

Prodigies 261

Chapter 261 Ancient Movement

Lin Xun sat silently, while the wonderful scene of the void of the universe and star cycle appeared in his mind. It was the Star Cycle image of the Little Divine Meditation. He wanted to visualize the starry sky to guard and calm his spirit.

Shadows of death constantly collided with one another in his mind, producing dark emotions such as terror, despair and death.

Every shadow of death represented the scenes produced during the battle before his death, the different cultivators, different styles of Star-Gather, and the different feelings of death.

Everything was transformed into inner demon power and repeatedly battered his mind. It was easy to imagine how dangerous and terrifying the situation was.

Ordinary cultivators would have failed to withstand the impact and lost their minds long ago.

Although Lin Xun hadn't fallen to that stage yet, his situation wasn't particularly good and could even be described as precarious.

He seemed to be in a sea of blade and fire. He could only rely on the power of the Little Divine Meditation Art to expel any distracting thoughts and ensure inner demons wouldn't corrode his mind.

However, his mind would collapse sooner or later if he continued to be stuck in such a situation. The inner demons would spread throughout his body and it would be impossible to reverse the situation then.

What should I do?

In Lin Xun's mind-sea, stars were shining upon each other and keeping his consciousness as clear and calm as ice.

He could sense that his mind was on the verge of collapsing. Shadows of death were constantly accumulating, constantly growing stronger, and constantly erupting. They were about to break out of his mind.

If he wanted to change his situation, he had to expel and obliterate all the shadows of death!

"Star Gather...Star-Gather..."

Lin Xun silently thought about the mystery of the Heavenly Yuan Blade Art. He was already certain that he had to have a better grasp of Star-Gather than his opponents if he wanted to obliterate the inner demons!

This was because the inner demons were brought about by his death and his death was caused by Star-Gather. If he could have a better grasp of Star-Gather than his opponents, he would be able to smash each shadow of death and expel the feelings of terror, helplessness and despair. Only then could he eliminate the inner demons!

Soon, Lin Xun gave up on finding a solution from the Heavenly Yuan Blade Art because there were too many mysteries in the secret art and it depended heavily on his understanding and control.

If I can deal with each of the shadows of death one by one and obliterate them individually, perhaps I can solve the disaster. A thought struck Lin Xun and he fell into contemplation.

But this is very dangerous as the slightest mistake could cause the inner demons to completely corrode me and I would be doomed.

But if I don't do this, it's no different to doing nothing.

What to do?

For the first time in his life, Lin Xun was in a dilemma.

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A treasured carriage took advantage of the dim light of night and arrived at Lin Xun's residence. Liu Qingyan stepped off the carriage and asked curiously, "Does Master Xun and Young Master Lin Xun live here?"

"It's hidden in the city. Master Xun is indeed not ordinary. But his apprentice is not a good person."

Granny Feng respected Master Xun after she witnessed him forging a peerless treasure a few days ago.

Liu Qingyan smiled. "Granny, let's go in. I also want to meet Master Xun."

She walked towards the courtyard gate.

However, Granny Feng suddenly narrowed her eyes as she had sensed something. "Miss, wait a minute!"

With a swoosh, she was already standing in front of Liu Qingyan, "There is a murderous intent lingering in the courtyard. Something is wrong."

Liu Qingyan froze.

It was then that Xue Jin appeared outside the courtyard. When he saw Granny Feng and a young woman, he couldn't help but ask with a frown, "Crazy woman, it's already so late, what are you doing here?"

Granny Feng snorted coldly. "You think I want to come here? Right, what's the deal with the murderous aura in the courtyard. Are you fighting someone?"

Xue Jin shook his head but didn't say anything.

Liu Qingyan couldn't help asking, "Granny, you know this elder?"

Granny Feng nodded but did not explain Xue Jin's identity to her. "Xue Jin, we are here tonight to visit Master Xun, please pass on..."

Xue Jin interrupted, "No, Master Xun is not free tonight."

Granny Feng's face darkened. Xue Jin is too rude! Just when she was about to say something, Liu Qingyan had already spoken first, "Elder, is Young Master Lin Xun here?"

"Crazy woman, is this girl Liu Qingyan?"

Granny Feng uttered coldly, "You don't need to know. Just tell us if that little bastard Lin Xun is around."

Xue Jin hesitated for a moment. He didn't want to continue the conversation with Granny Feng at such a time, but he knew that Granny Feng wouldn't leave if he didn't answer her.

Suddenly, a thought struck Xue Jin's mind. "Come with me."

He turned around and guided them into the courtyard.

Granny Feng and Liu Qingyan exchanged a glance with each other before they walked in. As soon as they entered the courtyard, they noticed Lin Xun meditating in a cross-legged position.

"Hey!"

Granny Feng narrowed her eyes. She sensed a raging murderous intent emanating from Lin Xun's body. Something doesn't seem right.

Liu Qingyan also seemed to notice something. Her bright eyes went wide with shock.

"Inner Demons?" asked Granny Feng.

Xue Jin nodded. "Something must have gone wrong while he was cultivating." His voice was low and solemn.

Granny Feng intended to ridicule Lin Xun, but seeing Xue Jin's expression, she immediately knew that the problem was extremely serious.

She restrained herself and said with a frown, "This boy is only at the Human Dipper Stage. He is not qualified to touch upon the profound meaning of the great dao between heaven and earth. Logically speaking, it's almost impossible for inner demons to enter his body. Could there be a problem with the cultivation art he is practicing?"

Xue Jin invited Granny Feng into the courtyard because he wanted to see if she could help Lin Xun. His spirits were instantly lifted when he heard her response. "Crazy woman, you have a solution?"

Granny Feng stepped forward, carefully studied Lin Xun for a long while and in the end shook her head. "No, the inner demon is deep in this kid's body. He is on the verge of collapsing. Even the king of life and death wouldn't be able to do anything now."

Xue Jin's face clouded with disappointment. Then is this kid finished?

"Although one has to eliminate one's inner demons oneself, it doesn't necessarily mean that we can't help." Liu Qingyan, who hadn't said a word, suddenly spoke up. Her bright eyes sparkled with wisdom. She seemed to have thought of a solution.

"How do we help?" Xue Jin exclaimed.

Granny Feng's expression changed. "Miss, given your current cultivation level, you definitely can't use that secret technique!"

Xue Jin was even more certain that the beautiful maiden before him could indeed help Lin Xun!

"Granny, I want to try."

Liu Qingyan bit her cherry-red lips. "If I don't do anything, Young Master Lin Xun's life will end." Her sweet and clear voice filled with determination.

"Miss..."

Granny Feng cried out anxiously, but Xue Jin interrupted, "Crazy woman, how about letting the girl try?"

"What do you know?!" Granny Feng snapped. It seemed as though she would fight him with her life if he dared to say anything more.

However, Liu Qingyan seemed unusually calm. Her words and manner of speech inadvertently contained indescribable majesty and authority, "Granny, I will decide for myself. You don't need to say anything else."

Granny Feng's expression suddenly changed. Only after a long moment did she sigh, "Fine, fine."

Xue Jin breathed a sigh of relief, though he was utterly surprised that the problem that both he and Granny Feng found tricky wasn't a problem to the maiden. This was too unbelievable.

From what Xue Jin knew, Liu Qingyan was ultimately just an art cultivator even if she was well-known throughout the world. She was likely at the Heaven Dipper stage and was still one step away from the Spirit Sea Stage.

Even so, she had a way to help Lin Xun. Who wouldn't be surprised?

Liu Qingyan seated herself on a stone chair in the courtyard, brought out a jade-green flute, put it to her lips and gently blew into it.

An ethereal and mysterious flute sound filled the air like the ancient sounds from ancient times.

Instantly, Xue Jin noticed an indescribable power pervading the courtyard. It was like a lease of life urging the beautiful flowers to bloom. The blades of grass swayed in the night breeze as though cheering.

In the sky, silvery starlight floated down like mist and cloaked the courtyard. It was so ethereal that it felt like an illusion.

Xue Jin was dumbfounded. What kind of music is this?

He felt like his body had become transparent. A gentle power seemed to be caressing his mind, dispelling all distracting thoughts; it became clear and empty.

Granny Feng's expression was extremely complicated as it alternated between nervousness, worry and distress...

The world seemed to have become completely still and silent. The flowers and plants were swaying gracefully in the courtyard and the stars were shining upon the world as the ethereal and melancholic flute sound filled the world.

The maiden on the stone chair was dressed in a plain white dress, her long lavender hair flowing down to her waist. Her bright eyes were calm and without a ripple of emotion as she sat there playing the jade-green bamboo flute. The scene was as beautiful as a painting.

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Lin Xun had finally decided to fight with his all!

He had no time to waste anymore. He had to fight.

In his mind, ice-calm consciousness began to spread, cautiously approaching the inner demons that were constantly clashing and growing stronger in his mind.

If he could isolate a shadow of death and eliminate it, it would be a success. If not, it meant...

His mind would completely collapse!

Therefore, Lin Xun didn't dare to be careless.

However, before his consciousness neared the violent shadows of death, an indescribable ethereal force rushed into his mind.

That's—?

His consciousness suddenly trembled. He was so shocked that he broke out in cold sweat and almost lost control.

However, he was completely stunned the next moment. The shadows of death constantly colliding with one another went still and calm like dormant beasts. They had lost their intense violent tendencies.

Lin Xun realized that his opportunity had come!

Regardless of where the mysterious and ethereal power came from, Lin Xun wouldn't miss such a rare chance

Shua!

A wisp of consciousness sped forward and enveloped a shadow of death!

Chapter 262 Confessed Without Being Pressed

When Lin Xun's consciousness struck like a sharp blade and enveloped a shadow of death, he felt like he had returned to the Hundred Battles Secret Realm.

His opponent was the Snake Spirit Clan cultivator.

He was a snake-headed cultivator with a blood-colored blade in his four arms. He suddenly brought his blade up in a slash...

Star-Gather!

The familiar scene made Lin Xun recall the shock, unwillingness, despair and helplessness when the blade previously killed him.

It was a shadow of death, a residual demonic thought in his mind!

Die!

The Snake Spirit Clan cultivator was charging toward him.

A blade appeared in Lin Xun's grip and his eyes flashed killing intent like lightning. He also charged forward and attacked with Star-Gather.

Boom!

The two clashed, sending a shower of light shooting everywhere.

Lin Xun's figure was annihilated, but that didn't equal death. All those scenes were transformed from a shadow of death and Lin Xun's annihilation only represented the collapse of the wisp of consciousness in his mind.

In short, this was a battle between a shadow of death and Lin Xun's consciousness.

When that wisp of consciousness collapsed, Lin Xun looked exceptionally calm and terrifying. It was as if he was devoid of emotions. He immediately released another wisp of consciousness and fought with another shadow of death.

He had grasped the opportunity that he had been waiting for! Even if he repeatedly failed, given his unmatched spirit power, he could still charge over again and again until all the shadows of death had been obliterated.

This was an extremely unique way of fighting. The real Lin Xun was still sitting cross-legged on the ground and circulating the Little Divine Meditation Art to visualize the star cycles to maintain his consciousness in an absolutely calm state.

All this made Lin Xun's battle against the shadows of death seem illusory and entirely unreal as he was using his battle experience as well as his grasp of Star-Gather in his consciousness to deal with the inner demons lingering in his mind. In truth, the danger was as great as in a real battle or perhaps even more terrifying.

