

Prodigies 31

[Chapter 31: Changes Constantly Arise](#)

Hu—

Lin Xun's silhouette sped through the morning wind.

In just one month, Lin Xun's thin and frail body had grown much taller and more built. Every part of his body was flowing with energy and vitality.

His young face was no longer pale, and instead was luminous and had a hint of a carefree look.

All his changes were a result of his diligent practice and the daily consumption of the Aeth Refining Decoction and the flesh and blood of snow spotted leopard and one-horned lizard. He felt as though he had thoroughly remolded himself and been reborn. It was like he was a completely different person.

As a cultivator at the third-layer True Martial Stage, he could run like the wind and, with the support of aeth power, travel at full speed for more than an hour without feeling tired.

Basically, he had reached the point where he was as swift as a galloping horse and could leap as high as a leopard!

All cultivators of the Organ Opening Stage were at this point.

Now, a journey that took an hour in the past would only take a quarter of an hour.

The vast ancient sea-like forest once again came into sight. Lin Xun removed the bone bow strung across his back and pulled an ink-colored arrow from his quiver before vanishing into the dark forest.

.....

A moment later.

Bang!

An arrow flew like a lightning bolt, shot into a striped tiger and sent its huge body flying across several feet. Blood splattered everywhere. With a howl of pain, it lost its life.

A figure leaped down from a tree and darted over to the striped tiger's body. He was tall and slim, had sharp facial features, and wielded a huge bone bow. It was Lin Xun.

The bow was constructed from the snow spotted leopard's backbone and the bow string was from the one-horned lizard's tendon. It had been polished and refined for days, making it incredibly tough. It required vast strength from the archer to pull back the bow and aim.

Lin Xun had put a lot of thought into creating the bow. The bowstring had been sharpened for seven days with a mixture of ground Feiyun Fire Copper and various kinds of rune materials. This made it extremely tough and ordinary swords and blades could not cut it.

A powerful bow such as this obviously required special arrows.

The four foot-long arrows in Lin Xun's quiver were all made from the one-horned lizard's leg bones. Each arrow was jet-black and weighed at least three hundred grams. They were not only sharp but also tougher than fine steel.

Due to Lin Xun's weak constitution, Mister Lu had told him that ordinary weapons weren't suitable for him and advised him to choose bow and arrows as weapons.

Archery used strength from the whole body and aimed to kill with one strike. It was ideal for those weak and unable to fight for long in battle.

From then on, Lin Xun began to practice archery and he fell in love with the idea of killing with one hit.

Although his body was now reborn and completely different than before, he didn't plan to abandon his archery skills.

Sometimes using a bow and arrow could make it easier to kill an opponent, such as for long range and surprise attacks. Additionally, he could better protect himself as well as flee easily in unfavorable situations.

In short, although Lin Xun's combat methods were simple, they were extremely comprehensive. He had bows and arrows for long-range attacks and he could use his blade and fist arts for close-range attacks.

However, Lin Xun knew it would be even better if he had learned escaping body arts. Unfortunately, Mister Lu didn't seem to be good at them and so he hadn't taught Lin Xun any.

PU!

Lin Xun pulled the arrow from the striped tiger's body and swiftly covered the tiger's corpse with the prepared rotten fish plant to mask the stench of blood.

Then, he tied the striped tiger's corpse with a long and flexible sorrow ghost vine and hid it in the nearby bushes.

The striped tiger was a savage beast even more powerful than a snow spotted leopard, but it still posed no threat to Lin Xun.

After marking nearby, Lin Xun continued into the depths of the forest.

Soon, the ground quaked and the mountains shook. With a flash, Lin Xun darted up a tree. He quickly drew his bow, ready to shoot.

From the noise it was obvious that a huge creature was heading his way!

As expected, a three-horned bull was charging over, tearing down many ancient trees in its way. It looked extremely fierce and violent.

Lin Xun's chest tightened. 'That beast could kill experts at the fifth-layer True Martial Stage with its incredible strength. It's so bloodthirsty that even tigers and leopards fled at the sight of it!'

But Lin Xun soon noticed something was wrong. The three-horned bull seemed to be terrified and was fleeing in panic.

Lin Xun finally decided to not do anything. The bull was too dangerous for his current cultivation level, so unless he had no choice, he wouldn't want to risk his life.

Fortunately, the bull bolted past and didn't seem to notice Lin Xun hiding on the huge tree. It quickly disappeared without a trace.

Lin Xun continued his exploration in the forest when suddenly, roars rang in every direction.

The roars were all filled with terror as though all the beasts in the forest were startled by something.

Rumble—

The ground violently quaked, the trees shook, and the branches and leaves rattled endlessly. If a person looked down from above, they would see beasts and animals bolting in every area of the forest. The creatures resembled torrents of water as they knocked down and smashed into towering trees along the way.

What had happened?

Lin Xun also realized that the situation didn't look good. He abandoned his hunt and put away his bow and arrow. With a flash, he appeared on the top of the tree canopy and peered into the distance. A battle was happening in a very far place.

A black bear over tens of feet tall roared skywards. Its roar echoed like rumbling thunder. The bear pulverized several ancient trees with one palm strike. It simply possessed earth-shaking power.

Its eyes shined like a pair of lanterns and its fur glowed with dark light. Fiendish qi was madly rushing out from it. Lin Xun felt oppressed even from watching it from a distance.

Barbarian bear!

In the Record of All Spirits, the barbarian bear was said to be an overlord in the mountain and possessed remarkable strength that could devastate mountains and destroy Spirit Dipper experts!

The barbarian bear's opponent was a burly and tall figure that emitted dazzling golden light. Lin Xun couldn't see his face from that distance.

But what made Lin Xun's heart quiver was that the burly figure seemed unafraid of the bear's attacks. He roamed freely in the air and suppressed the barbarian bear with just his fist. It was to the point that the bear couldn't raise its head and could only roar in fury.

A powerful barbarian bear that could destroy Spirit Dipper experts was being completely suppressed by that unknown figure. In fact, that person was maneuvering with ease in the air!

The tall and burly figure had to be a Spirit Sea cultivator!

Only Spirit Sea cultivators had the ability to fly in the air!

Lin Xun's heart quivered with shock. Why would a Spirit Sea cultivator appear in a poor mountain village of the Great Three Thousand Mountains?

Boom!

Before Lin Xun could figure out the reason, he heard a loud thud. The ancient tree he was standing atop was knocked down and made him tumble off the tree.

However, Lin Xun's reaction was undoubtedly quick. He somersaulted in the air, tapped his feet on a branch and landed safely on the ground like a sparrowhawk.

"Huh?!"

Lin Xun noticed a five to six-year-old girl speeding towards him. She wore an animal skin dress and her snow-white feet were bare. Her long black hair billowed behind her as she bolted, highlighting her beautiful and perfect face.

The little girl was visibly surprised to see Lin Xun, She frantically babbled, as if telling Lin Xun to run.

Lin Xun also knew that the situation didn't look good. He nodded and was about to thank her when his vision suddenly blurred. The little girl grabbed him by his lapel as she rushed past.

Lin Xun couldn't help but tremble. A six to seven old little girl who didn't quite reach Lin Xun's chest was able to effortlessly pick him up like a little chick.

But what shocked him the most was that she grabbed him before he could even see what happened let alone dodge!

Hu— Hu—

The sound of the wind rushing past his ears was the only sound he heard. When Lin Xun realized that the little girl seemed to have no bad intentions towards him, he inwardly breathed a sigh of relief. *novelNExt.COM*

Immediately afterwards, he felt waves surging in his heart. 'I am now at the third-layer True Martial Stage yet a little girl could lift me up while running. How much stronger is her cultivation compared to mine?'

Rumble!

Lin Xun couldn't think about it too much because he saw sections of forest collapse one after another and all kinds of beasts fleeing chaotically.

It was indeed best to leave as soon as possible if he wanted to live.

Soon, the little girl rushed out of the forest with Lin Xun. Then, Lin Xun couldn't help asking, "Little girl..."

He abruptly stopped.

A shaft of golden light suddenly streaked across the sky.

Boom!

Almost at the same time, a fist filled with aeth power blasted down from the sky towards the little girl!

As though she was able to predict the future, the little girl swiftly evaded the attack with Lin Xun, leaving the fist to smash a huge pit into the ground.

The terrifying shockwaves from the impact rapidly spread across the area, causing the little girl's slim body to totter side to side until she lost her balance and fell with Lin Xun.

So terrifying!

Lin Xun's pupils shrank, but before he could react, another fist shrouded in dazzling golden light smashed through the air.

One punch followed another. Let alone the fact that Lin Xun only possessed the strength of the third-layer True Martial Stage, even if he was at the Spirit Dipper Stage, he couldn't evade in time.

The attacks were too terrifying and came too suddenly. It was impossible to strike back.

However, at that critical moment, Lin Xun heard a voice explode in his ears. "A mere brute dares to act so arrogantly in the Ziyao Empire's territory!"

Every word echoed like thunder, shaking the world.

Lin Xun felt everything blur before an unparalleled force engulfed him and the little girl. They just barely avoided the terrifying destructive punch and landed ten feet away.

It was then that Lin Xun could clearly see that under the blue sky stood a man clad in a resplendent azure wide-sleeved robe. His hair was tied up in a bun and he hovered gracefully in the air on a blue pine patterned sword.

His ethereal and graceful bearing made him resemble an immortal!

[Chapter 32: Peerless Treasure](#)

Another Spirit Sea cultivator?

Seeing the immortal-like man appear in the sky, gratitude filled Lin Xun's heart.

If the man hadn't rescued them in time, he and the little girl would have been killed.

Lin Xun finally saw who was their attacker.

It was an unusually built man with muscles that emitted a pale golden hue. Every one of his muscles appeared as hard as rocks and was filled with explosive power.

His hair and beard were sharp as a spear and his eyes flashed like lightning. Even just standing there, he exuded an imposing, mountain-like bearing.

When the azure-robed man appeared, the blue pine patterned sword at his feet buzzed and shot into the air with incredible speed.

Shua!

The sword flashed like a rainbow as it slashed down from the sky!

Lin Xun felt stabbing pain in his eyes. The sword qi, as strong as the scorching afternoon sun, seemed capable of wiping out the world.

Almost at the same time, the mighty man acted. With a thunderous roar, he wielded his flaming golden fist through the air

Rumble—

The sky shook and the clouds were torn apart. The impact from the collision of aeth power made the world lose its color.

The collision was too terrifying. Of course, how could the battle between two top Spirit Sea cultivators be trivial?

There was a saying in the Ziyao Empire: once Spirit Sea cultivators acted, the impact of disaster would engulf everyone and bring unimaginable damage!

Even if the battle didn't take place in a populated city, the destructive power was enough to crumble rocks and trees and cause the ground within a radius of hundred meters to crack like a cobweb. The beasts who couldn't escape in time exploded in a rain of blood and flesh.

Lin Xun didn't dare to look at such a horrifying scene. He rolled the little girl under him, shielding her while he circulated all his strength to protect them.

The difference in strength was too tremendous!

Lin Xun was only at the third-layer True Martial Stage. It was difficult for him to even survive the impact from the battle of the Spirit Sea Stage cultivators, let alone escape.

It was as though his life and death were already beyond his control!

Right now, Lin Xun could only pray that the battle would quickly end.

Rumble—

The battle continued fiercely, and the collisions echoed like thunder, quaking the surroundings. Lin Xun felt his eardrums throb with pain as his qi and blood tumbled violently within his body and his spirit shuddered endlessly. He almost coughed up blood from the discomfort.

He didn't dare to think too much. He subconsciously operated the Star Cycle of the Little Divine Meditation Art. Combining his heart and mind into one, he began to visualize the "stars shining and revolving in the sky".

Following that, his spirit no longer throbbed and his consciousness became empty and clear. All negative emotions faded like the tide, disappearing.

