

Prodigies 361

Chapter 361 Hua Wuhen of the Hua Clan

Precious Laughter House was where Shi Yu had arranged a gathering but it was also the most popular place to hold a banquet in the Forbidden City.

Along the way, Lin Xun couldn't help but reminisce about his time in Blood Kill Camp. He originally planned to invite Xiaoke. Unfortunately, she refused without any hesitation.

Just as thoughts were racing in Lin Xun's mind, a commotion caught his attention.

"It's Young Master Hua Wuhen! He is from one of the seven high clans, and is a well-known and outstanding figure of the younger generation in the Hua Clan. He achieved 73rd place in the national exam a few days ago!"

"He's a descendant of the Hua Clan!"

"Haha, Lin Xuefeng is so unlucky. He could have provoked anyone, but he provoked Hua Wuhen! Why did he bring humiliation onto himself?!"

"Lin Xuefeng isn't bad either."

"He isn't bad but how can he be compared to Hua Wuhen? Believe it or not, if Hua Wuhen killed him, the entire North Light Lin Clan wouldn't even dare to utter a word!"

Curious, Lin Xun suddenly said aloud, "Third Old Zhu, stop for a moment."

He got off the jeweled carriage.

He saw a mass of bobbing heads in the distance, and a showdown was taking place in the center of the crowd!

It was between a slender but imposing-looking youngster in a wide-sleeved black robe. His eyes sparkled with golden hue, and he exuded a terrifying aura.

His opponent had jet-black hair flowing down a spotless white robe. His entire body was enveloped in misty rain divine light. Of course, it was Lin Xuefeng.

The duel between the two was extremely fierce; the sky shook, the ground quaked, divine light spread everywhere, and the entire world stirred.

The duel took place on a busy street of Forbidden City, and both participants were top figures among the younger generation of the Spirit Sea Stage. It was easy to imagine the destructive power they could cause.

Surprisingly, an invisible force had descended upon the battle area, isolating it from the nearby buildings, streets and people.

Although the battle between the two was fierce, it never affected anything around them.

This was the Forbidden City!

Mysterious restrictions covered every area of the city like a light screen of defense to prevent damage caused by battles.

After all, tens of thousands of cultivators resided in the city, and an unknown number of battles took place every single day. Without such defense measures, the entire Forbidden City would have been destroyed long ago.

“Lin Xuefeng, with your ability, do you think you can take a woman from me?” sneered Hua Wuhen.

Suddenly, a thousand arcs of golden light shot out from his body, crisscrossed in the air, and battered Lin Xuefeng’s body like chains.

With a loud boom, Lin Xuefeng was forced to the ground, coughing up blood.

Many people gasped out loud.

He’s so strong!

Hua Wuhen and Lin Xuefeng were ranked seventy-third and seventy-ninth respectively in the national examination, which was only a few places apart. However, Hua Wuhen was undoubtedly much stronger than Lin Xuefeng!

“Yun’er likes me!” Lin Xuefeng tottered to his feet, his face dark and his eyes filled with hatred. A sword suddenly sprang out like a bolt of lightning.

Rumble—

However, Hua Wuhen made a grabbing motion in the air and brought a giant golden stamp crashing down from the sky. Instantly, the air crumbled and the sword turned to smithereens.

The giant stamp’s force didn’t weaken before it smashed into Lin Xuefeng.

With a boom, Lin Xuefeng was again crushed to the ground. His face blanched, and he couldn’t pull himself up no matter how he struggled.

This was because the giant golden stamp suspended above Lin Xuefeng’s head was releasing a golden light and producing a frightening imprisoning force.

“The ancestral treasure of the Hua Family—Golden Light Stamp! Rumor has it that it contains the power of the sun and can suppress all evils!” someone exclaimed.

“How can a piece of trash like you be worthy of Yun’er?”

Hua Wuhen fluttered to the ground, his face filled with contempt and triumph. “To put it bluntly, the Lin Family is just a joke in the Forbidden City. It has deteriorated to such a state. I don’t understand why you have the guts to say that Yun’er likes you.”

“Stop talking nonsense! Kill me if you dare!” Lin Xuefeng gnashed his teeth and his eyes were about to pop out from anger.

“You think I don’t dare to?”

A glint of gold flashed in Hua Wuhen’s eyes, revealing his killing intent.

Boom!

The golden light stamp buzzed above Lin Xuefeng's head and released a blinding brilliance as it crashed down toward Lin Xuefeng, crushing the air inch by inch.

Kacha—

Lin Xuefeng's bones and muscles were constantly popping like he was in severe pain.

Everyone around couldn't help but inhale sharply, shocked that Hua Wuhen dared to kill Lin Xuefeng!

"I'll give you one last chance. If you admit defeat and bow down now, I will give you a chance to live. Otherwise, today is your death day!" Hua Wuhen uttered coldly.

"You wish!" Lin Xuefeng hissed.

"Haha, the members of your Lin Family are all worthless creatures. When you were kicked out of Mind Cleansing Peak back then, you already made the ancestors of your Lin Family lose face but you're still acting so arrogant. Let me tell you that even if I kill you, the Lin Family wouldn't have the guts to get revenge for you!"

His words were extremely arrogant. The fact that he regarded the Lin Family as worthless shocked everyone around.

Only those from a top aristocratic clan such as Hua Wuhen could say something like that!

"As a son of the Lin Family, I would rather die in battle than bow my head! Hua Wuhen, stop talking nonsense! Do you think you can humiliate me? Don't waste your energy, even if I die, I won't let you get what you want!" Lin Xuefeng smiled coldly.

His face was deathly pale, but his bearing exuded determination that moved everyone.

"Haha, you brought this on your own!" As the corners of Hua Wuhen's lips curved in a chilling smile, the golden light stamp roared down from the sky.

Clearly, he intended to kill!

Everyone around couldn't help but feel a suffocating feeling in their chest. If Lin Xuefeng was killed, it would no doubt set off a huge storm in the Forbidden City! After all, even if the Lin Clan had declined over the years, Lin Xuefeng still had a special identity. He had passed the national examination and had become a student of Qinglu Academy.

Obviously, Hua Wuhen didn't care!

Just as the golden light stamp was about to press on Lin Xuefeng's body, a slender hand stretched out with incredible speed and made a light tapping motion.

The golden light stamp was blasted away and slammed into the ground with a whimper like lightning had struck it.

Huh?

Hua Wuhen's eyes turned sharp, and he saw a handsome youngster who had been standing there for some time.

Shock erupted in the audience. Who is that? How dare he intervene?

"Lin...Lin Xun...it's you?"

Lin Xuefeng's eyes widened with disbelief when he saw Lin Xun. He was already about to close his eyes and accept his death. Who would have thought that Lin Xun would appear at the critical juncture?

"You want to die!?"

With a flick of his sleeve, Hua Wuhen's golden light stamp erupted in a blaze of golden light and released a gush of endless power. It sped towards Lin Xun in an attempt to kill him.

Lin Xun didn't evade or block it. He continued to stride forward as a pale blue glow surged around his body. He thrust his fist forward and effortlessly blasted the golden light stamp away.

Many people's scalps went numb from the frightening scene.

That's the ancestral secret treasure of the Hua Clan. It's incredibly powerful but it can't even withstand a single strike from that guy. It hurtled across the air just like that! How unbelievable!

Hua Wuhen coughed up a mouthful of blood and had turned ashen-faced. Clearly, he was suffering from the impact. Only then did he realize that the young man who appeared out of nowhere was very unusual.

Hua Wuhen asked coldly, "Who are you? How dare you interfere in my business? I advise you not to make a mistake and leave quickly!"

Boom!

However, before his voice died away, Lin Xun suddenly punched out and pale blue light blanketed the sky before transforming into a great phoenix.

The Phoenix Destruction!

Hua Wuhen panicked. He frantically circulated all his powers to defend himself. Thousands of beams of golden light erupted from his body, creating a dazzling and extraordinary spectacle.

It was a powerful secret art that could distort space and produce terrifying scenes.

To everyone's disbelief, Hua Wuhen's secret art crumbled like nothing, and the shower of light simply fluttered across the sky.

Blood spewed from his nostrils and mouth, and with a thud, he fell to his knees.

"You want to die!"

Hua Wuhen's face turned livid, and he exploded with murderous rage. He couldn't accept the humiliation of being forced to kneel in front of everyone.

Everyone trembled. Who is that youngster? He's not only strong, but he also dared to beat up Hua Wuhen to that state. Isn't he worried about revenge?

Pa!

Without uttering a single word, Lin Xun slapped him from a distance. With a scream of agony, Hua Wuhen collapsed to the ground, almost fainting from anger.

He went too far!

"Do you know who I am?" Hua Wuhen screeched.

Lin Xun's indifferent and calm expression finally changed. He smiled slightly. "I know."

As soon as he finished speaking, he launched a kick at Hua Wuhen's chest and made him scream and vomit a mouthful of blood again. Hua Wuhen curled up like a boiled prawn and seemed to be in excruciating pain.

Everyone was dumbstruck. That kid knows about Hua Wuhen's background yet he still dares to attack so ruthlessly!

Lin Xuefeng was already stunned.

He knew that Lin Xun had only broken through to the Spirit Sea Stage ten days ago, but he didn't know that he could already crush Hua Wuhen.

Lin Xuefeng found it most shocking that Lin Xun didn't care about Hua Wuhen's identity. He taught Hua Wuhen a lesson like how he would teach his grandson.

Isn't...isn't he afraid of Hua Wuhen's retaliation?

Lin Xun finally stopped because he knew he would cripple Hua Wuhen if he continued, and he didn't want that to happen.

"Listen, my name is Lin Xun and I live in Mind Cleansing Peak. If you want revenge, just come to find me."

Lin Xun glanced at Hua Wuhen indifferently like he was a dead animal on the ground. "If I hear you insult the Lin Family again, I guarantee I will kill you!"

He turned around and took Lin Xuefeng away. He didn't glance at Hua Wuhen again.

Chapter 362 Precious Laughter House

"Young Master!"

Lin Xun had just left when an old man in black suddenly appeared. As he looked at Hua Wuhen paralyzed on the ground like a dead animal, a look of shock and fury crossed his face.