After all, there were too many shadows of death. It was incredibly difficult to single out one of them to attack. If the other shadows of death were alerted and attacked together, the consequences would be disastrous.

However, Lin Xun had no other option; he had to fight all he had.

Die!

A familiar scene appeared once again. The Snake Spirit Clan cultivator came charging toward him in the same way as before.

Lin Xun met him head-on.

Lin Xun continued to fail and his wisps of consciousness were constantly destroyed. It seemed like he had a slim chance of success.

However, every battle deepened his understanding of Star-Gather. His counterattacking power also improved every time!

Battles were undoubtedly the most effective way to hone one's martial arts. This principle also applied to Lin Xun.

Just as Lin Xun had speculated, his opponent's control of Star-Gather and its powers could kill him in the most direct way.

At the same time, it allowed him to fully understand and appreciate the true mystery and power of Star-Gather!

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Failed.

Failed.

Failed.

It was unknown how many times he had failed but his comprehension of Star-Gather deepened every time. Soon, Lin Xun's consciousness suddenly halted.

Time seemed to have stilled and a flash of realization rushed out like a tide. It compelled Lin Xun to make a forward slash with his blade.

The blade slash, skilful and swift, and was almost undetectable.

Boom!

Before the Snake Spirit Clan cultivator could make a move, the blade had already crushed him.

He succeeded!

In other words, Lin Xun had surpassed the Snake Spirit Clan cultivator in terms of control and comprehension of Star-Gather!

However, Lin Xun was neither happy nor sad. He remained incredibly calm, and then, without the slightest hesitation, his consciousness had already begun to envelop the second shadow of death.

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The courtyard was silent and still, and the night darkened.

Hazy, dreamy silver starlight shrouded the courtyard and gentle mist spiraled up. The courtyard looked sacred and ethereal.

The flowers and plants were full of vitality on the ground, swaying harmoniously with the ethereal and melancholic flute sound.

Xue Jin and Granny Feng suddenly narrowed their eyes as they noticed that the murderous aura around Lin Xun had lessened by a third.

Both their faces lit up, knowing that Liu Qingyan's method was indeed effective!

However, when the two looked at Liu Qingyan, their hearts tensed up again.

Although Liu Qingyan's expression remained calm, her brows were knitted together and her stunning face had paled a little.

It was incredibly worrying because the ancient piece of music she was playing was incredibly taxing!

However, Liu Qingyan couldn't stop now. Xue Jin and Granny Feng could only pray that Lin Xun could eliminate the inner demon as soon as possible.

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The battle taking place in his consciousness differed completely from those in reality. The battles between his consciousness and the shadows of death seemed long but they ended in an instant.

As the saying went: the sea turns into the mulberry field with one thought!

After Lin Xun gained experience from killing the first shadow of death, coupled with his improved understanding of Star-Gather, he didn't fail as often. Instead, he won much faster than before.

Every mysterious secret realm cultivator represented by the shadow of death was from a different mysterious clan. Although they all had mastered the Star-Gather move, their styles were completely different.

Just like there were no two identical leaves in the world, the same Star-Gather also produced different powers and styles due to the difference in cultivators' understanding of its essence.

Therefore, Lin Xun's battles with the secret realm cultivators were similar to dealing with different styles of Star-Gather. As he learned their strengths and weaknesses, it steadily improved his mastery of Star-Gather!

Die!

Lin Xun fought faster and faster, and his control of Star-Gather had become more and more skillful. He was able to display its essence and mysteries with great precision.

Additionally, his Star-Gather seemed to have integrated the strengths of the different styles of Star-Gather.

Die!

The shadows of death were constantly being wiped out in his mind. The feelings of fear, death and bitterness contained within them also vanished.

Die!

Soon, Lin Xun was certain that he was no longer in a life-or-death crisis!

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"It lessened again. The kid is getting faster at killing the inner demons!"

In the courtyard, Xue Jin's and Granny Feng's eyes brightened and the worry in their hearts gradually faded.

The inner demons were deep in his body but Lin Xun was able to avert the disaster. It was one of the most dangerous situations in the world, so the two great cultivators couldn't help but feel amazed.

They even reckoned that Lin Xun's cultivation would no doubt undergo an astonishing transformation and his future path would no doubt widen.

Suddenly, Liu Qingyan's forehead wrinkled. She coughed out a mouthful of blood. Her stunningly beautiful face was deathly pale and her bright eyes had dimmed. The ethereal and melancholic flute sound stopped abruptly.

Granny Feng gasped and rushed over towards her. She held onto Liu Qingyan's slender, trembling body and asked in worry, "Miss, are you all right?"

Xue Jin's heart also sank. Liu Qingyan likely couldn't bear the huge consumption of power and had wounded herself!

This was an extremely serious matter in cultivation and it could have irreparable consequences!

"I'm fine."

Liu Qingyan inhaled deeply and wiped the bloodstains from the corners of her lips. She glanced at Lin Xun and asked in worry, "Young Master Lin Xun still hasn't awakened?"

Anger rushed to Granny Feng's face. "Miss, you're still worried about that kid at such a time. This is just...simply...simply..." She was so furious that she couldn't speak.

Liu Qingyan quickly apologized, "Granny, I'm sorry I made you worry. I'm really fine. I just won't be able to mobilize my cultivation for a while."

Naturally, Granny Feng didn't believe her. She circulated her powers and examined Liu Qingyan's entire body. Although her face was still overcast, she was relieved. The injury indeed isn't serious but it will still be a little troublesome to completely recover.

"Hmph, if anything happens to you, that kid will have to pay for it with his life!" Granny Feng uttered coldly.

From their conversation, Xue Jin knew that Liu Qingyan's problem could be solved and that it wasn't irreparable damage. He breathed a sigh of relief. "Right! That kid is so ridiculous. He made other people suffer because of his matters. I will teach him a lesson when he wakes up!"

Xue Jin suddenly turned his head and sneered, "Brat, you're already awake. How long are you going to pretend for?"

"Er..." Lin Xun's eyes were half opened and his face reddened with embarrassment. He had indeed woken up long ago.

Immediately, he rose to his feet, avoiding Granny Feng's murderous gaze at the same time. He stepped forward and said to Liu Qingyan, "Thank you for your help. I will repay you in the future!"

His tone was serious and sincere because he knew that he was only able to successfully obliterate the shadows of death with Liu Qingyan's help. He felt utmost gratitude towards her.

"Young Master, you are too polite. I'm just glad you have awakened. I felt very bad about what happened between you and Huang Jianchen. Just treat this as an apology for last time," Liu Qingyan said softly.

Lin Xun stared at Liu Qingyan with wide eyes. He had never thought that the maiden who was known throughout the empire would be troubled by such a trivial matter.

"Young Master, what's the matter?" Liu Qingyan's pale face flushed. It was the first time that someone was staring at her so closely.

"It's nothing. I was just thinking about how to repay you," Lin Xun withdrew his gaze and explained. He was indeed being truthful and he had never been as serious as he was now.

"You want to repay her? It's very simple—quickly repair the Ancient Law Ocarina!" Granny Feng coldly interjected.

Lin Xun didn't waver in the least. "That's not a problem. Within three days, I promise it will be repaired to how it was originally."

After he said that, he realized that something was wrong. Granny Feng and Liu Qingyan were staring at him in bewilderment.

Xue Jin also donned a strange expression.

"Well..." Lin Xun attempted to explain. "Don't misunderstand. I mean my Master, Master Xun, and not me. But I can guarantee that it will be completely repaired in three days. That's for sure!"

The more he explained, the more he felt like he was digging a hole for himself. Granny Feng's and Liu Qingyan's expressions grew more and more strange.

Chapter 263 Give up again

After a moment of hesitation, Liu Qingyan asked in puzzlement, "You...can repair the Ancient Law Ocarina?"

As Lin Xun looked at her pure and beautiful face, he thought of everything that she had done for him and he didn't have the heart to lie to her anymore.

He nodded. He would feel guilty if he continued to lie.

Granny Feng suddenly grunted and her face grew cold. How dare this bastard deceive us!

"Then...what about Master Xun?" Liu Qingyan couldn't help but ask another question.

Lin Xun stammered, looking a little embarrassed, "Actually, I am Master Xun."

Both Liu Qingyan and Granny Feng looked utterly dumbstruck. Master Xun is Lin Xun?

The answer had completely shocked the two. They had never thought that Lin Xun not only knew how to repair the Ancient Law Ocarina but he was also the so-called Master Xun!

This was too unbelievable.

Who was Master Xun? A mysterious master who was able to forge treasures and was known all over Haze City. But who was Lin Xun? A teenager around fourteen to fifteen years old. It was incredibly hard to connect the two.

After all, who would have imagined that the renowned Master Xun was just a teenager?

“Impossible!” Granny Feng frowned. “How would you, an immature and inexperienced kid, be able to forge such remarkable treasures?!”

Liu Qingyan also found it hard to believe. In her view, the powerful rune masters were all old fellows. Lin Xun is too young. How could he have such remarkable mastery in the art of runes?

Lin Xun was at a loss for words. He had already confessed but they still didn’t believe him. He didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

Granny Feng turned to Xue Jin and asked, “Is this true?”

Xue Jin smiled. “It should be.”

Only after receiving confirmation did Granny Feng and Liu Qingyan believe that Lin Xun wasn’t lying. But they still were baffled as to how he could be Master Xun!

It was hard to connect the two!

“Why did you hide your identity?” Granny Feng stared at Lin Xun like she was looking at a monster.

“I don’t want to be famous.” Lin Xun said helplessly, “After all, I’m too young and it will set off storms if people find out.”

Granny Feng thought about it for a while and understanding dawned on her. If even she was so shocked and couldn’t believe that Lin Xun was Master Xun, what sort of a stir would it cause when other people learned about it?

From what Granny Feng knew, a young rune master with remarkable skills and ability like Lin Xun would no doubt draw the attention of the major forces in the empire. Once his identity was exposed, it would set off countless storms that would be more harmful than beneficial to Lin Xun.

Although she understood, after learning that Lin Xun was able to forge such treasured items in his teens, she couldn’t calm the shock in her heart.

“Young Master, you turned out to be remarkable.” Liu Qingyan’s bright eyes sparkled with curiosity as she looked at Lin Xun. She originally thought that Lin Xun was a remarkable cultivation genius, but who would have thought that he had another more dazzling identity.

What she found unbelievable was that Lin Xun could repair the Ancient Law Ocarina at such a young age. In the entire empire, even the rune masters who lived a quiet secluded life weren’t able to repair it!

“Okay, now that we all know the truth, this matter is over. I will supervise and urge the kid to repair the Ancient Law Ocarina as soon as possible. I guarantee to not disappoint you.” Xue Jin suddenly spoke as he sensed the atmosphere had turned a little strange.

“Yes, it can definitely be finished within three days.” Lin Xun nodded. “Also, please help keep my identity a secret. If this matter gets out...”

Liu Qingyan blinked her eyes and smiled. “Yes, I understand, don’t worry, I know how troubled I was after becoming famous.”

Lin Xun smiled. “I knew that Miss Yan’er is kind and understanding.”

“Hmph!”

Granny Feng couldn't stand it any longer. She shot a glare at Lin Xun and said to Liu Qingyan, “Miss, your injury needs immediate treatment. Now that the matter has been resolved, let’s hurry back.”

Not allowing any refusal, she took Liu Qingyan’s hand and left.