Suddenly, Lin Xun realized that the outside world was clearly reflected in his mind even with his eyes closed.

Under the sky, the azure-robed man's sleeve billowed around him as he wielded an ancient blue sword. The sword, fierce and swift as lightning, produced a dragon-like roar as it radiated and filled the sky with terrifying sword qi.

Opposite the azure-robed man stood the mighty burly man, who looked a little discomposd. His rock-like skin was riddled with sword wounds and his muscles were flowing with blood. In particular, his fists were torn open with bone-deep wounds.

Even if the mighty man was covered with wounds, he still looked fearsome and exuded the same murderous aura like he didn't notice the wounds.

"Ruling Sword Art!"

Suddenly, the azure-robed man seemed a little impatient and unleashed a long roar. The ancient azure sword's aura suddenly changed.

Chi!

Like a streak of lightning piercing the darkness, it disappeared in a flash.

This sword was unbelievably fast. Lin Xun failed to even capture a trace of it in his mind!

The mighty man grunted. His arm was slashed off and blood jetted across the sky!

"Ruling Sword Art!"

The azure-robed man's aura grew stronger and stronger. Like a legendary sword immortal, his sword could turn the world upside down!

It was obvious that he wanted to kill the ferocious man.

Li—!

At that critical juncture, a giant bird swooped down and cut the clouds with its blade-like wings.

Its entire body glistened with golden light, as if it was constructed from gold, and its wings spanned over tens of feet.

It rescued the mighty man with unbelievable speed like a bolt of lightning as if it was a mirage!

The sudden change caught the azure-robed man off guard. Just as he was about to give chase, the golden bird had already vanished into the horizon.

"The golden light eagle of darkness!"

The azure-robed man uttered bitterly, "I didn't expect the brute warrior to come from there..."

The battle came to an end.

Lin Xun didn't care about the brute or the golden light eagle, He couldn't help but breathe a long sigh of relief when the battle ended. It was only then that he felt the burning pain on his back. He stroked his back to find blood flowing down rapidly. He was clearly wounded from the battle.

Fortunately, it was just an external wound and no bones were damaged.

He pulled the little girl up and was relieved to see her unwounded.

“Are you two okay?” asked the azure-robed man as he came over. The area was already destroyed with signs of the earth shaking battle everywhere.

Lin Xun hurriedly bowed his thanks. “Thank you, Lord, for your help.”

It was only then that he realized that the azure-robed man was young and handsome. His every movement and gesture exhibited a noble aura.

“I’m glad you two are okay. I didn’t expect there to be brute warriors in the Great Three Thousand Mountains. Could they also be here for the peerless treasure?” The azure-robed man lightly sighed, as if he was mumbling to himself.

Peerless treasure?

Lin Xun was taken aback.

“You two should quickly leave.”

The azure-robed man swept a glance over Lin Xun and the little girl. From their appearance, he guessed they were villagers from the mountains and so he gave up on asking them about the current situation.

“Can we ask for your name? If there’s a chance in the future, I will definitely repay your kindness,” said Lin Xun seriously and with a cupped fist salute.

The azure-robed man looked prideful but he was a good person. At the very least, he had saved their lives. This was a huge debt.

“Repay me?”

The azure-robed man was first taken aback as though he found it very interesting. Then, he shook his head. “You just need to take good care of yourself. As for me...just think of me as a passerby.”

With a flash, he soared into the air, his clothes billowing.

“Passerby?”

Lin Xun’s gratitude intensified. From the man’s words, it was clear that he helped Lin Xun out of good will and he had never expected Lin Xun to repay him.

“What a nice guy,” exclaimed Lin Xun admiringly.

The little girl next to Lin Xun seemed a little strange. She had blankly stood there like a lost soul since the battle had ended. She paid no attention to everything around her and just stared dazedly into the forest. Her stunningly beautiful face was flickering with deep sorrow.

Lin Xun couldn't help but ask softly, “Little girl, did you lose your parents?”

“Yiyi yaya.”

The little girl shook her head while uttering some complicated and incomprehensible sound.*noVelnext.cOm*

Lin Xun was startled. *What language is that?*

Seeing that Lin Xun didn't understand, the little girl bit her lip and sighed. She said nothing else after that.

"By the way, thank you for helping me just now."

Lin Xun remembered how the little girl carried him and fled in the forest. Although he found it strange, he still expressed his gratitude to the little girl.

"Yiyi yaya."

The little girl raised her head and her jet-black, crescent moon-shaped eyes widened. Her expression was extremely blank as though she didn't understand what Lin Xun said.

"Uh..."

Lin Xun scratched his head, muttering to himself, 's this little girl a child of the wild men in the mountains?

He had heard from the villagers of Feiyun Village that in the depths of the Great Three Thousand Mountains were not only all kinds of monsters, demons and beasts, but also many primitive people and savages.

However, the little girl's delicate and beautiful appearance made Lin Xun dispel that thought. How could a savage look so pretty?

Suddenly, the little girl furrowed her eyebrows. Her eyes dropped and everything darkened. Her slender and delicate body fell forward.

Lin Xun subconsciously held the little girl's body. He immediately checked her condition, and seeing that she had just passed out, he inwardly breathed a sigh of relief.

Without further delay, Lin Xun hurried back to Feiyun Village with the little girl on his back.

Along the way, Lin Xun couldn't help but shake his head and sigh as he recalled his experience in the mountains. He was rather speechless. He had just wanted to hunt some beasts for food. Who would have thought that he would suffer a great upheaval.

First, the brute warrior killed a barbarian bear and created chaos amongst the beasts. Then, he witnessed a world-shaking battle between the brute warrior and the azure-robed man and he almost lost his life.

He luckily survived in the end and he saved a little girl who couldn't even speak...

He had to abandon his hunt and take the unconscious little girl back home. He was between laughter and tears at the thought of his encounters.

However, Lin Xun felt it was a lucky coincidence that he had the opportunity to witness a battle between two Spirit Sea cultivators. As a result of this, he realised just how powerful cultivators were and that increased his dedication to cultivation even more.

If he possessed the power to destroy the world, he wouldn't be as helpless as he was today!

I must become stronger! Lin Xun vowed to himself.

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Hundreds of miles away, the azure-robed man took out an exquisite jade edict while flying in the air.

The Heavenly Seer, the empire's stargazing platform, issued the edict more than a month ago, and only the most powerful figures in the Ziyao Empire knew about it and had it.

"A phenomenon will descend upon the Great Three Thousand Mountains in the southwest of the empire. The phenomenon is mysterious and unpredictable. Even with my powers, I can't possibly pry into its mystery. A peerless treasure will likely appear. I hope Your Majesty will treat this matter with caution..."

The azure-robed man recited the edict as a ruminative expression crept into his eyes. "Could the brute warrior have come for it also?"

He couldn't help sighing softly, "But where is the peerless treasure? I have searched the Great Three Thousand Mountains for more than twenty days..."

[Chapter 33: Her Name is Xia Zhi](#)

As Lin Xun arrived at Feiyun Village with the little girl on his back, he saw a group of villagers at the village entrance with anxious expressions.

When they saw Lin Xun return, their faces lit up with joy and they hurried over to welcome him.

Lin Xun then learned from Village Chief Xiao Tianren that the villagers were in a state of terror due to the landslide-like impact from the earthshaking battle that happened dozens of miles away.

Fortunately, it happened far away and didn't affect Feiyun Village too much.

"What happened there?" asked Xiao Tianren worriedly.

"Chaos among beasts."

Lin Xun decided to conceal the truth. A battle between two Spirit Sea cultivators was so shocking that he thought it was better to not let the villagers know about it.

While speaking, a thought struck Lin Xun's mind and he exclaimed, "Village Chief, on my return I saw many beasts dead in the forest. It's an unexpected harvest."

Xiao Tianren's eyes lit up. This was undoubtedly good news! The villagers could fulfil their desire for food if they gathered the beasts' corpses.

Additionally, their fur and bones could be exchanged for considerable money!

Without hesitation, Xiao Tianren hurriedly set off with a dozen strong villagers.

Everyone was so preoccupied that they forgot to ask Lin Xun who was the little girl on his back—

When Lin Xun got home, he carried the little girl to his bed and tucked her in. Then, he prepared a hot towel to clean the dust off her face.

The little girl's smooth, glistening jade-like skin and her stunning yet peaceful face took Lin Xun's breath away.

'Her face...is too beautiful!'

She was only five to six years old, but the beauty of her exquisite facial features was so ethereal. Her beauty was like a delicate lotus flower in the misty rain and it outshone everything in the world.

Even Lin Xun, who had a strong mind, couldn't help feeling astonished. It was only after a good while that he muttered, "She's so beautiful already, what would she look like when she grows up? She will likely become a peerless beauty..."

The little girl seemed very mysterious and didn't seem like a resident of the Ziyao Empire.

This was obvious from her incomprehensible language and her animal skin dress.

Most importantly, even if she was only five to six years old, she concealed an extremely powerful force within her young and slim body.

Lin Xun couldn't forget how the little girl carried him in her arms like a little chick when they were in the forest. At that time, he couldn't even react before he was being dragged away by her.

How could an ordinary little girl do that?

Moreover, although the battle happened abruptly, Lin Xun somehow felt that the brute wasn't trying to kill him but the little girl!

Why would a Spirit Sea cultivator attack a little girl?

This was another mystery that puzzled Lin Xun.

To sum up, the little girl who was sleeping soundly had many secrets!

"Never mind. I shouldn't think about it too much since it has nothing to do with me."

Lin Xun shook his head, turned around and headed into the kitchen.

.....

The little girl had a dream.

In her dream, she was frantically running amidst earth-shattering battle cries and howls of pain.

Her heart was filled with grief, indignation, helplessness and panic.

She didn't know where she was running but she knew that death would take her away if she stopped.

After fleeing in panic for an unknown period of time, the girl sensed something and suddenly turned her head. She saw a scene that almost made her collapse.

A black bear over tens of feet tall suddenly dropped to the ground, and opposite the bear stood a burly man emitting golden light all over his body.

Why?

Why did that happen?

An indescribable pain surged in the little girl's heart and made her wail in grief.

However, she felt a hand wipe her tears, and the warmth of that hand, which felt like her mother's embrace, calmed her terrifying and sad feelings.

She wanted to turn her head to see who it was. *novelnext.com*

But at this time, she woke from her dream.

The little girl opened her eyes and saw a handsome face and a pair of bright eyes filled with empathy and warmth.

She remembered the face and the scent of the person because it had made her spirit feel happy and comfortable.

On the day she killed the lava wolf, she had smelled that scent, but not as clearly as she did now.

"You're awake."

Lin Xun couldn't help smiling when he saw the little girl had awakened. He picked up the bowl of aeth grain and urged, "You should eat something first."

The little girl stared blankly at Lin Xun and then at the steaming-hot and fragrant bowl in his hands. She suddenly felt very hungry.

She got up and slurped down the bowl of aeth grains. In the blink of an eye, it had disappeared into her mouth.

The little girl raised her head, staring at Lin Xun with her bright, jet-black crescent-shaped eyes.

"More?" Lin Xun was a little taken aback, but he then scooped another bowl for her.

The little girl quickly finished another bowl like a whirlwind.

Lin Xun's eyes widened. The little girl is so small but she has such a huge appetite.

But he was glad to see her eating since it indicated that her condition wasn't serious.

Lin Xun brought over the entire pot and the smile on his lips slowly froze as he watched the little girl finish one bowl after another. She eats so well.

It didn't take long for her to devour the entire pot of aeth grains. The little girl licked her lips in satisfaction and babbled something at Lin Xun.

Unable to understand, Lin Xun simply stared at the beautiful little foodie to figure out what she wanted to say from her expression.

"Rest well. You don't need to thank me."