The black-robed old man quickly checked Hua Wuhen's injuries. He heaved a sigh of relief when he found that Hua Wuhen had only sustained minor injuries.

Immediately, his face darkened and he said through gritted teeth, "Young Master, which bastard did this to you? Someone in the Forbidden City dares to touch people of our Hua Family?"

His gaze was chilling and sinister, and his aura was terrifying. The nearby people shuddered with terror.

"Don't worry about this now. Take me to find my Second Elder Sister," uttered Hua Wuhen, panting.

"Young Master, you should go home..."

"I said take me to my Second Elder Sister!" Hua Wuhen interrupted angrily.

"Yes." The old man in a black robe said helplessly, "Young Master, Second Miss is attending a friend's party at Precious Laughter House..."

"Then let's head to Precious Laughter House!" Hua Wushen said firmly.

Instantly, the old man in black left with Hua Wuhen.

It wasn't until they left that everyone heaved a sigh of relief.

"I didn't expect today's battle to be that fierce. First, Hua Wuhen almost killed Lin Xuefeng, but then a more ruthless character appeared and violently beat up Hua Wuhen!"

"I wonder where that guy is from? Isn't he afraid of revenge? The Hua Family is one of the seven high clans! Very few people in the entire empire would dare to anger them!"

"Didn't you hear what that guy said? His name is Lin Xun, and he's from Mind Cleansing Peak."

The crowd gasped and there was a long clamor of discussion.

At that moment, someone exclaimed, "I know him! Lin Xun is known as the loneliest clan leader of the aristocratic clans in the Forbidden City!"

"Yes! Mind Cleansing Peak, isn't that the territory of the Lin Family?"

"No wonder Lin Xun stood up for Lin Xuefeng. It turns out that they are from the same family, but...the Lin Family has deteriorated over the years and is now only regarded as a low-class clan. Where did Lin Xun get the courage to violently beat up Hua Wuhen?"

"Who knows? I'm just curious as to why Lin Xun didn't take the national exams this year. Given the strength he has shown today, I'm certain he will pass."

"Yes, it's obvious that Lin Xun possesses an abnormal foundation and talent since he could defeat Hua Wuhen, a youngster blessed by heaven. This is very strange."

"Hey, no matter what, today's incident will stir up a lot of waves in the Forbidden City. Think about it, Hua Wuhen has been beaten violently! How would the Hua Clan take that?"

The incident stirred up heated discussions.

Many people realized that the incident would quickly spread throughout the entire Forbidden City!

After all, Hua Wuhen had a very special identity!

Lin Xun, who was known as the loneliest aristocratic clan leader of the Forbidden City, was also an interesting character.

Many people were curious about what sort of storm would result from the incident.

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Night fell.

A jeweled carriage slowly clattered along the bustling and vibrant streets in the direction of Precious Laughter House.

It was completely silent on the jeweled carriage.

After a while, Lin Xuefeng said hesitantly, "Just now...you were too reckless. I'm not blaming you, but I just wanted to tell you that Hua Wuhen has a very high status, and he will bring you endless troubles."

Lin Xun was taken aback at first, but then he smiled and said indifferently, "You are a descendant of the Lin Family. I can't watch you being bullied by other people."

His few words made Lin Xuefeng quiver. He stared at Lin Xun for a long moment and said with a complicated expression, "I'm finally certain that you are more suitable than me to take over Mind Cleansing Peak."

He looked a little disappointed.

He had been brought up to become the successor of the Lin Family and had received the attention and hope of the entire clan. Everyone hoped to see him lead the Lin Family and restore its former glory.

But reality was too cruel.

It was undoubtedly a heavy blow to Lin Xuefeng to almost lose his life to Hua Wuhen and suffer such humiliation.

"Don't be discouraged, I watched the fight. It's not because you're not strong enough. You lost to him because of his powerful treasure," Lin Xun softly explained.

"You don't need to comfort me. Treasures are also part of a cultivator's overall strength. I lost fair and square. I won't try to deceive myself." Lin Xuefeng took a deep breath and continued, "But thank you, I owe you my life, and I will repay you in the future."

Lin Xun smiled.

He didn't think much when he saved Lin Xuefeng. As the leader of the Lin Clan, he absolutely couldn't stand and watch and do nothing.

It didn't matter what sort of noble identity Hua Wuhen had. Lin Xun wouldn't hesitate to protect the honor of his clan.

Only now did Lin Xun realize that he had angered the entire Hua Clan in exchange for Lin Xuefeng's admiration!

But it was worth it!

Lin Xuefeng was the leader of the younger generation of the North Light Lin Clan. If Lin Xuefeng submitted to Lin Xun, it would undoubtedly help him take over the North Light Lin Clan in the future!

Misfortune and good fortune were always intertwined.

"Where are you going?" Lin Xuefeng suddenly asked.

"Precious Laughter House," Lin Xun said casually. "I'm attending a friend's banquet. Let's go together."

"Okay." Lin Xuefeng readily agreed. But then he was surprised to find that he couldn't decline Lin Xun's invitation! He stopped thinking about it as he was more curious about which friend's party that Lin Xun was going to attend.

Precious Laughter House was a top money-squandering establishment in the Forbidden City. Everything there was extremely expensive, and even children of aristocratic families such as Lin Xuefeng couldn't afford to visit there regularly. Only the incredibly wealthy could frequent there.

It couldn't be helped. The prices there were sky high!

Lin Xuefeng was very curious about who Lin Xun's friend was.

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Soon, the jeweled carriage came to a halt.

As Lin Xun got off the carriage, he narrowed his eyes.

Not far away was a vast, dreamy lake. The moon hung high over the lake, trickling its silvery stream of light across the rolling mist above the lake.

A pavilion stood in the center of the lake. Standing at hundreds of feet tall, it was like a gorgeous palace floating in the lake.

The pavilion looked resplendent under the moon. It was unknown what material it was constructed from, but under the moonlight, it radiated a soft, divine glow. It was like an immortal paradise and not like anything in the mortal world!

It took Lin Xun a long while to snap out of his astonishment before he marveled, "Such a place should be very expensive, right?"

The corner of Lin Xuefeng's lips twitched. It's not just expensive, but even descendants of ordinary aristocratic families can't afford it, let alone ordinary cultivators! There's a joke that a cultivator's goal in the Forbidden City is not to seek the Dao but to enjoy themselves once in Precious Laughter House.

"Let's go." Lin Xun composed himself and continued forward.

A wide and spacious white jade bridge led straight into Precious Laughter House in the center of the lake.

Just as Lin Xun stepped onto the bridge, a mighty figure charged toward him and aimed a punch at his face.

Boom!

The blast of wind from the fist was fierce and a fiendish qi shot into the sky.

Narrowing his eyes, Lin Xun casually thrust his palm forward.

Following an explosive boom, a strong blast of wind swept over everything.

To Lin Xun's surprise, his palm strike had only caused the mighty figure to sway a little. Although his palm strike seemed ordinary, he had instilled seventy percent of his strength into it. Who would have thought it inflicted no damage to the mighty figure?

Just when Lin Xun was about to launch another attack, the mighty figure cried out, "Stop, stop bastard. We haven't seen each other in two years but you have become so powerful!" The voice was hoarse.

The mighty figure lifted his head and grinned, revealing a heroic and fierce face. Who else would it be besides Ning Meng?

"Ning Meng?" Lin Xun exclaimed.

Seeing Lin Xun's reaction, Lin Xuefeng breathed a sigh of relief and relaxed his body. It seems like Lin Xun knows him.

On the other hand, Lin Zhong assumed a strange expression and whispered to Third Old Zhu, "Why didn't you block the attack for Young Master just now?"

Third Old Zhu's expression remained as indifferent and still as a rock as he explained in a muffled voice, "When that guy attacked, he emitted no killing intent so it's obviously not a real attack."

Lin Zhong nodded. "I thought so too."

"What? Are you surprised? I have changed so much in the past two years. Anyone who sees me will be shocked," Ning Meng said proudly.

"No, I just feel that you're much older than you were two years ago. I thought some middle-aged man wanted to attack me."

Ning Meng gnashed his teeth and suddenly grabbed Lin Xun by his neck. "Kid, your tongue is much more vicious than before!"

Lin Xun laughed. Ning Meng is still the same as before—unrestrained and carefree.

"This is—?" Ning Meng swept a glance over Lin Zhong and Third Old Zhu, but his gaze paused at Lin Xuefeng.

He could tell from their posture and appearance that Lin Zhong and Third Old Zhu were guards of Lin Xun, but Lin Xuefeng was different from them.

"My cousin Lin Xuefeng," Lin Xun introduced them

"This is Ning Meng, my friend."

Lin Xuefeng gave a cupped fist salute.

Ning Meng waved his hand and grinned. "Don't be so polite. Let's go, the banquet is about to start. Many familiar faces have come. It's just a pity that Zhangsun Hen didn't come."

He hooked his arms around Lin Xun's shoulder, shaking his head and sighing. They walked into Precious Laughter House together.

Lin Xun remembered that Ning Meng and Zhangsun Hen were sworn enemies, and they didn't get along in Blood Kill Camp.

Lin Xuefeng's expression changed as he studied Ning Meng. It was as though he had thought of something.

Ning Meng?

Could he be the eldest grandson of Steelblood King Ning Bugui?

And Zhangsun Hen seems...seems to be the grandson of General Zhangsun Xiongyuan who has the title Pillar of the Empire!

Chapter 363 Gathering of Friends

Lin Xuefeng secretly inhaled sharply.

He had a vague hunch that his guess was right because they were at Precious Laughter House!

Only people like the grandson of the Steelblood King Ning Bugui could have the power to arrange a banquet there and invite friends and guests from all over the world.

Ordinary people wouldn't even be able to step through the door of Precious Laughter House!

I didn't expect my cousin to have made friends with such people. If he leads the Lin Family, he can perhaps help the clan rise again... Lin Xuefeng thought to himself as he tried to catch up to them.

He could tell that the relationship between Lin Xun and Ning Meng was more than mere acquaintances, and that could make anyone envious.