“Young master, sorry to trouble you with the Ancient Law Ocarina. I will come and pick it up in three days.” Liu Qingyan looked helpless as Granny Feng dragged her away.

“Don’t worry, you will be satisfied with the result.” Lin Xun waved his hand.

It wasn’t until Granny Feng and Liu Qingyan disappeared that Xue Jin exclaimed, “I didn't think you were that kind of person. You only just got rid of your inner demons and you are already flirting with girls. You’re sick.”

Lin Xun snapped, “Why does everything that comes from your mouth sound weird? Old Jin, it seems that you don’t understand women at all.”

Xue Jin snorted. “I indeed don’t understand women, but I know that the crazy women will immediately castrate you if you try to win the affection of that girl!”

Then, he turned around, headed to the corner, and fell asleep with a huge wine jar in his arms.*Novelnext.com*

Lin Xun smiled, raised his head, and gazed at the sky. His face was relaxed like he was a survivor of a disaster.

Dawn was breaking, and the thrilling and dangerous night was about to pass...

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Three days later.

Lin Xun had repaired The Ancient Law Ocarina but it wasn’t Liu Qingyan who came to collect it but Granny Feng.

Just as Granny Feng was about to leave, she suddenly asked indifferently, “Do you remember what I said to you after you met Yan’er for the first time?”

Lin Xun smiled. “Of course, I remember.”

How would he forget that Granny Feng had made it very clear that he was not good enough for Liu Qingyan? She also warned him to not have thoughts about her.

In truth, Lin Xun had no intention of pursuing Liu Qingyan. Everything happened only because Granny Feng cared too much about Liu Qingyan.

In Lin Xun's opinion, Liu Qingyan was a very nice girl. She was not only beautiful, smart, and intelligent, but also kind-hearted. She was someone he would be very happy to be friends with.

Lin Xun couldn't say for certain that he wouldn't fall for Liu Qingyan in the future, but, at least for now, he was sure that he had no intention of trying to win her affection.

"I hope you remember it. Before I leave, I want to tell you that, like you, Yan'er doesn't only just have an identity as an art cultivator. She is very special and not everyone can think about her."

Granny Feng gave Lin Xun a deep look, left those parting words, and strode away.

Lin Xun was speechless for a long while. Then, he muttered, "I'm only fifteen years old. Is there a need to be so wary of me?"

At the same time, a tinge of disappointment suddenly rose in his heart. From what Granny Feng said, it seems like she is going to leave with Liu Qingyan today. I wonder when we will be able to see each other next time, or will we ever meet again?"

Lin Xun felt a little regretful. If he knew that would happen, he would have agreed to attend the Stone Cauldron Alms celebration with Chu Feng. It would be a good memory to look back on if he could listen to Liu Qingyan's wonderful singing and music.

"Flying light, flying light, soothes with a glass of wine. How high is the azure sky, and how deep is the amber ground? But only the cold moon and warm sun come to fry life..."

In the courtyard, Xue Jin patted his palms on his legs while drinking. What he was happily reciting in his rough and low voice was precisely the Flying Light Song that had caused a sensation in Haze City.

Lin Xun couldn't help but exclaim, "Good lyrics!"

Xue Jin said casually, "That girl Liu Qingyan sang it."

Lin Xun now regretted even more that he didn't attend the Stone Cauldron Alms celebration in person.

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Another four days passed.

Lin Xun again entered the third level of the Great Azure Cloud Path in the Hundred Battles Secret Realm. It was his second chance and was very precious. But Lin Xun was not as afraid as he was the first time.

On his first attempt, he had fought forty-seven cultivators from different clans in forty-seven battles and had to withdraw due to inner demons entering deep into his mind.

His withdrawal allowed him the chance to face the inner demons and wipe out the forty-seven shadows of death lingering in his mind one by one.

In the end, Lin Xun's mastery of Star-Gather tremendously improved and reached the Precision Realm. He had learned and integrated all the strengths of his opponents and was only one step away from reaching the Perfect Realm!

His mind also underwent a complete transformation. It was no longer as passive and powerless as it was when the inner demons first invaded. This was undoubtedly his most important change.

The third level soon started and the familiar Snake Spirit Clan cultivator was the first to appear. Without any hesitation, he charged toward Lin Xun!

The following battles could only be described as easy as splitting bamboo. One battle after another began and all ended with Lin Xun's victory.

It was only at the forty-eighth battle that Lin Xun met a secret realm cultivator whom he was completely unfamiliar with. The cultivator's Star-Gather style was also unfamiliar to him.

However...

He still won!

His victory wasn't because his opponent wasn't strong but because he had grasped the Star-Gather essence of the forty-seven cultivators he had previously fought and so the power of his Star-Gather was incredible.

As time went by, battles unfolded one by one. Like an invincible general, Lin Xun defeated his opponents time and time again!

However, as the secret realm cultivator Lin Xun faced next was always stronger than the one before, he was under more and more pressure.

At the 90th battle, Lin Xun encountered an extremely tricky opponent and the battle ended in a draw.

However, in the 91st battle, Lin Xun was defeated despite fighting with his all. He was killed on the spot, and once again, he experienced the fear of death.

However, that had little impact on Lin Xun. His mind was no longer as fragile as it was when he first entered the Hundred Battles' secret realm.

Most importantly, even if he failed a battle, he would be able to pass the Hundred Battles secret realm as long as he survived through all one hundred battles!

However, Lin Xun chose to give up again when he reached the 100th battle.

He gave up not because he couldn't bear the attacks of the inner demons but because he remembered that he wouldn't receive a reward if he passed in such a way.

If he wanted to receive a reward, he had to win all one hundred battles!

Lin Xun still had one more attempt to enter the Hundred Battles Secret Realm so he decided to give up his second chance and challenge the Hundred Battles again in hopes of receiving the reward!

Chapter 264 Ancient Priest Cultivator

Huh?

When Lin Xun returned from the Omega Secret Realm, Xue Jin, who was drinking in the courtyard, turned ashen-faced.

He detected a familiar murderous spirit gushing out from Lin Xun's room again!

Don't tell me that kid is possessed by inner demons again?

Xue Jin didn't have time to think. He rushed into Lin Xun's room and his face dramatically changed when he saw Lin Xun sitting cross-legged.

As I thought, he is under the attacks of inner demons again!

Killing intent frantically roamed around Lin Xun's body. His expression alternated between sinister and deranged. It was almost the same as when the inner demons possessed him the last time.

"Damn it, what is this kid doing now!? Hasn't he learned his lesson?!"

Xue Jin was so furious that he almost cursed out loud. Liu Qingyan and Granny Feng had already left. No one could save Lin Xun now.

What to do?

Xue Jin wanted to break open Lin Xun's head and see what he was thinking. The same thing had happened twice, does he want to die?

"Old Jin, I'm fine, please go out first. I can kill the inner demons myself this time," Lin Xun suddenly spoke, his voice incredibly calm.

Xue Jin didn't believe it. He carefully studied Lin Xun and indeed found that the tyrannical murderous spirit was weakening. Only then did he breathe a sigh of relief and leave the room.

As Xue Jin returned to the courtyard, his expression grew strange. He couldn't figure out what sort of secret art Lin Xun was cultivating that could cause inner demons to repeatedly enter his body. It was very abnormal!

However, Xue Jin was most baffled by Lin Xun's unprecedented confidence in facing the inner demons for the second time. Xue Jin couldn't help but suspect that Lin Xun was practicing an art that used inner demons to temper his cultivation.

I can't figure it out!

Xue Jin felt more and more that Lin Xun was abnormal. He's a monster that always does unpredictable things!

Only heavens know how such a person will grow up and who he will become!

Xue Jin didn't know that Chief Instructor Xu Sanqi and Xiaoke from Blood Kill Camp also felt the same way about Lin Xun.

.....

One day later, Lin Xun woke up from his meditation and eliminated the inner demons from his body!

Although there were many inner demons in his mind at that time, they could no longer shake his state of mind. Under those circumstances, every time he expelled a shadow of death, it was similar to a learning experience and he realized more about the mysteries of Star-Gather every time!

Danger and luck went hand in hand; when danger was gone, what remained was luck!

In Xue Jin's view, Lin Xun had gained an incredible opportunity after his two experiences with dealing with inner demons. It allowed Lin Xun to experience the mystery and power of the inner demons and would no doubt be beneficial for his cultivation in the future.

If even inner demons couldn't shake Lin Xun's mind, it was easy to imagine how strong and tough his mind had become.

.....

Another seven days passed.

It was Lin Xun's third attempt in the Hundred Battles secret realm!

Familiar with the process, Lin Xun started the battles without wavering.

He easily defeated all his opponents along the way like he was splitting bamboo.

He hadn't lost once and quickly reached the 99th battle.

Since he hadn't lost once, his body was free of inner demons and his grasp of Star-Gather had reached an unprecedentedly terrifying level!

"The 100th battle is against a human race cultivator!" The familiar cold and emotionless voice rang again, announcing the commencement of the final battle.

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. "Human Race!"

Shua!

A sculpture shattered as a slender figure burst out. It was an impressive- and imposing-looking man. He radiated an ancient aura.

He was clad in a Daoist priest robe from ancient times. He stood barefooted with a long scimitar in his hand and his long hair draped over his shoulders.

His bearing, appearance and mannerism were like those of an ancient priest cultivator from ancient times.

Just as Lin Xun was ready to fight, the ancient cultivator suddenly spoke, "Fellow Daoist, please listen to me first."

This was the first time that someone had talked to Lin Xun in the Omega Secret Realm. He immediately increased his vigilance.

"What is it?" asked Lin Xun as he studied his opponent.

"My name is Wei Mingzi, and I am the 15th generation descendant of the Supreme Immortal Sect. I accidentally entered this place and suffered a calamity. In the end, I lost my cultivation and was sealed here as a wisp of a remnant soul. I'm so happy to meet a fellow Daoist here. I wonder if you can help free me from this place so I will no longer have to suffer like this?" Wei Mingzi explained, his voice filled with melancholy, pain and helplessness.

Lin Xun just nodded, but he was inwardly surprised. Supreme Immortal Sect? What kind of force is that?

From Wei Mingzi's appearance and mannerisms, he has to be an ancient Daoist priest cultivator. And the Supreme Immortal Sect must be a sect in the past.

Wei Mingzi was a little taken aback by Lin Xun's reaction. He took a deep breath and said, "Fellow Daoist, if you help me, I will grant you a supreme opportunity!"

Lin Xun's interest was piqued. "What opportunity?"

Seeing that Lin Xun was tempted, Wei Mingzi said emotionally, "Once you have helped me, you will understand. I swear on my life. If I lie, I will die a tragic death!"

"You're already in a state worse than death. Can your promise be trustworthy?"

Wei Mingzi's lips curved in a bitter smile. "Fellow Daoist, every word I said is true. I will never deceive you."

Lin Xun pondered for a moment and said, "I can promise you, but you'll have to wait until I pass this level."

Wei Mingzi's face lit up at first but his expression dramatically changed when he heard the second half of Lin Xun's sentence. He cried out, "Absolutely not!"

Lin Xun couldn't help feeling suspicious. "Why is that?"

Wei Mingzi's face reddened with hatred and he hissed through gritted teeth, "Fellow Daoist, you might not know but this place is a trap! Any cultivator who enters this place will have their minds controlled and will be manipulated by the master of this place. You will become his puppet and he can control your life and death!"

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes and didn't say anything.

