

## Prodigies 311

### Chapter 311 The Changes of the Sacred Bead

During those seven days, Du Xingchuan had no clue what to do next. He settled on doing his best to control his forces along the river.

On the other hand, Lin Xun was still underwater.

He had indeed sustained a severe injury. Fortunately, the bombardment of the five Violet Hero Battleships hadn't struck the vital parts of his body, but it still had an unbearable impact on him.

Lin Xun was sitting cross-legged in a cave like a statue. Wisps of sky-blue light constantly circled his body, creating an ethereal glow around him.

Ever since he had broken through to the Earth Dipper Stage, the aeth power within his body had undergone a complete transformation. His aeth power was no longer illusionary. Instead, it was pure, exquisite, and seemed palpable.

A school of brightly colored fish patrolled past Lin Xun's cave. They all looked at him curiously and swam closer to him. They didn't seem afraid.

They sensed an indescribable aura flowing around Lin Xun's body. It was the source of all water and contained an extremely mysterious life force.

It wasn't Lin Xun's aura; it came from the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead in his mind-sea!

A few days ago, Lin Xun had noticed the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead seemed to be awakening in his mind-sea when he was cultivating. He sensed a mysterious, breathing-like movement from it.

Under that movement, Lin Xun distinctly felt strands of mysterious water essence being drawn up from the rushing water, instilling into his body, and merging with the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead in his mind-sea.

The scene not only surprised Lin Xun, but it also made him realize he had thought wrongly all along.

The Heavenly Water Sacred Bead required energy to awaken. And that energy was in the water!

After this discovery, during his cultivation in the next few days, he noticed that the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead was also undergoing cultivation in his mind-sea in a unique way.

It was absorbing the wisps of mysterious water movement power contained in the water!

There was something that surprised Lin Xun even more. Although the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead eventually absorbed the water movement power, it cleansed and nourished every inch of his skin, flesh, bones, organs, meridians, and acupuncture points as it passed through him.

Basically, it was rapidly healing Lin Xun's injuries.

The wounds that he estimated would heal in around ten to fifteen days had been repaired in only seven days!

His strength had also grown significantly!

It was all due to the mysterious water movement powers.

After his injuries had healed, he didn't immediately leave because he wanted to see if the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead would awaken.

However, he noticed that the mysterious aura coming from the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead had disappeared and the bead went into a still state once again.

Lin Xun fell into contemplation. The water movement powers of the great river are too ordinary and likely couldn't meet the needs of the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead.

Never mind. I will find another opportunity to investigate the mystery of the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead.

Lin Xun suddenly snapped open his dark and deep eyes, and a terrifying glint flashed across them.

The school of fish swimming around him fled in terror.

"So many days have passed. I wonder if my enemies have left..."

With a flash, Lin Xun left the cave. He walked along the riverbed for tens of miles before he silently floated up to the river surface.

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He surfaced to a valley area with dangerous spear-like peaks on both sides. Occasionally, he heard the furious roar and howling of mountain apes, fierce birds, and other strange monsters.

The great river wound through the valleys, rolled up piles of snow, and roared like thunder. The environment seemed incredibly dangerous.

On the banks of the great river stood dozens of cultivators, but they all looked dispirited.

"Damn it. Without any pills to restore our energy, my cultivation will soon deteriorate!"

"We've been waiting for seven days, but we haven't seen even a hint of the shadow of the target. Don't tell me we have to spend the rest of our lives here till he shows up?"

"Haha, let's not talk about such an upsetting thing. Let me tell you something. According to the records, this river is called Silver Frost, and around 900 years ago, a vortex appeared on the bed of River Silver Frost. The vortex contained a destructive tearing power and could destroy the sky and the earth. It was said that anyone able to reach the depths of the vortex would receive a rare treasure grown inside!"

"Is this true?"

"If it's true, it would have already attracted the attention of countless cultivators. Why have I never heard of it?"

"Yes, the legend is too absurd."

"You don't understand. The power of the vortex is very terrifying. I heard that even Heaven Ascension cultivators were instantly torn apart when they neared the vortex! Who would dare to explore the vortex after hearing about that?"

“Hey, stop talking nonsense. It’s just a legend. There are many similarly absurd legends circulating the empire. No one has ever obtained such lucky opportunities.”

While the cultivators were discussing amongst themselves, they failed to notice a crossbow emerging from the river surface in the distance.”

Bang!

The crossbow fired, and the sound of the rushing river drowned out the blast.

“I’m talking nonsense? I can guarantee with my life that the legend is true!” A cultivator slammed his chest and spoke confidently when a stream of blood spurted from his throat and he collapsed to the ground.

Instantly, chaos broke out.

Shua!

Almost at the same time, Lin Xun sped out of the water like a black lightning bolt. With the Flowing Light Blade in his hand, he launched a killing spree.

Within seconds, dozens of corpses were strewn across the ground and blood flowed everywhere.

Lin Xun didn’t stop after that. In a flash, he rushed up a steep mountain.

Da!

His foot lightly tapped a boulder on the mountain and he soared tens of feet into the air. At the same time, the Flowing Light Blade vanished from his hand and was replaced by a huge bow made from bones.

No-Nonsense Bow!

He hooked his finger around the slender, blood-red bowstrings, and his eyes were locked on a certain location on the mountain.

Gu!

Just as Lin Xun completed the series of movements, a loud cry rang out from the dangerous mountain peak. A black shadow transformed from a fierce bird charged out from the mountain, soaring thousands of feet into the sky like a rainbow.

However, a silent arrow pierced its neck and made it plunge to the ground.

Lin Xun’s figure flashed across the air. He stretched out his hand and grabbed the corpse of the bird before he floated down to the ground like a nimble flying monkey.

He looked at his hand and saw that he had caught a wind shadow hawk!

That was Lin Xun’s goal all along. The other dozen cultivators were just additions.

With a click, Lin Xun twisted the wind shadow hawk’s neck without any hesitation. He sliced open its chest with the tip of his blade and retrieved a blood-stained bead from its inside.

As he wiped the bloodstains on the surface of the bead, it suddenly cast a light screen.

The scene on the light screen was extremely spectacular. It was a bird-eye's view of the area and clearly showed the mountains and rivers.

Soon, Lin Xun saw that groups of cultivators had taken control of many sections along the river. He had no chance of escaping.

At the same time, the five Violet Hero Battleships were patrolling in the distance. The entire area was being closely monitored.

What troubled Lin Xun the most was that there were not only Violet Hero Battleships but many wind shadow hawks also patrolling the different areas. He would be caught right away if he showed up.

Huh?

Just as the light screen was about to fade, Lin Xun noticed a wind shadow hawk fleeing at an incredible speed.

The light screen vanished.

"It seems that when I killed this wind shadow hawk, another one was watching everything..."

Lin Xun immediately took action. First, he searched the cultivator's corpses one by one. Then, he leapt into the river once again.

Rumble—

Within seconds, a Violet Hero Battleship was gliding across the sky, patrolling the area. The dense runes were flickering frantically on the cannons. It was ready to attack at any moment.

Meanwhile, somewhere nearby, groups of cultivators were rushing over one after another. But they saw no traces of their target no matter how they searched.

In the end, they all looked at the river and made a unanimous observation. The target dove into the water again!

"Damn it!"

"That guy is so damn annoying!"

"But...if he's hiding in the water, what can we do?"

Curses rang out one after another. The cultivators were all at a loss on what to do. Their faces turned livid, and they were about to go crazy.

After a while, Du Xingchuan also heard the news. When he learned about it, he was so angry that his face darkened and he almost vomited blood.

"Boss, here is a dead wind shadow hawk. Its wind shadow bean has been taken from its body. The target must have already realized our plan."

Xiaomu came over with a wind shadow hawk corpse in his arms, his expression equally as troubled.

Du Xingchuan felt his head buzz, his mind was in chaos, and his entire body felt unwell.

This is too troublesome!

Their target was already invincible in the river, but now that he had learned about their arrangements, he could easily take advantage of it to launch surprise attacks!

If they didn't form a new plan, their target would no doubt smash the forces they controlled along the river!

### Chapter 312 Attack Strongly

The more Du Xingchuan thought about it, the more dispirited he felt.

After Lin Xun obtained the protection of the river, the five Violet Hero Battleships were rendered useless. Since they had lost the help of such great killing weapons, how would they be able to compete with their target in terms of strength?

A few days ago, thousands of their cultivators had been utterly defeated and many of their blood dyed the river red!

No one could stop their target!

Additionally, in recent days, they had consumed a huge amount of resources. Consequently, many cultivators lost their fighting spirits. In that situation, what else did they have to fight their target?

Du Xingchuan believed that Xu Qianjing, the master tactician of the younger generation, also wouldn't be able to turn their situation around.

"Boss, we just received a message that the target launched a surprise attack and destroyed the military base thirty-seven miles away. Not one of the nineteen comrades there managed to survive!" a loud cry suddenly rang in the distance. It was nothing but bad news.

Du Xingchuan, Xiaomu and all the cultivators present turned ashen-faced.

It hadn't been long since the last attack, but their target had already started to act again!  
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"He's so hateful!"

"Why didn't you seize the opportunity to kill him with the Violet Hero Battleships?"

"Nonsense, didn't you hear that the target launched a surprise attack? Who knows where or when he would appear? Or what method would he use to attack? Although the Violet Hero Battleships are powerful, it's impossible to lock on and kill the target instantly, right?"

"Then what should we do?"

Many people couldn't help but curse out loud, venting their fear and annoyance. The atmosphere turned chaotic.

Du Xingchuan finally confirmed that, as he had guessed, their target intended to destroy their bases along the river one by one!

Du Xingchuan felt a chill run down his spine and he let out a hoarse, hysterical roar, "Shut up! Hurry and inform the rest to quickly gather here!"

Immediately, all the cultivators sprang into action.

"Boss, if you do that, the target can easily escape from the bottom of the river," Xiaomu reminded him in a deep voice. "Are you sure about this?"

Du Xingchuan's face was overcast as he said bitterly, "Use the Violet Hero Battleship and wind shadow hawks to locate and monitor the target. We have lost too many troops. We can't let the situation worsen."

Xiaomu sighed and didn't say anything else.

Late in the night, many forces withdrew from different areas along the great river and gathered with Du Xingchuan and the others.

However, when Du Xingchuan counted the number of people, he felt his head spin and the sky was about to collapse on him. He couldn't help but cough up a mouthful of blood.

Four hundred and nineteen!

They had only four hundred odd people left on their side, including those on the Violet Hero Battleships!

"We had three thousand elite troops, six Violet Hero Battleships, huge amounts of materials, resources and equipment, but now there are around four hundred people left on our side!" Du Xingchuan uttered, his voice tinged with bitterness and indescribable anger and sorrow. "All this is caused by a teenager...who would believe it? Who would dare to imagine it?"