Although cultivation was of utmost importance to descendants of wealthy and powerful families, networks and social circles were also indispensable. Lin Xun had a huge advantage over many other people to have a friend like Ning Meng!

At least, if anyone bullied Lin Xun, they would have to think about whether they wanted to anger Ning Meng first!

Additionally, it could bring many benefits, but it depended on how Lin Xun would take advantage of that friendship. Of course, Lin Xuefeng was thinking about personal benefits, which was very worldly but also very normal.

In the friend circles of wealthy family descendants, most of the so-called personal connections and relationships were based on benefits. Anyone without an equal status and identity as them wasn't qualified to play with them!

For example, Lin Xuefeng wouldn't have met Ning Meng if it wasn't for Lin Xun! Although Lin Xuefeng was at most only acquainted with Ning Meng, if something were to happen to him, Ning Meng would no doubt help him if he brought out Lin Xun's name.

This was the power of connections.

Lin Xuefeng knew that if he wanted to establish a deeper relationship with Ning Meng, he would need Lin Xun's help. This was why he was very surprised to learn that Lin Xun and Ning Meng were very close friends. As he thought about their relationship, they had arrived at Precious Laughter House before he knew it. He immediately snapped out of his thoughts.

Lin Zhong and Third Old Zhu stayed behind and were arranged to rest in another hall specially prepared for them.

Lin Xuefeng smacked his lips again. How generous! This is Precious Laughter House. The host of the banquet even arranged a separate hall for servants and attendants!

Lin Xuefeng grew increasingly curious about who arranged the banquet.

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Precious Laughter House stood hundreds of feet tall, and the interior was magnificent and grand!

The ground was paved with deep-blue sea spirit stones from the East Sea. Each piece was worth hundreds of gold coins, but they were being used as flooring tiles. Walking across the floor felt like treading across the rippling sapphire sea.

The interior and items of furniture were just as remarkable. There were octagonal palace lanterns made from golden meteorite iron, windows carved from violet yin wood, and tables and chairs made from black jade.

Every corner was incredibly exquisite, from the carved beams to the painted pillars to the potted plants. Anyone would be astonished by the lavish interior.

Based on the decor alone, Precious Laughter House was extraordinary. It had to have many unique and extraordinary characteristics to become the top money-squandering establishment in the Forbidden City.

However, Lin Xun quickly composed himself after his initial astonishment and he didn't care anymore.

No matter how luxurious the decor was, it was still only decor. In his opinion, it was a waste to use such valuable rune materials as decorations.

"We're here."

With Ning Meng leading the way, they quickly came to the ninth floor of Precious Laughter House. On the ninth floor was only one main hall called the Ninth Heaven Pavilion.

Twenty men and women were already inside, all gorgeous and radiating extraordinary auras.

They sat at different tables, drinking and chatting.

Many seats were still empty. It seemed that many guests still hadn't arrived.

All gazes shifted towards Lin Xun and the others when they stepped into the hall.

Ning Meng grinned, pushed Lin Xun to the front and shouted, "Everyone, do you recognize this guy?"

"Lin Xun?"

"Who wouldn't recognize the first place in Blood Kill Camp from our year?"

"It's indeed Lin Xun! He actually came."

Everyone exclaimed in surprise.

Someone smiled playfully. "Back then, no one in Blood Kill Camp knew about Lin Xun's background, but now, I heard that he has achieved the title of the loneliest clan leader in the Mountains of Aristocratic Clans.

"Haha." Many people laughed.

Lin Xun ran his eyes across the guests and noticed many familiar faces such as Gong Ming and Ye Xiaoqi.

He also saw many other acquaintances whom he didn't have much contact with in Blood Kill Camp.

This was because the Blood Kill Camp students were divided into different campgrounds, and students were eliminated every day. The cultivation lifestyle in the camp was extremely brutal and stressful so students had few opportunities to talk with one another.

Even so, a surge of emotions rushed to Lin Xun's heart. After two years, not only him but the familiar figures had also changed tremendously.

They had all been at the age where the most dramatic changes occurred when they had started training in Blood Kill Camp. Two years was enough time to change the appearance and temperament of many people.

Of course, Lin Xun noticed some completely unfamiliar faces among the guests. He thought they were other guests whom Shi Yu had invited or someone the others had brought along with them.
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At that moment Shi Yu suddenly rose from the main seat and walked over to Lin Xun with a smile.

"Come, come, come. Many of us didn't know about each other's identities in Blood Kill Camp. Now, let me introduce you all."

As he was speaking, he dragged Lin Xun over to an ordinary-looking man with a confident bearing.

"Gong Ming, from the Gong Clan, the renowned Never Falling Geezer Clan. This guy's Nine Nethers Guard Club caused me a lot of distress in the first monthly assessment in Blood Kill Camp."

Gong Ming got up and a smile curved the corners of his lips. "Lin Xun, it's been a while. Let's have a good chat later."

"Sure." Lin Xun also smiled.

"This guy is Ye Xiaoqi..." Just as Shi Yu was about to introduce a chubby young man, he had already risen to his feet and smiled. "You don't need you to introduce us. Lin Xun has left a very deep impression on me."

"Oh, I remember that you kept talking about wanting another fight with me," Lin Xun said with a smile.

"Yes!"

Ye Xiaoqi's eyes lit up and seemed eager to get into action. "How about this? Once this banquet ends, let's have a battle?"

Shi Yu interjected, "Talk about that later. Lin Xun, remember this chubby boy. His father is Elder Ye Zhankong, the East Sea King. The Ye Family is one of the top wealthiest families in the East Sea province and has a collection of the rarest sea treasures."

"How can our Ye Family be compared to Stone Cauldron Alms in terms of wealth?" Ye Xiaoqi rolled his eyes.

Shi Yu continued to introduce other people to Lin Xun. He specifically mentioned their family names and background.

Lin Xun maintained calm, but Lin Xuefeng almost couldn't believe what he heard.

It never crossed his mind that the person who arranged the banquet was Shi Yu, the third young master of Stone Cauldron Alms! A direct descendant of Fortune God Shi!

The Stone Cauldron Alms was on par with the seven high clans in terms of power! And Lin Xun had a very close relationship with Shi Yu!

Lin Xuefeng completely lost his composure when he learned that the descendant of the Gong Clan, the Never Falling Geezer Clan, and the eldest son of Ye Zhankong, the East Sea King, were also at the banquet.

All the guests had an extraordinary background!

They were either from a famous clan in the Forbidden City or a colossus who dominated an area of the empire.

Only then did Lin Xuefeng realize that his identity as the successor of the North Light Lin Clan was very dim in comparison to theirs. He couldn't be compared to any of them at all! The four collateral branches of the Lin Clan could only barely be ranked among the lower aristocratic clans when put together.

Of course, Lin Xuefeng wouldn't belittle himself. He was simply shocked to learn that Lin Xun was acquainted with many descendants of wealthy and powerful families! Regardless of whether it was a superficial relationship or not, they still knew each other. Lin Xuefeng finally realized that his cousin had such a strong network of people. No wonder he dared to take charge of the entire Lin Family alone!

While Lin Xuefeng's mind was wandering, a shrill voice rang in the hall, "Third Young Master Shi, if you introduce them one by one, when will you finish?"

Someone expressed his dissatisfaction.

Many people immediately turned around and saw an arrogant, black-robed youngster.

Shi Yu scrunched his brows imperceptibly, but he still said to Lin Xun with a smile, "This is Song Chonghe from the Song Clan, one of the seven high clans. He is a clan brother of Song Yi, the person who achieved first place in the national exam this year."

However, Song Chonghe uttered coldly, "You don't need to introduce me. I only came for Miss Bai Lingxi. I don't care about the others."

His words were rude and arrogant.

Many people frowned while Lin Xun was puzzled as to why Shi Yu invited a guy who thought he was above the other people.

Shi Yu chuckled. "Never mind. I can introduce you to everyone later. Come, Lin Xun, take a seat."

As he was speaking, he dragged Lin Xun to the upper left seat and clearly didn't want to lower himself to Song Chonghe's level.

Who would have thought that Song Chonghe refused to let the matter go? "Young Master Shi, how can any random person sit in the upper seats?"

Chapter 364 Repeated Changes

There was unconcealed dissatisfaction in his voice.

Shi Yu's brows clouded over with anger.

The atmosphere suddenly turned oppressive.

Song Chonghe not only criticized Shi Yu for his poor arrangement, but also mocked Lin Xun for not being qualified to be seated in the upper seats.

"It's just a damn seat! Why do you have to argue over it?" Ning Meng snapped, his face darkening.

"Damn seat? Hahahaha..." Song Chonghe burst out in cold laughter.

Many people's expressions altered subtly.

Sensing the atmosphere suddenly turn tense, Lin Xun said with a smile, "It doesn't matter. I can sit anywhere. There's no need to argue over it."

As he was speaking, he sat down in a random seat.

Shi Yu stared at Lin Xun for a moment but seeing that he indeed didn't seem to mind, he nodded. "Fine, then we'll leave it at that."

Just as Ning Meng was about to say something, Shi Yu interrupted, "Ning Meng, you should also sit down. Today is a gathering between friends! Don't spoil the atmosphere."

Ning Meng grunted, "Fine."

He sat himself next to Lin Xun and sent a voice transmission over, "I will look for a chance to teach Song Chonghe a lesson for you. Who does he think he is to criticize my brother?"

Lin Xun replied with a smile, "Don't be so angry. Such situations are inevitable. You don't need to mind too much."

Ning Meng frowned and said suspiciously, "This is not like your usual style."

"Shi Yu is the one hosting the banquet. No matter what, we should have some tolerance," said Lin Xun, expressionless.

Ning Meng grumbled, "Fine."

Their conversation was done through voice transmission to avoid being overheard by other people.

Seeing that Lin Xun and Ning Meng didn't say anything else, everyone knew that the storm had subsided.

However, the atmosphere remained still and tense, so someone couldn't help but say with a smile, "Third Young Master Shi, I wonder which guest hasn't arrived yet?"

Shi Yu returned to the main seat, saying, "It's just Bai Lingxi, Zhao Yin and Li Duxing."