Wei Mingzi frowned. "Fellow Daoist, do you think I am making up lies? To tell you the truth, I also tried to pass this level, but I later found out that everything is a lie. The so-called opportunity and the so-called reward are all lies to use and control us! If you don't obey or try to resist, you will end up like me!"

Lin Xun said in puzzlement, "Fellow Daoist, I have passed several levels but nothing like what you said has ever happened."

Wei Mingzi looked distressed. "Fellow Daoist, why do you not understand? How would there be such opportunities and rewards that you can get your hands on so easily in this world? Once you think you have received a lot, you have already fallen into the trap! Otherwise, why else would I have been trapped here?"

Lin Xun was silent for a moment and then he said, "My views are different from yours. Before I entered this place, I was a piece of trash who couldn't cultivate. It's only because I came here that I can change my fate and step on a new path."

After a pause, he smiled. "As for whether I will be used and manipulated, I'm not worried at all. A Human Dipper cultivator like me has nothing worth being used, right? Also, so what if I am being used? At least it proves that I still have some value. I don't mind paying a price for the rewards."

These were his heartfelt thoughts.

If it weren't for the Omega Secret Realm, how would Lin Xun be where he was?

"You...you..." Wei Mingzi was speechless.

Suddenly, he seemed to notice something, and he said anxiously, "Fellow Daoist, time is running out. I beg you, please help me. When I escape from here, I will fulfill my promise and grant you a supreme opportunity!"

"Fellow Daoist, if even the supreme opportunity can't help you, why do you think I can? Do you think I would believe you?" Lin Xun's jet-black eyes were chilling as he reached the end of his sentence.

Lin Xun didn't believe Wei Mingzi from the start. His appearance was too sudden and too strange, and there were many suspicious points.

Moreover, Lin Xun had reached the final battle of the Hundred Battle Secret Realm. Even if Wei Mingzi was genuine, Lin Xun would still choose to complete the level first instead of helping Wei Mingzi.

"Fellow Daoist, you..."

Wei Mingzi's face contorted in a sinister and ferocious grin as endless killing intent surged out from his body. It was as though he had become a bloodthirsty demon lord.

He roared, "Fellow Daoist, you forced me to do this. If you agreed to help me, you might be able to keep your life. But now, I will not only kill you but also occupy your body, extract all your consciousness, and use them to reborn and leave this damn place!"

His voice was terrifying.

Boom!

His long hair flapped about in the air and he brazenly attacked. The blade in his hand swept across the sky like a river of stars. He also performed the Star-Gather move!

"I knew it would be like this. You were too impatient. If you had waited a little longer, maybe I would have wavered and helped you. It's a shame." Lin Xun smiled coldly. His blade emitted a clear cry and, without any hesitation, it slashed through the air.

He was trying to kill me under the guise of help and then occupy my body for him to be reborn!

Chapter 265 Heavenshaking Ancient Stamp

Lin Xun was under the impression that Wei Mingzi possessed extraordinary combat techniques given his intelligence and wisdom.

It never crossed his mind that he would also perform the Star-Gather!

Then, a flash of realization came to Lin Xun's mind. Regardless of what Wei Mingzi's background is, he is still the 100th opponent in the Hundred Battles Secret Realm and he has to fight according to the rules of the Omega Secret Realm.

In just a split second, Wei Mingzi was slaughtered under Lin Xun's powerful attack. Before he died, he screamed like a madman, "I don't accept it! I don't accept the result—!"

He vanished from the arena in a shower of light.

Lin Xun didn't feel anything as he watched him disappear. As Wei Mingzi has said, he is just a wisp of a remnant soul suppressed and sealed in the secret realm. If he tried to trick me and occupy my body to escape then he deserved to die. Also, isn't death a sort of relief for Wei Mingzi who has been sealed here for who knows how long?

As for the supreme opportunity that Wei Mingzi spoke of, Lin Xun didn't believe it.

Suddenly, Lin Xun noticed an unusual glow where Wei Mingzi had previously stood.

He inched forward and saw a speck of light. It was a snow-white feather around the size of a baby's hand.

As he held it up in his hand, it erupted in a flash of light and vanished from his palm. But the same snow-white feather appeared in his mind.

Lin Xun increased his vigilance. But after cautiously studying for a long while, he couldn't help but scrunch his brows in puzzlement. What exactly is this thing?

Wei Mingzhi must be the one who left this thing. But it has to be extremely unusual if it could appear in my mind-sea.

Lin Xun wasn't the least bit happy to find such a treasure. On the contrary, he was extremely wary knowing that Wei Mingzi was the one who left it.

The only thing that reassured him, for now, was that the feather only emanated a sacred and ethereal aura and hadn't undergone any changes yet.

As the 100th battle came to an end, the arena suspended in space suddenly erupted with a shower of dazzling light. It was like a divine phenomenon.

At the same time, the cold, empty and emotionless voice rang again—

"Dao Seeker, you have successfully passed the level and won all one hundred battles. A reward will be given."

Lin Xun trembled inwardly and his eyes brightened. It's finally here!

Immediately, the rain of light around the arena began to merge to form three incomparably bright floating spheres of light.

“Dao Seeker, you have the opportunity to choose one of these treasures as the reward for passing this level. If you fail to choose within a quarter of an hour, it will be regarded as you giving up on the reward.”

Lin Xun was surprised to hear that there was a time limit!

He didn't dare to waste any time. He hurried forward to carefully examine the three dazzling spheres of light. As he could only choose one of them as a reward, he was particularly cautious.

Inside the first sphere was a pill. It glistened with a purple hue like a gemstone and was shrouded in a hazy mist. There was a hole spewing out black and white qi and producing the roars of a dragon. It seemed particularly mysterious.

When Lin Xun laid eyes on the pill, a description of it appeared in his mind. Yin-Yang Orifice Pill, helps cultivators below the Spirit Sea Stage open up their minds, break cultivation obstacles and raise their cultivation by one level!

Lin Xun trembled inwardly and his face lit up. It can open a cultivator's mind and break obstacles to help break through to the next cultivation level! How can such an amazing pill exist in the world?

As far as Lin Xun knew, no alchemist in the empire could produce such a remarkable pill!

Lin Xun was instantly tempted. He knew that even if he didn't consume it, it could be sold for an earthshaking price that could make the world go crazy.

Drawing a deep breath, Lin Xun tried to move his eyes away from the pill to examine the second sphere of light. Although the Yin-Yang Orifice Pill was extremely mysterious, it had little practical use to him.

He could break through to the next cultivation level at any time and reach the Earth Dipper Stage. He wouldn't have any use for the pill any time soon.

Inside the second sphere of light was a treasured armor. It was entirely silver and inscribed with various mysterious patterns such as clouds, mountains, rivers and auspicious creatures. It emitted a soft, silvery glow and looked extraordinary.

Silver Light Star Suppressing Armor!

It can be equipped by cultivators below the Spirit Sea Stage and it will assist them in their cultivation. It can nourish their spirits and temper their body, blood and qi. It also has an unbelievable defensive power and can withstand the full strength attack of a Spirit Sea cultivator!

Hsssss!

Lin Xun couldn't help inhaling sharply. What a powerful treasure! When equipped, it is not only beneficial to one's cultivation, but one won't need to be afraid of Spirit Sea cultivators!

Most importantly, any cultivators below the Spirit Sea Stage can wear it! Doesn't that mean even ordinary people can enjoy the treasure's mysterious uses?

Lin Xun believed that the treasure would no doubt cause a sensation in the world if it was leaked onto the market. Countless cultivators would fight over it!

Lin Xun was tempted again. He had never thought that the rewards for passing the third level of the Great Azure Cloud Path would be so magical. Both the Yin-Yang Orifice Pill and the Silver Light Star Suppressing armor are peerless treasures!

They can't be found anywhere in the entire empire!

He drew several deep breaths before he turned to the last sphere of light. His eyes brightened once again.

However, he only saw a broken copper fragment floating inside the sphere. It looked simple yet it exuded an extremely terrifying oppressive power! It was as though it wasn't a piece of copper but an unshakable sacred mountain!

Heavenshaking Ancient Stamp Fragment, one of the nine treasures of the great wilderness! It is inscribed with the marvelous secret art, Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art, and it contains unfathomable powers.

Lin Xun was completely shaken. His mind was firmly drawn to the Heavenshaking Ancient Stamp Fragment.

It's this!

The previous two treasures, Yin-Yang Orifice Pill and Silver Light Star Suppressing Armor, both tempted Lin Xun but only the fragment of the Heavenshaking Ancient Stamp set off an instinctive desire from him. Lin Xun instantly knew he wanted the fragment!**Novel****n****Ext.com**

Xue Jin had once remarked that, despite Lin Xun possessing heaven-defying powers among his peers, he only had a few powerful combat arts.

Lin Xun had also thought about the same issue. He was determined to search for a combat art suitable for himself.

The opportunity was right in front of him now!

Even the name Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art suggested that it was a unique secret combat art without the need for a weapon.

The fact that the secret art was stored in the Heavenshaking Ancient Stamp Fragment further implied that it was extraordinary.

Lin Xun would never forget that the description mentioned the Heavenshaking Ancient Stamp was one of the nine treasures of the great wilderness. Although it wasn't clear what the so-called nine treasures of the great wilderness were, it was no doubt an extraordinary item since it appeared in the Omega Secret Realm.

If he possessed a fragment of the Heavenshaking Ancient Stamp, he would undoubtedly have an opportunity to gain insight into the treasure and perhaps find the true Heavenshaking Ancient Stamp!

When Lin Xun made the decision, his vision blurred and everything before him faded like an illusion.

“Dao Seeker, to challenge the fourth level of the Omega Secret Realm you will need to advance to the Spirit Sea Stage first.” As the ice-cold voice reverberated in his mind, Lin Xun’s eyes snapped open. He looked around and found that he was in his own room.

While Lin Xun was in deep thought, he found a piece of rusty, mottled metal lying next to him. The piece of metal seemed to have been split open. It had an irregular shape and was an ordinary gray color.

However, Lin Xun had trouble picking up the piece of metal!

Huh?

Lin Xun was bewildered. He had gathered his strength and was just barely able to lift it. He reckoned that it weighed at least one ton!

It’s only around the size of a coin yet it’s unusually heavy. Lin Xun felt the item was even more mysterious.

There was no doubt that it was a fragment of the Heavenshaking Ancient Stamp!

Lin Xun recalled the description of the treasure, and he burned with excitement. He released a wisp of consciousness to carefully examine the secret art inscribed inside. It was at that moment when his mind-sea throbbed with indescribable pain. It felt as though he was being cut with a saw. He couldn’t help but grunt in agony.

He was horrified to find that the sacred and ethereal feather was undergoing a strange change in his mind-sea. It was shining brightly and releasing a terrifying power.

“Hahaha, fellow Daoist, thank you for your help. To express my gratitude to you, I have decided to grant you a supreme opportunity!”

A burst of loud laughter rang out from the white feather. It sounded delighted and carefree and was precisely Wei Mingzi’s voice.

Lin Xun’s expression abruptly changed. That guy isn’t dead!?

Boom!

His mind-sea tumbled and Wei Mingzi’s figure suddenly emerged from the white feather.

“What opportunity?” Lin Xun tried hard to calm himself.

“Well, didn’t I tell you? Of course it’s your body! It will allow me to ascend to the pinnacle of the Great Dao! Think about it, with my wisdom and soul and your flesh and blood, this world will belong to us in the future!” Wei Mingzi sounded deranged. He had glorified the fact that he wanted to borrow Lin Xun’s body to be reborn!