Xiaomu looked deeply concerned and didn't know what to say.

He glanced around and saw that the other cultivators were all in low spirits and had lost their fighting spirit. They looked like their souls had left their bodies. Lin Xun seemed to have become an invincible demon in their hearts and made them feel unprecedentedly powerless and frightened.

If Lin Xun appeared, they would immediately flee in terror. How would they fight against him?

Du Xingchuan could tell what they were thinking, so his chest felt so tight that he couldn't breathe.

What to do?

In truth, Du Xingchuan already had the answer deep in his heart. He was just hesitant to act because of Chi Cangmei's order.

Should we retreat?

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Deep in the night, Lin Xun silently leapt out of the river like a shadow and darted towards the distance.

Soon, he appeared in an open area where a Violet Hero Battleship was stationed.

From afar, it looked like a giant beast sleeping on the ground.

“An opportunity...is right in front!”

As the night deepened, Lin Xun drew a deep breath. He had been waiting for a long time for the Violet Hero Battleship to moor.

It wasn't a reckless move. He knew very well that Violet Hero Battleships could fly for a maximum of four hours before the high-grade aeth crystals in the aeth engine had to be replaced. Otherwise, the battleship would lose its power and fall from the sky like a bird that lost its wings!

Swoosh!

Lin Xun quickly came to the rear of the battleship, and with a somersault, came to the deck. He constantly whizzed forward in the dark like a ghost.

Lin Xun was incredibly familiar with the Violet Hero Battleship because he was the one who designed them!

Suddenly, a figure walked out from a corner. Before he noticed Lin Xun, a huge hand had twisted his neck and he silently collapsed to the ground.

Lin Xun moved another ten feet forward and stopped right in front of a hatch that led to the control room.

He brought out the Flowing Light Blade and repeatedly made several stabbing motions around the hatch. Following a series of crisp clicks and a snap, the hatch automatically swung open.

It was a complex mechanism. Even a Spirit Sea cultivator wouldn't be able to open the hatch with force.

However, it was incredibly easy to open once a person learned the tricks in the mechanism.

Swoosh!

Lin Xun moved through the hatch with a flash and it quickly snapped closed again.

The control room was dark and not a cultivator was inside. Lin Xun investigated the room and found that the rune treasure steering wheel on the Violet Hero Battleship could be activated at any time. A smirk came to the corners of his lips. The cultivators are too stupid.

In his original design, when the Violet Hero Battleship was moored, the rune treasure steering wheel should be locked right away using a unique method. That would prevent enemies from operating the Violet Hero Battleship even if they managed to sneak into the control room. It could also stop the Violet Hero Battleship from being used for personal uses.

However, the cultivator driving the Violet Hero Battleship had overlooked this detail.

Perhaps, it never crossed their mind that someone in the world could easily unlock the mechanism on the hatch door and sneak into the control room?

As Lin Xun tightly clasped the Flowing Light Blade in his hand, his eyes turned indifferent and lost their warmth. He pushed open the door on the side of the control room.

The door led to the core area of the ship.

If Lin Xun guessed correctly, the cultivators driving the Violet Hero Battleship were there.

After a few minutes.

Lin Xun returned to the control room unscathed, but corpses were strewn across the core area.

“Finally it’s my turn to attack...” Lin Xun sat down in front of the rune treasure steering wheel, a cold glint flashing across his jet-black eyes.

He was the one who designed the Violet Hero Battleship, but his enemies had used them to deal with him and made him almost lose his life.

Now, it was time for him to regain control of it and fight back!

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“Xiaomu, we might as well withdraw the troops,” Du Xingchuan finally squeezed out those words from his mouth after a long struggle.

He felt a rock lift off his chest after saying that.

However, he inexplicably felt a sense of loss.

“Boss, we still have five Violet Hero Battleships,” Xiaomu exclaimed in shock.

He had never thought that Du Xingchuan would choose to withdraw at that moment. What was the difference between withdrawing and admitting defeat?

Admitting defeat meant that their operation would be a complete failure!

And Chi Cangmei wouldn’t spare Du Xingchuan if she knew about this!

“No. The Violet Hero Battleships have consumed a huge amount of high-grade aeth crystals already. It wouldn’t be long before we fall into a difficult situation. If the target appeared at that time, what can we do?” Du Xingchuan said solemnly.

“The most important thing is that since the target knows about the Violet Hero Battleships, why would he show up?”

“Boss...”

Xiaomu wanted to persuade Du Xingchuan, but he was interrupted with a wave of his hand. “It’s decided. At this point in the battle, we have already lost. The result will be even worse if we continue to struggle.” Du Xingchuan sounded determined.

Xiaomu sighed. Even if he was reluctant to do so, he had to agree.

Rumble—

However, just as Du Xingchuan and Xiaomu were about to issue a withdrawal order, a thunderous roar resounded.

It startled everyone. They looked up and saw a Violet Hero Battleship soaring into the sky like a sun rising in the darkness.

Has the target been spotted?

After a few seconds, another Violet Hero Battleship soared into the sky.

"Boss, it seems that the target has exposed his traces. It's not wise to retreat now," Xiaomu persuaded.

"Then...let's wait a minute." Du Xingchuan sighed, his expression changing.

He knew that waiting would be futile. There was no use in dispatching the Violet Hero Battleships because it would be the same once the target dove into the river.

"Huh? Boss, look at that Violet Hero Battleship. Its cannons have been activated. It has locked on the target!" Xiaomu exclaimed, pointing to the distance.

Du Xingchuan's eyes went wide. He couldn't believe it was true. Why would the target be so stupid to expose himself to the Violet Hero Battleship?

A group of cultivators cheered. The fear, panic, depression and helplessness that had accumulated in their hearts for many days completely broke out.

Rumble—

Under everyone's blazing gazes, the Violet Hero Battleship launched an attack. A beam of dazzling light streaked across the sky, ripping apart the night!

The power was shockingly terrifying!

However...

When they saw that the beam of light was heading towards the other Violet Hero Battleship, everyone's jaw dropped and the looks of triumph, hope and excitement froze on their faces.

What...what the hell is going on?

Chapter 313 Perfect Control

The people on the other Violet Hero Battleships didn't expect the beam of light to aim for them as the ship abruptly halted.

Boom!

With an explosive, loud noise, a hole was blasted into the battleship and it was sent crashing to the ground amidst billowing smoke.

Flames shot into the sky, casting a red glow on the faces of Du Xingchuan, Xiaomu and the other cultivators. It highlighted their wide eyes, dilated pupils, lifeless expressions, and the looks of disbelief.

Why is it attacking our people?

What the hell is it doing?

Boom—

The Violet Hero Battleship plunged to the ground, created an explosion and sent flames and plumes of black smoke into the air.

Undoubtedly, the cultivators on the downed Violet Hero Battleship wouldn't survive!

The loud boom snapped Du Xingchuan and the others awake from their shocked silence.

"How is it like this?"

"What the hell is happening?"

"Damn it! That's a Violet Hero Battleship. If one is destroyed, it's the same as losing thousands of gold coins!"

Even Du Xingchuan was baffled by the situation.

Immediately, he noticed another Violet Hero battleship rushing over from the distance. The violent movements had alerted it.

Meanwhile, the first Violet Hero Battleship activated its rune cannons. All the rune patterns on the cannons lit up brightly.

This is bad!

Du Xingchuan's heart sank.

Boom!

Another shot was fired. The Violet Hero Battleship flying over from the distance didn't understand the situation and repeated the same mistake. It was hit hard and brought down with a loud bang.

"Boss, things aren't right!" Xiaomu roared in anger.

"There's no need to guess. The target must have hijacked a Violet Hero Battleship!"

Du Xingchuan's face clouded over. He was very stupid if he didn't know what was happening.

"What? Hijacked by the target?"

"F\*ck! That's a Violet Hero Battleship! Even Spirit Sea cultivators can't open the hatch! How could the target hijack it?"

"Also, a person needs to know a unique set of art to control the Violet Hero Battleship. How would the target know that?"

Comotions broke out. Everyone was stunned by the sudden change. They felt the world had become unreal and absurd.

It was indeed too unbelievable. The Violet Hero Battleship was their greatest killing weapon that they could rely on, but two ships had been destroyed and one had been controlled by the target. Who would be able to accept that truth?

"Boss, what should we do now?" Xiaomu asked in worry.

However, he saw Du Xingchuan totter like he couldn't bear the blow as he said in a trembling voice, "It's over. Everything is over. If I knew this would happen, I would have retreated already...then this wouldn't have happened..."

"Boss, what do we do?" Xiaomu yelled, his heart bleeding.

However, Du Xingchuan coughed up a mouthful of blood, his face blanched, and his eyes became dull and lifeless.

"Retreat, quickly retreat. It will be disastrous if we don't leave now."

Du Xingchuan's voice was weak and hoarse. He seemed to have lost all his strength. It was easy to imagine what sort of impact the blow had on him.

"Retreat! Everyone retreat!" Xiaomu roared.

The cultivators had already lost their fighting spirit and were standing in stunned silence. But when they heard the roar, they immediately fled in panic like stray dogs.

At the same time, Xiaomu carried Du Xingchuan and bolted into the darkness like a madman.

He knew that their operation had failed, and they couldn't turn the situation around. Their priority right now was to save their own lives. Other things were no longer important.

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Meanwhile, Lin Xun was steering the Violet Hero Battleship. The battleship resembled a nimble bird in the sky as it navigated around the clouds and left mysterious trails behind it.

He perfectly controlled the rune treasure steering wheel with no difficulty.

After all, he was the one who designed the Violet Hero Battleship.

It could be said that Lin Xun had designed the uses of each of the rune patterns and the power of the aeth engine. This was the reason why he could so skillfully control the battleship and stun all the cultivators.

The Violet Hero Battleship roared forward at full speed and it didn't take long for it to locate a new target.

Two Violet Hero Battleships were moving forward in the night, aggressively heading his way.

Lin Xun was most surprised that the opponents had already noticed something was wrong as they initiated an attack the moment they saw he was driving the Violet Hero Battleship.

Rumble—

Artillery fire crisscrossed the sky, tearing apart the night and making it bright as day.

Lin Xun looked incredibly calm as he swiftly maneuvered the battleship to dodge the attacks. Although it was his first time driving a battleship in battle, he wasn't the least afraid.

His confidence stemmed from the fact that he had perfect understanding and control of the Violet Hero Battleship!

Swoosh!

Lin Xun's Violet Hero Battleship was like a butterfly dancing in the sky. Its movements were smooth and elegant as it narrowly evaded the series of attacks one after another.

It was as though the Violet Hero Battleship had come to life. All the cultivators on the other two Violet Hero Battleships were in stunned disbelief. How is that possible?

It was the first time they saw someone able to perfectly control the Violet Hero Battleship to such a degree.