Lin Xun stacked the dishes and walked out of the house. He gazed at the twilight sky and felt a little worried and upset. Who are the little girl's parents? How could they be so cruel to abandon her in the forest?

If she stays with me forever, I definitely won't have enough food to eat—

However, Xiao Tianren soon brought good news to Lin Xun.

Just as night was about to fall, Xiao Tianren and the villagers finally returned with sacks of beasts!

Among them were snow spotted leopards, vined pythons, blood-thorned boars...and even a rare iron-beaked mountain pheasant!

A group of strong villagers, who were drenched in sweat, brought over dozens of beast bodies to Lin Xun's courtyard.

Xiao Tianren was high-spirited and his excitement was evident in his voice. Before Lin Xun asked, he motioned enthusiastically. "Take what you need. We will make another trip before it gets dark. We unexpectedly picked up so much this time. Thank you, heavens!"

Before Lin Xun could say anything, Xiao Tianren happily left with the others. Seeing them rolling up their sleeves, Lin Xun knew they intended to go all out.

Lin Xun dumbly rushed to the door and saw not only Xiao Tianren and the other strong villagers, but also the women and children of the village. They all lifted torches and left the village together in a mighty manner

If Lin Xun didn't need to take care of the little girl, he would have followed them.

Lin Xun returned to his courtyard and was overjoyed to see the pile of beasts that had died in this unexpected disaster. He wouldn't have to worry about food anymore!

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In the next few days, the villagers constantly traveled back and forth between the ancient forest in the mountains and Feiyun Village like they were celebrating a festival. They brought back a lot of prey.

However, the majority of their haul were wild beasts and fierce beasts. There were rarely any savage beasts.

Even so, the beast corpses piled up like a mountain in Lin Xun's courtyard. It was a rather spectacular sight.

Lin Xun had no use for the wild beasts and fierce beasts, so Xiao Tianren distributed them to other households in the village.

Xiao Tianren and the villagers learnt about the little girl living in Lin Xun's house. They didn't say anything but every villager was stunned when they saw her beautifully perfect face.

Xiao Tianren was no exception.

As for the little kids, they went cross eyed when they saw the little girl. They looked silly but extremely funny. They originally planned to play with her, but they all chickened out as though they feared to contaminate her beauty.

Lin Xun found their actions very funny, but his head ached a little. Sometimes it is very hard to approach someone too beautiful.

In the end, Lin Xun asked Aunt Qiao who lived in the village to help create a hooded animal skin cloak for the little girl to cover her flawless face. He felt a lot more at ease after that.

The only thing that puzzled Lin Xun was that the little girl was very withdrawn and she never wanted to socialize with other people except him.

Moreover, Lin Xun noticed that the little girl's seemingly-calm gaze was always detached and indifferent.

The indifference and detachedness only disappeared when she was facing Lin Xun

Why was that?

Lin Xun didn't understand.

However, after a few days, Lin Xun finally learnt the little girl's name—

Xia Zhi.

A very unusual and special name.

He knew nothing about her except for her name. But there was nothing he could do about it since they couldn't communicate.

However, what surprised Lin Xun was that, in just a few days, Xia Zhi had already understood him and even learned to say some simple words and sentences.

Undoubtedly, beneath the little girl's stunning face was a remarkable intelligence and learning ability, which was by no means inferior to her beauty!

Lin Xun was an orphan, and so he treated Xia Zhi, who he thought was as lonely as him, like a little sister.

Another three days passed.

The villagers went to the ancient forest in the mountains and found that there was no longer any prey to pick up. Their sweeping operation finally ended.

The number of beast corpses piled up in Lin Xun's house was close to thirty!

Lin Xun worked very hard in those days. He spent almost all his time dissecting the beast corpses because the corpses would rot. The losses would be huge if that were to occur.

Xia Zhi often quietly sat and watched Lin Xun prepare the beast corpses. It was as though her world only consisted of Lin Xun.

Chapter 34 Storm Descends

Grumble—

In the courtyard, a pile of wood logs was burning furiously, and smoke was billowing upwards from the huge bubbling iron pot set up in the center of the courtyard.

Dozens of materials were boiling in the iron pot, including medicinal herbs and the flesh and blood of different beasts.

It wasn't a decoction but the extraction of rune ink.

Generally speaking, rune masters required a special ink furnace to extract rune ink. Some precious ink furnaces were even engraved with runes, in the same way that aeth tools often had runes engraved on them.

However, Lin Xun wasn't yet able to construct an ink furnace and so he had to use an iron pot to extract rune ink.

The rune ink extracted in such a way would only have ordinary effects and it was sort of wasteful of rune materials, but it could still be used.

Lin Xun was extracting a pot of scarlet fire rune ink.

The formula for extracting scarlet fire rune ink was commonly known. However, if a slightly different combination of rune materials were to be used, it would have extremely different effects.

For example, the violet sun flower, which was used to extract scarlet fire rune ink, had different grades. The three-leaved violet sun flower was the most common and also exhibited the most common effect. The rarest nine-leaf violet sun flower had the most optimum effect.

The scarlet fire rune ink that Lin Xun refined only consisted of various average quality rune materials, but he was still satisfied with the result.

Lin Xun didn't sit and do nothing while the rune ink was being refined. He repeatedly polished a half-a-foot-long purple bone that was around the thickness of a chopstick on a grinder.

The dark purple bone, which had been removed from the leg bone of a savage beast called an ironbeak mountain pheasant, was a precious rune material.

Its value was attributed to the fact it could be made into a brush!

Unlike regular brushes, rune brushes were razor-sharp like blades. A rune brush was an essential tool for engraving runes and thus were also called a rune blade.

The grade of a brush was determined by the quality of the materials it was constructed from. The higher the grade of a brush, the better it could communicate with a rune master's perception and aeth power.

A high-grade brush allowed a rune master to precisely control the rune ink's power when engraving runes and the engraved rune would satisfy a rune master's requirement in density, thickness and straightness.

Ever since the dark gray brush, which Mister Lu left to Lin Xun, had disappeared, Lin Xun had no brush available to practise the art of runes.

Fortunately, among the prey that the villagers collected there happened to be an ironbeak mountain pheasant, whose leg bones were precious brush-making materials.

Chi!

The purple bone produced screeches and sparks as Lin Xun constantly polished it until it faintly took the shape of a brush.

Snow-white beast bones were stacked all over Lin Xun's courtyard and a thousand kilograms of beast meat hung across his walls like a mountain of meat.

Additionally, Lin Xun had categorized the beast skins, tendons, scales, claws, and horns piled them in an orderly manner.

They were all valuable treasures that could be used in medicine decoctions, rune ink extractions or exchanged for other supplies.

This was all the result of Lin Xun's hard work for the past few days.

Xiao Tianren and the others had brought back too much. Nearly thirty savage beast corpses were distributed to Lin Xun.

There were more wild beasts and fierce beasts, but Lin Xun had little use for them and divided them amongst the households in the village.

Therefore, Lin Xun wasn't the only one busy in the past few days. The villagers got up early and slept late to salt and process the beast meat to preserve them for later use.

It was only several days later that Lin Xun had finally finished dissecting all the savage beast corpses, leaving all of the valuable parts.

.....

The smell of blood hung in the air for days, but Lin Xun was wholeheartedly focussed on sharpening the dark purple bone and didn't seem to notice it at all.

After the time to burn an incense had passed.

The rune brush was finally completed. Lin Xun got up to clean the dust off the brush with clear spring water and unveiled the rune brush's true face.

Under the sunlight, the slender and straight brush was entirely dark purple. Its body was heavy and unshowy, while the tip, emitting dazzling light, was as sharp as a blade and as thin as a cicada's wings.

Lin Xun silently held the brush, feeling the wisps of aeth power circulating inside and its subtle changes.

The start of a satisfied smile tugged at one corner of his mouth. The rune brush would be fully completed once he refined it with rune materials using some unique methods.

The iron pot suddenly sizzled and crackled as though it was about to explode.

The rune ink was ready!

Lin Xun couldn't take care of anything else and urgently put out the fire. He waited until the iron pot cooled down before he went over with a clean porcelain bowl.

The pot of rune materials had been refined down to a bowl's worth of an amber-like liquid. The liquid was bright red and translucent and seemed to be burning and producing a refreshing aroma at the same time.

Scarlet fire rune ink!

It looked like an elixir used for cultivation but it wasn't for consumption.

As Lin Xun carefully poured the scarlet fire rune ink into the porcelain bowl, the smile on his lips grew. By night, he would be ready to engrave runes.

Xia Zhi had appeared next to Lin Xun without him realizing earlier. She pointed to the scarlet fire rune ink and asked sweetly. "Can it be eaten?"

But her question made Lin Xun jump and frantically shake his head. "This isn't food, it's poisonous if eaten."

Xia Zhi sighed and stood to one side.

"I'll make you something good tonight."

Lin Xun rubbed Xia Zhi's little head and walked into the house. novelnext.com

Xia Zhi scrunched up her brows, as though she disliked being touched by Lin Xun. She stood there thinking it over and finally decided not to make a fuss about it.

She was indeed very unusual and completely different from the other children. She was extremely quiet and seldom spoke, but she was incredibly intelligent and learned at an astonishing speed.

Lin Xun would talk to Xia Zhi when he was free but he didn't think she would learn the meaning of several phrases and even say some simple words and sentences in just a few days.

For example, "Can I eat this", "I'm not full", "I still want to eat", "Is there anything to eat," and "This tastes good" ...

It was not surprising that Lin Xun regarded Xia Zhi as a beautiful little foodie. All the sentences she had learned involved food.

.....

In the evening, Village Chief Xiao Tianren came to Lin Xun's courtyard.

He seemed to be in a hurry. As soon as he saw Lin Xun, he said directly, "I'm ready. I can set off tomorrow."

Lin Xun smiled, "It's earlier than I expected."

A few days ago, after a long discussion, Lin Xun and Xiao Tianren had decided to move all the villagers to a safe place before Lian Rufeng and his people returned.

This was to ensure the villagers safety.

Although they weren't sure what Lian Rufeng and the others were plotting, they knew it wouldn't be anything good.

"Haha, speaking of it, we were lucky to have that beast calamity. It allowed us to acquire a huge amount of prey, which if preserved, would last the villagers for a period."

Xiao Tianren laughed heartily.

Lin Xun also laughed. "Uncle Xiao, it's decided then. Please take everyone to the abandoned mine tomorrow to hide until I get rid of Lian Rufeng and the others. After that, we won't have any more worries."

Xiao Tianren nodded. Then, he assumed a serious expression and asked, "Lin Xun, it will be dangerous. You could lose your life if you fail. We don't mind just accepting defeat. I doubt Lian Rufeng and the others would kill us all. So long as the mountains remain, there will always be firewood."

"Uncle Xiao, the other villagers might have options to retreat, but if you and I fail, we no doubt would be killed. So, we have to succeed!" stated Lin Xun. His eyes calm and didn't have the slightest hint of a ripple

His voice was resolute.

Xiao Tianren knew that Lian Rufeng had endured him for a long enough time and wouldn't let him live if he had the chance.

He also knew that Lin Xun had no other route to take after killing Lu Ting and Qian Qi. His only option was to kill Lian Rufeng or be killed by Lian Rufeng.

Thinking of that, Xiao Tianren's heart felt heavy and he couldn't help but scrunch his brows in worry. "Then, are you ready?"

Lin Xun nodded. "I have one final step to make first."

Xiao Tianren patted Lin Xun's shoulder and said, "Be careful. If you lose, you must flee. The Great Three Thousand Mountains are very vast. Lian Rufeng can't do anything to you if you manage to run away. Remember, you have to stay alive."

A warmth filled Lin Xun's heart. "Don't worry, Uncle Xiao, I know."

Xiao Tianren gazed at Lin Xun for a good while before he turned away and left.

But he reminded Lin Xun again as he walked out the door, "Remember, staying alive is more important than everything."

