. How can killing a mere Lin Xun cause something like the Bloody Ten Days? You think too highly of him."

Qi Tianxing had a headache. He finally stood up and loudly slapped the table with a chilling expression. "Everyone, I want to ask all of you one thing. Do your opinions represent your factions?"

The question was like a bomb that stunned all the cultivators present. Their expressions changed slightly but no one could reply.

A sliver of disdain flashed in Qi Tianxing's eyes. "Remember, you guys are only representatives. Your only duty is to remember everything that happened tonight and return to report it to your respective factions!"

He was implying that they were just messengers and should not think too highly of themselves. Had they sought approval from their factions before giving out all of these opinions?

There was a hint of mockery in his words that made everyone feel a little uncomfortable. However, no one dared to rebut.

The place became much quieter.

Only then did Qi Tianxing withdraw his gaze and return to his lethargic appearance. "According to the plan, the operation should have already begun."

A sinister viper-like chuckle suddenly sounded from outside the window. "Young Master Qi is right. The target has already been surrounded and the hunt has begun...everyone, just wait here for the good news. It should not be long before I bring back that little bastard's head. See all of you soon."

An uncontrollable chill rushed through Qi Tianxing's body. By the time he recovered, the voice had already disappeared.

The other cultivators wore varying expressions but most of them displayed a look of fear and disgust.

Someone could not help but ask, "Remnant Wind?"

Qi Tianxing nodded.

Remnant Wind!

He was a greatly feared assassin that always appeared unpredictably like a phantom and whose hands were drenched in the blood of his countless victims. It was rumored that he had cruelly killed a hundred and eight children and drained their blood to cultivate a certain secret art.

No one would willingly contact such a person. As such, it was quite a surprise that Jadelight Pavilion had contracted Remnant Wind to deal with Lin Xun!

Several people puzzledly looked at Qi Tianxing, unable to guess if there was some relation between Remnant Wind and Jadelight Pavilion.

Qi Tianxing did not explain anything. He merely smiled faintly and said, "Everyone, we can finally be certain that Lin Xun will not live past tonight. We only need to wait here for the good news to arrive."

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The cold wind howled as the rain continued to pour.

Cao Yunxiu stood under a shelter in the courtyard as he said with some interest, "Those loathsome noble dogs have finally begun to move!"

The other Achievers Society cultivators rejoiced.

"Once Lin Xun dies tonight, we will proceed with our plan and spread the news. I'm interested to see whether these noble factions will dare to start another Bloody Ten Days like General Blood Slaughter!"

Cao Yunxiu took a deep breath. "We commoners have been suppressed for far too long. It's finally time for us to do something big!"

Someone worriedly asked, "Brother Cao, what if Lin Xun's death does lead to another Bloody Ten Days? Won't we be affected as well?"

Cao Yunxiu chuckled. "No need to worry. The current empire is different from the past. Even if such an event happens, it won't affect us. Don't forget that we've already registered for the provincial exam and are useful people to the empire. They will not idly watch us be killed."

After a slight pause, his gaze turned towards the dark sky. "Just wait. Whether Lin Xun lives or dies will work in our favor against the suppression of the nobles. Has everyone heard of this saying before?"

Everyone was taken aback as they listened to Cao Yunxiu say, "All it takes is a spark to light a fire that can burn the entire prairie!"

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The City Lord's residence.

It was late at night but Liu Wudiao was not in the mood to cultivate. He silently paced in the spacious hall as lightning danced and thunder rumbled outside, unable to calm himself.

After a long time, Liu Wudiao mumbled, "Wind and rain, an excellent night for killing...I hope they will not cause too big of a disturbance..."

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Haze Academy.

Under the same night sky, Principal Wei Lingzhen was playing chess with Commander Du Dongtu.

Du Dongtu suddenly tossed aside the chess piece in his hand and frowned. "The factions in the city are too much."

Wei Lingzhen was taken aback. "You're still worrying about that kid?"

Du Dongtu unhappily said, "He showed outstanding strength, mettle, and ferocity. If he enlists in the army, he will definitely become a famous general. It is such a waste for him to die."

Wei Lingzhen pondered a little and said, "It is indeed rather regretful. However, you and I cannot interfere in such matters."

Du Dongtu sneered. "Oh? Why not?"

Wei Lingzhen sighed. "I know you're unhappy but if you interfere, you will definitely offend those noble factions. That will not do at all."

Du Dongtu said in a low voice, "I'm from the army, so what if I offend those noble factions? Brother Wei, you underestimate me far too much."

Wei Lingzhen smiled bitterly. "I know you're not afraid of offending them. I'm just worried that your interference will be disadvantageous to your future circumstances. The noble factions in Haze City might not be able to touch you but what about the noble factions in the Forbidden City?"

Du Dongtu was taken aback. "What does this have to do with the Forbidden City?"

Wei Lingzhen answered, "Because you interfered in a conflict between the nobles and commoners. If the noble factions in the Forbidden City find out that someone like you interfered to save a commoner, what do you think they will think?"

Du Dongtu fell into thought and his expression soon changed slightly as understanding dawned upon him.

Although it might appear to be a simple operation against Lin Xun, there was a very special meaning behind it. This affair was not different from a clash between the commoners and nobles.

If Du Dongtu interfered and stood on Lin Xun's side, it would definitely alert the other noble factions. The consequences might become even more serious then.

"Don't think about it anymore. Let's continue our game." Wei Lingzhen smiled and put back the fallen piece.

Du Dongtu's expression fluctuated indeterminately. After a long time, he sighed. "I don't like this."

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Swoosh!

Lin Xun's figure darted through an alley like a phantom. He ran through the rain as the sound of people shouting rang out behind him again and again, indicating that the enemies were fast approaching.

In spite of this, Lin Xun's expression remained coldly calm. His training in Kill Blood Camp had taught him that even the slightest bit of panic could create unforeseeable risk.

He maintained a unique drawn-out breathing rhythm as he sprinted. It was a technique to reduce the consumption of stamina.

Meanwhile, his spirit sense spread outwards like a spider web, alert for any movement nearby.

Swish!

When he passed by a certain low-roof house, his body suddenly stopped as the saber in his hand ruthlessly hacked toward the house's roof.

The roof shattered with a loud bang. The sharp blade pierced through the tiles as a scream abruptly followed. If closely inspected, a figure could be seen hidden in the roof, his finger ready to fire the crossbow in his hands.

However, he no longer had any chance to shoot because Lin Xun's blade apparently grew eyes of its own and accurately cut through his throat.

All of this happened in a split second. After releasing the attack, Lin Xun did not even glance back and continued to sprint away.

Such an ambush was child's play to someone like Lin Xun who had graduated from Blood Kill Camp.