Their control was extremely poor in comparison!

"Quick! Fire with all your might!"

"Damn it! Damn it! Who is controlling that Violet Hero Battleship?"

Furious roars filled the two other battleships. Everyone was in disbelief about Lin Xun's skilful control of the battleship.

Rumble—

The clash between the battleships in the air was an extraordinary scene. Cannon light streaked across the sky like meteors and illuminated the mountains and rivers.

Mountain rocks crumbled and the ground split apart. A scene of devastation was everywhere.

It was no different from a duel between Spirit Sea cultivators.

Strangely, Lin Xun didn't launch an attack and was only constantly dodging the attacks. It was as though he was waiting for an opportunity.

The cultivators on the two Violet Hero Battleships were thrown into a state of panic. It was as if they were facing a venomous python. The python constantly moved in a wavy motion, waiting to strike the most fatal blow!

It didn't matter how the two battleships coordinated or what tactics they adopted. From beginning to end, they failed to inflict any damage on their enemy.

On the contrary, they continued to consume a lot of high-grade aeth crystals with their continuous attacks.

Soon, a cultivator screamed on one of the Violet Hero Battleships. "No, there is only one high-grade aeth crystal left. We must land immediately! Otherwise, the battleship will lose power and fall from the air!"

All cultivators on the battleship froze like they had fallen into an ice cave.

No matter what, their lives were most important. In the face of death, the cultivators steered the battleship to the distance and prepared to land.

However, Lin Xun was precisely waiting for that moment and he unhesitatingly launched the fiercest attack.

Rumble—

Artillery fire rained out and battered the night like a whip as it enveloped the fleeing battleship.

Instantly, the Violet Hero Battleship exploded from the impact and plunged from the sky.  
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At the same time, the enemies on the other battleship halted abruptly in a panic and sped madly in the opposite direction, crushing the clouds in the way.

It was too terrifying!

They had to escape in time because they knew they wouldn't be a match for their opponent.

Their only way to survive was to escape.

However, they had underestimated Lin Xun's ability. After he destroyed one of the Violet Hero Battleships, he steered the battleship and made an exaggerated and dangerous 180 degree turn in mid-air.

He rapidly caught up to the remaining last Violet Hero Battleship and destroyed it with his powerful artillery fire.

As Lin Xun watched the flames and smoke billow into the sky, he thought of the little girl Luoluo. He recalled her kind and gentle mother and the rune shuttle that was destroyed under the cannon fire of a Violet Hero Battleship.

"I have helped you get revenge. I hope you can rest in peace now..." Lin Xun muttered, but his expression didn't ripple in the slightest. He might have avenged her, but his path to revenge had only just begun!

Will it be over once the enemy retreated?

Will it be over once I reach the Forbidden City?

No!

He knew that the encirclement operation against him wouldn't end so easily!

The Chi Clan that was behind the operation and the possible mighty force behind the Chi Clan were the true culprits!

Whether it was for revenge or to find out the truth of why they tried to prevent him from going to the Forbidden City, Lin Xun wouldn't let go of his hatred.

A sharp sound in the battleship's core area startled Lin Xun. Then, he carefully steered the battleship to safety and landed.

Bang!

The moment the hatch was opened, he vanished into the night in a flash.

The Violet Hero Battleship was an amazing treasure. It was invaluable, but unfortunately, its high-grade aeth crystals were close to exhaustion and couldn't be used anymore.

Lin Xun had to give up on the battleship.

Before he left, he had gathered all the valuable things on the battleship and also destroyed the aeth engine at the battleship's core.

Even if the enemies took the ship back, they would have trouble repairing it to its original state.

Wu—

Lin Xun suddenly halted his running and looked up. He saw a wind shadow hawk hovering in the sky.

A smile came to his lips and he silently waved at the hawk. He retracted his gaze and continued ahead

### Chapter 314 Impending Storm

In an ancient mansion in the Forbidden City.

Bang! Boom!

The clattering and breaking of items and angry yells rang from a closed room from time to time.

The two attendants guarding the door quivered in fear. After a message was sent back from the front line, the room seemed to have been caught in an earthquake.

"There were three thousand elite cultivators! But only a few hundred are left in the end!? What a bunch of trash!

"Du Xingchuan is useless!

"Also, how did that kid hijack a Violet Hero Battleship? And how can he destroy all our battleships?"

"We had six brand-new Violet Hero Battleships. Each one is worth two hundred thousand gold coins. They are rare treasures that can't be bought with money, but now...all have been destroyed except for the two that were severely damaged! Who is going to take responsibility for the loss?"

"This is so annoying!"

The descendants of the wealthy families who acted as assistants in the operation roared in fury. They were deeply affected by the news they had just received and lost their composure.

The ground was covered with smashed cups, broken pieces of furniture, and other items.

The candles flickered, casting a glow on everyone's livid and grim faces, making them look even more sinister.

A planned operation between Haze City and the Forbidden City that had been well supplemented with many resources and materials—

Failed!

They had lost to a boy in his teens!

They were utterly defeated!

Who would be able to accept the defeat?

“Trash! What a bunch of trash! I’m going to kill Du Xingchuan when he returns!”

The yelling continued. It was as though everyone wanted to vent the shock, anger, and suffocating feeling in their hearts.

Only Chi Cangmei didn’t utter a single word. She sat there alone like a statue, her pretty and fierce face devoid of emotions. She didn’t respond to any of the furious voices around her.

It was unknown how much time had passed before the yelling subsided and the wealthy family descendants slumped down on their seats.

“Not going to yell anymore?”

Chi Cangmei finally spoke after a long period of silence. She lifted her head and swept a glance over everyone around her. She didn’t in the least conceal the disdain in her eyes.

The assistants all looked uncomfortable and avoided her gaze.

“Even if the people sent out are trash, they have fought with their lives. But you all...” Chi Cangmei uttered coldly. “Perhaps, you are the true trash!”

Trash!

No one dared to refute even if they were directly insulted and raging inside.

“Look, you don’t even dare to refute it. What’s the use of you all?”

Chi Cangmei’s voice sounded increasingly calm, but her words were harsher and harsher. “It’s my fault for keeping you all as assistants. Perhaps I, Chi Cangmei, am a blind idiot!”

The more she said it like that, the more uncomfortable she made the assistants. Their faces became extremely stiff and were red with embarrassment.

“Lady Mei, although the operation failed, the target hasn’t reached Forbidden City yet. In other words, we still have a chance!” someone couldn’t help but say aloud. “I’m willing to go to the front line and kill that kid!”

“Yes! Me too!”

The others also expressed their willingness as if showing their loyalties.

Chi Cangmei’s expression remained indifferent, but a hint of pity flashed in her eyes as she looked at them. “Are you sure?”

“Of course!” the assistants said without any hesitation.

Chi Cangmei chuckled. “Then I have to ask who can guarantee that they can kill the target? I’m serious. So you better think before you respond.”

All the assistants became stiff and remained silent.

They had been paying close attention to the operation on the front line these days. How could they not know that their target was an abnormal, young demon?

Even six Violet Hero Battleships and three thousand elite cultivators failed miserably against him. How would they have a chance of winning?

They only enthusiastically volunteered to go to the front line out of anger from being humiliated by Chi Cangmei.

They likely would run faster than rabbits if they had to face the target.

Chi Cangmei's expression turned cold as she slowly rose to her feet. "The celebration banquet is gone. Everyone, you better look out for yourself!" She turned around and left.

Although her words didn't seem particularly threatening, her assistants' expressions dramatically changed. They were scared out of their wits.

They all knew that Chi Cangmei was truly enraged and the consequences would be serious!

.....

In the darkness of the night, Chi Cangmei was sitting inside a carriage. She looked distracted as she stared at the bead floating in front.

The bead cast out a light screen and showed a very simple scene. A young man was looking up with a smile and waving his hand in the night.

Chi Cangmei watched quietly as if the youngster was right in front of her.

She knew that the handsome young man was Lin Xun, but when she saw him, she felt that he was very unfamiliar like she had never met him before.

The youngster seemed to be smiling and his smile could be described as bright and charming, but it was particularly irritating to Chi Cangmei.

She couldn't help but shudder inwardly when she looked at the young man's dark eyes. His eyes were too calm and without a ripple of emotion like a still lake.

Chi Cangmei inexplicably felt a chill run down her spine.

PA!

She raised her hand and crushed the bead in her hand. Even if you come to the Forbidden City, I will not stop!

.....

"Father, the operation has failed." Chi Cangmei headed straight to her father's study when she returned to her clan.

Seeing her father sitting upright before a desk and reading, Chi Cangmei seemed to have become gentle and lost her strong, powerful demeanor.

"Hm, tell me the details," Chi Lingxiao said casually. He was a slender man. Clad in a scholarly robe, he looked particularly elegant and refined.

Even if he was just sitting there, his back was straight as a spear and his shoulders, although not particularly broad, looked capable of holding up the sky!

He exuded a leisurely and relaxed demeanor.

Chi Cangmei deliberated, then organized her thoughts and explained all the details of the operation.

Chi Lingxiao's expression never wavered once. He was still sitting in front of the desk and quietly flipping through an old book in his hand.

When Chi Cangmei finished speaking, he nodded. "Yes, we have already done what we should do. Whether it's successful or not, it has nothing to do with us anymore."

Chi Cangmei was taken aback for a moment. She couldn't believe what she had heard. What does that mean? 'Whether it's successful or not, it has nothing to do with us anymore.'

The operation has failed! We lost so many people, how could it not have anything to do with us?

She couldn't help but ask, "Father, what is going on?"

Chi Lingxiao put away the book in his hand and explained, "From the moment when we agreed not to send people stronger than the Spirit Dipper Stage to participate in the operation, the outcome has already been decided. If we win, the kid will be dead. If we lose, the kid will be qualified to enter the Forbidden City."

Chi Lingxiao smiled. "You just need to think about the intention behind this agreement. Some people want the child of the Lin Family to return, but some people don't. This was why they made such an arrangement."

Chi Cangmei had long thought about the problem, but she was still taken aback by her father's explanation. "So...it's not our Chi Family that wants to deal with Lin Xun?"

Chi Lingxiao nodded. "That boy has a complicated background. It involves an incident that occurred more than ten years ago. Everyone thought he was dead. Who would have thought that he would reappear..."

"Father, who is he?" Chi Cangmei asked in shock.

She had never thought that Lin Xun's identity would stir up such a huge storm.

If even the Chi Family had to play the role of 'hired thugs,' it was easy to imagine how terrifying the force behind the operation was!

"You will understand when he comes to the Forbidden City."

Chi Lingxiao said casually, "Mei'er, you have done a good job. Although you were defeated, you have completed the task. Leave the rest for me to handle."

Chi Cangmei left the study in a distracted state. She had thought that her father would severely punish her for failing the mission...