His hoarse voice drifted in the air like blood red ink.

Lin Xun smiled, then he turned around and returned to his room. Yes, I can only get revenge if I'm still alive. Everything is over when one dies.

He had understood the meaning behind that statement long ago.

In the early morning of the next day, a group of villagers packed their luggage and left the village under Xiao Tianren's leadership.

They were just ordinary people and not cultivators. They didn't have the strength to fight back against true cultivators and so they would only be a burden to Lin Xun if they stayed in the village.

Standing at the village entrance, Lin Xun silently watched them leave the village. Then, he turned and returned to the cold and empty village, his expression calm as always.

The autumn wind sighed and leaden clouds covered all of the sky, creating an oppressive, suffocating feeling that made it seem like a storm was descending soon.

Although Lian Rufeng and the others hadn't returned, Lin Xun knew they would soon...

"Are you going into battle?"

When Lin Xun returned to his house, he saw Xia Zhi waiting for him at the door.

Lin Xun nodded. He knew that he couldn't hide the truth from her given her intelligence.

"I will help you."

Xia Zhi raised her head, revealing her beautiful face beneath the cloak. Her bright crescent-shaped eyes that resembled black jewels assumed the most serious expression.

Favorite

[Chapter 35: Ambush at the Village Entrance](#)

Rumble!

Under the cloudless sky, a group of people on horses darted at full speed. The ground quaked and clouds of dust and dirt were whirled up into the air.

Two mighty scaled horses headed the group and sitting astride one of them was Lian Rufeng. The other was a thin goateed man in bright silk clothing.

The stranger was dressed in beautiful luxurious clothing and oozed arrogance and superiority; the old man clearly wasn't from the remote mountain village.

A group of dozen guards consisting of those from Feiyun Village and the bodyguards of the old man closely followed Lian Rufeng and the old man.

"Elder Wu, we will reach Feiyun Village in just over an hour."

Lian Rufeng smiled as he spoke, his expression respectful and obsequious.

Elder Wu's full name was Wu Henshui. He was the chief steward of the Wu's Apothecary in the Qingyang Tribe and he possessed a cultivation base of the Big Cycle Stage, the eighth-layer True Martial Stage. He was extremely powerful and fierce.

Even in the Qingyang Tribe where merchants often gathered, Wu Henshui enjoyed a resounding reputation and could be regarded as one of the top influential figures in the Qingyang Tribe.

The Wu's Apothecary was precisely where Lian Rufeng and other village guards traded for supplies in the past years.

It was also through Wu Henshui that Lian Rufeng successfully sent his son Lianfei to cultivate in Donglin City.

To Lian Rufeng, Wu Henshui was a master with extreme intelligence and remarkable abilities. He couldn't help but treat him with respect

Wu Henshui nodded indifferently, and then he suddenly asked, "Have you heard of Blood Essence Sand?"

Taken aback, Lian Rufeng asked in puzzlement, "Is that the name of a medicinal plant?"

Lian Rufeng's ignorance was clearly shown in his one question. Wu Henshui gave Lian Rufeng a sweeping, contemptuous glance and shook his head. The villagers from a mountain village are indeed extremely vulgar and ignorant.

Although Lian Rufeng was a brute, he had sharp insight and he immediately knew that he had embarrassed himself. "I wonder why Elder Wu suddenly mentioned that object?"

Wu Henshui pondered for a moment before he answered, "There's no harm in telling you. I heard that there is an abandoned Feiyun Fire Copper ore vein near your village."

Lian Rufeng nodded. "Correct."

Wu Henshui said, "Then you should know that generally, places with Feiyun Fire Copper attract blood red bats because it provides an ideal environment for them to nest."

Lian Rufeng nodded repeatedly and exclaimed in an ingratiating tone, "Elder Wu is indeed knowledgeable. I remember that there are indeed blood red bats in the abandoned mine. I had always treated it as a forbidden place because I was worried about the dangers I would encounter. I would have forgotten about it if not for your reminder."

Wu Henshui stroked his goatee as he said smugly, "It's a coincidence. I happened to read an ancient book a while back and it recorded that Blood Essence Sand are found in places where blood red bats nest. Blood Essence Sand is valuable. One grain can be exchanged for ten copper coins."

Lian Rufeng immediately flattered Wu Henshui. "Elder Wu's eyes are as illuminating as the brightest torches. A vulgar person like me can't be compared to you. But what sort of wonderful uses does Blood Essence Sand have?"

Pleased with the compliment, Wu Henshui didn't mind giving Lian Rufeng pointers. "It's very precious because it can improve one's blood, essence and body. It can increase a cultivator's chance of breaking through the fifth-layer True Martial Stage by at least twenty percent."

Lian Rufeng's heart violently quivered, "It's that amazing?"

He had stagnated at the fourth-layer True Martial Stage and hadn't been able to make a breakthrough.

If Blood Essence Sand could refine a person's blood and essence, how could Lian Rufeng not be astounded by this fact?

Wu Henshui looked at Lian Rufeng with a ruminative expression and said, "You—you are still lacking."

Lian Rufeng suddenly asked, "Elder Wu, did you come for Blood Essence Sand?"

Wu Henshui nodded. "That's one of the reasons. The other is for the aeth fields near Feiyun Village."

Lian Rufeng smiled and said, "You won't have to worry about that. I have been preparing for a long time. I guarantee that I will complete the task."

Lian Rufeng had been plotting with Wu Henshui to occupy the aeth fields of Feiyun Village!

Given their contributions in that task, Lian Rufeng and his people believed they could establish themselves in the Qingyang Tribe and then carve out a territory in Donglin City through their relationship with Wu Henshui.

As to whether the villagers in Feiyun Village would agree or object, Lian Rufeng didn't care. Why would he care about their opinions more than his future cultivation path?

So what if they objected?

To him, they were just ordinary people and no different than lowly ants.

Wu Henshui said indifferently, "That would be good. When those aeth fields are planted with aeth herbs, it will fetch even more money than they do now, and I won't forget to give you a share then."

Lian Rufeng's face lit up. "I must thank Elder Wu for taking care of me."

While they were talking, the aeth fields came into their sights and the village outline became faintly visible.

Aeth grains were sprouting in the aeth fields. Like green silk fabric, the verdant fields covered the entire area and were extremely pleasing to the eye.

"We've arrived!"

As Lian Rufeng gazed at the familiar village and aeth fields, his heart blazed ferociously. I will be able to continue my grand plans once I complete today's mission.

The guards behind him also couldn't contain their excitement.

"What a waste. Such good aeth fields are just growing aeth grains. Isn't that wasteful for such a good place?" ηοϋεlnext.com

Wu Henshui ran his eyes over the aeth grains sprouting in the aeth fields and he couldn't help but shake his head.

"Elder Wu, are there good and bad aeth fields?" asked Lian Rufeng.

Wu Henshui shot him a look of disdain and said, "How much land is there in the Great Three Thousand Mountains? How much of it could be used as aeth fields?"

He pointed to the aeth fields in the distance and continued, "Take a look, there are strands of aeth veins underneath each aeth field. Otherwise how would there be such rich soil? You country bumpkins really are ignorant."

Even if Lian Rufeng was furious about the insult, he still put on an ingratiating smile. "Elder Wu is right. We are indeed too ignorant."

Wu Henshui snorted. "What arrangements do you have for the residents in your village?"

"If they are willing to help you plant aeth herbs, then that would be best. But if they don't...I have no choice but to kill them!" Lian Rufeng said coldly through gritted teeth.

Wu Henshui nodded. "It's indeed better to keep them alive. We are going to need many people to plant and harvest aeth herbs. I don't want to waste money to purchase another group of slaves."

Lian Rufeng nodded enthusiastically. "Elder Wu is right."

Wu Henshui didn't want to waste time talking nonsense. He commanded, "Go, let's go to the village and take a look."

Suddenly, the group of men on horseback clattered towards Feiyun Village in a blatantly mighty manner, showing their arrogance.

To them, only a group of country bumpkins were living in Feiyun Village. They felt no need to draw up a strategy to deal with such people. They could just storm the village and kill them directly.

Wu Henshui and Lian Rufeng shared the same thought and so did all the other guards.

However, what they didn't expect was that Feiyun Village would be completely different than a few months ago.

Just as they arrived at the village entrance, a sharp ear-piercing screech almost took their souls away.

"This is bad! An ambush!"

Wu Henshui's expression changed ever so slightly as he pulled back the reins and halted the horse.

Lian Rufeng felt a chill in his heart and his hair stood on end. He subconsciously spun around his horse to hide.

Bang!

A beam of sharp black light narrowly brushed past Lian Rufeng's shoulder and pierced into the chest of a guard behind him. Blood wildly gushed in all directions.

It was an arrow fired with incredible speed!

If Lian Rufeng hadn't evaded in time, the arrow could have taken his life.

Lian Rufeng was drenched in cold sweat, but before he could react, the arrow that shot past him into the guard's chest suddenly exploded.

Boom!

Like a thunderstorm, the guard's body exploded into pieces and blood sputtered everywhere. The surrounding guards were so shocked that they couldn't even dodge and were all hit with the gruesome aftermath

"Bastard! Is this what you've been preparing these days?"

Although furious and shocked, Wu Henshui maintained his composure. He somersaulted off his horse and hid behind the horse's butt with a guarded gaze.

"Elder Wu, please calm down."

Lian Rufeng clenched his teeth, his eyes glinted fiercely. He suddenly drew his blade with a slashing stroke and roared, "Don't panic. Everyone, be ready to fight!"

Yong !

Before his voice faded, the familiar whistle rang again. An arrow blasted over from the village like a shooting star.

Boom!

Another guard failed to evade in time. He, together with his horse, exploded into smithereens. His flesh and blood flew all over the place.

Two arrows had taken the lives of two guards in a flash!

The sudden attack threw the guards into chaos. Everyone abandoned their horses and hid far away.

They couldn't locate the enemy's position and only knew that the arrows were fired from the village.

Naturally, Lian Rufeng also saw that. Terrified and irritated, he turned ashen-faced. When did an expert archer come to the village?

An archer who could kill a cultivator wouldn't be an ordinary one!

"Could it be that little bastard Lin Xun? No, it can't be. I told Lu Ting and Qian Qi to watch over the village. That kid should be dead by now... Wait, it can't be!"

Lian Rufeng realized that he hadn't seen Lu Ting and Qian Qi.

"Ridiculous. Quickly charge into the village. Do you want to stay here and act as live targets?"

Wu Henshui had a wealth of combat experience and so he knew that the leveled unsheltered ground they were on was extremely dangerous and that they would be exposed to attacks.

However, he also wouldn't recklessly charge into the village. Just who knew how many masters were lying in ambush?

Lian Rufeng snapped to his senses and thundered, "Brothers, come with me to kill that damn archer!"

As he roared, he bolted into a full speed dash into the village like a panther.

The guards behind him panicked, but they also knew that they could be killed next if they didn't get rid of the enemy.

They summoned up their courage and followed Lian Rufeng.

Yong !

Just as they acted, the familiar screech pierced their ears again like the voice of death from hell!

Chapter 36 Appear and Disappear Like a Ghost

Lian Rufeng subconsciously threw himself to one side, his expression changing dramatically.

Boom!

A jet-black arrow whizzed past. A guard swiftly blocked the arrow with his blade, but the collision between the two led to a tremendous blast.

The guard howled in pain as his entire body exploded into pieces.

Color drained from the faces of Lian Rufeng and the others. The fired arrow wasn't only fast, but also contained unimaginably immense power. It was impossible to block the arrow!

"The enemy is there!" yelled a guard while pointing to a place in the village.

Lian Rufeng instantly spotted the archer. A familiar figure flashed from a stone roof in the village.

Lin Xun?

Lian Rufeng's pupils shrank. Could the archer really be that thirteen-year-old boy?