He continued after a pause, "But Bai Lingxi likes to be alone and always comes and goes as she wants, so I don't think she would come."

"As for Zhao Yin, if Bai Lingxi doesn't come, he most likely won't appear either."

Many people looked a little disappointed. Bai Lingxi was much admired and respected as she was the eldest granddaughter of Marquis Jinghai and had achieved third place in the recent national examination. It was understandable that such a maiden blessed by heaven wasn't easy to meet.

Zhao Yin was just as extraordinary. He wasn't only from the imperial family, but he also possessed the amazing innate talent Violet Sun Body. Just like Bai Lingxi, it wasn't easy to see him.

Li Duxing was more special.

His background was very mysterious, but his talent was extremely outstanding. He always kept to himself and liked to be alone. In the recent national examination, he astonished the world with his sword skills and achieved fifth place. It was just a pity that he kept a very low profile. He was like a mysterious dragon and not many people could see him in person under normal circumstances.

"Third Young Master Shi, I only attended the banquet because of Miss Bai Lingxi, but you said that she might not come. Are you kidding me?"

Song Chonghe's face darkened, and he slammed the table.

Suddenly, the atmosphere turned tense again.

Song Chonghe acted like he was better than everyone else, and his arrogance made all the guests furrow their brows.

However, Shi Yu responded with a smile, "Young Master Chonghe, calm down. I only said that Bai Lingxi might come to the banquet. I didn't say that she would definitely appear."

"So you lied to me?" Song Chonghe uttered coldly.

What was arrogance?

This was. The guests were all young descendants of wealthy and powerful families. In normal conditions, no one would do something out of the ordinary.

However, Song Chonghe did whatever he wanted and didn't care about anyone.

It was understandable as he was a descendant of one of the seven high clans.

But...

But Shi Yu was the one who organized the banquet and Song Chonghe had acted disrespectfully to him.

The room fell still and silent.

Even Shi Yu seemed to be at a loss on how to deal with the situation. He didn't think that Song Chonghe would be so overbearing.

"Is..."

Just as Shi Yu was pondering over what to do, a pleasant but cold voice sounded outside the hall, "Is this the Ninth Heaven Pavilion?"

To everyone's astonishment, a transcendently beautiful maiden was standing outside the hall.

Her pure white dress perfectly highlighted her slender figure and her flowing jet-black hair draping over her shoulders. Her eyes glimmered like stars, and she resembled a fairy walking out of a painting.

Bai Lingxi!

Instantly, everyone fell into a trance-like state, mesmerized by her beauty. The maiden wasn't only stunning but also radiated an indescribably ethereal aura like a fairy descending upon the world.

Most importantly, no one expected Bai Lingxi to actually come! After all, she was the eldest granddaughter of Marquis Jinghai. Additionally, she had achieved third place in the recent national examination, second only to Chi Zangfeng and Song Yi. She was deservedly called the maiden blessed by the heavens.

Even Shi Yu didn't think that Bai Lingxi would attend his banquet. Although Shi Yu had sent her an invitation, deep down, he wasn't sure she would come. The reason was that her identity was too transcendent.

"Lingxi, you came!"

Song Chonghe sprang up and stared at Bai Lingxi with a blazing gaze. "I heard that you were going to attend the banquet so I came early and waited for..."

No one could tell whether it was intentional or not, but Bai Lingxi said aloud, "I came to attend the gathering of Blood Kill Camp students. I didn't know that outsiders would be present."

Her one sentence shut Song Chonghe up and made his expression freeze.

“Lingxi is right. This banquet is indeed full of friends and is indeed an eye-opener. I’m very honored to be able to attend.” Song Chonghe laughed enthusiastically.

Many people couldn’t help but admire him. He’s not only arrogant but also very thick-skinned.

Bai Lingxi wrinkled her beautiful brows.

Shi Yu got up, chuckling, “Miss Bai, please take a seat.” He guided Bai Lingxi to one of the main seats.

Unexpectedly, Bai Lingxi glanced around and said, “You don’t need to be so polite. I’ll just sit anywhere.”

As she was speaking, her figure fluttered, and she sat down next to Lin Xun.

Everyone was stunned into silence.

Given Bai Lingxi’s identity, she could sit in the main seats, but she declined the offer and chose to sit in a remote corner.

Most shockingly, she sat beside Lin Xun.

Many people furtively glanced at Song Chonghe, and as they expected, they saw his brows quickly clouding over with anger. Previously, Song Chonghe had mocked Lin Xun and stated that he didn’t deserve to sit in the upper seats. However, seconds after that, Bai Lingxi, whom he had longed to see, suddenly appeared and completely disregarded him and sat down next to Lin Xun.

Many people couldn’t help laughing to themselves. Who knew the situation would develop like this?

Even Lin Xun was a little taken aback. He glanced at Bai Lingxi, as though figuring whether her decision was intentional.

But if she did it on purpose, why did she do it?

He couldn’t understand the reason.

After thinking about it over and over again, Lin Xun could only conclude that Bai Lingxi didn’t like the so-called main seats.

Song Chonghe maintained a calm and indifferent expression as he returned to his seat, but he couldn’t help but shoot a malicious glare at Lin Xun as he passed him. It was as though he blamed Lin Xun for what happened.

Lin Xun ignored him and continued to chat with Ning Meng.

Lin Xuefeng was also assigned a seat behind Lin Xun.

As a bystander, he sensed the atmosphere changing again, and his heart started to pound with fear. These occasions are terrifying.

If he was in Lin Xun’s place, he wouldn’t be able to act so calmly.

He was most bewildered by Bai Lingxi’s decision. She is an incredibly well-respected figure, so why...why did she choose to sit next to my cousin Lin Xun?

Not only Lin Xuefeng, but almost everyone else was also puzzled over the same thing. The banquet was no longer as lively as before.

Bai Lingxi's appearance was too sudden and caught everyone by surprise.

It was then that a burst of loud laughter soon broke the silence. Another person had come! A young man clad in a bright yellow robe strode into the hall.

"Haha, sorry to keep you all waiting."

He gave everyone a cupped fist salute.

It was Zhao Yin! As everyone expected, Zhao Yin would always follow Bai Lingxi like a knight.

"No problem! The banquet hasn't started. Please take a seat" Shi Yu got up to welcome him.

However, Zhao Yin swept a glance around the hall and said with a smile, "You're too polite. I can sit wherever."

As he was speaking, he plopped down next to Bai Lingxi.

Everyone's expression turned strange again.

Song Chonghe had announced that the sole reason he attended the banquet was for Bai Lingxi. Who would have thought that Bai Lingxi would completely disregard him and sit directly next to Lin Xun?

And now, Zhao Yin suddenly came and sat down next to Bai Lingxi, declining Shi Yu's seating arrangement.

What an unexpected situation!

Song Chonghe's expression darkened even more!

Chapter 365 Another Reason

Following the arrival of Bai Lingxi and Zhao Yin, the atmosphere muted.

Suddenly, the man sitting next to Song Chonghe got up and strode towards Lin Xun under everyone's staring eyes.

"Lin Xun, you are not good enough to sit here. Please leave!"

The man's expression was haughty, and his eyes were filled with disdain as he looked at Lin Xun. He was Song Zhe, cousin of Song Chonghe, and was also from the Song Clan, one of the seven high clans.

Many people frowned, irritated by him rudely telling Lin Xun to give up his seat. The descendants of the Song Clan are too arrogant!

Bai Lingxi was taken aback at first, then she looked at Lin Xun pensively.

"What's going on?"

Zhao Yin turned around to ask another cultivator in a whisper, and he couldn't help but grin when he learned about the recent conflict. He hadn't seen Lin Xun for two years, so he was very curious as to how Lin Xun, who made a name for himself in Blood Kill Camp, would deal with the situation.

Lin Xuefeng panicked a little, and he couldn't help but ball his hands into fists. That guy is blatantly targeting Lin Xun. He's going too far!

Shi Yu's face also darkened as he sat on the main seat. He was about to say something when Lin Xun motioned him to calm down with a wave of his hand.

Lin Xun looked at Song Zhe who was sitting opposite him and said with a smile, "When I was arranged to sit in the upper seats, your cousin didn't look satisfied, and now that I'm sitting here, you're not satisfied. I'm very curious about the reason."

"The reason?" Song Zhe snorted like it was a joke. "You think we don't know about your background? You're just a student of Blood Kill Camp! You might be remarkable there, but what qualifications do you have to sit at this banquet?"

He continued to sneer coldly, "If you're truly remarkable, why wasn't your name mentioned in the national exam? If you don't even dare to take the national exam, do you even deserve to ask about the reason?"

It dawned on many people that Song Zhe was looking to stir up trouble, and he was directly targeting Lin Xun. He feared nothing because he knew that he had strong backing. But when they noticed Song Chonghe grinning to himself, they realized that he had incited Song Zhe to jump out and cause trouble. He wanted to force Lin Xun to give up his seat to let him sit closer to Bai Lingxi.

Before Lin Xun could reply, Song Zhe continued coldly, "Also, I heard that the Mind Cleansing Peak is now owned by the weakest leader of the aristocratic clans in the Forbidden City. How can someone with that title be qualified to sit with us?"

Shi Yu was the one who had arranged the banquet, but Song Zhe was acting as the host and was forcing Lin Xun to give up his seat. Additionally, he spoke rudely and arrogantly and simply treated Lin Xun as nothing.

This was the first time that Lin Xun had witnessed the domineering side of the descendants of the aristocratic clans. Compared with Song Zhe, those from the Lin Family were nothing.

"Song Zhe!" Shi Yu snapped. He was utterly infuriated. Song Zhe and Song Chonghe had repeatedly ruined his banquet and made everyone uncomfortable. Who would be able to tolerate them?

Many people were also displeased. Song Chonghe and Song Zhe are being too arrogant! Do they think that they can do whatever they want because they have the strong backing of the Song Clan?

Unexpectedly, Lin Xun stopped Shi Yu from taking action. "Shi Yu, don't worry about it. Leave it to me."

He rose to his feet and grinned at Song Zhe. "I'm amazed that you know my background so well. I'm a little flattered."