What is going on?

For the first time, Chi Cangmei felt bewildered.

But she realized that she could get the answer she wanted once she found out about Lin Xun's identity!

"Lin Xun, who are you?"

With this mystery in mind, Chi Cangmei left the clan. She was determined to find out what had happened in the Forbidden City more than a decade ago.

.....

The Castle of Darkness.

The old man walked into an empty and dark hall and bowed his head. "Miss, the Chi Family's operation has failed."

"Since the kid managed to survive, it seems that he has proved that he is qualified to take charge. What reaction does the old guy from the stargazing platform have?"

The Queen of Dark Night's voice sounded ethereal as it drifted in the darkness.

The old man suddenly donned a strange expression and only answered her after a while, "He seems to have expected this to happen and only said four words in response."

"What four words?"

"A storm will rise!"

"That old guy always likes to be mysterious. I look forward to seeing what kind of storm will be set off in the Forbidden City when that kid Lin Xun arrives!"

.....

The old man known as the Heavenly Seer stood alone on the stargazing platform. He leaned back against the railing and gazed at the stars above, his eyes sparkling innocently like that of a child's.

After a long moment, he let out an emotional sigh. "More than ten years have passed in the blink of an eye. Who would have thought that the kid could still return to the Forbidden City after his Origin Aeth Artery was removed? The world is indeed unpredictable!"

Chapter 315 Vortex and Azure Turtle King

Lin Xun rapidly moved through the fast underwater current like he was on land.

Although he was certain that his opponents had suffered an utter defeat and had no remaining strength to deal with him, he still traveled underwater just in case.

"I have seized hundreds of crossbows as well as a large number of aeth tools and pills along the way. They no doubt would fetch good money if they were exchanged."

As Lin Xun moved forward, he contemplated what to do next. All sorts of spoils were piled up in his Xumi Ring, but the majority were of no use to him so he intended to sell them all when he had the chance.

He would no doubt need to spend a lot of money when he arrived in the Forbidden City and would need many cultivation resources, so he had to start planning his spending.

After the time it took to burn a stick of incense, a terrifying vortex developed at the bottom of the river, disturbing the flow and producing a terrifying tearing force.

Lin Xun's eyes narrowed, and he abruptly stopped.

The vortex was terrifying. It looked like a giant mouth that was underwater, seemingly capable of tearing and devouring everything that passed.

A shoal of fish couldn't avoid it in time and was instantly ripped apart and swallowed.

Boom!

Lin Xun tested the power of the vortex by throwing an underwater boulder that weighed over twenty pounds into the vortex. The boulder was crushed to smithereens and vanished with a loud boom.

Lin Xun shuddered. What terrifying power. The vortex could shred a cultivator's body if they recklessly approached it!

He didn't dare to move any closer. He decided to move across the water surface to avoid the vortex in the way.

Who would have thought that the higher he went up, the stronger the engulfing force was? He had only swam less than feet up when a terrifying force engulfed him and pulled his body into the vortex.

This isn't good!

He was so frightened that his mind trembled, and he subconsciously mobilized all his cultivation. He released a dazzling glow as he frantically tried to break free.

However, the power of the vortex was too terrifying. Lin Xun could easily kill Heaven Dipper cultivators, but he felt tiny and powerless before the vortex. He was like an ant trying to shake a tree.

Instantly, the vortex sucked him in!

Rumble!

Lin Xun only felt his head spin. Stars flew before his eyes and his vision blurred like he had fallen into an abyss.

At that moment, he inexplicably thought of the fish and rocks that had been crushed into smithereens and wondered whether he would suffer the same tragic fate.

Then, he felt his body suddenly shake and a feeling of dizziness spread throughout his body before he lost consciousness.

If other cultivators were present, they would notice a faint, blue glow had enveloped his body and helped him narrowly avoid the tearing force of the terrifying vortex.

Naturally, it was the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead.

.....

When Lin Xun regained consciousness, he found himself in a clear, blue river. The colorful and stunning corals in front of him brightened the water and cast a dreamy glow in the river. The underwater plants swayed and fluttered like ribbons.

Lin Xun stared, mesmerized by the beautiful scenery.

He soon woke up, checked his body, and found that he was uninjured. He couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

Where am I?

He got up and looked around. He was certain that he was dragged into the underwater vortex.

However, he never thought such a dreamy and beautiful place would exist at the bottom of the vortex.

Suddenly, the water rippled beside him and a huge azure fish with wings and colorful feathers swam past Lin Xun.

That...

Lin Xun's pupils shrank. What kind of strange fish is that?

Colorful feathers, wings, azure scales, whiskers, blazing eyes...

Lin Xun quickly recalled the Ten Thousand Beast Record, but he couldn't remember anything similar to the fish he saw!

"Strange, could the underwater vortex be a special passageway that transported me to an unknown underwater territory?"

Lin Xun pondered for a long moment but couldn't come to an answer.

"Never mind, it's more important to find a way out first."

Lin Xun cast the distracting thoughts to the back of his mind and continued forward.

Along the way, he passed clusters of corals filled with precious qi and beams of light shining through the water. The dreamy and stunning underwater territory seemed like the legendary residence of the God of the Sea.

Occasionally, he noticed strange-looking fish with wings, sharp claws, and a horn on their heads. They were very peculiar and he had never seen anything like them in the past!

The fish were not in the slightest aggressive and seemed to exude a spiritual nature. They didn't attack Lin Xun, and so he felt much more at ease.

He was worried that his life would end if he encountered some terrifying, underwater monster.

After walking for dozens of miles, a person would get tired of seeing the most beautiful scenery. Lin Xun composed his emotions and concentrated on finding a way out.

Huh?

Soon, a glow of bright silvery light in the distance caught his attention.

As he approached, he saw drops of silvery light swaying in the water like rain and illuminating the area. It was as though a river of stars was floating above him, forming a sacred and stunning spectacle.

It wasn't only spectacular but could be called a miraculous phenomenon!

It's too beautiful!

Lin Xun looked captivated.

Only after a good while did he return to his senses. He looked around and discovered that the silver plants on the ground released the dazzling, star-like light.

The silver underwater plants were extremely unusual. Their stems were straight and sharp like a sword and their body glistened like they were frosted. Standing there, they resembled divine swords piercing the sky!

Lin Xun was most drawn to the pure, spiritual qi around the silver plants. It wasn't only fragrant, ethereal and chilling, but seemed capable of penetrating deep into one's soul to bewitch the mind.

It was undoubtedly a rare treasure of the world!

Even breathing in the aura helped clear Lin Xun's mind. His qi pulsed around his body in indescribable joy!

Taking a deep breath, Lin Xun stepped forward and was about to pick one of the plants to take a closer look. He wanted to find out its uses.

Who would have thought that the ground would crack and a turtle suddenly emerged from it? The turtle glared at Lin Xun. "Who are you? You dare to steal heavenly medicinal herbs without asking!"

Lin Xun was startled. It was the first time he saw a speaking turtle.

The turtle slowly climbed onto a coral and stared contemptuously at Lin Xun. "Junior, why are you not saying anything? Is it because you feel guilty?"

Lin Xun drew a deep breath, trying hard to maintain calm. His encounters had been incredibly bizarre and unbelievable. He thought he was dreaming.

"Dare...dare I ask if you are a human or demon?" Lin Xun stammered, his face glowing with curiosity.

He had heard about rune beasts with heavenly strengths and intelligence and could cultivate like true cultivators.

However, it was very rare to see any beast with the ability to speak. Almost all only existed in myths and legends!

"Hey, junior, how dare you call I, a king, a demon!" the turtle cried out.

When Lin Xun heard the turtle say that and saw him shake his head irritably, he couldn't help but cackle and tease, "Then what king are you? A turtle king?"

The turtle snapped like he had turned berserk. His eyes were bloodshot and he gnashed his teeth.

"Turtle? Did you call me a turtle? Are you blind? I am a divine azure turtle. I have a noble bloodline and am unique in the world. Many sea spirits and demons in the Spirit Burial Sea call me the Great Azure Turtle King!"

Azure turtle!

A heaven-grade rune beast that only existed in the legends!

Legend has it that it was born in the waters of the nine spirits and possessed remarkable wisdom and intelligence and the divine ability to control the wind, waves, clouds and mist. Its power was infinite!

Lin Xun had never thought that the inconspicuous turtle before him would be a legendary azure turtle!

But soon, his attention was drawn to a sentence that the azure turtle said.

Spirit Burial Sea?

Before Lin Xun set off from Haze City, Xue Jin had mentioned to him that he would have to pass through the Spirit Burial Sea if he set off from the east.

In other words, the Spirit Burial Sea was located on the easternmost end of the empire. However, Lin Xun was at the periphery of Yellow Dragon City when he was swept into the underwater vortex.

Yellow Dragon City and the Spirit Burial Sea were separated by tens of thousands of miles!

The tremendous distance stunned Lin Xun.

According to Xue Jin, this season every year, the Spirit Burial Sea would suffer a period of turbulence. It would face terrifying natural disasters such as raging storms and tsunamis. Additionally, many fierce beasts roamed the sea, and so no cultivator dared to come to the Spirit Burial Sea during that period.

Even Heaven Ascension cultivators would turn back at the sea!

If this is the Spirit Burial Sea, doesn't that mean I have come to the sea territory at the easternmost end of the empire by mistake?

"Junior, are you listening to me!?" the azure turtle yelled, seemingly dissatisfied with Lin Xun's attitude.

"Oh."

Lin Xun forcibly put away the distracting thoughts in his mind with a toss of his head.

A thought struck his mind as he looked at the azure turtle. He suddenly bowed and said respectfully, "Elder, I apologize for my disrespect. I am too ignorant. I'm just a frog at the bottom of the well. I didn't know about such a unique and amazing existence as yourself in the world and so your presence astonished me. I hope you understand."

The azure turtle grinned and beamed. “Hahaha, junior you’re good at talking. But I agree that I am a unique and amazing existence. Since you have acknowledged your ignorance, I will forgive you this once.”

Lin Xun smiled inwardly. As he thought, the azure turtle liked to be complimented. This was obvious from the way he talked to him.

This is good.

As long as I do what he likes, he will surely unconsciously blurt out something useful!

Chapter 316 Treasure Hunting in the Ruins

As expected, the azure turtle beamed with joy upon hearing Lin Xun’s compliment. He chuckled repeatedly and looked at Lin Xun like he was a close friend.

Lin Xun took the opportunity to throw a few questions at the azure turtle, and he answered them one by one.

It turned out that the water territory was indeed the Spirit Burial Sea, which was tens of thousands of miles away from the land of the Ziyao Empire.

According to the azure turtle, very few cultivators had been able to reach the Spirit Burial Sea in the past thousand years.

The water territory was too far and the journey there was full of dangers. Even Heaven Ascension cultivators would be unlikely to survive the journey.