"Charge!"

There was no time to deliberate. Lian Rufeng roared and led the way into the village.

The village had a very complicated layout as well as many hiding places, making it difficult for archers to fully display their power.

This contrasted with outside the village, where there were few places to conceal and hide. There, a person's location would be easily exposed and be treated as a live target.

The guards all had a great deal of battle experience and so they understood such logic. They didn't hesitate to charge into the village with Lian Rufeng.

Wu Henshui's face turned ashen. He had never imagined such a strong archer would be hiding in a little village.

"Elder Wu, that fired arrow was incredibly powerful and doesn't seem to be an ordinary weapon. If my guess is correct, the arrow is engraved with the explosive flame rune!" exclaimed a middle-aged man.

He was one of Wu Henshui's capable subordinates and was called Han Junshan. He possessed a cultivation base of the fourth-layer True Martial Stage. Most importantly, he was a rune apprentice.

Although Han Junshan had no hope of becoming a rune master due to his poor aptitude, he had practiced the art of runes and could identify them.

Explosive flame rune?

Wu Henshui gasped inwardly and then asked, "You mean there is a rune master in the village?"

Han Junshan shook his head. "There shouldn't be. The explosive flame rune is just a basic rune. I also have the confidence to engrave an explosive flame rune, but..."

"But what?" asked Wu Henshui hurriedly.

"The quality of the rune ink required to engrave the explosive flame rune is very high. Also, the rune is engraved on an arrow. An arrow with the explosive flame rune can be sold for 30 copper coins in Donglin City. I really can't imagine how something so precious can be found in a poor mountain village." Han Junshan frowned in puzzlement.

Wu Henshui's eyelids twitched. "You mean, there is a master in this village?"

Immediately afterwards, he shook his head. "No, if there's a master in the village, there wouldn't be a need to ambush us. The enemy is likely not that strong in combat so he chose to attack in such a way."

Han Junshan nodded, "I think so too. The fired arrows must have exhausted the enemy's strength already. We will win if we seize this opportunity."

Wu Henshui's heart fluttered. "Since that's the case, maybe we can find out where the arrows came from. It might make us a fortune!"

Han Junshan smiled in response. "Correct, who would have thought that this poor village not only has acres of aeth fields but also a place with Blood Essence Sand and treasures such as the explosive flame arrow?"

Wu Henshui inhaled deeply and said coldly, "That's good, when Lian Rufeng and the others get rid of those country bumpkins, everything will belong to us!"

Han Junshan asked, "Elder Wu, should we go help out?"

Wu Henshui sneered. Surveying the village from a distance, he said leisurely, "A rich person does not sit under the eaves. It's better to leave this sort of thing to those country bumpkins."

.....

Feiyun Village wasn't big but the streets were winding and complicated. The houses were disjointed and most were in disrepair.

It indeed wouldn't be easy to spot someone with the intention of hiding. Only Spirit Dipper experts could exercise their powerful power of consciousness to locate any traces. Other people could only search the village with their eyes and ears.

Lin Xun wasn't worried about being found.

He knew that his opponents were all at the True Martial Stage. The reason he moved the villagers away from the village was to take advantage of the village's complicated layout to launch attacks at the enemies.

Moreover, he wouldn't need to worry about Lian Rufeng and the others threatening him with the villagers' lives.

Hu—

Lin Xun panted heavily inside a house. He took out a water sack and gulped down the liquid.

The water sack contained Aeth Refining Liquid, which could rapidly restore one's aeth power. Although he had only fired three arrows, it had consumed more than half of his aeth power.

This huge consumption of power even occurred after he had reached the third layer True Martial Stage. Furthermore, his aeth power had been refined to its peak through the Aeth Power Vortexes. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to fire three arrows in one go.

Feeling his aeth power being restored, he looked calm but he felt a little disappointed.

He had intended to kill Lian Rufeng with that surprise attack but he failed to do so.

Thinking of that, Wu Henshui's figure emerged in Lin Xun's mind. He didn't know who he was, but his intuition told him that he was much more dangerous than Lian Rufeng!

"What would they be after that would make Lian Rufeng bring back a master?"

Lin Xun furrowed his brows. He knew that the matter had become a little troublesome. He originally thought that he only had to deal with Lian Rufeng and the other guards. The unexpected appearance of a dangerous person of unknown background gave him significant pressure.

His aeth power soon returned to normal. Full of energy, Lin Xun felt refreshed. He pushed all distracting thoughts out his mind.

He took off the huge bone bow and changed to the Skybreaker Blade. He drew a deep breath before he sped out the room.

The battle had already begun and the outcome had to be decided. So, Lin Xun couldn't think about other things.

The village had lost its usual peacefulness. Footsteps, cries and roars rang out from time to time. It was obvious that Lian Rufeng and his party were aggressively hunting for Lin Xun.

"I have killed three but there's another twelve. The most dangerous one is the goateed old man. I also shouldn't underestimate Lian Rufeng..."

Sneaking cautiously along the alleys of the village, Lin Xun quickly assessed his situation.

As he came to the corner of an alley, he suddenly halted his footsteps and his eyes glinted coldly. Despite there not being the slightest sound, he sensed danger approaching.

Lin Xun held his breath and swiftly leaned against the corner of the wall, waiting quietly.

Silently, a guard walked along the alley lightly and vigilantly. He tightly clasped a blade in one hand and a shield in the other.

When Lin Xun and his gaze met, the distance between the two was only one meter.

Shua!

A beam of green light flashed. Without any hesitation Lin Xun performed the heavy split of the Six Word Blade. The force of the blade crashed down like a mountain.

The guard rapidly reacted. Instead of retreating, with a loud roar, he simultaneously brought his shield up to block the attack and he thrust out his blade.

Boom!

However, the guard had underestimated Lin Xun's strength. With a resounding boom, his shield shattered and a tremendous force blasted him into the opposite wall. His neck twisted and he slammed into the ground, unable to get up again.

Pu!

Without any hesitation, Lin Xun darted forward and slashed his opponent's throat. Blood jetted out furiously.

But Lin Xun had already ducked down, and like a cheetah, tapped his toes on the ground, turned, and disappeared into the alley.

Lin Xun's opponent was only a second-layer True Martial Stage expert and posed no threat to him. Their sudden fight ended with a clear result.

It was only until after Lin Xun vanished that someone discovered the guard's body on the ground and roared in fury.

Before long, the same scene happened in another corner on the other side of the village. A guard walking cautiously was slashed across his head. He collapsed to the ground without the chance to scream.

Lin Xun disappeared again like a ghost.

A few days ago, Lin Xun had already checked out every corner of Feiyun Village and memorized any place that he could conceal himself in order to cope with such a situation.

Lin Xun was well prepared while Lian Rufeng and the others were caught off guard.

As time passed by, the expressions on the faces of Lian Rufeng and others worsened. Indescribable anger, fear and panic filled their hearts.

First, arrows were fired at them at the entrance of the village, and then, as they entered the village, they were pulled into a real 'street fight'. Regardless of how stupid they were, Lian Rufeng and the others knew that their enemy had everything prepared!

A quarter of an hour later.

"Brother Lian, the villagers aren't here. We can't threaten our opponents with their lives. This is clearly a trap."

One of the guards whispered in panic.

"Nonsense, of course I know that!"

Seeing that only six subordinates were remaining, Lian Rufeng couldn't help but feel irritable. He realized that their situation didn't look good. He immediately gathered the scattered subordinates.

He had never thought he would lose five of his people in just a quarter of an hour. Only seven people were remaining in the village including him.

"Lin Xun!"

Lian Rufeng clenched his teeth in fury. He finally realized that he was only dealing with one opponent, a thirteen-year-old boy!

However...

Lian Rufeng couldn't believe that the boy, who he thought little of, had become another person in just a few months. Lin Xun had turned deceitful and ruthless, and he had gained incredible fighting power.

Obviously, Lin Xun was the reason why Lu Ting and Qian Qi were gone!

"Xiao Tianren, where did you find such a ruthless little thing?"

Lian Rufeng wanted to understand.

Yong !

Suddenly, the familiar and strange whistling sound rang again from a far away place. It came from an object slicing through the air at a high rate of speed.

However, the noise resembled a death knell when it fell in Lian Rufeng's ears. His face blanched as he roared, "It's him again!"

[Chapter 37: Spear Illusion](#)

Although seething, Lian Rufeng and others still had to dodge. They simultaneously moved aside.

Boom!

The arrow was as powerful as a raging waterfall and blasted a hole into the ground. Mud splattered and covered Lian Rufeng and the others with dirt.

"Wang Zhun, Xiao Shi, go ask Elder Wu for backup!" Lian Rufeng roared, his face ferocious. He almost went berserk from rage. At the same time, he was infuriated that Wu Henshui was watching with folded arms.

Your life is precious, but my life is worthless?

What is he waiting for? Why isn't he doing anything? Is he waiting for us all to die?

Wang Zhun and Xiao Shi hurried off knowing the situation was dire.

"Big Brother Lian, what should we do?" asked someone.

Lian Rufeng drew a deep breath and said coldly, "Wait! We can't actively attack anymore. That kid is cunning. He doesn't fight head-on. Only a master like Elder Wu can deal with him." He had decided not to risk his life anymore. Everything would end if his life was gone.

As for what Wu Henshui thought about his decision, he didn't care.

The others secretly breathed a sigh of relief. In truth, they were horrified to see their comrades die one after another.

The atmosphere remained still and heavy as they waited for Wu Henshui to provide backup.

As time passed by, the atmosphere in the village grew bleak. A sudden gust of wind whipped up a pile of fallen leaves and wafted the scent of blood around.

A bad feeling crept up in Lian Rufeng's heart. There were only a few miles between where they were and the village entrance. Normally, it would only take less than a quarter of an hour to cross that distance.

However, he still hadn't heard anything!

Could something bad have happened?

As that thought flashed across Lian Rufeng's mind, his chest tightened and indescribable panic filled his heart.

"Let's go. Let's go take a look!" Lian Rufeng gritted his teeth and left with the remaining guards. He couldn't sit and wait anymore.

This village that he was incredibly familiar with seemed so strange and eerie, like the land of the dead. It was bone-chilling.

Soon, Lian Rufeng and the others halted before an alley. In the shadows of the alley lay two dead bodies. One's chest was torn open and blood wildly gushed out. The other's throat was crushed, neck twisted, and the head was limp.

It was Wang Zhun and Xiao Shi, the two he sent to ask for backup.

Lian Rufeng and others felt their hearts shivering, as though they had fallen into an ice cave. Another two had died!

"Run!"

Unable to take the shock, one of the guards roared like crazy and bolted out of the village.

"Come back!"

Lian Rufeng thundered, his face livid.

But he was one step too late. With a boom, an arrow shot out from the leaves of a locust tree and killed the guard in a split second!

Another comrade had died in front of him less than ten feet away.

Lian Rufeng was so furious that his eyes almost cracked. He has gone too far!

"Kill! Kill that little bastard!"

Roaring like a madman, Lian Rufeng charged towards the locust tree. He had caught a glimpse of Lin Xun's figure.

"Go!"

The remaining three guards hesitated but in the end they gritted their teeth and followed him.

.....

"Too careless."

At the village entrance, Wu Henshui and Han Junshan strolled forward side by side and spotted several corpses along the way. Given the two's combat experience, they could tell from the wounds on the corpses that their enemy wasn't as ordinary as they thought.

"They really are too careless. The enemy is clearly well-prepared and used the village's layout to his advantage to launch several sneak attacks...The enemy wouldn't need to face Lian Rufeng and the others head-on. That is undoubtedly the best tactic."

"I didn't expect to find such a fierce and cunning person in this poor village," remarked Han Junshan.