Although he was smiling, his eyes were devoid of warmth.

His one sentence made many people quiver inwardly. They realized a problem. Song Zhe wasn't a student from Blood Kill Camp, and Shi Yu hadn't introduced him to Lin Xun, so how would he know so much about Lin Xun? They had believed that Song Zhe wanted to help Song Chonghe get the seat closest to Bai Lingxi but there seemed to be another reason!

As they had thought, Song Zhe's expression subtly changed and he snorted, "Don't talk so much nonsense. I'm asking whether you will move from that seat?!"

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes, studying Song Zhe. "What if I don't move?"

Song Zhe's face darkened as he hissed in a sinister tone, "Then, don't blame me for being rude!"

Boom!

Before he finished his sentence, he thrust his palm forward, aiming for Lin Xun's head!

Jet-black light rapidly gathered around his palm, and lighting and thunder burst forth. He didn't hold back at all and intended to kill Lin Xun!

That strike alone was enough for Lin Xun to know that Song Zhe's motive wasn't just to make him give up his seat! As that realization flashed across Lin Xun's mind, he didn't stand there motionlessly. He stretched his right hand forward and balled it into a fist, meeting the palm head-on.

The Dragon Destruction!

A dazzling sky blue force rapidly spread across the air like a tremendous dragon soaring into the sky. With a boom, it effortlessly crumbled Song Zhe's palm strike. Its power didn't diminish after that tremendous collision. Instead, it smashed into Song Zhe's chest with unstoppable force.

Kacha!

Song Zhe's chest sank in! He screamed in agony while hurtling across the air.

Many people's countenances changed. Although Song Zhe was arrogant and bossy, he was still a top figure of the younger generation and possessed extraordinary strength. He had even achieved 97th place in the national examination.

However, Lin Xun had sent him flying with just one punch!

It was too unbelievable.

Even Bai Lingxi, Zhao Yin, Ning Meng and Shi Yu couldn't help widening their eyes with astonishment. They had never thought that Lin Xun would become so strong!

Even after Song Zhe was blasted into the distance, Lin Xun showed no mercy and sped forward to grab him up by the neck, slamming him against the ground!

Bang!

Blood splattered the ground while Song Zhe let out a blood-curdling scream. His nose was broken and his head was dripping with blood.

Everyone was horrified to see Lin Xun attack so ruthlessly.

Even so, it didn't look like Lin Xun had finished venting his anger. He pulled Song Zhe's body up and was about to hurl him to the ground again.

"Stop!"

Rumble—

With a flash, Song Chonghe darted forward, his body enveloped in a pure-black glow and a terrifying, imposing bearing.

"You can't sit still anymore?" Lin Xun smiled coldly.

Amidst Song Zhe's tragic shrieks, he pulled him up into the air with one hand and formed a fist with the other, crushing the surrounding air. Instantly, his fist started flying and the space seemed to be incinerated and collapsing around it.

It was the Emptiness Destruction!

Chapter 366 Same as Before

Bang!

The blast of wind from the fists collided, producing a thunderous explosion. The wind visibly raged across the sides of the hall, wreaking havoc. Everyone in the hall narrowed their eyes and had to mobilize their cultivation to curb it.

Following a rumble, some cultivators swayed, and the tables in front of them crumbled to dust. Top figures like Bai Lingxi, Zhao Yin, Ning Meng and Shi Yu easily dealt with the shockwaves while remaining calm and composed.

The difference in response between the cultivators showed the gaps between them. However, everyone didn't think about that as their focus was entirely on the battle.

Lin Xun tottered and drew back three steps.

On the opposite side, Song Chonghe also stumbled back a few steps.

They were evenly matched!

However, when they thought of how Lin Xun was holding Song Zhe with one hand yet still managed to strike Song Chonghe, they couldn't help but tremble inwardly.

"Stop!"

Song Chonghe's face grew overcast, and his aura became more terrifying. The jet-black light vaporized around his body, turning into images of soaring dragons and galloping tigers.

Chi!

He folded his fingers together and slashed across the air like a blade. An arc of black light shaped like a waning moon suddenly emerged in the air. Instantly, it cut through the air towards Lin Xun.

"Black Remnant Moon Soul Obliteration!"

Some people gaped as they recognized that Song Chonghe had performed an ancient secret art of the Song Clan. The art was renowned in the Forbidden City and was said to be able to slash ghosts and demons.

Lin Xun's expression remained unchanged as he swung his fist forward, and a vast ocean seemed to be rushing out of the air. It was the Sea Splitting Destruction!

Boom—

That waning moon-like black light was instantly smashed into smithereens and drowned in the blast of wind.

"How irritating!"

On the opposite side, Song Chonghe's expression changed slightly. He had never thought that Lin Xun would be so difficult to deal with.

He was about to launch another attack when Lin Xun grinned. "You should take a blow from me first!"

The moment his voice rang out, he had already started to act. Pale blue light spread around his fingers and palm, forming a dreamy glow around his hands. Then, he suddenly balled his hand into a fist and a blast of fist energy shot out, like an arrow released from a drawn bow.

Boom!

A crack forcibly split the surrounding space. The fist wind was bright, blinding, and full of an oppressive power that instilled fear into everyone's hearts.

Soul Shattering Destruction!

Many spectators couldn't help but shudder inwardly as they realized the terror of Lin Xun's attack. Although they couldn't identify the unique cultivation art, they knew it was extraordinary from the spectacle it produced.

Who would have thought that Lin Xun wouldn't stop after throwing out that punch? He swirled his wrist and a phoenix seemed to be descending upon the world. It was magnificent and gorgeous.

"That..."

Even Gong Ming, Ye Xiaoqi and the others went stiff, unable to maintain their composure. A great phoenix emerged in the air! What sort of cultivation art could produce such a terrifying phenomenon?

Bai Lingxi had remained calm all this time, but her expression finally changed. A strange glimmer flashed across her clear eyes. She realized that Lin Xun had become much stronger than she had imagined after two years.

Additionally, Lin Xun's cultivation arts astonished her.

"Why don't I remember that such a unique cultivation art exists in the Lin Clan?"

Zhao Yin's eyes flashed, finding it a little suspicious.

However, it wasn't over!

Following a boom, Lin Xun's aura changed again and he punched out again. The punch wasn't as terrifying as Soul Shattering Destruction nor was it as stunning and magnificent as Phoenix Destruction, but it seemed capable of suppressing and obliterating everything like a purgatory from heaven!

The earthshaking spectacle stunned everyone into silence.

It was the Prison Suppressing Destruction!

Three punches of completely three different styles were consecutively thrown out, crushing the space and racing towards Song Chonghe.

Song Chonghe had already felt the pressure when Lin Xun made the first punch. His face turned grave.

When Lin Xun threw the second punch, his mind shook, and he felt an unprecedented sense of danger.

By the time the third punch was launched, Song Chonghe had completely lost himself. His scalp became numb, his hair stood on end, and he was chilled to the bone. A feeling of fear gripped him.

It was too terrifying!

How could Song Chonghe know that such a powerful and terrifying scene would appear the moment Lin Xun acted?

However, he couldn't evade in time. That intense feeling of danger made him roar out loud and frantically mobilize all his powers, making his body appear to be ablaze.

Amidst an earth-shattering roar, the blast of fist wind completely drowned Song Chonghe. He could only let out a miserable scream before he slammed into a wall dozens of feet in the distance like a sandbag.

Then, with a thud, he fell face first to the ground. When he forcibly pushed himself up, his face was deathly pale, and he was dripping with blood all over. If his chest wasn't rapidly heaving up and down, some people would have suspected that he had died.

The force of the attack not only suppressed Song Chonghe but also swept the hall and smashed all the tables, chairs and other pieces of furniture despite everyone's effort to dissolve the impact. It was as though a storm had swept the area.

There was chaos everywhere. The hall fell silent and still, while many people froze with shock.

Lin Xun's counterattack was too terrifying. Their hearts were still pounding after witnessing such destructive power. They also weren't sure if they could block Lin Xun's attack if they were Song Chonghe!

"That guy is just as abnormal as he was when we were in Blood Kill Camp. I don't know how he has cultivated in the past two years..." Gong Ming sighed.

"Damn it, as expected of a student from Blood Kill Camp. He is awfully swift and fierce. If he wanted to kill Song Chonghe, it would have been very easy for him, right?" Ye Xiaoqi muttered.

"He could make it to the top fifty in the national exams with his strength. Why didn't he take the national exam this year?" Bai Lingxi asked in puzzlement.

Zhao Yin's face was devoid of expression, but emotions were tumbling in his heart. Lin Xun has changed so much after two years.

Strange expressions crossed the faces of Shi Yu and Ning Meng and the corners of their lips twitched uncontrollably. Lin Xun is much more abnormal now compared to back then...

They knew that Song Chonghe had achieved fifty-sixth place in the recent national exam!

However, Lin Xun suppressed him in an unstoppable manner! If this incident spread out, it would cause an uproar.

As for Lin Xuefeng, he was rooted to the spot in disbelief.

He had previously witnessed Lin Xun's ability and had even faced him before, but only now did he realize that he hadn't truly understood his cousin!

He's too strong!

With a thud, Lin Xun threw Song Zhe to the ground.

Song Zhe looked incredibly distressed and was no longer screaming in fury. Instead, his eyes were filled with unconcealable fear like he was facing a fierce wild beast.

Song Chonghe's defeat against Lin Xun had utterly frightened him!

Chapter 367 How Many People In This World Are As Miserable As You?

Terrified and helpless, Song Zhe's voice trembled. "Lin...Lin Xun, are you not afraid of retaliation from our Song Family?"

Wasn't that a stupid question?

Everyone couldn't help but laugh. Lin Xun has already beat you two up. Why would he regret it?

Lin Xun had quelled his rage. After a thought, he was about to say something when Shi Yu strode toward him. He looked cold as he said, "Lin Xun, leave the rest for me to take care of."

He crouched down in front of Song Zhe, his eyes filled with pity. "The matter didn't concern you, but you had to come forward to stand up for Song Chonghe...why did you bring this upon yourself?"

"Third Young Master Shi—you—!"