This fact had a huge impact on Lin Xun. He was risking his life trying to get to the Forbidden City.

Who would have thought that he would suddenly be transported to an unfamiliar sea territory tens of thousands of miles away from the Ziyao Empire?

According to the azure turtle, it would take him at least three to five months to return to the Ziyao Empire without taking into account the dangers he would encounter on the way!

“By the way—”

The azure turtle said suddenly, “You’re so weak, and a jade demon shark can easily tear you apart. How did you get here?”

Lin Xun sighed and recounted his experience and encounters. He didn’t hide anything from the azure turtle.

To his surprise, the azure turtle exclaimed in excitement, “Space vortex! Kid, you entered a space vortex! Heavens, but you’re still alive! Miracle! It’s a miracle!”

Lin Xun almost rolled his eyes. Is it a miracle to still be alive?

“Elder, what’s this space vortex thing?” asked Lin Xun.

The azure turtle didn’t answer him, and instead stared at him with fervent eyes. “Kid, I believe you have a treasure on you that can avoid the turbulent flow of space, am I right?”

The azure turtle was so excited that he almost danced around. "I'm saved. I'm finally saved. I have been trapped in this damn sea for eight hundred years. My savior has finally come! Hahahaha..."

Lin Xun was dumbfounded as he stared at the azure turtle. This guy calls himself the Azure Turtle King and says he is worshiped by many underwater spirits and demons, but it turns out that he is trapped here.

Suddenly, Lin Xun felt worried. Could the turtle just be bluffing? If he's so powerful why would he be trapped in this sea territory?

How funny!?

Who has ever seen an azure turtle, a legendary heaven-grade rune beast, that can control the wind, waves, clouds, and mist, trapped in its own sea?

As though he sensed the change in Lin Xun's gaze, the azure turtle suddenly stopped laughing. He cleared his throat with a cough and explained, "Junior, don't overthink. Although I have great powers, there are still some powers that I can't compete with in this world."

He assumed a solemn expression as he continued, "This sea territory is extremely special in that it is an ancient ruin. It is shrouded in a mysterious, ancient divine power. Even cultivators of the Life Death Stage wouldn't be able to leave, let alone me."

Lin Xun's heart trembled. Ancient ruins!?

He had never imagined that even Life Death Stage Kings wouldn't be able to escape. What sort of frightening power could trap such strong cultivators in this sea territory?

Even if it's historical ruins, it's unbelievable that the divine power is still so tyrannical after so many years have passed.

"Luckily, you came!"

Suddenly, the azure turtle lit up with excitement again. His eyes blazed with boundless hope and desire as he gazed at Lin Xun. It was as though he was a peerless treasure of the world. "This is fate. It proves that it is not my time to die yet!"

Lin Xun smiled bitterly. "Elder, don't be so happy yet. I still don't know how to get us out of here!"

"It's very simple. You have a treasure that can teleport through the space vortex so you can easily take me and leave!"

He cast his gaze to the distance of the sea territory. "The exit is right there. I didn't dare to go near it in the past, but it's different now."

Realization flashed across Lin Xun's mind. The so-called treasure that the azure turtle spoke of must be the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead in my mind-sea!

However, it never crossed Lin Xun's mind that the treasure could travel through the space vortex.

Seeing Lin Xun's hesitation, the azure turtle rolled his eyes. Then, as though he had understood something, he smiled and pointed to the silver plants nearby. "Junior, look, those are silver frost sword

grass, a rare treasure that only existed in ancient times. It is a top-grade divine medicinal plant in the world!"

Lin Xun's eyes lit up.

The azure turtle said proudly, "Since it's a divine medicinal plant, it naturally has unbelievable effects. It can bring a dead person back to life even if they are just bones. It can temper a cultivator's body, solidify their foundation, and improve their cultivation! If the plants somehow made their way to the outside world, even the Life Death Stage Kings would fight over them!"

"It's that amazing?" Lin Xun exclaimed.

"I'm not talking nonsense. If it wasn't for them, how would I be trapped here?" the azure turtle said indifferently,

Lin Xun asked suspiciously, "Then...why don't you consume them?"

"Junior, you underestimate me too much. I have already consumed no fewer than one hundred Silver Frost Sword Grass during the years I have been trapped here. My cultivation has reached its limit. Those things are no longer of any use to me." His voice was calm and detached like he was above all mundane things.

Then, he sighed emotionally. "The world regards it as a treasure but to me it is tasteless. It's a pity. When you, like me, reach the supreme state of cultivation, the realm of boundless life and death, and are guided by only the great Dao, you will understand how I feel."

Lin Xun simply ignored his boasting and concluded that the azure turtle had consumed too many divine medicinal plants and was tired of them so he led him to them.

"Junior, it's fate that we met. Treat these as my gift to you," the azure turtle said leisurely.

"Then I must thank Elder for your kindness." Lin Xun smiled.

Regardless of how the azure turtle boasted, he was certain that the silver frost sword grass was a top treasure in the world.

"Wait a moment. It's not easy to preserve those plants. If you touch them like that, they will die and burst into flames. Also, if you don't take care of them well, they will immediately vanish into nothing," the azure turtle explained to Lin Xun. Then, he spat out a mouthful of saliva, and it turned into a giant net that completely covered the stretch of silver frost sword grass.

Immediately, under Lin Xun's perplexed gaze, the silver frost sword grass was uprooted and enveloped in a bubble-like azure light.

"Junior, this is a little token from me. Please accept it. The silver frost sword grass can be perfectly preserved with my power."

The azure turtle said proudly, "When you want to use them, you only need a little aeth power to take them out from the light bubble."

"Thank you, Elder!"

Lin Xun unhesitatingly opened the Xumi Ring and stored the dozens of silver frost sword grass in it.

"Hahaha, junior, now can you let me leave with you?" asked the azure turtle with a smile

Lin Xun contemplated for a moment and grinned. "Elder, since you're so sure that I can help you leave then we should be able to leave at any time. But it's very rare to see such ancient ruins. Wouldn't it be a pity to leave in such a hurry?"

The azure turtle exclaimed, "I didn't expect you to have such a huge appetite."

Lin Xun smiled. "Wouldn't it be a waste if the treasures in the historical ruins are left behind?"

"To be honest, I have already taken all the treasures on the first level of the ruins that I like, so there isn't much left. But there is something that might be useful to you.

"Come with me." The azure turtle disappeared in a flash.

Tempted, Lin Xun quickly followed him. "The first level of the ruins..."

The farther the two traveled, the clearer the seawater. Additionally, an indescribably mysterious force filled the water. Although the force didn't hinder their movements, it could penetrate their minds and shake their spirit with terrifying, oppressive power.

Even the azure turtle seldom spoke as they moved forward.

They came to a little fiery red tree next to an underwater boulder. Its branches were as tough as swords, and red fruits the size of a thumb were hung all over it like little suns.

"True yang dragon essence fruit. It can open up a person's intelligence and stimulate their comprehension ability. They are amazing divine fruits, but a cultivator can at most consume one. There's no use in consuming more."

With a wave of its flipper, the twenty-four true yang dragon essence fruits were harvested from the tree and tossed over to Lin Xun."

Lin Xun quickly took out a jade bottle, carefully stored them inside, and sealed it in the Xumi Ring.

They continued forward, but the azure turtle suddenly rushed into the depths of a dense patch of azure plants. When he returned, he was clasping a glistening purple ore the size of a coin. *nOvelnext.coM*

"This is purple spirit iron. It can be used to forge aeth tools. The rune masters of your human race should like them. I heard that they are very useful in making rune armaments, but they are worthless to me." The azure turtle tossed it to Lin Xun like it was trash.

Lin Xun's face glowed with excitement. Violet spirit iron! He knew that even a coin-sized piece was worth a boundless amount of money!

If it was ground to a powder and smelted with other rune materials, it could greatly improve the success rate of forging rune armaments.

The azure turtle searched the sea territory as they moved forward. He was very familiar with the sea territory so it didn't take him much effort to collect dozens of rare treasures for Lin Xun.

Of course, they were all of little value and use to the azure turtle.

However, they were all rare unique treasures to Lin Xun. They were all simply invaluable!

Lin Xun had fallen into a state of excitement and had forgotten his desire to leave. What could be happier than hunting for treasures in ancient ruins?

He was simply obsessed!

Chapter 317 Like a Dream

Snow infant jade ginseng, nine twisted heart iron, thousand-year-old pure void spirit flower with thirty-six petals, and lightning yuan crystal that contained origin aeth power...

Lin Xun couldn't help trembling at the thought of the riches he found along the way. All were treasures seen only in ancient times.

They were considered rare in any part of the empire and perhaps could only be found in the treasury of the imperial family.

However, the azure turtle threw those items at Lin Xun like they were rubbish.

Lin Xun couldn't help feeling elated. These are all treasures that the azure turtle has abandoned. I wonder how rare and valuable are the treasures that he picked up...

Lin Xun's thoughts were drifting from place to place. As the saying went, money and wealth could tempt people's hearts. Lin Xun felt the same way when faced with so many treasures.

It was normal. Even Heaven Ascension cultivators would react the same way as Lin Xun.

The azure turtle suddenly halted and said solemnly, "We can't advance anymore. Ahead is the second level of the ruins. It is filled with terrifying divine power. You would instantly be blasted into smithereens if you got any closer!"

Lin Xun suddenly snapped awake from his mesmerized state and saw that the seawater was no longer a pure, blue hue. Instead, it was filled with a chilling aura.

After only one glance, Lin Xun felt his hair stand on end and the feeling of terror flooded his body.

He felt that the aura alone could obliterate him from the world.

The azure turtle turned around and headed back.

Lin Xun caught up and asked, "Elder, why would the ruins have a second level?"

"From what I know, the areas of the ancient ruins are huge. It can be considered a world of its own. It is full of restrictions and dangers. There's not only a second floor but a third, fourth and fifth..."

"As for how many levels there are, I don't know. I am only certain that only cultivators at the Life Death Stage King can enter the second level of the ruins."

Lin Xun's heart rose and fell like the waves when he realized that the ancient ruins were much bigger than he had thought!

If there are already so many treasures on the first level then what sort of astounding treasures would be concealed in the second?

The higher the level, the more valuable the treasures!

Lin Xun's heart blazed up. If he wasn't too weak, he wanted to investigate the other levels and see what sort of other secrets were hidden in the ancient ruins.

Lin Xun soon calmed his emotions.

As the azure turtle had said, the ruins were full of dangers and restrictions, and even a Life Death Stage King would only be qualified to explore the second level. It was evident how dangerous the deeper levels were!

"Why don't you go?" asked Lin Xun.

"Although my strength is top-class, I don't dare to put my life at risk. The second level of the ruins..."

The azure turtle sighed bitterly, "...is not something I should stick my nose into. Once entered, there is only a slim chance of surviving. I can't help but give up on it."