"But no matter what, the enemy is alone. I'm curious to see what our enemy is like and to see who would have such a strategic, ruthless and meticulous mind. In my opinion, the enemy won't be stronger than the fifth-layer True Martial Stage. Otherwise, the enemy would have killed Lian Rufeng first and not dragged the battle out till now."

Wu Henshui wore a calm and indifferent expression as he strolled along the village. He appeared extremely relaxed but his tensed shoulders, lightning bright eyes and his controlled breathing indicated he was prepared for battle.

"Elder Wu, we might suffer heavy losses this time," said Han Junshan, scrunching his brows.

"You are overthinking. I won't let an enemy like that escape unscathed. If we let the enemy live, I won't be able to sleep well in the future," said Wu Henshui, indifferently.

Han Junshan nodded. "Absolutely."

Wu Henshui suddenly lifted his head, his gaze razor-sharp like an eagle's. He pointed to the distance. "The enemy is there."

Clang!

Han Junshan drew a giant black sword and murderous intent saturated the air.

Wu Henshui sighed, "I have rarely needed to take care of something myself after reaching the eighth-layer True Martial Stage and becoming the chief steward of the Wu's Apothecary in Qingyang Tribe. I hope the opponent won't disappoint me by being too weak."

Han Junshan said with a smile. "Elder Wu, leave it to me. It is not worth dirtying your hands for such an opponent."

Wu Henshui glanced at him and said, "Okay."

From their conversation, it was clear that they were extremely confident and they attached no importance to Lin Xun.

It was understandable that they were so prideful. One was at the eighth-layer True Martial Stage and the other was at the fourth-layer True Martial Stage. Moreover, they had practiced arts that villagers such as Lian Rufeng could never imagine.

For that reason, they believed that they could easily deal with an enemy below the fifth-layer True Martial Stage. The enemy was on a road that led to death regardless of how much cunning and intelligence that person had.

However, just as the two were about to act, they saw a young and dainty figure appear dozens of meters away.

The figure wore a black animal-skin cloak and a hood covered their face. Only a part of the figure's fair and delicate chin was exposed. Her skin was glistening and smooth, which looked extremely striking in contrast with the black cloak.

The figure was clearly a young girl, but when she stood in the middle of the alley, Wu Henshui and Han Junshan both shuddered with terror.

When they saw the little girl's long, white spear emitting an eerie glow, the expressions of the two changed dramatically.

An aeth tool!

Why did it seem like the bone spear was emitting an aura that was too strong and powerful to be that of an ordinary tool?

Could the little girl be a Spirit Dipper cultivator?

Wu Henshui and Han Junshan couldn't believe it. How could a little girl possess such a cultivation base?

Perhaps the aeth tool didn't belong to her?

Wu Henshui's heart trembled and his eyes blazed.

The little girl simply stood there. Her slim body basking in the blood-red rays of twilight added a hint of mystery to her.

She didn't move.

Wu Henshui and Han Junshan knew she came to stop them.

"Go and test the little girl's strength."

Wu Henshui signaled to Han Junshan with his eyes. It clearly was too abnormal that a strange little girl wielding an aeth tool would suddenly appear.

Out of caution, Wu Henshui chose to wait and watch.

"Little girl, quickly move aside!"

Han Junshan wasn't an idiot either. He knew the situation was strange and so he first tried to talk to the little girl.

The little girl shook her head and didn't say anything.

Han Junshan's heart sank. The little girl indeed came to stop them. A hint of nervousness inexplicably flashed across his eyes.

He couldn't tell why he would be so wary of a child, but his years of experience in battle told him that it was absolutely right to be cautious of her.

"If you don't move aside, don't blame me for killing you!"

Han Junshan revealed his killing intent through his razor-sharp eyes. Wielding a giant black sword, he stepped forward, his bearing as imposing as a mountain.

He was a master of the fourth-layer True Martial Stage, the Orifice Unlocking Stage. When his qi passed through his acupuncture points and orifices and circulated his entire body, the imposing aura he exuded was terrifying.

Shua!

Before his voice faded, the little girl seemed to perceive his murderous intent. She suddenly lifted her head, revealing her beautiful, dark crescent-shaped eyes that were completely devoid of emotions. *ovelnext.com*

Huh?

As she swept her gaze over Han Junshan, Han Junshan's body uncontrollably trembled as if a sharp sword was suddenly pressing against his throat and endless fear gushed from his heart.

His vision blurred, and rays of beautiful starry light suddenly shimmered, like a dream, like an illusion, like a magnificent dream.

Han Junshan felt his mind was wandering. So beautiful!

Almost at the same time, a thunderous yell rang in his ear. "Be careful!"

Han Junshan seemed perplexed. Be careful?

PU!

Before he could respond, he felt his throat throb and his entire body felt like it had been struck by a giant mountain. He was sent flying across the air.

Han Junshan finally snapped to his senses, but it was too late. Everything darkened before him and the world was instantly plunged into endless blackness.

The dream-like and magnificent starry light also vanished.

.....

Wu Henshui was chilled to the bone, and his clothes were soaked in a cold sweat.

In that split second, he saw Han Junshan standing there like a fool as though possessed and then the little girl's bone spear pierced his throat!

It happened so fast that Wu Henshui couldn't do anything to help.

Too terrifying. The scene was too terrifying!

A five to six-year-old girl had killed an expert at the fourth-layer True Martial Stage with a bone spear in the most unbelievable way!

Wu Henshui couldn't believe it. It was precisely because he couldn't believe it that he was utterly aghast at the scene, like he had fallen into an icy hole.

Wu Henshui had completely lost his self-confidence. Even if he possessed a cultivation base of the eighth-layer True Martial Stage, it brought no sense of security to him.

He forgot about the Blood Essence Sand, the Aeth Fields he wanted to snatch, and the archer he wanted to take care of.

He only wanted to leave!

The village was too terrifying. Unimaginable dangers lay in every corner. How is this a little remote mountain village? It's clearly a place of death!

Without any hesitation, Wu Henshui turned and fled.

But he suddenly felt a sharp pain run down his back. He was sent flying across the air. Everything grew dark as he slipped into unconsciousness.

He couldn't react and he couldn't evade. Everything had happened in the blink of an eye!

Bathed in the setting sun, Xia Zhi, who was clad in a black cloak, came over to Wu Henshui and frowned. She found that she had failed to take her opponent's life with her attack and was a little disappointed in herself.

Just as she was about to strike again, a burst of triumphant and cruel laughter rang in the distance.

Is Lin Xun in danger?

Xia Zhi knitted her beautiful eyebrows and swung her bone spear. With a flash, she sped towards the source of the laughter like an arrow.

[Chapter 38: Kill With One Strike](#)

In the northwest corner of Feiyun Village, there was a row of worn-down houses.

Lin Xun knew he was fully surrounded and couldn't retreat.

Ahead stood three guards in a triangular formation. Each one of them wore cold and fierce expressions and their eyes were filled with hatred and killing intent.

Behind him was Lian Rufeng holding his long blade in a tight grip and looking ready to battle.

There was no possible escape route for Lin Xun.

However, he showed no hint of nervousness. Instead, a smile was playing at the corners of his mouth and his eyes were devoid of warmth.

Before the battle began, Lin Xun already knew the battle would be a tough one. Fortunately, only four people including Lian Rufeng were remaining and he saw no signs of the goateed old man.

Lian Rufeng laughed aloud, but his smile was sinister. "Little trash, why are you not running away?"

Lin Xun smirked, stood on his tiptoes, and suddenly spun around. He sped towards Lian Rufeng and thereby exposed his behind to attacks.

The three guards behind him were taken aback at first but then they swung their swords in joy and charged after him.

Clang!

A hatchet-wielding guard was first.

However, Lin Xun suddenly halted as though it had frozen and then shot up like a spring. He rapidly rotated in mid-air.

Shua!

Lin Xun's Skybreaker Blade whistled in the air as he drew a semi circle with a slashing stroke.

From afar, Lin Xun appeared to have merged with the blade. They rapidly spun like a top in the mid-air. The blade seemed capable of whipping up thousands of waves!

It was the rotating move of the Six Word Blade.

Rotating like a vortex with a blade, it was the most bizarre and ruthless move.

Pu!

As it rotated, the blade severed the hatchet-wielding guard's arm. The guard was unable to stop himself from charging forward and ended up throwing himself into the blade vortex; his head was hurled out from the vortex the next second!

Blood splattered everywhere. The scene was chilling and tragic.

The other two guards, who were only one step away, trembled as they watched their comrade's death. Aghast, they threw themselves to one side to avoid the blade vortex.

However, Lin Xun was already flashing across the sky like a rainbow. He repeatedly made several slashing strokes in the air, dazzling everyone's eyes.

"Bastard!"

Roaring in fury, Lian Rufeng rushed forward, his face ferocious and his aura fierce. His blade resembled raging flames as he swung it with lightning speed.

He had never thought Lin Xun would suddenly change targets and attack the three guards instead!

Lian Rufeng didn't think highly of such a tactic but he was surprised that Lin Xun was still so fierce and brave in close combat. Lin Xun killed his subordinate in one slash and gave the subordinate no chance to fight back!

Seeing that Lin Xun was about to slay his other two subordinates, Lian Rufeng couldn't contain his anger anymore. He directly charged towards him.

Wu!

His long, narrow and dark blade produced a ghost-like wail in the air as it aimed for Lin Xun's back like a venomous snake.

His attack was cunning. Lin Xun had to give up on his attack on the other two guards to protect his own life.

However, Lin Xun didn't evade his attack as if he didn't notice it and continued to pursue one of the guards.

He is seeking death!

Lian Rufeng went wild with joy. How would he miss the chance to hack Lin Xun's back?

Bang!

However, despite striking Lin Xun, the expected bloody scene didn't happen. Instead, it created an ear-piercing clang like he struck a steel plate.

No. That little bastard is wearing armor!

Lian Rufeng's heart sank and his face blanched.

Lin Xun borrowed the impact from Lian Rufeng's attack to launch himself forward like a cannonball. At the same time, a waterfall seemed to gush from the tip of his blade and it beheaded the guard facing him.

Hua!

Blood splattered as the headless body smashed into the ground.

Lin Xun's face also paled and blood pooled at the back of his throat. He almost coughed up blood but his eyes glinted fiercely and he suppressed himself. He charged towards the last guard. *Novelnext.cOM*

The last remaining guard was so horrified by the unexpected turn of events that his liver and gall both seemed to be splitting from within. Seeing Lin Xun rushing towards him, he roared and bolted at full speed.

His unexpected action surprised Lin Xun but also shocked Lian Rufeng. He didn't think that his last remaining subordinate would be so spineless to flee.

"You're the only one left."

Lin Xun gasped for breaths and looked at Lian Rufeng.

Lin Xun had exhausted himself in the battle. If he hadn't occasionally supplemented his energy with the Aeth Refining Liquid, he would have collapsed long ago.

After all, he was only a third-layer True Martial cultivator. Regardless of how pure and strong his aeth power was, it was still limited.

Moreover, Lin Xun had suffered an internal injury when he took Lian Rufeng's attack. Under such circumstances, Lin Xun could still keep going, and that made Lian Rufeng palpitate.

He knew he couldn't endure it.

However, Lin Xun was still standing. Except for the blood trickling down his blade, he seemed to suffer no other injuries.

How could it be possible for a young man at the third-layer True Martial Stage to achieve that?

Lian Rufeng couldn't figure out the reason, but he could tell that Lin Xun had already consumed a lot of his strength. It was no exaggeration to say that Lin Xun was an arrow at the end of his flight and that calmed him a little.

"I can kill you alone!"

With that thought, Lian Rufeng strode forward, his aura terrifying and imposing. He swung his long blade.

Compared to Lin Xun, he hadn't consumed much strength. He dominated in terms of imposing aura.

Most importantly, his cultivation level was one higher than Lin Xun's!

Shua!

The blade flashed blindingly bright as aeth power gathered.