Song Zhe had never thought that Shi Yu's attitude would change and that he would become so rude.

"Don't get angry, I actually sympathize with you. Let me ask you, is your fiancée called Jin Rong?" asked Shi Yu.

Song Zhe fumed, "What are you trying to say?"

Everyone else in the hall was just as confused.

Shi Yu pointed to Song Chonghe. "He accidentally blurted at a banquet a few days ago that he slept with your fiancée Jin Rong."

Everyone was stunned. Shi Yu's words were too vicious. He said that Song Zhe's fiancée had cheated on Song Zhe with his cousin Song Chonghe!

Song Zhe was so angry that his eyes almost popped out. "How dare you spew venomous slander?!"

Seeing Song Zhe on the verge of going berserk, Shi Yu patted him on the shoulder and whispered pitifully, "You better look out for yourself."

To everyone's surprise, Song Zhe stood rooted to the spot like he had lost his soul. It was unknown what Shi Yu had said to him.

"Song Zhe, don't listen to his slander! He's lying to you! Why would I do such a thing?" Song Chonghe screamed in the distance.

"I..." Song Zhe's face morphed indefinitely.

When everyone saw his reaction, they began to feel suspicious just like Song Zhe was.

Could what Shi Yu said be true? Song Chonghe is so despicable that he played with Song Zhe's fiancée?

He's despicable! Song Zhe is his cousin, how could he do that?

They found it most upsetting that Song Zhe was the first one to stand up for Song Chonghe. Song Zhe was indeed one of the most pitiful people in the world.

"Shi Yu, I'm not finished with you!" Song Chonghe was so enraged that he coughed up blood as he roared.

He felt too humiliated. Lin Xun had violently beaten him up and now he encountered another shameful situation. If this incident spread out, how could he lift his head up again?

On the other hand, Song Zhe's expression was extremely overcast. He wasn't himself anymore and seemed like he was suffering from torture inside.

"Hoho."

Suddenly, Shi Yu smiled coldly. "Who cares? Do you think I would be afraid of you? If Song Yi is here, it might be different but you two...are considered nothing."

"You—" Song Chonghe's face contorted with rage.

"You don't need to say more. I welcome your retaliation any time in the future," Shi Yu uttered coldly.

He was completely enraged. Song Chonghe and Song Zhe had repeatedly provoked his friend Lin Xun since the banquet began. If he didn't do anything for Lin Xun, he wouldn't be a good friend.

He said that to lessen the pressure on Lin Xun and to prevent the Song Clan from directing all the hatred on Lin Xun because he knew that Lin Xun's present situation wasn't too good.

"Good! Very Good! I will remember this!"

Song Chonghe gnashed his teeth. It was unknown where he got the strength from but he struggled to his feet and swept a malicious glance over Shi Yu and Lin Xun before he stormed off with Song Zhe.

He had to leave after suffering such humiliation. If they stayed any longer, they would be humiliated even more.

“Count me in on this matter too.”

It was at that moment that Bai Lingxi, who had remained quiet all this time, suddenly spoke out aloud. Her voice was as clear and pleasant as the sounds of nature.

It stunned everyone in the hall, including Lin Xun and Shi Yu. Why would Bai Lingxi interfere at such a time?

She could offend the Song Clan by doing so!

Song Chonghe’s and Song Zhe’s faces twisted in shock and disbelief.

Bai Lingxi’s expression remained calm and detached as she continued, “This incident started because of me. I can’t stay out of it and do nothing.”

“What’s more, this is a gathering between students of Blood Kill Camp. Since a dispute has happened, I should stand on the Blood Kill Camp’s side.”

After her comments, many people came to their senses. They somehow felt that Bai Lingxi’s purpose for doing so wasn’t as simple as she had said.

Song Chonghe and Song Zhe were completely stupefied by Bai Lingxi’s words. They had already found Shi Yu’s resolute attitude unbearable, but now even Bai Lingxi wasn’t on their side. They couldn’t help but feel like they were crumbling apart.

However, everyone was most shocked when Zhao Yin also spoke out. “You two are indeed at fault in this matter. If you want to retaliate against someone in the future, count me in too.” His voice was indifferent and calm.

Song Chonghe and Song Zhe were about to collapse. They panicked and their minds felt jumbled, not knowing what to do.

Lin Xun was a nobody. Regardless of how strong he was, he was an insignificant ant that the colossal Song Clan could easily crush to death.

But Shi Yu, Bai Lingxi, and Zhao Yin were different!

The power of Stone Cauldron Alms wasn’t in the least inferior to the Song Clan! Additionally, Shi Yu had an extremely important identity and status as he was the son of Fortune God Shi. Even if Song Chonghe were to retaliate in the future, he didn’t have much confidence he could do anything to Shi Yu.

Bai Lingxi had an even more frightening identity. Her grandfather, Marquis Jinghai, was an authority figure in the empire, and many relatives of Bai Lingxi were members of the imperial family. She had an illustrious identity.

Song Chonghe would never have the guts to touch Bai Lingxi!

As for Zhao Yin...he had the surname Zhao and was a true member of the imperial family. His great-grandfather, Marquis Bowang, was the clan brother of the current emperor!

How could Song Chonghe and Song Zhe not panic when they heard Shi Yu, Bai Lingxi and Zhao Yin all stand on Lin Xun's side?

Song Zhe had to feel the most depressed and suffocated. Not only had he suffered a beating, but he had also learned that his fiancée had cheated on him with his cousin. And now, Shi Yu, Bai Lingxi and Zhao Yin all viewed him as an enemy...

Was there anyone more miserable than Song Zhe in this world?

Song Chonghe and Song Zhe didn't know how to leave Precious Laughter House. As descendants of the high and mighty Song Clan, they had suffered from such a pitiful and pathetic situation.

.....

As Song Chonghe and Song Zhe left the hall, the silent and tense atmosphere was instantly swept away.

Lin Xun returned to his seat and Shi Yu ordered the servants to set up the banquet again. Everyone began to toast to one another, and the lively atmosphere resumed.

Everyone seemed to have completely forgotten the unhappy incident that had just happened.

However, that incident had been resolved the moment that Shi Yu, Bai Lingxi and Zhao Yin stood forward. No more waves would be stirred up as a result of it.

After all, regardless of how furious the Song Clan would be regarding the incident, they wouldn't dare to tear into the powerful forces and clans behind Shi Yu and the others. This was the power of one's background. Although it was invisible, it had a significant impact on many things in the world.

Of course, the way that Lin Xun acted seemed more powerful and domineering in comparison.

I don't care if you're from the Song Clan! If you anger me, I won't hesitate to beat you up!

Ye Xiaoqi couldn't help but ask, "Lin Xun, it was so satisfying when you taught them a lesson. but were you not worried at all?"

The others were also very curious.

Lin Xun shrugged his shoulders with a smile. "It's useless to worry. I can't let them walk all over me, right?"

The majority of people weren't satisfied with his answer, but when they thought about Shi Yu's attitude towards Song Chonghe and Song Zhe, they seemed relieved.

Lin Xun must have known that Shi Yu would stand up for him, right?

Among everyone in the hall, only Shi Yu and Ning Meng knew that Lin Xun wouldn't consider that much before he acted!

The two had already experienced this when they trained together in Blood Kill Camp.

"With your current strength, you can easily pass the national exam. Why didn't you take it this year?" Bai Lingxi suddenly asked.

She looked particularly stunning in her white dress. Moreover, her illustrious identity made her become the focus of everyone in the hall. She immediately drew all attention when she spoke.

Many people's expressions altered subtly and their eyes glinted ruminatively.

When Bai Lingxi had arrived, she had casually sat down beside Lin Xun.

Then, she came forward and intervened in the affairs between Lin Xun and Song Chonghe and Song Zhe. The reason she gave for her interference sounded reasonable, but somehow everyone felt it wasn't that simple.

Now that Bai Lingxi had initiated a conversation with Lin Xun, many people couldn't help but speculate. If it weren't for the huge difference in status and identity between Lin Xun and Bai Lingxi, many people would have wondered if Bai Lingxi attended the banquet specifically for Lin Xun.

No one noticed that Zhao Yin scrunched his eyebrows and his eyes flashed with anger for a moment.

However, Bai Lingxi's question seemed to surprise Lin Xun. He stared blankly at her for a moment and then smiled helplessly. "I only broke through to the Spirit Sea Stage after the national exam ended. I don't think I could have achieved a ranking in the national exam."

Everyone suddenly looked perturbed.

Immediately, Ning Meng exclaimed strangely, "Damn it, so you've only been at the Spirit Sea Stage for around twenty days? Yet, you easily defeated Song Chonghe and Song Zhe?"

Everyone's expression turned strange. If what Lin Xun said was true, he really is abnormal.

He only just broke through to the Spirit Sea Stage, but he already possesses such powers. His strength is too astonishing.

Only Lin Xuefeng was still sitting calmly beside Lin Xun. He had witnessed Lin Xun's breakthrough, which was an extraordinary spectacle.

Therefore, compared to other people, he could remain much calmer.

While everyone was marveling at Lin Xun's strength, a cold, charming voice suddenly rang outside the hall, "Who is Lin Xun? Come out here now!"

Chapter 368 Unruly Behavior

The voice, clear and sonorous, echoed across the hall.

Why did someone come to look for Lin Xun?

Startled, the audience all stopped what they were doing and turned their heads towards the hall entrance.

A slender and elegant young woman strode into the hall. Her fiery red cloak accentuated her stunning but frosty face.

Her aura was imposing and powerful like thunder, and her movements were swift and direct like the wind. Her face was filled with arrogance and superiority like a dazzling wild flame.

Hua Wuyou!

Why is she here?

Many people identified her at once and their hearts uncontrollably tensed up.

Hua Wuyou was a fierce figure in the younger generation of the Hua Clan, one of the seven high clans. Last year, the Qinglu Academy accepted her due to her outstanding achievements and qualifications.

Within just one year, she became a formal student of the Qinglu Academy's Dao Martial Department because of her extraordinary talent!

She was cold, haughty, and always behaved in an unruly manner. Nothing good would happen to anyone who dared to anger her. She was known as the Demoness among the aristocratic clan youngsters.