Lin Xun nodded. He knew that the azure turtle liked to brag and tended to exaggerate, but his fear of the second level was real. Lin Xun was certain of it.

Soon, Lin Xun came to the turbulent waters of the sea under the azure turtle's guidance.

"This is—"

Lin Xun was immediately drawn to a familiar vortex that was rotating in the distance and setting off countless terrifying waves

He had no doubt that the tearing force could crush everything it touched!

When Lin Xun was in the river on the periphery of the Yellow Dragon City, his carelessness was what caused him to be swept away by the vortex and brought to the ancient ruins in the Spirit Burial Sea.

"That's a space vortex."

Bitter hatred flashed in the azure turtle's eyes. "Although the vortex is at the bottom of the sea, its depths are connected to the turbulent flow of space. No cultivator swept into the vortex can survive!"

"Unfortunately, it's also the only exit from the ancient ruins. Otherwise, how would I have been trapped here for thousands of years?" The azure turtle's voice was full of resentment.

"Elder, are you sure that I can return to where I came from if I successfully pass through it?" Lin Xun asked.

"It's impossible to say. The mystery of the turbulent flow of space is so profound that even I can't completely understand it. But I am certain that you will have to pass through it to leave here."

The azure turtle's eyes blazed as he stared at Lin Xun. "Junior, I have treated you well. Now, will you bring me out of here?"

"Of course."

"Great!" The azure turtle threw his head back and laughed.

However, just as Lin Xun was ready to act, the azure turtle stopped him. "Hold on."

Lin Xun froze and glanced at the azure turtle, unsure of what he was planning to do.

He saw the azure turtle floating there in a daze. His face was a complicated mix of expressions—reluctance, bewilderment and hope. He suddenly asked, "Do you have any alcohol on you?"

"Yes."

Lin Xun often kept some alcohol in his Xumi Ring. It wasn't for himself, but he had developed a habit of buying alcohol for Xue Jin when he was in Haze City.

"Once we enter the space vortex, you and I may be separated. How about we take this opportunity and have a drink?" The azure turtle looked at Lin Xun, his eyes alight with hope.

He had been trapped for thousands of years and had never talked to anyone during that period. He felt extremely lonely so he couldn't help feeling emotional when he was about to leave. *ovelnext.coM*

"Good idea!" Lin Xun brought out a jar of alcohol and drank with the azure turtle.

After the azure turtle drank the wine, perhaps because he truly considered Lin Xun as a close friend, he told him something that he had suppressed for a long, long time.

Or perhaps, it was more like a vent for his loneliness. No one would understand if they hadn't been trapped for thousands of years.

Lin Xun smiled, drank and patiently listened.

It turned out that the azure turtle came from a place called Jade Light Island in the Spirit Burial Sea. He called himself the Great Azure Turtle King and he ruled Jade Light Island.

It was only because he wanted to improve his cultivation that he strayed into the ancient ruins and became trapped for a thousand years. But now, he finally saw a glimmer of hope.

Lin Xun was most surprised to learn that the azure turtle was over 2,600 years old. However, he had just passed the juvenile stage and could at most be considered at the maturing stage of the azure turtle clan. He still had a long way to reach adulthood.

In other words, the azure turtle was no different from a teenager of the human race.

A flash of realization struck Lin Xun. No wonder this guy speaks in an old-fashioned manner, but is proud and vain and likes to be praised. He is indeed no different from a kid.

However, knowing that he had lived for over 2,000 years, Lin Xun felt a little awkward treating him like a kid!

Only when they finished the alcohol did the azure turtle say emotionally, "Little Brother Lin Xun, when you reach the Heaven Ascension Stage you will understand that the world is bigger than you think. The

Ziyao Empire is just a little piece of land compared to the entire world. When you want to wander the world, come find me on Jade Light Island and I will show you what a true immortal clan is like!"

After drinking to his heart's content, the azure turtle changed the way he treated Lin Xun. He viewed him as a close friend and wasn't as cold as before.

His words were indeed from the bottom of his heart.

Lin Xun's emotions were also swirling in his heart. He had never imagined that he would come to a sea territory tens of thousands of miles from the Ziyao Empire by coincidence and meet an azure turtle rune beast.

Lin Xun finally understood what was meant by the world being unpredictable. He couldn't help but feel elated and pleased about his encounter with the azure turtle.

"Big Brother Azure Turtle, don't worry, I will come to visit you after I solve my troubles," Lin Xun readily agreed.

The azure turtle threw his head back and laughed skywards. Then, he and Lin Xun dove toward the underwater vortex in the distance.

Rumble—

The vortex rapidly rotated and the waves produced a terrifying, devouring, and tearing force that instantly swept in Lin Xun and the azure turtle.

Just before Lin Xun slipped into unconsciousness, he saw the azure turtle transforming into a tall and handsome, azure-robed youngster!

It turns out that guy has reached the point in his cultivation where he could transform into a human!

Just as such a thought flashed across Lin Xun's mind, his vision darkened and he felt as though a giant invisible hand was dragging him into the turbulent flow of space.

.....

The sound of rushing water awakened Lin Xun.

His eyes sprang open and he saw that he was still underwater, but he knew that he was no longer in the ancient ruins.

He shook his head and took a deep breath. He pushed himself upwards and reached the river surface in the blink of an eye.

The sky was dark as ink, and stars were twinkling brightly. Rolling hills extended endlessly on both sides of the river, and the cries of birds and beasts rang from time to time.

Lin Xun silently observed for a moment before he was certain that he had returned to the empire. He was precisely on the great river on the periphery of the Yellow Dragon City!

He sat down on a random boulder in a daze. He looked bewildered and began to suspect whether everything he had experienced was nothing but a bizarre dream.

However, when he noticed all kinds of treasures in the Xumi ring, he snapped awake. It's not a dream. It really happened!

It's the mysterious space vortex at the bottom of the river that brought about everything!

It's like a mysterious passage with unbelievable teleportation powers.

"Take care," Lin Xun murmured as the figure of the azure turtle appeared in his mind.

Swoosh!

Without further hesitation, Lin Xun navigated through the night. Now that he had safely returned, he needed to make good use of his time to hurry to the Forbidden City!

### Chapter 318 The Power of Spirit Sea

Half a month later, Wuqu City.

As one of the cities closest to the Forbidden City, Wuqu City was very well-known in the empire.

It guarded the Forbidden City with the other eleven cities like the stars surrounding the moon. It wasn't only bustling but also provided residence for many rich and powerful forces.

It was noon. The sun was blazing high in the sky, and it was incredibly dry and hot.

A youngster covered in dust and dirt was trotting along a spacious street a dozen miles from Wuqu City.

He was dressed in plain clothes, and his black hair was loosely tied behind his head with a straw string. It highlighted his handsome and determined face, jet-black eyes, and the faint, imperceptible smile on his lips.

Naturally, it was Lin Xun.

Lin Xun perked up when he saw the grand outline of Wuqu City from afar, and he quickened his pace.

He counted the days and realized that over one month had passed since he left Haze City. He couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief now that he had come to the neighboring city of the Forbidden City.

He knew that he didn't need to fear any more roadblocks or attacks from the Chi Family as long as he stepped into Wuqu City.

This was because as one of the twelve cities guarding the imperial capital, Wuqu City had many military forces. Additionally, many cultivators and sects resided in the city so the Chi Family wouldn't dare to blatantly attack him there.

When I get to Wuqu City, I shall hire a carriage and try to enter the Forbidden City before night falls... Lin Xun thought as he continued forward.

Suddenly, a stream of light streaked towards him. Standing atop a sword, a youngster sped across the sky. His brows were shaped like swords, his eyes were bright as stars, his lips were red, and his teeth pearly white. A tall, golden feather hat crowned his head. The sword glinted and roared as his wide sleeve fluttered in the breeze.

## The Spirit Sea Stage!

Lin Xun almost couldn't believe his eyes. The youngster was at most thirteen years old yet he could travel through the air with ease. Additionally, the youngster's body was shrouded in violet qi, and he exuded an imposing and threatening aura.

It was Lin Xun's first time seeing such a young Spirit Sea cultivator. He had always been viewed as a monster-like being, but he was nothing when compared to the youngster.

However, Lin Xun was most surprised that the youngster atop the sword was aggressively heading toward him.

"You're Lin Xun?" The youngster paused in the air and looked down at Lin Xun. His eyes swept over Lin Xun like a flash of cold lightning.

"You know me?"

"I knew it was you. I've been waiting for you for over half a month. Now, it's time to kill you." the youngster stated indifferently.

Violet qi circled his entire body, making him appear like an unsheathed sword blazing with murderous intent.

Before Lin Xun could respond, he lifted his hand into the air and the sword at his feet rose with a clang!

Chi!

A wave of stunning and magnificent sword qi swept across dozens of feet, easily cutting apart the space like a bolt of lightning splitting the ground.

The world paled and the air seemed to be wailing.

Lin Xun subconsciously darted to the other side. The sword qi was too terrifying. It was filled with the power of heaven and earth.

Boom!

A spear-straight crack split the ground, stretching across dozens of feet. Smoke and dust whirled into the air.

Lin Xun felt a throbbing sensation in his left arm. A wave of sword qi had slashed off a chunk of his arm when it brushed past him!

His dark eyes suddenly turned chilling, and murderous intent uncontrollably surged in his heart. He had almost been caught off guard and sustained severe injury. How could he not be angry?

Bang!

Without any hesitation, Lin Xun brought out his last Flying Star Crossbow and fired it. Arrows bloomed across the sky like dreamy fireworks.

In the past, Lin Xun has always had good results when he resorted to the Flying Star Crossbow.

However, a sudden change happened!

Just when the dazzling rain of arrows neared the youngster's body, they froze in the air like a giant hand had grabbed onto them.

Chi!

The violet qi visibly sizzled around the youngster like strands of lightning and melted the dazzling arrows like snow!

He had transformed his qi into the power of lightning to counter the attack!

The power was remarkable even among Spirit Sea cultivators. Only a person who had mastered an ancient and powerful secret art could display such power!

"He drew power to protect his body. That guy has learned such a strong cultivation art at such a young age? He can't be a nobody!" Lin Xun exclaimed in shock.

Spirit Sea cultivators were able to begin to control and comprehend the mysteries and wonders between heaven and earth. They possessed the amazing ability to manipulate lightning, maneuver in the air, and dive into the ground. They could kill from a distance and control the power of heaven and earth!

Once a person stepped into that cultivation realm, it was akin to stepping into the heaven ascension path. They wouldn't have a problem soaring through clouds and riding the mist or summoning the wind and rain.

There were countless cultivators in the world, but very few could cultivate to the Spirit Sea Stage.

It was even rarer to find people able to reach the Spirit Sea Stage at such a young age and master profound secret arts!