Lian Rufeng hated Lin Xun to the bone and he didn't want to give him a chance to breathe again.

Bang—

The two had exchanged dozens of attacks in just one breath.

Lin Xun's face worsened, but his blade moves were unaffected. His every stroke and slash was skillful and effortless.

He was about to exhaust all his aeth power, but he still had physical strength remaining. Given his elemental understanding of the Six Word Blade Art, he could dispel all attacks with the coiling move of the Six Word Blade.

The coiling move was an indirect way of fighting.

The coiling move of the Six Word Blade suppressed the enemy using the enemy's momentum against them and used minimum strength to skillfully deflect the enemy's attack.

In Lin Xun's hand, the coiling move was like silkworms producing silk threads, like uninterrupted spring rain, and like the sougning waves. The key point was that he was using the enemy's strength against them.

Lian Rufeng's face darkened. He felt Lin Xun was like a slippery loach and his every attack at Lin Xun only struck mud. He couldn't accept it.

What kind of blade art is that?

Lian Rufeng had traveled between Feiyun Village and the Qingyang Tribe ever since he started his cultivation. He had even been to Donglin City where he had met many powerful masters and saw their techniques.

However, he had never seen one as mysterious as Lin Xun's blade art.

However, Lian Rufeng soon noticed that Lin Xun was growing paler and his whole body soaking in cold sweat. He clearly couldn't endure much longer.

"Maybe I can take the cultivation arts he has learned after killing him."

Lian Rufeng's heart fluttered with excitement and was even more determined to kill Lin Xun.

That kid has a mysterious background. He possesses such terrifying power despite only being a teenager. Won't there be trouble in the future if I let him live?

Chi!

Suddenly, a bone spear thrust through space. Its body shone like stars in a clear sky.

Huh?

Lian Rufeng's pupils shrank. That's—?

Pu!

Before he could react, a rush of sharp painful sensations shot through his chest. His vision went dark and he completely lost consciousness.

Lin Xun was taken aback at first, and then he exhaled a long turbid breath. An indescribable exhaustion flooded his body like a tide.

He bit the tip of his tongue to regain his spirit and reminded himself to not rest at such a time.

"Everyone is dead."

A sweet voice sounded in his ear, like a spring breeze.

"Everyone is dead?"

Wu Henshui's face flashed in Lin Xun's mind and he went into a trance.

"Huh?"

Xia Zhi raised her fair and beautiful face to look at Lin Xun. His deathly pale face made her scrunch up her face and said seriously, "You should rest."

Regardless of whether he agreed or not, she grabbed Lin Xun by his lapel and lifted him up.

"The little girl is carrying me again..."

Lin Xun smiled bitterly, feeling ashamed. But a flurry of fatigue swept over him and his exhaustion took over and he drifted off to sleep.

All sixteen people including Wu Henshui and Lian Rufeng were wiped out!

The corpses strewn about in different corners of Feiyun Village looked even more horrifying under the blood-red glow of the sunset.

.....

Lin Xun had a dream.

In his dream, he heard a familiar cold voice.

"Dao Seeker, the Omega Secret Realm will open in three months. The second test of the Great Azure Cloud Path is called Body Tempering. There are one hundred and eight chances to pass. If you fail in the end, the Omega Secret Realm will return to a sealed state until one thousand years later when there's an opportunity to open again..."

"Three months? There isn't much time left!"

Suddenly, Lin Xun snapped awake from his dream.

Seeing the familiar house layout and furniture, he pondered for a good while and finally shook his head to not think about the upcoming test. There was still some time before the Omega Secret Realm opened again. It was useless to worry about it.

He got up and realized he had recovered from his fatigue and he only felt a little weak.

Xia Zhi pushed open the door and didn't seem surprised to see Lin Xun getting up. She simply said, "I'm hungry."

Lin Xun was a little taken aback. He thought Xia Zhi would warmly check on him but instead, she urged him to cook as soon as he woke up.

He shrugged helplessly. "I'll go cook now."

He suddenly asked, "How many days have I been asleep?"

"Four days."

Lin Xun's eyes went wide. "You haven't eaten anything these four days?"

Xia Zhi nodded.

Lin Xun immediately rushed into the kitchen. His heart ached a little knowing that he had starved his "savior" for four days.

While Lin Xun was busy in the kitchen, Xiao Tianren anxiously rushed into his house. He exclaimed when he saw Lin Xun's figure, "Lin Xun, you finally woke up!"

"Uncle Xiao, is there a problem?" asked Lin Xun while cooking.

Lin Xun's preoccupied look made Xiao Tianren speechless. Such a huge matter happened four days ago. Isn't that a problem? You have been unconscious for four days, isn't that a problem?

[Chapter 39: Aeth Tool Ring](#)

A gentle autumn wind breeze blew in the courtyard. The leaves of the willow tree in the courtyard's center had turned golden yellow.

The autumn weather was refreshing and the air was crisp. Lin Xun and Xia Zhi were seated opposite each other at a stone table in the courtyard. Spread out atop the stone table were five huge pots of beast meat, filling the air with its aroma.

The beast meat didn't look particularly appetizing but Lin Xun had stewed them with various rune materials as well as different combinations of beast meat to create a delicious flavor.

On the other side of the stone table, rested an iron pot of aeth grains.

Lin Xun and Xia Zhi lowered their heads and gorged themselves on the food. They hadn't eaten in four days.

Xiao Tianren sat on the other side, watching them with a smile as he briefly summarized the matters that had occurred in the past four days.

It turned out that after the battle had ended, Xiao Tianren returned to the village with the villagers. Naturally, the village strewn with dead bodies horrified them but they felt more of relief and happiness.

The death of Lian Rufeng and others meant trouble to the village had been eliminated. However, consequently, many problems needed to be dealt with urgently.

For example, Xiao Tianren found that in addition to Lian Rufeng and other guards, there were another five or six unfamiliar-looking people, including Wu Henshui, who had died. Their appearance and clothing indicated they weren't ordinary people.

It was hard to guarantee that the death of all those people in Feiyun Village wouldn't lead to more trouble.

Another problem was that Feiyun Village had no guards after the death of Lian Rufeng and the other village guards, which meant no one would help the villagers deliver and exchange goods with the Qingyang Tribe.

That matter also needed to be resolved.

Lin Xun felt much more comfortable after devouring four bowls of aeth grains and one pot of beast meat.

After making himself a cup of herbal aeth tea, Lin Xun organized his thoughts and responded to Xiao Tianren. "Uncle Xiao, do you know the people who came with Lian Rufeng?"

Xiao Tianren suddenly sprang up and said, "Come take a look and you will know."

Lin Xun glanced at Xia Zhi, who was only concentrating on eating, and nodded. The two left together.

.....

On the empty martial arts ground in the village's center.

Many miscellaneous items were stacked together, including weapons and accessories such as armor, boots, belts and jade pendants.

In addition to this, there were also six bodies!

When Lin Xun and Xiao Tianren arrived, Zhou Zhong and other hunters of the village were guarding the items and corpses.

"These were found on Lian Rufeng's corpse. Also, since those six aren't from our village, I didn't let anyone touch them. We were waiting for you to come and investigate to see if there is anything important," explained Xiao Tianren.

Lin Xun inwardly complimented Xiao Tianren for his attentiveness. Without any hesitation, he squatted down by Wu Henshui's corpse and began his investigation.

When Lin Xun met the goateed old man four days ago, he had sensed a dangerous aura around him.

However, the old man had died a violent death. The chilling hole that split his chest suggested a sharp weapon killed him.

Lin Xun thought of Xia Zhi. He couldn't help but feel astonished. The little girl was stronger than he had imagined.

Xiao Tianren, Zhou Zhong and the others gathered around, their gazes curious but also filled with reverence.

Four days ago, when they saw the bodies of Lian Rufeng and others, they were paralyzed with shock for a good while. They realized just how terrifying the thirteen year old Lin Xun really was.

He had killed dozens of cultivators including Lian Rufeng and other fourth-layer True Martial Stage experts, something unimaginable to the villagers.

Therefore, their image of Lin Xun had unconsciously changed. Beneath his delicate and gentle appearance were awe-inspiring and terrifying powers.

Unaware of the villagers' thoughts, Lin Xun continued to search Wu Henshui's body, but there was nothing else except a black ring.

"Could it be..."

Lin Xun examined the ring closer. It was entirely black and was made from something that was neither metal nor jade but it weighed heavily and emitted a cold air. *novelnext.cOm*

With one thought, Lin Xun released a wisp of aeth power from his fingertip and into the ring.

A little space appeared in his mind. It looked like a little shed and had many objects stacked everywhere such as piles of copper coins, tokens, aeth herbs, and some bottles and jars. Apart from these items, there was nothing else.

It was indeed an aeth storage tool!

Lin Xun was ecstatic. From what he knew, aeth storage tools were very precious because they were constructed from a rare kind of material called spatial aeth crystals. There was a saying that the tiny mustard seed can accommodate the huge Buddha's mountain. The storage aeth tool had the same wonderful feature.

It was impossible to own such a treasure unless one was from a wealthy family!

Lin Xun muttered, "It seems that guy isn't an ordinary person..."

With one thought, he took out a badge from the storage ring. The palm-sized badge was constructed from a warm jade-like material called wood stone, and the pattern on the front seemed to be some sort of symbol.

A line of characters was engraved in the empire's seal script on the back of the badge—Chief Steward of Wu's Apothecary in the Qingyang tribe!

Lin Xun instantly knew that the man was from the Qingyang tribe and was a chief steward of a branch of the Wu's Apothecary!

Soon, Lin Xun made another discovery. Housed in the storage ring was a badly damaged book that had information regarding Blood Essence Sand.

Additionally, there was an animal skin bag containing various seeds of aeth herbs and weighed over five kilograms. The seeds could cover acres of Aeth Fields!

"So they came for that reason," said Lin Xun pensively.

Xiao Tianren couldn't help asking, "What did you find?"

Lin Xun casually answered, "If my guess is correct, Lian Rufeng and his people colluded with the chief steward of Wu's Apothecary and plotted together to occupy the Aeth Fields in Feiyun Village so they could plant aeth herbs."

They wanted to occupy the Aeth Fields!

Xiao Tianren, Zhou Zhong and the others reddened with fury. The entire village depended on the Aeth Fields to live. Who would have thought that Lian Rufeng would be so greedy and cruel to collude with an outsider to take their Aeth Fields? Clearly, they didn't care whether the villagers would survive or not!

At the same time, they rejoiced that Lin Xun decided to eliminate Lian Rufeng and the others, and stopped their plan from succeeding. Otherwise, the consequences would be hard to imagine.

Lin Xun didn't tell Xiao Tianren about the Blood Essence Sand. He took out his Skybreaker Blade, applied strength to his palm and sliced open Wu Henshui's stomach. Blood wildly gushed out.

What is he going to do?

Xiao Tianren and the others were all startled. They almost vomited when they saw the bright blood and organs spilling out the corpse

Lin Xun didn't seem uncomfortable. He knitted his brow in concentration and focused as he ran his palm along the meridians and organs of the corpse. His hands were quickly covered in blood.

The scene was so horrifying that Xiao Tianren and the others couldn't bear to watch. They all turned their heads away and didn't dare to take another look.

Fortunately, Lin Xun soon got up and cleaned his hands in the pond on the other side of the martial arts field. Then, he said, "This guy is indeed very powerful. He possessed a cultivation base of the Big Cycle, the eighth-layer True Martial Stage!"

He appeared relaxed outwardly, but he couldn't maintain calm inside. The reason why he opened up the old man's stomach was to confirm his cultivation level.

After all, the old man hadn't quite reached the Spirit Dipper Stage, as demonstrated by the absence of dipper qi around his body. Therefore, it was impossible to determine his cultivation level from the outside.