That guy is indeed not a nice person!

“Hahaha, come on, lend me your body. From now on, I will be you and you will be me. I will help you fulfill all your unfulfilled wishes one by one. Who would grant you such a supreme opportunity in this world?”

Amidst crazy laughter, Wei Mingzi’s soul body erupted in a blaze of golden light. The light completely drowned Lin Xun’s mind-sea. He intended to obliterate Lin Xun’s spirit!

An indescribable painful sensation swept over him like a tidal wave. The pain was so agonizing that it made his vision darken. He almost couldn’t bear the pain. He frantically drew deep breaths and hissed through gritted teeth, “Old thing, it’s too early for you to be this happy!”

Chapter 266 Heavenshaking Punch

As Lin Xun hissed, he was already operating the Little Divine Meditation Art. He visualized the spectacle of the star cycle to calm and guard his spirit!

The grand scene of millions of stars circulating suddenly emerged in his mind-sea. Each star shined brightly, releasing dazzling and pure brilliance.

It was his spirit power! Lin Xun was mobilizing it using the Little Divine Meditation Art!

Suddenly, Wei Mingzi’s triumphant laughing face went stiff and his eyes went wide with disbelief.

He looked like he had seen a ghost.

Trembling, he let out a furious roar, “Little Divine Meditation Art! Damn you! Did you crack the Flowing Light Rune? How is that possible? That thing...that thing is a power that only the divine runewalkers can control! How can you, a trash at the Human Dipper Stage, control it? Impossible!” His voice rose hysterically and was filled with fear.

His illusionary figure madly flickered back and forth in front of Lin Xun as though he was avoiding the dazzling starry light.

Unfortunately for him, the mind-sea belonged to Lin Xun. In other words, Lin Xun was the master. With one thought, a starry river poured down like a waterfall and completely enveloped Wei Mingzi. He couldn't escape or evade.

Trembling like mad, Wei Mingzi screamed in agony. His face contorted with extreme fear and pain. The look of arrogance was completely gone from his face.

He had never imagined that he would encounter a calamity the moment he finally found a chance to escape after being trapped in the Omega Secret realm for endless years. The Little Divine Meditation Art was considered a unique terrifying cultivation art even during his times!

Wei Mingzi wouldn’t be afraid in ordinary times. After all, the Little Divine Meditation Art was a spirit tempering art. However, he was only a wisp of remnant spirit and his weakness was spirit power!

Damn it!

Damn it!

How could this happen?

Is there really no place for I, Wei Mingzi, in the great dao of all heavens?

Rumble—

Starry light engulfed the area like a waterfall, imprisoning Wei Mingzi. He was like a strand of straw in a vast ocean. His illusory figure was dissipating inch by inch.

It was as though Wei Mingzi was a block of ice melting in a sea of fire!

“No—! No—! Fellow Daoist, please have mercy!”

Wei Mingzi was terrified. He had finally escaped after being trapped for endless years, but he was going to die again. He couldn’t accept it.

“Fellow Daoist, don’t kill me. Don’t you want to know why I could survive in the Omega Secret Realm until now?”

“Fellow Daoist, I beg you, I beg you to spare me, I promise to teach you everything I have learned. You will possess the invincible power to reach the top and control the world!”

“Why are you not saying anything? Isn’t that enough? If you let me go, I am willing to serve you. I can go through fire and boiling water for you. I won’t even hesitate to die for you!”

“Fellow Daoist...”

Regardless of how Wei Mingzi begged and screamed, Lin Xun turned a deaf ear and didn’t stop operating the Little Divine Meditation Art.

Wei Mingzi was too deceitful and dangerous. Lin Xun wouldn’t be careless again.

Boom!

In the end, Wei Mingzi’s figure was pulverized and vanished without a trace. His voice filled with fear, panic, bitterness, and despair also faded with it.

Lin Xun still didn’t dare to let his guard down. As he operated the Little Divine Meditation Art, he constantly surveyed the surroundings until he was certain that Wei Mingzi had been obliterated. Only then did he breathe a sigh of relief.

His clothes were already soaked in cold sweat and his heart was still pounding. It was too dangerous. If he hadn’t operated the Little Divine Meditation Art in time, Wei Mingzi likely would have occupied his body and his spirit would no longer exist in the world. He would have become a puppet to help Wei Mingzi’s rebirth!

Thinking of this, Lin Xun remembered that Wei Mingzi recognized the Little Divine Meditation Art and also knew that it was hidden within the Flowing Light Rune!

Wait a moment!

Lin Xun immediately recalled another little detail. Wei Mingzi said that the Flowing Light Rune was a power only divine runewalkers could control!

What are divine runewalkers?

Wei Mingzi seemed extremely shocked to learn that I had solved the Flowing Light Rune. This suggests that divine runewalkers are extraordinary.

Lin Xun had a feeling that divine runewalker was just a title that referred to the powerful figures able to control mysterious rune patterns such as the Flowing Light Rune.

Soon, the scene in his mind-sea drew his attention. Although Wei Mingzi had been erased from his mind-sea, the sacred white feather remained and was floating quietly.

If Lin Xun's guess was right, Wei Mingzi had concealed himself in the feather and was brought out of the Omega Secret Realm by him.

When Lin Xun attempted to further investigate the feather with his perception power, he discovered an invisible force blocking him near the feather.

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. He didn't want to give up and so he tried various methods but still failed in the end. He grew more suspicious. Could the tiny white feather be an unfathomable treasure?

Lin Xun suddenly thought of Wei Mingzi. That guy had been trapped in the Omega Secret Realm for a long, long time, but he could still maintain himself as a wisp of remnant spirit and not be destroyed. Could it be because of the white feather?

Lin Xun pondered but he finally gave up after being unable to reach an answer.

Perhaps one day, when his cultivation level reached a certain terrifying height, he would be able to unravel the true mystery of the white feather.

In Lin Xun's mind-sea, in addition to the mysterious feather was also the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead.

Needless to say, the Omega Door represented the existence of the Omega Secret Realm.

The Heavenly Water Sacred Bead was a sacred treasure of the Water Tribe, one of the nine sub-races of the Magi Brute Race.

However, the bead had fallen into a still state due to its power being exhausted. It had been floating around the Omega Door in his mind-sea since then and Lin Xun hadn't been able to retrieve it.

Lin Xun had attempted to comprehend the secrets of the bead but he found that the inside of the bead was empty and boundless like primal chaos. Even Lin Xun hadn't been able to determine how huge the inside of the bead was or what sort of mysterious power it contained despite his tremendous spirit power.

In the end, Lin Xun had to give up. The bead was of little use to him for now, but it was the supreme sacred treasure of the Water Tribe. It had to contain many wondrous things. Perhaps he could find some answers when he encountered experts of the Water Tribe in the future.

Of course, before that, Lin Xun would never mention the matter to anyone. After all, there was no doubt that the Water Tribe would dispatch countless elite experts to hunt him down if they found out!

.....

As Lin Xun withdrew from the mind-sea, his gaze landed on the fragment of the Heavenshaking Ancient Seal. His heart blazed again.

This was the reward he chose after passing the third level of the Great Azure Cloud Path. He knew nothing about its mysterious origin except that it was closely linked to the Heavenshaking Ancient Seal, one of the so-called nine treasures of the great wilderness.

Most importantly, the fragment was inscribed with a secret art—the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art!

How could a secret combat art that could appear in the Omega Secret Realm and be passed down in such a unique way be something ordinary?

Without any hesitation, Lin Xun released a ray of consciousness and instilled it into the fragment.

Instantly, he seemed to have arrived in an ancient and desolate world surrounded by vast open space and primitive mountains.

The sky seemed to stretch endlessly and a giant sun hung in the sky, illuminating the universe!

Where is this place?

As this question came to Lin Xun's mind, he saw a mighty figure emerge below the sky. It was standing atop a cloud-cloaked mountain peak as its bronze-like body released a terrifying and tyrannical aura.

The mighty figure seemed to be glowing, illuminating the mountains and rivers like a legendary god overlooking the world.

Suddenly, it moved. It balled its hand into a fist, leapt up, and slammed a punch into the vault of heaven!

Kacha!

The vault of heaven shattered like a mirror and collapsed instantly. The punch had smashed a ghastly hole into the vault of heaven and caused terrifying cracks to spread in all directions like a cobweb.

The sky seemed to be collapsing and the scorching sun swayed like it was about to fall.

Rumble—

An earth-shattering explosion echoed throughout the world. The sound waves pulverized the mountains and split the earth. Everything seemed unable to bear the tremendous force!

It was as though the world was a piece of fabric being torn and crushed by the punch!

Terrifying!

Unimaginably terrifying. It was hard to imagine how terrifying the power of the punch had to be to destroy the universe and make all things disappear!

Lin Xun only heard a buzz in his mind like lightning had struck down. Then, all the spectacles vanished before him and a secret art came pouring into his mind.

The Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art!

It was divided into Mountain Smashing Destruction, Sea Splitting Destruction, Emptiness Refining Destruction, Soul Shattering Destruction, Dragon Destruction, Phoenix Destruction, Prison Suppressing Destruction, Sky Devouring Destruction, and All-Spirits Destruction!

There were a total of nine moves in the secret art and each one contained an ultimate power of destruction. It could split mountains and seas, suppress prisons and swallow the sky with its unfathomable power!

The most terrifying thing was that when all nine were mastered to the perfect realm, it was akin to controlling the profound meaning of the Great Dao. The nine moves could be integrated and displayed together.

For example, they could be integrated to form Mountain Smashing-Sea Splitting Destruction, Emptiness Refining-Soul Shattering Destruction, Dragon and Phoenix Destruction or the Prison Suppressing-Sky Devouring Destruction.

All nine could be integrated and evolved into ultimate power and infinite wonders.

Lin Xun was utterly shocked. This art isn't only powerful but mysterious and touches upon the profound meaning of the Dao!

Soon, Lin Xun composed himself. The secrets of the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art had all been printed in his mind, but he knew that he couldn't comprehend and grasp the art overnight.

The combat art was incredibly difficult and complicated, far beyond imaginable. It wouldn't be easy to learn it.

However, Lin Xun wasn't worried about this. He didn't lack time or energy but he did lack a unique secret art such as the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art!

Chapter 267 Exploded into Smithereens

From that day on, besides meditating every day, Lin Xun practiced the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art.

However, the courtyard that Lin Xun resided in was too small and fragile for practicing martial arts. It couldn't withstand the damage from aeth dipper power.

Therefore, Lin Xun had to restrain his aeth dipper power. He could only practice the series of moves of the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art and try to comprehend its essence. He didn't dare to display its power.

Even so, Xue Jin's pupils rapidly shrank and his heart pounded when he saw the cultivation art for the first time.

Naturally, he could tell that Lin Xun was practicing an extremely unique cultivation art. Every stroke and move of the cultivation art seemed peculiar. It was an integration of movement and stillness, gentleness and firmness, yin and yang, and was filled with indescribable grandeur!

This was just the series of moves that made up the cultivation art!

It was hard to imagine what kind of astonishing destructive power it would have when Lin Xun fully displayed the cultivation art in his unique way.

One day, Xue Jin couldn't suppress his curiosity anymore and asked, "What kind of cultivation art is that? Even the phenomenon produced from the moves is already top-class. It is superior to many ancient secret arts passed down in the aristocratic clans. Kid, where did you obtain such a remarkable cultivation art?"