Although Lin Xun could crush Heaven Dipper cultivators despite being only at the Earth Dipper stage, he still felt tremendous pressure in the face of the outstanding Spirit Sea cultivators such as this youngster.

"You are the first person at the Earth Dipper Stage able to block my attack. But that won't be enough!"

Just as the youngster disintegrated the Flying Star Crossbow bolts, he indifferently flicked his fingers in the air.

With a sizzle, a cloud of violet qi transformed into three beams of sword qi, each one over ten feet tall!

The terrifying sword qi seemed capable of tearing the void apart.

Bang!

Lin Xun could only dodge the attacks with all his strength. Even though he narrowly evaded the three beams of sword qi, he had sustained severe injuries to his left leg, back and shoulder. His bones were exposed and blood was trickling everywhere.

Too terrifying!

A person would only truly understand the terror of the Spirit Sea Stage when they faced a Spirit Sea cultivator. Unsurprisingly, Spirit Sea cultivators could effortlessly suppress Spirit Dipper cultivators.

Although the Violet Hero Battleships were powerful, they lacked intelligence, unlike true cultivators.

“Huh?”

The youngster seemed a little surprised to see Lin Xun evade the second attack. His face grew overcast as he uttered coldly, “I’m curious to see how long you can struggle?”

He stretched out his hand and made a grabbing motion in the air.

Clang!

His sword rose into the air and spun around his body, spewing out frightening sword power.

The fabric of space collapsed, turning into a vacuum space. There was no doubt that the sword was about to launch an earthshaking blow!

It was impossible to escape because the sword qi had blocked all exits!

Lin Xun suddenly clenched his teeth as a fierce glint flashed in his dark eyes. He frantically mobilized all his power, causing it to rumble and pulse around his body.

The Flowing Light Blade produced a clear cry in his right hand.

Clasped in his left hand was a smooth, round black bead the size of a pigeon’s egg.

Just as the fierce battle was about to break out, a gentle and kind voice rang in the distance.

“If you dare attack, I will kill you here.”

The young man’s face dramatically changed, and a ruthless look crossed his features. The sword blasted out with a swoosh.

Rumble—

This fabric of space was crushed, collapsing inch by inch.

However, a wrinkled hand reached out to clutch the sword. It couldn’t break free regardless of how it struggled.

At the same time, an old man appeared. His tall and slender figure shielded Lin Xun like a towering mountain.

“Old man, how dare you stop me!” the youngster roared in fury.

With a flick of his fingers, the old man shattered the sword, and the youngster’s face blanched as he grunted from the impact.

“If you don’t leave within three seconds, your life will have to stay here.” The old man’s voice was gentle and kind but it was devoid of emotions like it was a trivial matter.

The youngster gnashed his teeth. “I will remember what happened today and will pay it back ten times!” He flung his sleeve and stormed away.

It wasn't until the youngster was out of sight that the old man turned around and looked at Lin Xun apologetically. "I didn't think the kid from the Chi Family would come to deal with you."

Lin Xun shook his head. "It's okay. I must thank you for your timely help." As he was speaking, he bandaged his wounds, looking very calm, almost unusually calm. After he treated his wounds, he asked, "Elder, who was that person just now?"

"Chi Cangfeng, one of the most outstanding children of the Chi Family. He was born with the talent, Golden Sea Violet Lotus," the old man explained.

He wasn't praising Chi Cangfeng, but in truth, he had to admit that Chi Cangfeng was a dazzling demon-like figure of his generation. He had been acknowledged by many influential figures in the Forbidden City.

"Why does he want to kill me?" Lin Xun continued to ask.

"Because of Xia Zhi." The old man's unexpected answer took Lin Xun completely aback.

Only after a good while did he scrunch his brows and ask further, "What's going on?"

"It's a long story. Come with me. I will tell you everything you want to know when you get to the Forbidden City."

Lin Xun nodded.

The old man flicked his sleeve. A gentle force spread outwards, lifted him and Lin Xun up into the air, and brought them into the distance.

Lin Xun quietly put away the black bead in his left hand

The bead was called the Sky Suppressing Bead. It was a mysterious item that the azure turtle had created to pass time during his thousands of years in the ancient ruins.

However, it was extremely difficult and complicated to make. The azure turtle had only succeeded in producing nine. When they parted ways, he gave Lin Xun three beads to protect himself as a gift.

Lin Xun would have brought one out to test its power if the old man hadn't appeared.

Unfortunately, he had to wait for another opportunity to experiment.

Chapter 319 The Truth About His Life

The wind was chilling and biting, like knives against the skin.

Under the old man's guidance, Lin Xun experienced the feeling of flying for the first time in his life.

The clouds rolled like waves in the distance and the mountains resembled rocks on the ground. The lakes looked like drops of water and the cities seemed particularly small and neat like a chessboard.

Lin Xun felt his mind clearing and his anger from the attack quelling as he looked over the mountains and rivers and felt the wind and clouds against his skin.

“Miss and I both knew about the operation to prevent you from going to the Forbidden City, but we couldn’t stop it because we knew it was a test for you.”

The old man’s words made Lin Xun’s heart quiver. He couldn’t care about the scenery anymore.

“You probably already know that the Chi Family wouldn’t need to launch such a large-scale operation if they wanted to kill you. They could just dispatch a Spirit Sea cultivator.”

Although the old man spoke bluntly, he was speaking the truth. Lin Xun had already thought about this problem before, but he couldn’t understand the reason.

The old man no longer covered up the truth like he did in the past and spoke frankly because Lin Xun had passed the test.

Lin Xun couldn’t help asking, “Why?”

“Because of your background.” The old man’s voice was gentle and low. He only said a few words, but Lin Xun’s body went stiff and his mind swirled into a whirlwind of emotion.

Do they finally want to tell me the truth?

The moment that Lin Xun was waiting for had finally come. From the day he left the mine prison, he was determined to head to the Ziyao Empire to find out about his past.

If he learned about his background, he would know who took his origin aeth artery!

Lin Xun took a deep breath and said seriously, “Elder, please tell me the truth.”

For some reason, the old man’s expression suddenly turned complicated. He only nodded after a long while. “I promised you that I would tell you the truth when you reach the Forbidden City. It is time now.”

He cast his mind back to the past. “Your father’s name is Lin Wenjing, an influential man in the Lin Clan of the Forbidden City. He had outstanding talent and unmatched mighty power. Everyone in the Lin Clan thought highly of him, and he was the first in line to become the head of the clan.”

Lin Wenjing!

The Lin Clan!

Lin Xun fell silent as he repeated the names several times in his mind.

“Your mother’s name is Luo Qingxun. Her parents died early, and she was the only one left in the family. She was from a rather poor background.”

“But she was known to possess an extraordinary talent for cultivation at a very young age. Coupled with her intelligence, she embarked on the path of cultivation by a lucky coincidence.”

“From then on, no one could stop her. She easily passed the four major exams, the district, prefectural, provincial, and national exams, and she successfully entered Qinglu Academy. If I remember correctly, she achieved first place in the national exam seventeen years ago.”

“Right, your father was second place in the same year.”

Lin Xun couldn't help but quiver inwardly. It turns out that my mother was so amazing!

She was from a poor background yet she was able to soar to the top and received the honor of first place in the national exam! She is simply a legend!

After starting his cultivation, Lin Xun knew how difficult it was to achieve such glory from being from a poor background.

However, his mother was a legendary woman not inferior to any man!

The old man's voice was very gentle as he brought up past events one by one.

"After Luo Qingxun and Lin Wenjing passed the national examination, they unsurprisingly entered Qinglu Academy."

"In their second year at Qinglu Academy, they fell in love and established their relationship. They wanted to get married, but who would have thought that the Lin Clan unanimously opposed it?"

"The entire Lin Clan believed that Lin Wenjing was the future successor of the Lin Clan. He had a high and mighty status and represented the entire family. Although Luo Qingxun had outstanding talent, she was still from a poor background and wasn't seen as good enough to marry Lin Wenjing."

"Luo Qingxun was allowed to join the Lin Clan, but she couldn't be the main wife of Lin Wenjing and only a concubine."

"Of course, Lin Wenjing refused. Despite the entire clan opposing their marriage, he resolutely chose to be with Luo Qingxun. The Lin Clan was enraged and wanted to remove Lin Wenjing as the successor."

"However, Lin Wenjing made a compromise in the end and the Lin Clan no longer prevented Lin Wenjing and Luo Qingxun from being together."

The storm was resolved and Lin Wenjing and Luo Qingxun were finally able to be together. They became a couple that everyone in the Forbidden City was envious of."

"After a few years, Luo Qingxun became pregnant, but a disaster happened when she was about to give birth!" The old man's voice grew grave.

Lin Xun's heart tensed up and he clamped his lips together. He had long guessed that, since the culprit took his origin aeth artery, the disaster must have happened when he was just born!

"It happened very suddenly. Almost no one understood what happened, but what is certain is that on the night you were born, your father Lin Wenjing was killed, your mother disappeared, and the entire Lin Clan fell into a state of turmoil."

"It was only later that news came out that all the immediate members of your father's lineage were killed. Not one of them survived."

Lin Xun felt his heart ache with indescribable pain. Although he had never met his parents, it was still unbearable to hear about their tragic fate.

He had thought that he could reunite with his parents.

He even planned to ask his parents why they let him be wounded in that incident when he was reunited with them.

However, his heart felt hollow when he learned that his father had been killed, his mother's whereabouts were unknown, and every one of his father's lineage was slaughtered.

He clamped his lips and clenched his fists, forcibly holding back the tumbling emotions in his heart.

"Who was the culprit?" Lin Xun's voice was extremely hoarse like it was being squeezed out from his chest.

"Yun Qingbai."

The old man's wrinkled face turned complicated.

"He...why did he do that?" Lin Xun asked in a trembling voice as he couldn't calm the tumbling emotions in his heart.

"No one knows," the old man sighed.

Lin Xun was completely taken aback.

The old man continued, "This is because Yun Qingbai is not a cultivator of the Ziyao Empire. Instead, he's from a mysterious sect called the Omega Sword Sect."

Lin Xun frowned in bewilderment. "Omega Sword Sect?"

It was the first time he had heard the name.

The old man nodded. "Yes, the Omega Sword Sect is established above the sky. It is a very ancient domain."

The old man changed the topic. "You need to remember that Yun Qingbai has a remarkable background. The Omega Sword Sect behind him is so terrifying that it can instill fear in many top figures of the empire."

Lin Xun fell silent.

Yun Qingbai! The Omega Sword Sect!

Lin Xun engraved the two names in his mind!

He was certain that Yun Qingbai was the one who took his origin aeth artery, the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer!

"No matter what, I will find you..."

Lin Xun seemed abnormally calm. There were no emotions on his face, and he didn't look like a teenager.