After the inspection and verification, Lin Xun was clear that the old man not only had an impressive background but also an extraordinary cultivation base. Lin Xun felt he would have died in his hands if not for Xia Zhi.

Then, what about Xia Zhi?

She killed a cultivator of the eighth-layer True Martial Stage with one move. Didn't that mean her cultivation base was more impressive?

Xiao Tianren assumed a solemn and worried expression. "Would the death of such an important man bring trouble to our village?"

Lin Xun shook his head. "I can't be sure yet. Later, I will personally pay the Qingyang Tribe a visit and inquire there. Maybe I can make a judgment then."

"You are going to the Qingyang tribe?" exclaimed Xiao Tianren.

Lin Xun shrugged and smiled. "Of course, without Lian Rufeng and the other guards, I have to help everyone exchange for living supplies in the Qingyang Tribe."

Xiao Tianren couldn't help feeling emotional. "Lin Xun, I..."

Lin Xun interrupted him with a wave of his hand. "Uncle Xiao, you don't have to say thank you. I am also a part of Feiyun Village. It's something I should do."

Xiao Tianren inhaled deeply, trying to control his emotions. "Good! Lin Xun, you must tell us if there's anything you need in the future. Although our Feiyun Village is poor, we will do our best to help you even at the risk of our lives!"

Zhou Zhong and the others nodded vigorously.

Lin Xun smiled and turned around to investigate the other spoils elsewhere on the martial arts grounds.

The other items were nothing good. The majority of the items on Lian Rufeng and others were of low value. The only thing that caught Lin Xun's attention was a pair of boots engraved with the swift wind rune.

He removed the boots from Lian Rufeng. It was considered a piece of aeth tool equipment, but the swift wind rune was rough and ordinary, and thus was not of great value.

Lin Xun took the storage ring and boots and left the other items for Village Chief Xiao Tianren to deal with.

Zhou Zhong and the others transported the corpses of Wu Henshui and others out of the village and incinerated them to destroy all traces.

Before leaving, Lin Xun suddenly remembered something. He said to Xiao Tianren, "By the way, Uncle Xiao, since the trouble has been eliminated, how about we mine for the Feiyun Fire Copper in a few days?"

The mention of Feiyun Fire Copper made Xiao Tianren's heart blaze with excitement. He nodded. "It's up to you. It is indeed best to have the wealth in your hands earlier, so you won't have to worry about it anymore."

[Chapter 40: The Money of Ziyao](#)

As Lin Xun neared his home, he heard loud clunks and bangs.

In the courtyard, Xia Zhi was repeatedly beating a piece of armor with a giant hammer, producing a shower of bright sparks every time.

Xia Zhi was small and slender and was only around five to six years old. The giant rugged hammer looked very unharmonious in her fair and slender hands.

However, the way she repeatedly struck the armor in a unique and relaxed rhythm made it obvious that the giant hammer was as light as an embroidery needle in her hands.

Lin Xun recognized the armor. He had personally constructed it a few days ago using the one-horned lizard's scales. It was the armor that weakened the attack from Lian Rufeng when they fought a few days ago, but it had been damaged as a result.

Lin Xun was surprised to see Xia Zhi taking the initiative to repair his armor.

Lin Xun went over to take a closer look at the giant hammer and his eyes widened in shock. The head of the hammer looked like a lump of iron and was covered with several fingerprints.

"You made this?" asked Lin Xun.

Without stopping, Xia Zhi nodded and said casually, "I don't have a hammer so I made one by myself."

Lin Xun let out a gasp of amazement. That's iron! She molded a giant hammer with just her hands?!

He stared at Xia Zhi in a daze while muttering inwardly, Could there be an ancient beast concealed in her delicate and beautiful body?

Xia Zhi suddenly dropped the giant hammer and handed the armor to Lin Xun. "I've repaired it. Try it on."

Surveying the newly constructed armor, Lin Xun couldn't help smiling. He complimented, "I didn't expect you to have such good skills."

Xia Zhi ignored him and strode into the house. "I'm going to sleep. Lin Xun, remember to prepare something for me to eat. I will be hungry when I wake up."

Bang!

She closed the door.

Lin Xun shrugged his shoulders. He had grown used to Xia Zhi's independent personality, which was completely different from other children.

His gaze drifted down to the giant hammer. He tried to pick it up but it was so heavy that it wouldn't budge an inch!

Lin Xun was astonished. He gripped the hammer tight and gathered all his strength as well as aeth power to barely just lift the hammer. It had to weigh at least two hundred and fifty kilos!

Boom!

Lin Xun relaxed his grip and the giant hammer dropped and smashed a hole in the ground.

"She really is a little monster!"

As Lin Xun thought of how Xia Zhi molded the giant hammer with her hands, his face lit up and he grew curious of Xia Zhi's background.

"I'll ask her when she wakes up."

Lin Xun stopped thinking about the hammer and went into the kitchen to prepare food. Then, he seated himself in the courtyard. He flipped his hand and a copper coin emerged in his palm. He moved it closer and examined it.

It was his first time seeing a real copper coin. The coin, which was around the size of a baby's palm, was entirely dark yellow and gave off a warmth in his hands.

From what Lin Xun knew, the Ziyao Empire's money was made from a special mixture of ground Cloud Aeth Stone, a special ore, and dozens of other materials such as gold, silver and copper. It was then subjected to a number of complex and strictly-monitored refinement processes. It was impossible for the outside world to grasp the empire's unique money-making method.

The currency of the Ziyao Empire was divided into gold coins, silver coins, and copper coins, and the exchange ratio was one to one hundred.

All coins were engraved with a symbol unique to the Ziyao Empire on both sides.

For example, the front of the copper coin in Lin Xun's hand was composed of three parts.

The cluster of violet glory flowers burning like flames represented the imperial family of the Ziyao Empire.

The majestic azure deer looking up into the sky represented the best academy in the empire, the Qinglu Academy.

The sacred sword overflowing with vigor as it pierced the sky represented the military of the Ziyao Empire.

In addition, on the fringe of the three parts were beautiful cloud-pattern branches and leaves, which represented the upper-class nobles, aristocratic families and clans who had made outstanding contributions to the Ziyao Empire.

The other side of the copper coin was engraved with a landscape consisting of misty mountains and mighty waves, which held an unfathomable meaning.

Lin Xun didn't know what the landscape on the back of the coin represented but he knew it was undoubtedly meaningful.

Yong!

Lin Xun blew at the copper coin, producing a unique but pleasant noise. This is a Ziyao coin. I will need the support of Ziyao coins if I want to continue to live or cultivate in the Ziyao Empire.

From Wu Henshui's storage ring, Lin Xun had unexpectedly received a total of 1,500 copper coins, which was equivalent to fifteen silver coins.

The empire's money was worth a lot. For example, three copper coins could buy two hundred and fifty grams of aeth grains. The thumb-sized Feiyun Fire Copper that Lin Xun had shown Xiao Tianren could be exchanged in the Qingyang tribe for thirty copper coins, which was equivalent to the value of 2.5 kilos of aeth grains!

However, Lin Xun had little knowledge about the exchange value of various items in the Ziyao Empire, and of course he didn't know what 1,500 copper coins could buy.

In addition to copper coins, Lin Xun also acquired a bag of aeth herb seeds from the storage ring. The majority of the seeds weren't particularly valuable but were essential for cultivation.

Lin Xun had no intention of planting them because the process of growing aeth herbs was very complicated and required a special aeth plant master. These herbs had a long growth and maturation time and could only be harvested in three to five years. Some rare aeth herb seeds took hundreds or thousands of years to mature.

If Lin Xun's guess was correct, an aeth plant master was among the subordinates who Wu Henshui brought with him.

The bag of seeds had no importance to Lin Xun and so he intended to sell it for money.

What made him happy was the aeth herbs in the storage ring. All of them were rare varieties. Some could be used to strengthen one's body and some for improving one's cultivation base. Additionally, Lin Xun found bottles of medicinal pills.

They were all valuable treasures. Wu Henshui was an eighth-layer True Martial Stage cultivator and so the items in his collection wouldn't be ordinary.

Lin Xun organized the items in the storage ring, and seeing that there was still a lot of space inside, he also stored the Skybreaker Blade.

"Now that I have this storage ring, it will be easier when I deliver goods to the Qingyang Tribe. At the very least, I won't be robbed."

Lin Xun carefully hid the ring. He knew that many people would recognize the ring given the fact that Wu Henshui was the chief steward of the Wu's Apothecary in the Qingyang Tribe. He didn't wear it on his hand since it would draw too much attention.

"These swift wind boots are of poor quality but they're still considered a type of aeth tool equipment. Too bad it's too big for me. I should sell it instead."

After some deliberation, Lin Xun removed the boots on Lian Rufeng and decided to sell them. He tossed them into the storage ring.

After sorting out all the items, Lin Xun stretched for a long while and felt much more relaxed.

His next priority was to train. As for the matter about the Feiyun Fire Copper mine, he decided to leave it to Village Chief Xiao Tianren.

Lin Xun counted the days and realized that more than two months had passed since the last test of the Great Azure Cloud Path. In less than half a month it would be the time to take the second test in the Omega Secret Realm. *NovelExt.COM*

Lin Xun didn't dare to neglect that matter.

After all, he had received a Little Divine Meditation Art as reward for passing the first level. He wondered what sort of benefit he would receive when he passed the second.

He was filled with anticipation.

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When evening came, Xia Zhi woke up and sat down at the stone table in the courtyard. Soon, Lin Xun brought over the food that he had prepared earlier in the day.

A few days ago, the village had a good harvest of aeth grains and many villagers gifted Lin Xun with bags of aeth grains as well as the meat of over thirty beasts. He didn't need to worry about food for some time.

The only thing that troubled Lin Xun was Xia Zhi's increased appetite. She had to eat an extra bowl of grain and meat almost every day.

Her little stomach was almost like a bottomless abyss.

At the rate of her appetite growth, Lin Xun couldn't guarantee how long the food at home would last.

Fortunately, he didn't have to worry about it for now.

While eating, Lin Xun casually asked, "Xia Zhi, where are your parents?"

Chewing a chunk of aromatic meat, Xia Zhi just shook her head.

Lin Xun continued to ask, "What about your home? Do you remember?"

Xia Zhi thought for a while and shook her head again. "For as long as I can remember, I've lived with Uncle Bear in the mountains."

She spoke with a calm and serious tone, but Lin Xun assumed a complicated expression. This little girl has been living in the mountains since she was a child.

"Who is Uncle Bear?"

"You met him the other day."

Lin Xun's mind quivered. The barbarian bear that he saw in the ancient forest the other day flashed in his mind. He couldn't help exclaiming in shock, "You mean the savage beast that the brute warrior killed?"

Xia Zhi frowned, raised her head to look at Lin Xun and said seriously, "You can't say that about him."

Lin Xun quickly apologized. "I didn't mean to be disrespectful."

In truth, perplexed feelings crept into his heart. Xia Zhi was actually brought up by a bear. No wonder she said something so complicated and obscure when I first met her in the mountains... Wait!

No!

Xia Zhi wasn't speaking animal language but a completely different language.

"I don't know who the brute warrior is, but one day I will kill him to avenge Uncle Bear," vowed Xia Zhi, her bright jewel-like eyes unwavering.

After saying that, she quickly buried her head in the food again.

Interrupted, Lin Xun forgot to ask Xia Zhi how she learned the language she used to speak. Instead, his mind drifted back to the battle between the Spirit Sea cultivators.

The battle was between an azure-robed, sword-wielding expert who was clearly from the Ziyao Empire and an expert called a brute warrior who likely wasn't from the Ziyao Empire.

Lin Xun still remembered that the brute warrior wanted to kill Xia Zhi and not him!

The brute warrior's action, coupled with the fact that Xia Zhi spoke an unfamiliar language made Lin Xun conjecture that Xia Zhi was from somewhere outside of the Ziyao Empire.