Lin Xun only reported its name—The Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art and made no mention of where he obtained it. He wanted to see if Xue Jin had heard of the art.

Xue Jin was taken aback at first. He knitted his brows in deep thought and shook his head. "I have some knowledge in many of the top-secret arts in the world. For example Xie Yutang's Ruling Sword Art, the Immeasurable Wisdom Art passed down in the imperial family, and the Whirlwind Daoist Scripture of the Qingluo Academy. But I have never heard of an art called the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art among the top ancient inheritance arts or first-class martial arts."

Xue Jin fixed Lin Xun with a piercing stare. "Could it be that you are practicing a unique art unknown to the world?"

A unique art unknown to the world meant that it hadn't appeared in the world in a long, long time. It might have been passed down in ancient times, but it had been lost with time and no one had ever learned it since.

Xue Jin had heard of a similar case. The Thunderbolt of Eight Wasteland that Iron Blood King Ning Bugui practiced was also rumored to be a mysterious cultivation art that he obtained from an ancient secret realm.

Dozens of ancient secret arts comparable to the Thunderbolt of Eight Wasteland were stored in the imperial family's treasury.

"I'm not too sure."

Lin Xun shook his head. He indeed didn't know. He only knew that the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art was inscribed on the Heavenshaking Ancient Stamp and nothing else.

"Oh," Xue Jin said ruminatively.

.....

Time flew by. Lin Xun had grasped the series of moves of all nine forms of the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art. But they were only just the moves. The mysteries they contained were too complicated and tremendous to comprehend in a short time.

That day, after Lin Xun had breakfast, he pushed open the door and walked out of the courtyard.

He had been cultivating at home the past few days and hadn't left the house. He couldn't help but fall into a trance as he wandered the vibrant streets of Haze City again.

Immediately, Lin Xun shook his head and quickened his pace. He didn't leave the house to stroll the streets.

Azure Sea Training Hall.

It was a place for cultivators to hone their skills and techniques and was extremely popular with cultivators.

As the provincial exams neared, Haze City grew more and more busy and lively. Many cultivators qualified to participate in the provincial exams were arriving in the southwest province from different cities.

Many cultivators were making use of their time to raise their strength and hone their martial skills in preparation for the exam.

As a result, the business of Azure Sea Training Hall grew tremendously and an endless stream of cultivators came every day.

When Lin Xun arrived at Azure Sea Training Hall, it was already packed with people. The majority of them were youngsters in their teens and there were women and men.

"The provincial exam starts in half a month. Over five thousand people are rumored to have signed up for the exam!"

"Only one hundred people can pass the provincial exam. Based on that, it means only one in fifty people can pass. The elimination rate is too high!"

"The competition this year is indeed fiercer compared to previous years. I heard that the strongest cultivators of the younger generation in our southwest province are taking the exam. Let alone ordinary cultivators, even top cultivators have a possibility of being eliminated."

"Why are you moaning and sighing? The provincial exam was originally set up to select outstanding and top talents for the empire. Only such people are qualified to represent our southwest province in the empire's national exam!"

"Make the best use of your time to practice. Even if the competition for the provincial exam is fierce, who would want to give up?"

"Yes, it is an exam that can change the fate of descendants of the rich and powerful clans and those from a poor background. Anyone who passes will leap to the dragon's gate and rise to the top!"

There was a clamor of discussions. All the topics centered around the upcoming provincial examination. Only then did it dawn on Lin Xun that the provincial exam would commence in half a month.

It seems like I have to gather some information about the provincial exam and see how many powerful characters will participate in it. Lin Xun contemplated.

Xue Jin had already reminded him that he mustn't underestimate the provincial exam candidates.

Many of the youngsters, who had been selected through the district and prefectural exams, were no doubt unparalleled geniuses. Lin Xun could likely fail the exam if he was careless.

It made sense. The southwest province was huge and over five thousand people were taking the provincial examination! How would there not be fierce and powerful characters among the five thousand specially selected elite and outstanding youngsters?

Lin Xun didn't waste any time. He found an attendant and paid ten gold coins for a secret chamber to train in. It was a room specially arranged for Human Dipper cultivators.

The attendant quickly left. Only Lin Xun and ten copper-skin puppets were left in the secret chamber.

Every one of the copper-skin puppets possessed Human Dipper Stage strength and as well as terrifying defense power. Cultivators could train against the different copper-skin puppets.

Lin Xun thought for a moment and decided to activate all ten copper-skin puppets at once. Given his present cultivation level, he wouldn't take ordinary human dipper cultivators seriously, let alone copper-skin puppets.

Moreover, he came to practice the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art, so he didn't need opponents that matched his strength.

Rumble—

The eyes of the ten copper-skinned puppets suddenly lit up. It was as though they had woken up from the dead. Then, they all charged toward Lin Xun from different directions.

Most astonishingly, the puppets launched extremely powerful attacks and were able to perform various martial arts and combat skills. Besides their lack of intellect, they were no different from true cultivators.

Lin Xun nodded in satisfaction. He felt that the expensive price of ten gold coins wasn't wasted.

Boom!

Suddenly, a copper-skinned puppet erupted in a shaft of rune light and launched an attack right at Lin Xun's throat.

Lin Xun drew a deep breath and mobilized the Aeth Dipper power in his body in a unique way.

He swiftly thrust his palms forward, his fingers glowing a sky blue hue. Immediately, he balled his hands into fists and released the power he had accumulated in the most unbelievable way!

Mountain Smashing!

Boom!

Instantly, the copper-skinned puppet charging toward him exploded to pieces and scattered in the air like dust.

The most astonishing thing was that Lin Xun's power didn't fade and continued to spread across the secret chamber, causing a blast of air to form!

Three copper-skin puppets couldn't evade in time. The large blast of air created from his fists struck them head-on and crushed them with three deafening booms!

They were instantly pulverized!

The terrifying destructive power shook the walls, causing violent vibrations and rumbles.

This was just the power from Mountain Smashing!

Lin Xun stared, dumbstruck at the damage. He was surprised to see that the power of the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art was so terrifying since it was his first time practicing it.

Lin Xun realized that even Huang Jianchen wouldn't be able to withstand that blow!

Most importantly, Lin Xun's comprehension of the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art was at most in the Inkling Realm. He only had some superficial knowledge of the art yet he was already able to display such destructive power. Lin Xun couldn't imagine what sort of terrifying power he could unleash when he fully controlled and comprehended the essence and mystery of the art.

Rumble—

At that moment, the remaining six copper-skinned puppets were charging over. But before Lin Xun could act, the door of the secret chamber slammed open with a bang.

The six copper-skinned puppets immediately froze, standing stiff and motionless. This was because the opening of the door to the secret chamber triggered the mechanism on their bodies. This was a safety mechanism installed to avoid accidents and wounding innocent people.

An attendant rushed in anxiously. "What happened? What happened just now? Young Master, are you injured? Heavens! How...How come there are only six copper-skin puppets left?"

The attendant's eyes went wide. He rushed into the room after being alarmed by the movements and noise but he never expected to see four copper skin puppets destroyed!

"Sorry, I haven't grasped my strength and accidentally destroyed them," Lin Xun apologized in embarrassment.

"De...destroyed? But why does it look like they have vanished?" The attendant looked bewildered. "If they were destroyed, there would be remains but there is no such thing in sight."

"Oh, they're there."

Lin Xun pointed to the powder residues left on the ground.

The attendant followed Lin Xun's finger and, as though lightning had struck him, he inhaled sharply. They exploded into pieces?!

Chapter 268 Cry Without Tears

A single copper-skin puppet was worth eight hundred gold coins. Although costly, it was made from superb materials. Otherwise, it couldn't withstand the damages in a battle.

A puppet specially designed for Human Dipper cultivators to hone their martial arts had the defense to withstand the full strength attack of an Earth Dipper cultivator, so it was incredibly hard to damage it.

Even if it was damaged, a puppet master could easily repair it. It would just cost some money.

However, the four perfect copper skin puppets had been smashed to powder!

They were beyond repairable even for puppet masters!

The attendant's expression dramatically changed, alternating between shock and pain. He wanted to cry but no tears came forth. After a good while, he cast a strange look at Lin Xun. "Young Master, you aren't here to cause trouble right?"

Lin Xun said helplessly, "I didn't know they were so fragile and can't withstand a single attack. If it brings you trouble, I will compensate you for your losses."

The attendant shook his head repeatedly. "No, no, no, you have paid a fee to use the training hall. The Azure Sea Training Hall will cover all the losses."

He suddenly asked, "Young Master, since this happened, how about I change your training room to one specially prepared for Earth Dipper cultivators?"

Lin Xun thought about it and said, "All right."

Immediately, the attendant guided Lin Xun to another secret room, where ten copper skin puppets were set up. Their materials and appearances were visibly superior to the previous puppets.

Clearly, they were puppets with the power of the Earth Dipper Stage!

The attendant left in a hurry after he brought Lin Xun to the room. Then, he went to an incredibly luxurious room.

It was the room of Yin Daxu, the person in charge of the Azure Sea Training Hall. Yin Daxu was leaning back comfortably on a chair and skilfully flicking the beads of the abacus at lightning speed to calculate the earnings of the past few days.

"Boss, a strange thing happened just now..." The attendant reported everything he had witnessed without hiding anything.

Yin Daxu was stunned for a moment and then he sprang up from his seat and fumed, "Did other training halls send that guy here to create trouble?"

He was indeed utterly shocked. Four copper-skin puppets had been smashed to dust. It was too unbelievable that he couldn't help but suspect that one of his competitors had sent someone to cause trouble in his place.

"It doesn't seem like it. The young master is clearly at the Human Dipper Stage," the attendant answered, hesitantly.

Yin Daxu's eyelids twitched and he scolded, "Don't talk nonsense! The puppets are treasures that can withstand the full-strength attack of Earth Dipper cultivators. How can a cultivator of the Human Dipper Stage be able to destroy them?"

The attendant felt wronged. "Boss, it's the truth. I saw it with my own eyes. It won't be wrong."

Yin Daxu hissed through gritted teeth, "With your eyesight, you think you can see through the truth and the false? Where is that kid now?"

The attendant hurriedly answered, "I have already arranged a room with Earth Dipper puppets for him."

"You idiot! If he came to create trouble, you are inviting the wolf into the house! If those earth dipper puppets which are worth thousands of gold coins are destroyed, I'm going to skin you alive!" Yin Daxu stormed out, the corners of his lips twitching.

The attendant shuddered, and he quickly followed him.

When the two arrived at the door to the secret room where Lin Xun was, they heard loud rumbles and swaying.

Yin Daxu turned ashen-faced. Is that something that a Human Dipper cultivator could do? He is clearly here to create trouble!

Without hesitation, he pushed open the door and stormed in.

When he saw the state of the room, he couldn't help but sharply inhale and his face turned overcast.

Copper skin puppets lay in disarray on the ground. The majority of them had broken limbs and piled like rubbish. Not a single one of them had an intact body!

Those were puppets comparable to Earth Dipper cultivators! Each one was worth one thousand gold coins and had the defensive power to withstand the attack of Heavenly Dipper Cultivators!

However, they were all severely damaged!

Yin Daxu only felt his heart throb violently, and he almost spewed blood from fury. Damn it, no way he is a Human Dipper cultivator! He clearly came to cause trouble!