His calmness also surprised the old man. He thought that Lin Xun wouldn't be able to bear the truth and lose control of himself.

However, that didn't happen and Lin Xun was unbelievably calm!

After a moment of stunned silence, the old man organized his thoughts and said, "Now, you should understand your identity, right?"

Lin Xun nodded. "Thank you Elder for telling me everything. I will never forget your kindness."

The old man sighed inwardly and didn't say anything else. He felt the youngster before him was very unfamiliar. It was as though the boy had suddenly become another person.

"Elder, is the Chi Clan trying to prevent me from entering the Forbidden City because of my background?" asked Lin Xun

The old man shook his head. "It's not that simple. It's not only because of your background, but also the Lin Clan itself."

"The Lin Clan?"

"That's correct. Back then, the Lin Family suffered a tragic disaster. Your grandfather was the head of the family, but he was slaughtered and your father, the successor of the family, also suffered the same fate. Without a leader, internal strife broke out within the Lin Family."

"As a result, the Lin Family was like a fatty piece of meat that everyone wanted to take a bite of. Some top forces in the Forbidden City took the opportunity to act together and divided the wealth and resources that belonged to the Lin Family among them. After sustaining such damage, the Lin Family fell into a state of deterioration."

A wave of indescribable anger surged in Lin Xun's heart. "What's the difference between them and robbers? Did the people of the Lin Clan not fight back? They simply watched and let everything happen?"

A sneer curved around the old man's lips. "They only cared about the infighting and seizing power. How would they have the strength and ability to fight against the rich and powerful aristocratic families?"

"The saddest thing was that, in order to seize power, many members of the Lin Family colluded with the aristocratic clans and schemed together to split their wealth and resources."

Lin Xun almost exploded with anger.

Father and Grandfather have died, and Mother has disappeared. Not only did those clansmen not avenge them, but instead they fought internally for power and their own benefits. They even colluded with outsiders to split the wealth of the Lin Family. They are unforgivable!

Seeing Lin Xun's face darken, the old man sighed, "This is the fate of a noble family. When they lose their pillars, they will become food to their opponents. Everyone wants to take a bite of them and then stomp hard. They couldn't wait for them to be eliminated and have no chance of rising again. That is the result that their opponents most wanted to see."

Chapter 320 Overturn the World

Lin Xun fell silent.

He should have been very happy to find out about his background, but after learning that his father had been killed, his mother had disappeared, and his grandfather and other immediate family members had died, he didn't feel the slightest hint of joy.

On the contrary, an overweening hatred filled his heart!

The tremendous Lin Clan had fallen to infighting because of their desire for power and benefits. Many forces of the Forbidden City even took the opportunity to attack the Lin Clan. Lin Xun didn't know whom he should direct his hatred.

Hate his own clansmen for their incompetence?

Hate the rich and powerful families who took advantage of the situation to take a slice of the Lin Clan's wealth?

Or should he hate everyone?

Lamentable!

Lin Xun thought of the old man's lamentable cry, and a wave of sadness rushed to his heart. Internal trouble, external chaos, and deterioration were how the Lin Family ended!

Lin Xun took a deep breath and asked, "Elder, is the Chi Family one of the culprits who took the Lin Family's wealth? Is that why they wanted to stop me from going to the Forbidden City?"

"Your speculation isn't bad. The aristocratic clans who took part in seizing the Lin Family's wealth indeed wouldn't want to see you return to the Forbidden City."

"Because you are the son of Lin Wenjing and Luo Qingxun, and your grandfather was the former head of the Lin Clan, so you are the one most qualified to become the successor of the Lin Family and take over the family."

Lin Xun's expression remained calm, and his jet-black eyes were devoid of emotions. "They shouldn't be afraid of my identity. After all, it should be very easy for them to kill me."

The old man's eyes flashed a hint of admiration. He had never thought that Lin Xun would remain so calm and could identify the problem so quickly.

Not everyone could do that.

"Yes, some people don't want you to return to the Forbidden City, but some people do. For example, the Chi Clan fears some forces that want you to return."

The old man's sentence was awkward sounding, but Lin Xun understood it right away.

Ultimately, everything seemed to be related to him, but in truth, it was a competition between two different forces!

The Chi Clan was one of the forces against his return to the Forbidden City.

Who were the ones that hoped to see him return?

The old man quickly revealed the answer, "Someone from the imperial family."

The imperial family!

Lin Xun trembled inwardly. How could this matter concern the imperial family?

The imperial family wasn't just a title. It represented a supreme status and authority in the empire!

"As for who it is, I can't tell you just yet."

The old man's expression had become a little strange as he explained, "You only need to know that you only have the opportunity to return to the Forbidden City because of an influential person in the imperial family."

Lin Xun was completely taken aback and his mind went numb. "Why won't you tell me?"

A helpless smile curved around the old man's lips. "Because even Miss and I aren't sure who the influential person in the imperial family is."

After a thought, the old man continued, "Perhaps, when the time is right, the influential person will tell you everything."

Lin Xun's heart pounded. Even the Black Glory Sacred Hall can't find out who the influential person is. That person has to be very mysterious.

"I've told you almost everything I know. You will have to find out the rest by yourself. After all, the storm started because of you. Only you will be able to come closer to the truth," said the old man, feeling a weight off his chest.

Lin Xun took a deep breath and gave a cupped fist salute, "Elder, thank you."

From the moment he left Donglin City, the old man had arranged for him to cultivate in Blood Kill Camp. Then, under the care of Xue Jin, he achieved first place in the provincial examination in Haze City.

Even on his journey to Forbidden City, the old man and the Black Glory Sacred Hall provided him with a lot of information and help.

Now, the old man even told him about his background and the past. Lin Xun was full of gratitude for the old man.

He knew that he couldn't easily find out the truth if he investigated himself!

"Look, the Forbidden City is in the distance!"

The old man suddenly straightened his back and peered into the distance.

Lin Xun snapped out of his rambling thoughts and lifted his head. His eyes went wide with shock and his pupils shrank.

He saw an ancient city looming in the distance, an endless mass of skyscrapers towering above the clouds.

Billowing violet qi floated over the city and the setting sun bathed the entire city in a sacred and stunning, golden glow. It looked so magnificent and grand that it looked like it had existed since ancient times!

The majestic spectacle would astonish anyone.

The old man and Lin Xun slowly descended. When they looked at the Forbidden City again, the scenery was different.

The outline of the city resembled a mountain range. The vermilion walls and golden roof tiles contrasted with each other beautifully. Even the city gate was very grand, standing hundreds of feet tall.

Deeper in the city were mountain peaks suspended in mid-air and all clad in a dazzling and gorgeous divine light.

All sorts of the ancient buildings stood on the mountain peaks. They all had a different style—some simple, some ancient, some beautiful, and some grand.

From a glance, there seemed to be close to one hundred mountain peaks floating in the air!

It was really hard to imagine how there would be so many mountain peaks suspended in a city. Moreover, each one was covered with rows upon rows of buildings and resembled cities in the sky!

Lin Xun learned that the suspended mountain peaks were owned by the seven high clans and many middle-class aristocratic clans in the Forbidden City.

The world called them the Mountains of Aristocratic Clans!

Only the aristocratic clans could occupy one of the mountain peaks and develop it into a place for their clan.

This was a privilege of the aristocratic clans, and it showed their monstrous power and status.

However, there were a total of seventy-two mountains. In other words, only the strongest among the aristocratic clans could occupy a mountain peak.

For example, the seven high clans and several powerful middle-class aristocratic clans with strong foundations occupied the current available mountains. Let alone the lower-class aristocratic clans, not even ordinary middle-class aristocratic clans were able to own one of the mountains.

It was already dark when they arrived at the gate of the Forbidden City.

A black carriage was parked at the gate as though it was waiting for someone.

The old man led Lin Xun over to the carriage and the driver handed him a sealed envelope.

“Wow, what speed!”

There were two letters in the envelope. The old man couldn’t help but gasp in surprise when he read the first. He smiled and said to Lin Xun, “Chi Cangfeng has been locked up, and he isn’t allowed to leave the Chi Family for three years.”

Lin Xun nodded. He knew that Chi Cangfeng had broken the agreement among the influential figures by attacking him despite being at the Spirit Sea Stage. As a result, he had to suffer punishment.

However, in Lin Xun’s view, it wasn’t so much a punishment but a warning as he was just locked in his own Chi Clan.

The old man opened the second letter, but he fell into contemplation as he read it.

Lin Xun couldn't help but ask, "Senior, is it related to me?"

The old man nodded, his eyes flashing a strange light. "You guessed right, this letter is for you."

He handed the letter to Lin Xun. The letter was written on the extremely rare, golden jade paper and was marked with the blazing Violet Glory Flower symbol.

The imperial family!

When Lin Xun saw this symbol, he couldn't help trembling. The coins of the empire were all engraved with three completely different patterns on the front.

An azure deer raising its head and stepping into the air represented the Imperial Qinglu Academy.

An exuberant sacred sword represented the empire's military.

And the cluster of Violet Glory Flower blazing like flames represented the imperial family!

Lin Xun immediately knew the letter was from the imperial family.

Only two sentences were written in the letter. "When you enter the Forbidden City, you can turn the world upside down, but if you want to see me, you must first take on the responsibility of being the successor of the Lin Family! Otherwise, leave the Forbidden City immediately and I guarantee you will never have to worry again!"

Lin Xun clenched his hands as he stared at the quirky handwriting. He knew that the sender was an influential figure of the imperial family!

The letter was a test for him. If he entered the Forbidden City, he had to take on the responsibility of being the successor of the Lin Family!

If he didn't enter the Forbidden City, he could exchange it for a lifetime of no worry, but he would have to give up on revenge!

Lin Xun was the one to decide whether to enter or not.

The old man silently stared at Lin Xun as if waiting for his decision.

Unexpectedly, Lin Xun didn't need to think about it. He shredded the letter and said calmly, "I have already come here. No one can make me leave now!"

A corner of his lips curled upwards. "Of course, I also want to see why the influential figure says that I can turn the Forbidden City upside down."

The old man knew that Lin Xun had already made a choice, so he couldn't help saying, "Actually, if I didn't have this letter, I would have asked you about your plans in the Forbidden City, but obviously, there is no need for me to ask that anymore."

"Elder, you and the influential figure in the Forbidden City..."

The old man seemed to know what Lin Xun was going to ask. "Neither an enemy nor a friend."

Lin Xun fell into deep thoughts.

In the dark night, the carriage steered into the Forbidden City.

That night, the Forbidden City was very calm.

But many top forces knew that the child of the Lin Family didn't die and had returned to the Forbidden City that night.

Some people were nervous, some people frowned, and some people thought little of it. After all, despite how powerful the Lin Family was in the past, it had already deteriorated and fallen apart.

Moreover, how many waves could a teenager stir up in the Forbidden City?