For example, a young master from a middle-class aristocratic clan was almost beaten to death and lost his cultivation because he had harassed her at a banquet.

Since then, Hua Wuyou received the title Demoness.

No one could have imagined that the Demoness would suddenly appear and demand to see Lin Xun seconds after Song Chonghe and Song Zhe had been dealt with.

This is too bizarre. What is Lin Xun doing? He not only angered the young masters of the mighty Song Clan but also Demoness Hua Wuyou from the Hua Clan?

Those are two top aristocratic clans!

Ordinary cultivators would have trouble resting and eating if they offended any one of them. They would be in a constant state of anxiety, but Lin Xun had angered the descendants of two top aristocratic clans! It was hard to believe!

Most importantly, Song Chonghe couldn't be compared to Hua Wuyou because she always behaved in an unruly manner, and the consequences of angering her compared to Song Chonghe were much more severe.

"Second Elder Sister, it's him!" an angry voice rang out.

Only then did everyone notice that a flowery-robed youngster behind Hua Wuyou was glaring maliciously at Lin Xun.

The youngster's face was bruised, his hair was disheveled, and his body was covered with blood stains. He looked very discomposed and had suffered a recent beating.

It was Hua Wuhen!

It dawned on everyone that Lin Xun had violently beat up Hua Wuhen and ended up angering Demoness Hua Wuyou!

On the other hand, when Lin Xuefeng saw Hua Wuhen and Hua Wuyou aggressively storming into the hall and pointing their fingers at Lin Xun, his expression changed.

He never thought that the Hua Family's retaliation would come so fast. He even more didn't think that Hua Wuhou would rush over here to get revenge in his wounded state.

For a moment, guilt and self-blame flooded Lin Xuefeng. If it wasn't for me, how would this happen?

"You're Lin Xun?"

Hua Wuyou's eyes flashed like lightning as she coldly fixed them on Lin Xun while killing intent spread across her frosty face.

PA!

In the blink of an eye, a fiery red whip tore through the air like a thunderbolt and brought down frightening aeth power.

It was aiming for the top of Lin Xun's head!

The attack was as swift as lightning but with a thunderous force that could slaughter demons and crush mountains.

So terrifying!

So strong!

The moment she stepped into the hall, she swung her whip to kill. She didn't care about anything, and she simply regarded everyone as nothing!

What was acting unruly and wildly?

That was!

She had lived up to the name Demoness with that attack.

No one could react in time, and they could only watch as the whip aimed at Lin Xun's head. Caught off guard, Lin Xun could only bring his fist up to meet the danger head-on.

With a deafening boom, the table in front of Lin Xun smashed into smithereens, and he staggered back several steps. Although Lin Xun had managed to block the attack, his right hand was split open with a bloody wound, and his bones were exposed to the air. His right arm throbbed with burning pain. If his body hadn't been tempered to an incredibly solid state, the whip would have crippled his right arm!

Instantly, Lin Xun's expression turned ice-cold and his face was terrifying; a chilling glint emerged in his dark eyes. This woman is domineering!

Everyone's expressions dramatically changed. It never crossed their minds that Hua Wuyou would attack so ruthlessly.

However, Hua Wuyou wrinkled her brows as though she was a little surprised. Then she snorted coldly.

"No wonder you dared bully my younger brother in the street. It turns out that you're quite capable. But you still have to atone for your sins with death today!"

PA!

Before her voice died away, she launched another attack. The dazzling, fiery red whip shattered the space like a bolt of lightning and produced an explosive noise.

Based on imposing manners alone, Song Chonghe and Song Zhe couldn't compare to Hua Wuyou!

Hua Wuhen was wild with excitement, and his eyes were filled with triumph and malice. He went to look for Hua Wuyou right away because he knew that only she would stand up for him without any scruples!

"Hua Wuyou, you have gone too far!"

Before Hua Wuyou's whip landed, Shi Yu rushed over and brought out a pair of bronze truncheons.

Ning Meng also acted at the same time. His mighty figure glowed like a sacred mountain as he thrust his fist forward with lightning speed!

However, although Shi Yu and Ning Meng were frighteningly quick, someone was quicker!

Clang!

Bai Lingxi, who had been sitting indifferently, rose to her feet and pointed her transparent, snow-white sword directly at Hua Wuyou from afar.

The sword tip was shrouded in starry light and spewed out an incomparably terrifying sword qi. It was mysterious and ethereal like a star!

"Stop!"

However, Hua Wuyou was even more mighty and forceful. Her flame-like whip danced like a gust of wind. Then, a series of ear-piercing explosions resounded in the air.

Shi Yu's bronze truncheon was blasted away.

Ning Meng's punch collapsed.

The star-like glow from Bai Lingxi's sword was also dissolved.

Hua Wuyou was not inferior in any respect while facing the joint attack of three dazzling figures of the younger generation.

However, after countering those attacks, her body stumbled back several steps and her frosty face flushed.

Everyone stood up, horrified. Hua Wuyou remained calm and composed in the face of joint attacks from three different people. Her strength is terrifying.

Of course, no one could be sure whether Shi Yu, Ning Meng and Bai Lingxi had mobilized their true strength, but Hua Wuyou was no doubt extraordinary.

However, many people were most amazed by Bai Lingxi's chilling sword light. It was as though starry light had swept across the void. It was not only powerful but also stunning.

Of course, more importantly, no one had imagined that Bai Lingxi would suddenly take action, including Zhao Yin!

His expression subtly changed, and his face clouded over. She stood up for Lin Xun again! What exactly is this about?

"Hua Wuyou, I am the host of this banquet. You not only broke in without invitation, but also started to attack people. Do you think this is your Hua Family's place?" Shi Yu clasped his hands behind his back and didn't try to disguise his anger.

"Of course, I have my reasons to kill him. Why do I need to explain to you?" Hua Wuyou uttered coldly, her face full of arrogance.

She then ran her eyes across the people in the hall and her gaze paused at Bai Lingxi.

Immediately, her eyes returned to Lin Xun. "I will give you a chance. In three days, I will wait for you at Sky Martial Arena in the Forbidden City. If you don't come, I guarantee I will destroy everything you have!"

Hua Wuyou found it difficult to attack Lin Xun again, and so she quickly decided to challenge him to a duel. She turned around and dragged Hua Wuhen away despite his reluctance. She was swift and decisive and wasted no time.

"You want to leave after all that?" Shi Yu's face was dark and unpleasant.

"What? You want me to stay?" Hua Wuyou asked indifferently without turning her head around.

"Bitch! You are too arrogant!" Ning Meng roared.

"So what?" she retorted.

Shi Yu was clearly infuriated. However, before he and Ning Meng could say anything more, Lin Xun interrupted, "Okay, let them go. I will take care of this matter."

His expression remained calm and there wasn't a ripple of emotion in his dark eyes. It was impossible to read his mind, but there was an unquestionable authority in his voice.

Shi Yu and Ning Meng exchanged looks, let out a sigh, and said nothing else.

Hua Wuyou seemed to expect their response as she sneered contemptuously. Then, she quickly disappeared with her younger brother Hua Wuhen.

She came quickly and left quickly. She resorted to violence the moment she stepped into Ninth Heaven Pavilion, but when the situation was not in her favor, she quickly decided to leave. She did whatever she wanted.

The faces of Shi Yu, Ning Meng and the others were overcast.

"Apologies everyone, the banquet is over. Let's arrange it for another day."

The successive events had ruined Shi Yu's mood, and he couldn't continue the banquet.

Everyone looked at each other in dismay, got up one after another, and took their leave.

They also felt that the series of events had ruined the banquet's atmosphere. It wouldn't be enjoyable even if they stayed any longer.

Soon, most of the youngsters in the hall had left. Bai Lingxi also quickly got up and said goodbye.

Surprisingly, she never said another word to Lin Xun. It was as though everything she had previously done was out of righteousness and not specifically for Lin Xun.

However, that also wasn't her usual style. Her actions puzzled everyone.

As soon as Bai Lingxi left, Zhao Yin also said goodbye. But when he was about to leave, he said to Lin Xun with a smile, "Lingxi is that kind of person. She won't tolerate anything unfair. Don't think too much about it."

After saying that, he took a deep look at Lin Xun and drifted away.

"Hey, he's reminding you not to think about Bai Lingxi, otherwise he will be angry," Ning Meng snickered.

Only he, Shi Yu, Lin Xun and Lin Xuefeng remained in the hall, so he spoke freely.

Chapter 369 Enter the Dao Through the Martial

The motive behind Zhao Yun's sentence was a trivial matter as Shi Yu's head was aching from figuring out what to do about Lin Xun's duel against Hua Wuyou.

He didn't doubt that Hua Wuyou would retaliate against Lin Xun through all means if he didn't take the challenge given her unruly behavior!

Shi Yu couldn't help but grumble, "Damn it. That woman is so troublesome."

"I already said to leave me to handle it." Lin Xun smiled.

His right arm was recovering at an astonishing speed and only a faint scar remained on the back of his right hand. The scar would soon fade, but Lin Xun would never forget the provocation and blow he had suffered from Hua Wuyou.

He had been through many dangerous battles ever since he started his cultivation. For example, Little Sword Lord Xie Yutang had pressed a sword against his throat to threaten him, and Chi Cangfeng contemptuously tried to suppress him.

Now, Hua Wuyou had unscrupulously attempted to kill him. If he continued to tolerate them, he would be no different from a cowardly turtle!

"I must take the challenge!" Lin Xun's voice didn't waver in the slightest.

"Then..." Shi Yu and Ning Meng both hesitated.

Regardless of how obnoxious Hua Wuyou was, she was still an extremely powerful and fierce figure among the younger generation. This was obvious from the fact that she had successfully entered the Dao Martial Department of Qinglu Academy as a formal student within one year of studying there.

Even though she was only at the perfect intermediate Spirit Sea Stage, ordinary advanced Spirit Sea cultivators were no match for her!

Among the Spirit Sea Stage descendants of the aristocratic clans in the Forbidden City, Hua Wuyou was considered in the top one hundred in terms of strength!