The attendant repeatedly gasped, his eyes wide with shock and disbelief. This is too savage, isn't it?

A secret room prepared for Earth Dipper cultivators had been destroyed by a Human Dipper cultivator!

"Uh, if I said it's an accident, would you believe me?" Lin Xun looked at the attendant and said helplessly.

He had only started to warm up. He never thought that the ten copper-skinned puppets which were comparable to earth dipper cultivators would collapse so easily!

Lin Xun couldn't help but wonder whether they were faulty goods. Otherwise, how would they be destroyed so easily?

The attendant wanted to cry but no tears came forth! Do I believe you? How can I believe you!?

He also began to suspect that Lin Xun deliberately came to cause trouble.

"Damn it! You went too far!"

Suddenly, Yin Daxu snapped awake from his endless rage and unleashed a deafening roar. He cast his eyes toward Lin Xun like a beast.

But when he saw that it was Lin Xun, he froze and he cried out, "Lin Xun! Why...why is it you!?"

"You know me?"

Yin Daxu's face blanched and he curbed his arrogance. He was like an eggplant battered by frost. "Young Master, who in Haze City doesn't know you?"

He recognized Lin Xun because he had watched the duel between Lin Xun and Huang Jianchen.

He would be blind if he didn't recognize Lin Xun, the evil demon.

Yin Daxu drew a deep breath, forcibly suppressing the emotions in his heart. He put on a smiling face and asked respectfully. "Young Master Lin Xun, what brings you here?"

The attendant looked perplexed, not knowing what was going on.

"Of course I'm here to hone my martial arts," Lin Xun said with a smile.

Yin Daxu nodded, ran his eyes across the tragic state in the training room, and finally gritted his teeth. "Young Master, it seems that this secret chamber isn't suitable for you. How about I arrange another one for you that is specially prepared for cultivators in the Heavenly Dipper Stage?"

Lin Xun hesitated. "Is that okay?"

Yin Daxu felt his heart dripping with blood, but he put on a wide smile and said, "Young Master, you don't need to be so polite. It is our honor for you to come to Azure Sea Training Hall."

Seeing Yin Daxu's enthusiasm, Lin Xun flushed with embarrassment and pointed to the damaged copper puppets in the room. "Then these..."

Yin Daxu interrupted, "It's a trivial matter. They can be reused after some repair. Young Master, you don't need to worry about it at all."

Yin Daxu turned to the attendant. "Go, arrange the best training room for Young Master Lin Xun. If you don't do a good job—"

The attendant shuddered and rapidly nodded. Only then did he realize that even if the young man came to cause trouble, they wouldn't dare to anger him!

"Then, thank you!" Lin Xun smiled and gave a cupped fist salute. He had a good impression of Yin Daxu.

"Haha, Young Master, you are too polite. Please, this way please!" Yin Daxu laughed heartily.

Immediately, the attendant guided Lin Xun away.

Yin Daxu stood alone in the room, examining the damaged copper skin puppets on the ground. The smile faded from his face and he felt his heart being ripped apart. He wanted to cry but he couldn't shed a tear. It will likely cost thousands of gold coins to repair them all!

Why? Why did the evil demon Lin Xun come here?

Not long after that, the attendant returned and reported in a low voice, "Boss, that guy has completely destroyed four Human Dipper puppets and damaged ten Earth Dipper puppets. It's such a huge loss...do you not plan to ask for compensation?"

Yin Daxu lashed out with a slap across the attendant's face. "Ask for compensation? Do you know who that kid is? Which powerful force in Haze City would dare to offend him? Our Azure Sea Training Hall is a

property of the Jadelight Pavilion! Have you not heard that the kid had beat up the young master of Jadelight Pavilion and the young master had to act as if nothing happened?”

The attendant was dumbstruck for a moment.

“No wonder, no wonder the kid can destroy Earth Dipper puppets even if he is only at the Human Dipper Stage. He is indeed abnormal but he seems to have a remarkable background. Who would dare to offend someone like him?”

Yin Daxu sighed and trudged out of the room.

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Boom! Boom! Boom!

In a secret chamber specially prepared for Heaven Dipper Stage cultivators, ten puppets simultaneously attacked Lin Xun, causing rumbles and roars.

Lin Xun finally felt the pressure. But rather than being surprised, he was delighted. He practiced each move of the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art and constantly refined his martial arts.

Although he only had a superficial knowledge of the cultivation art, his power was already earthshaking.

Many people’s jaws would drop if they learned that Lin Xun, who was only at the Human Dipper Stage, could fight against ten Heaven Dipper puppets.

It was common to see people fight against opponents of one cultivation stage higher than them, but it was very uncommon to see people fight against opponents two cultivation stages higher!

Lin Xun not only did that but also fought ten opponents at the same time!

This was beyond abnormal.

Of course, his opponents were puppets. Although the puppets were on par with cultivators in terms of strength, they possessed no intellect so there was still a gap between them and true cultivators.

Even so, Lin Xun’s strength was still heaven-defying. Naturally, this was due to his solid cultivation foundation and his grasp of the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art.

His abnormal cultivation base coupled with his abnormal cultivation art produced an unimaginably abnormal power!

While Lin Xun was honing his martial arts, there was a commotion in the main hall of the Azure Sea Training Hall after someone leaked the news that Lin Xun was training his martial arts there.

Chapter 269 Send Away the Evil Demon

“What!? That guy Lin Xun is here?”

“He finally showed himself. Ever since he defeated Huang Jianchen, a descendant of an aristocratic clan from the Forbidden City, he seems to have disappeared into thin air. I never thought that he would show up in the Azure Sea Training Hall today!”

“Given Lin Xun’s strength, he could easily pass the provincial exam without honing his martial arts, isn’t that right?”

“Indeed. Lin Xun is publicly acknowledged as the opponent that the 5,000 provincial exam candidates don’t want to face the most!”

In the main hall of Azure Sea Training Hall, the cultivators broke into an uproar when they learned that Lin Xun was there.

Someone exclaimed with a shocked expression. “I heard from an attendant just now that Lin Xun crushed four Human Dipper puppets and the attendant had to organize a secret chamber specially reserved for Earth Dipper cultivators. Who would have thought that even the puppets in that room were no match for Lin Xun? In addition, those puppets were heavily damaged and Boss Yin Daxu had to invite Lin Xun into a secret chamber usually prepared for Heaven Dipper cultivators.”

Everyone gasped, and their expressions dramatically changed.

“Doesn’t that mean...he already possesses the strength to fight against Heaven Dipper cultivators? How is that possible?” someone cried out.

The others were speechless. They were aware of the duel a few days ago and knew that Lin Xun had remarkable strength superior to his peers. But they had never thought that he would be strong enough to face Heaven Dipper cultivators.

This is too astonishing!

Someone couldn’t help asking, “Is this true?”

“It has to be. The boss of Azure Sea Training Hall saw it with his own eyes and Lin Xun is now training with Heaven Dipper Stage puppets,” someone said confidently.

The atmosphere in the hall turned heavy and solemn. Many of the cultivators present were provincial exam candidates. They couldn’t help but feel weak at the thought that Lin Xun was one of their competitors in the exam, and they secretly prayed that they would never have to face him.

“Hmph, Lin Xun is powerful, but don’t put yourself down. From what I know, there are many fierce characters able to compete with Lin Xun among the cultivators participating in the provincial exam.” Someone snorted, breaking the silence and heavy atmosphere.

Many people snapped awake and nodded repeatedly. Indeed, the provincial exam had been widely talked about in Haze City. Among the exam candidates, besides Lin Xun, there were many outstanding talents of the younger generation that had gathered a lot of attention.

For example, Xue Shaolin, Yu Wenjing, Le Zhiyou and Yun Zitong were known as the four geniuses of Haze Academy. They were considered to be the candidates with the greatest promise of being in the top ten!

In addition to them, some young talents from other cities in the southwest province also possessed astonishing strengths.

“Regardless, I still don’t want to face against Lin Xun. That guy’s strength is so terrifying. He simply isn’t human,” someone sighed and many people nodded in agreement.

They didn’t know how strong Lin Xun was but they were certain that they shouldn’t provoke him since he could defeat Huang Jianchen and could train with Heaven Dipper Stage puppets!

.....

It wasn’t until midnight that Lin Xun emerged from the secret training chamber. Although exhausted, he seemed to be in high spirits.

Through actual combat training, he finally was able to roughly judge how much control he had over the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art and realized the terror of the cultivation art.

If he cultivated it to the highest level, he indeed could smash mountains and split seas, refine emptiness, break souls, swallow the sky and suppress prisons. It wasn’t an exaggeration.

Although the power of the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art that Lin Xun could currently unleash wasn’t as monstrous as the Star-Gather, it was still enough to make many secret cultivation arts dim in comparison!

The Mother-Son Yin Ghost Scripture that Huang Jianchen practiced was unparalleled. It drew amazement from the important figures in the arena and put a lot of pressure on Lin Xun.

However, now that Lin Xun had learnt the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art, he found that the Mother-Son Yin Ghost Scripture was clearly inferior.

There was no competition! Lin Xun concluded that the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art was indeed a top-class secret cultivation art as Xue Jin had said!

Hu—

Lin Xun exhaled a breath of turbid air and strode out of the Azure Sea Training Hall. Along the way, he noticed the cultivators he ran into casting strange looks at him. Their gazes were a mixture of fear, vigilant, and awe!

It was as though Lin Xun was a savage beast. He couldn’t help but scrunch his brows in bewilderment. What is going on?

He still wasn’t aware that he had been acknowledged as the opponent that many cultivators didn’t want to face in the provincial exam!”

“Young Master, Young Master, please wait a minute.”

Suddenly, Boss Yin Daxu hurried toward Lin Xun and donned a humble smile. He handed him a storage bag and said, “This is to express the Azure Sea Training Hall’s appreciation. Young Master, please accept it.”

Lin Xun said in puzzlement, “What is this?”

“It’s nothing special, I just want to express my respect for you. It’s also a little gift from the Azure Sea Training Hall.”

Lin Xun gave a slight smile and said, "I understand, you are driving me away and plan to not let me come in the future, is that right?"

Yin Daxu broke out into sweat and said awkwardly, "Of course not. If you want to come, the door of Azure Sea Training Hall will always open for you."

Lin Xun waved his hand dismissively. "Okay, I understand."

After that, he walked away in large strides.

"Young Master, this sign of gratitude..." Yin Daxu said aloud.

"I appreciate your offer but I won't accept it. Farewell." Lin Xun didn't turn his head around and disappeared through the entrance of Azure Sea Training Hall.

Yin Daxu let out a long sigh of relief, wiped away the beads of cold sweat on his forehead, and lit up with joy. I have finally sent away that evil demon. If he comes again, he will no doubt tear down my training hall.
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"Boss, It's been counted carefully. None of the puppets in the Heaven Dipper chamber have been destroyed," an attendant came over and reported in a whisper.

"Good, that's good..." Yin Daxu relaxed again.

"It's just that although those puppets have not been destroyed, they are quite damaged. Ordinary puppet masters likely can't repair them. I reckon a great puppet master has to be invited to fix them and it will roughly cost at least two thousand gold coins."

Yin Daxu's body stiffened and his face grew overcast. Only after a long while did he gnash his teeth and glare at the attendant. "Can you not say something nice?! Would you suffocate if you don't say it all at once? You—" he roared in fury.

He was so furious that his heart almost bled. Damn it. That evil demon is too vicious. He made the Azure Sea Training Hall lose thousands of gold coins on his first visit.

That's a huge sum of money! It is equivalent to one month's earnings! All of that lost in one day...

Yin Daxu was about to collapse. What did I do? Why did the heavens send that evil demon to torture me?!

.....

As twilight deepened, the sunset suffused the western sky and cast a ruddy glow over half of Haze City.

The streets were still bustling and lively. Lin Xun was about to call a rune shuttle to return home when he caught sight of a familiar figure not far away.

Gu Liang?

Why is he here?

It was Gu Liang. He was enthusiastically explaining something to a young man in white. “Young master, don’t worry, it won’t affect your performance in the provincial exam. It’s just a little request—if you win, can you help promote my shop...”

Before he could finish, the young man in white impatiently shoved Gu Liang away. “Get out of the way. I won’t do something so embarrassing.” He marched away as he was speaking.

“Young Master, is ten gold coins not enough?” Gu Liang shouted.

“Damn it, don’t insult me, I do not need money!” The young man in white’s disdainful voice rang in the distance.

Gu Liang shrugged helplessly.

Suddenly, a figure appeared in front of him. He lifted his head and lit up with joy to see the familiar face of Lin Xun. “Lin Xun, why did you come here?”

Lin Xun briefly explained and couldn’t help but ask, “What are you doing here?”

Gu Liang said helplessly, “What else? Of course to promote Golden Jade Hall.”

It turned out that the business of Golden Jade Hall had been very quiet. In desperation, he had to find a way to promote Golden Jade Hall through the provincial exam.

As long as Golden Jade Hall built up some fame, it would attract a steady stream of customers and the business would no doubt improve steadily.

A flash of realization came to Lin Xun’s face. “No wonder you stopped that guy just now. Turns out you want him to advertise for you during the provincial exam.”

Gu Liang said seriously, “It’s not that simple. The provincial exam has attracted the attention of the entire Haze City. It’s a grand annual event in the entire southwest province. If I can promote Golden Jade Hall during the exam, many people would know about the existence of Golden Jade Hall.”

Lin Xun pondered for a moment and couldn’t help but exclaim, “What a good idea!”

Indeed, as Gu Liang had said, Golden Jade Hall’s name would spread without much effort if it was promoted in the provincial exam.

The strategy was indeed amazing.

However, Gu Liang said with a wry smile, “However, I overlooked one thing. The youngsters who can participate in the provincial exam, regardless of whether they are poor or rich, are all prideful. They won’t cooperate with me as they think it would lower their status and embarrass them. They won’t agree no matter what benefits I offer. I still haven’t found a suitable partner.”

Lin Xun fell silent. This is normal. The cultivators who can participate in the provincial exam aren’t ordinary. They would have a bright future whether they pass the exam or not.

Why would they want to lower their status and help promote a store using their reputation and name?

“Can I do it?” Lin Xun suddenly asked with a smile

Chapter 270 Provincial Exam Begins

“You?”

Gu Liang was taken aback. In truth, Lin Xun was the first person he thought of when he started to promote Golden Jade Hall.

However, he didn’t ask Lin Xun because he felt that Lin Xun had already helped him too much. The extraordinarily rare rune materials Lin Xun left with him were already worth over one hundred thousand gold coins!

How could he be so shameless to ask Lin Xun for more help?

Gu Liang was an extremely proud and respectful young man. He didn’t want to ask Lin Xun for help every time he encountered difficulty. That would make him look too incompetent.

Therefore, when Lin Xun proposed to help, Gu Liang couldn’t help but hesitate. There was no doubt that Lin Xun was the best person to promote Golden Jade Hall. He was well-known in Haze City and would do a better job than any other cultivators.

However, Gu Liang couldn’t answer him.

“Okay, it’s decided then.”

As though Lin Xun had read Gu Liang’s mind, he clapped him on the shoulder and said, “Remember, it’s natural for friends to help each other. Also, I am waiting to make a fortune through Golden Jade Hall. Do you want me to watch my own business lose money?”

Gu Liang smiled bitterly and was about to explain his reason when Lin Xun interrupted him, “Tell me, how do you plan to promote Golden Jade Hall? I’ll just follow what you say when the time comes.”

Gu Liang sighed. “Let’s make it clear. You asked to help.”

Lin Xun chuckled. “Of course, let’s go. Let’s head to Golden Jade Hall and have a good chat. I haven’t seen you in a long time.”

Gu Liang smiled, a warm feeling in his heart. This is the Lin Xun I know!

.....

It wasn’t until late at night that Lin Xun left Golden Jade Hall. He had a long discussion with Gu Liang and finalized a promotion plan.

Gu Liang had a more comprehensive promotion strategy, but there wasn’t enough time to implement it.

Gu Liang’s strategy and ideas amazed Lin Xun. As expected, no wonder he specializes in business. Gu Liang might be inferior to me in terms of cultivation but he is indeed a rare talent in business!

The promotion ideas and strategy that Gu Liang described were already remarkable and broke the normal conventions. It was a promotion strategy unheard of in the empire.

Lin Xun couldn’t wait to see how much attention the Golden Jade Hall would receive when he started to promote it in the provincial exam.

Although it was late at night, Xue Jin wasn't asleep as usual. Instead, he sat drinking alone in the courtyard as though something was on his mind.

Seeing Lin Xun return, he said casually, "The provincial exam is in half a month."

Lin Xun nodded. "I know." Immediately, he sensed that Xue Jin seemed a little distracted.

Lin Xun couldn't help but ask, "Old Jin, is...something on your mind?"

"It's nothing. It's just that I have to leave when the provincial exam is over," Xue Jin said after he took a sip of alcohol.

Lin Xun stood in stunned silence. Before he knew it, he and Xue Jin had been together for more than half a year and it was almost time to part.

A mixture of complicated emotions swirled in his mind.

Xue Jin had helped him a lot during that period and he wouldn't even be able to gain a foothold in Haze City if it wasn't for Xue Jin.

It would be a lie if Lin Xun said he wouldn't miss Xue Jin.

Xue Jin suddenly grinned. "What, are you going to miss me?"

Lin Xun nodded. He wasn't in the mood to joke around. He asked in a serious tone, "Old Jin, where do you plan to go after you leave?"

Xue Jin thought for a moment before he answered, "I should be taking a trip to the turbulent wasteland."

Turbulent Wasteland!

It was the main base of the Darkness Kingdom and where the three great darkness races, the Magi Brute Race, Abyss Demon Spirit and Moon Soul Race, were stationed.

When Lin Xun was in Blood Kill Camp, he had already heard that the Turbulent Wasteland was a territory more vast and more ancient than the empire's territory. Countless darkness races resided there and it was incredibly dangerous.

Although only the Magi Brute Race was considered the true enemy of the empire among them, it alone had caused countless destructive events and bloodbaths in the empire in the past thousands of years!

Even now, the empire still lacked the strength to completely wipe out the Magi Brute Race.

From this, it was easy to imagine how terrifying the Magi Brute Race's foundation was. Moreover, the Turbulent Wasteland consisted not only of the Magi Brute Race but also other darkness races!

Xue Jin could face terrifying danger there!

"Why?" Lin Xun scrunched his brows.

"The empire has gradually grown stronger in recent years and the darkness bastards are getting more and more restless. A war may break out at any time. I am going there to check the situation. I shouldn't encounter any danger," Xue Jin said nonchalantly.

"Do you have to go?" asked Lin Xun.

"Do you remember the words on the stone tablet in front of Blood Kill Camp's entrance? Violet Glory Flower is undefeated because of blood kill and the empire exists forever because of continued expeditions."

He assumed a rare solemn expression. "As a cultivator in the empire, there are certain things that I have to do!"

Lin Xun was inexplicably moved. He thought of Xu Sanqi, Xiaoke, Xiaoman and Old Mo.

"Do you want to drink with me?" said Xue Jin.

"All right!" Lin Xun nodded.

The two didn't say anything else and drank silently.

The night passed, and neither mentioned the matter anymore. They did what they had to do, and it seemed no different from the past.

However, Lin Xun knew that Xue Jin wouldn't stay after the provincial examination.

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Time flew by and the date of the provincial exam drew closer and closer. Haze City was more and more lively and many conversations centered around the provincial examination.

Almost all the inns in the city were full, and the streets were crowded with cultivators from other cities in the southwestern province. Most of them came to watch and some were tasked with an important mission on behalf of their respective clans and family.

The reason was simple. Over 5,000 young cultivators would take the provincial examination after making it through the selection process but only 100 people would pass in the end.

Although thousands of people would fail, those people were still remarkable talents with tremendous potential. If a sect or clan managed to entice them to join, it would no doubt add a new force to their sect or clan.

This was the reason why people repeatedly refused to help Gu Liang promote Golden Jade Hall. The major sects and clans have already had their eyes on the examination candidates, regardless of whether they were wealthy or poor. Given the candidates' bright futures, how would they be enticed by the reward that Gu Liang offered?

In short, the provincial examination was a grand event to select the pillars of talent for the empire. Those fortunate enough to pass the exam would undoubtedly leap to the dragon's gate and rise to the top.

For the major sects and clans, this was a grand event to recruit talents and absolutely shouldn't be missed.

The provincial examination was also a wonderful event for ordinary people in the southwest province. They were able to meet the cultivators of the younger generation and encourage their children to work hard.

The provincial exam was different from the prefectural exam and the district exam. The standards were extremely high and it was second to only the national exams. No cultivators qualified to take the provincial examination were ordinary. Similarly, the examination was destined to be a successful event!

Under the anticipation of the entire city, the day of the provincial examination in the southwestern province of the empire finally came.

On that day, the sky was clear and the breeze was gentle. Just as dawn broke, Haze City was already bustling with excitement. The streets were filled with a tide-like stream of people all moving in the same direction.

It was Haze Academy!

It was the venue of the provincial examination as it had an open space that could accommodate one hundred thousand people.

Every year, in addition to the examination candidates, cultivators with a pass could also enter the venue and watch the examination.

Of course, it was impossible to enter without a pass.

Lin Xun set off early in the morning. But when he arrived at Haze Academy, it was already crowded with people. There were masses of people in every corner. It was a spectacular sight.

Many guards were arranged to stand guard in front of the entrance to the academy. Only those with an examination badge or a pass to watch were allowed to enter. Even so, it didn't affect the spectators' enthusiasm.

The number of spectators present was enough to show the popularity of the event.

Lin Xun didn't hurry inside. He waited for a while and he saw Gu Liang's figure rushing over.

"Look at how lively this place is! If we successfully promote Golden Jade Hall today, it will rise to fame tomorrow!" Gu Liang exclaimed with excitement.

Lin Xun smiled. "Are you ready?"

Gu Liang nodded.

The two lined up to enter Haze Academy.

It was a different scene inside Haze Academy. They didn't see a single ordinary person. All of them were remarkable cultivators.

There was no need to ask for directions. Lin Xun just followed the people in front and soon came to an incredibly vast and spacious field.

In the center of the field stood one hundred arenas, each one around one acre in size. It was a magnificent sight.

The field was surrounded by seats that could accommodate one hundred thousand people. The seats were already occupied by people talking and discussing among themselves.

It was just that those discussions together sounded like rolling thunder reverberating between heaven and the earth.

Lin Xun gasped. Even the venue is spectacular!

Gu Liang's eyes sparkled with excitement as he muttered, "Given your ability and my cooperation, it will be difficult for Golden Jade Hall's fame to not explode!"