Her ranking might not seem amazing, but there were countless remarkable cultivators from the aristocratic clans in the Forbidden City. She could be called a top figure among her peers to be able to rank in the top one hundred of the Spirit Sea Stage.

Lin Xun had just broken through to the initial Spirit Sea Stage. Although he possessed abnormal strength, he was still much inferior to Hua Wuyou.

Knowing that, neither Shi Yu nor Ning Meng particularly agreed with Lin Xun's decision.

"This matter started because of me, and I should take care of it myself. Lin Xun, you don't need to be troubled by it. You need to take charge of the Lin Family in the future so I can't let anything happen to you!" Lin Xuefeng suddenly said through gritted teeth, his face bearing a look of determination.

Shi Yu and Ning Meng were taken aback. They never thought that Lin Xun wasn't the one who caused the storm. Instead, it was his cousin!

However, Lin Xun said coldly, "If I thought that, I never would have saved you. We don't need to discuss this anymore. I will be the one to deal with this matter!"

Lin Xuefeng's expression changed indefinitely while complex emotions tumbled endlessly in his heart. There was resentment, self-blame, guilt, sadness and many unidentifiable emotions...It was indescribably complicated.

"I..." Lin Xuefeng was about to speak when Lin Xun clapped him on the shoulder.

"Don't worry, just leave everything to me."

"Fine, since we can't change your mind." Shi Yu could tell that Lin Xun's decision wouldn't change no matter what they said.

"Then would you like us to help beat her up first so she can't participate in the duel?" suggested Ning Meng.

Although it was a shady plan, it was effective, and it made Shi Yu and Lin Xuefeng's eyes light up.

"No need." Lin Xun shook his head. His dark eyes were narrowed like he was lost in contemplation. "This battle might be an opportunity for me."

"What opportunity?" Ning Meng asked.

Shi Yu thought about it for a moment, and his eyes filled with realization. "Do you want to use this battle to make a name for yourself in the Forbidden City?"

"Kind of." Lin Xun didn't directly deny it.

If he won against Hua Wuyou, his prestige would no doubt soar and that would bring immeasurable benefits to him when he took charge of Mind Cleansing Peak in the future!

He could get rid of the title weakest aristocratic clan leader in the Forbidden City!

"I don't mean to dampen your spirits but I want to ask you what if..."

Lin Xun interrupted Ning Meng like he knew what he was going to say, "I will not consider the possibility of failing." His voice was sonorous.

"All right! When you win, I'll hold another banquet at Precious Laughter House to celebrate for you!" Shi Yu exclaimed.

"I don't dare to attend your banquets anymore. What if the same thing happens as it did tonight? I would go crazy."

Shi Yu's expression stiffened while Ning Meng burst out laughing.

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It was late at night when Lin Xun left Precious Laughter House.

Third Old Zhu brought Lin Xuefeng back to the North Light Lin Clan and then steered the carriage to Mind Cleansing Peak.

On the way, Lin Zhong learned about the incident at Precious Laughter House and couldn't help but feel angry and worried. Of course, Lin Zhong disagreed with Lin Xun's decision to accept Hua Wuyou's challenge in three days, but he also knew that he couldn't persuade Lin Xun.

"Uncle Zhong, when we return to Mind Cleansing Peak, can you give Mister Spirit Vulture this bag of 1.9 million gold coins and tell him to raise the strength of Mind Cleansing Peak as quickly as possible no matter what method he uses?" Lin Xun handed a storage bag to Lin Zhong.

The huge bag of money was from Shi Yu, and it contained the money he earned from the seven rare rune materials that Lin Xun had auctioned off a while ago. There had been a total of 2.2 million gold coins, but after paying back Shi Yu the 300,000 gold coins that Lin Xun borrowed from him, there were only 1.9 million gold coins left. On average, each rune material had sold for an astonishing price of three hundred thousand gold coins!

Lin Xun could solve many urgent matters with that huge amount of money. At least, he no longer had to worry about making money for a period.

"Young Master, why?" asked Lin Zhong.

"I have a hunch that more troubles will come to our door, and we don't have much time left."

Lin Xun took a deep breath, looking grim. "If our Lin Family wants to rise, not only will we suffer from the repulsion and resistance of the collateral branches, but many outsiders will interfere. We...must be fully prepared for those situations."

Lin Zhong's eyes narrowed. He couldn't help but feel emotional as he gazed at the calm and resolute face of the youngster beside him. Young Master has changed a lot from the first day he arrived at Mind Cleansing Peak.

He had begun to adapt to his identity and had started to form a majestic and imposing bearing.

This was precisely the path of transformation that every clan leader must walk!

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When they returned to Mind Cleansing Peak, Lin Xun headed to the cliff at the top of the mountain. The moon was bright and the stars were sparse. The sea of clouds was dark ,and the chilly mountain breeze ruffled the young man's hair.

Clang!

After a while, Lin Xun swung his blade up and his figure fluttered in the air like a rainbow. He practiced his blade skills among the sea of clouds and mountainous wind.

The blade was the way, and the way was the blade.

After he stepped into the Spirit Sea Stage and began to comprehend the power of heaven and earth, his martial arts and cultivation base also started to change. He began to learn and manipulate the mighty power of heaven and earth.

Only then did Lin Xun realize that he could display the true powers of the Heavenly Yuan Blade Art.

Star-Gather was always powerful but it still couldn't wound Spirit Sea Stage cultivators. This wasn't because the cultivation art wasn't strong enough. Instead, Lin Xun's cultivation base wasn't strong enough.

Now, he could draw upon the power of heaven and earth when he performed Star-Gather, and its power was more than double compared to before!

The power of Moon-Catch was even more marvelous. Once performed, it was as though a bright moon was walking in the air that could shake mountains and kill all things in the way.

Lin Xun was practicing and understanding Moon-Catch in nature.

Under the hazy moonlight, he maneuvered through the sea of clouds, his long hair fluttering in the breeze and his sharp blade reflecting the moonlight.

His expression was calm, and his black eyes were indifferent. It was as if he had long forgotten everything that had happened in Precious Laughter House and was fully immersed and losing himself.

In terms of cultivation, he was comprehending the meaning and was so elated to the degree that he forgot his form.

Lin Xun's blade whizzed like the breeze under the bright moon moving with his mind. It was untraceable like flowing clouds and water.

"As before, he is practicing his blade skills again, but he isn't eager for quick success to rapidly improve his cultivation. It seems that the duel in three days isn't affecting him," Spirit Vulture remarked thoughtfully.

Xiaoke nodded.

Lin Xun's state was extremely natural, and his bearing was indifferent and leisurely. If he had any distracting thoughts in his mind, it would be impossible to appear so calm.

Lin Zhong was peering at the mountain summit from a thatched cottage on the other side of the mountain. From time to time, a strange glint flashed across his eyes.

"Martial Dao, Martial Dao, the Dao of Martial...Young Master has started to enter the Dao from the Martial and is grasping the true meaning of battle." Lin Zhong murmured, "Back then, I only started to understand this when I was at the advanced Spirit Sea Stage. I wonder what sort of imagery power that Young Master will control when he breaks through to the Heaven Ascension Stage..."

"Who said that only those at the Heaven Ascension Stage can control the Great Dao Imagery Power?" a muffled voice rang out from the cottage.

There was no need to guess to know it was Third Old Zhu.

"When I was fighting on the battlefield back then, I once saw a young man who mastered the imagery of fire among the Great Dao of Five Elements despite being only at the intermediate Spirit Sea Stage. Under his sword, flames flowed thousands of miles and incinerated thousands of mountains. It was an unparalleled power in the world."

Third Old Zhu's voice remained as indifferent as a rock, but Lin Zhong's expression dramatically changed. "Who was it?"

"He wasn't a cultivator from the empire. I only know his name is Chen Xiandu."

Lin Zhong fell silent, staring at Lin Xun who was brandishing his blade among the moonlit clouds at the summit. He finally said ruminatively, "So, do you think that Young Master can pry into the Great Dao Imagery Power before reaching the Heaven Ascension Stage?"

"I don't know," Third Old Zhu answered bluntly, making Lin Zhong's expression freeze on his face.

After a while, Lin Zhong said confidently, "Even if Young Master can't, at his current strength, he can stand proudly among Spirit Sea cultivators!" His voice was full of indescribable pride.

Chapter 370 The Tiger in his Heart is Sniffing the Roses

On the same night.

After Lin Xuefeng returned to his clan, he headed straight to his father's residence.

"Father, I have something to tell you." Lin Xuefeng wore a solemn expression.

"Speak," said Lin Huaiyuan with a smile.

"I have decided to fully assist cousin Lin Xun to take charge of Mind Cleansing Peak in the future!" he stated bluntly.

The smile on Lin Huaiyuan's lips froze. "Tell me the reason," he said after a long while.

Lin Xuefeng recounted everything that had happened and hid nothing from Lin Huaiyuan, including the fact that he almost died when Hua Wuhen attacked.

Lin Huaiyuan's expression changed indefinitely, and after a long moment, he sighed emotionally, "I understand."

Then, he asked, "But...are you sure you want to do this? You know, if Lin Xun loses to Hua Wuyou, you will regain the chance of taking charge of Mind Cleansing Peak."

Before he finished, Lin Xuefeng irritably interrupted, "Father, Lin Xun is fighting for me! How...how can you say such a thing?"

Lin Huaiyuan smiled. It was a relieved smile. "Then I'm certain that you have truly let go and genuinely intend to assist Lin Xun."

Lin Xuefeng was taken aback for a moment before he understood his father was just checking if this was what he wanted. "Father, I disappointed you," he said shamefully.

Lin Huaiyuan waved his hand. "No. If I were you, I would do the same. You have done a very good job. I'm very pleased. You have my full support regarding this matter."

Lin Xuefeng's lips quivered with emotion as he said, "Thank you, Father!"

"But that doesn't mean that our North Light Lin Clan will submit to Lin Xun. He has reached an agreement with your grandfather so we should respect your grandfather's decision."

"I understand." Lin Xuefeng nodded.

"Off you go."

Lin Huaiyuan waved his hand and watched his son leave. Then, he sighed out loud.

There was another sentence that Lin Huaiyuan didn't say to Lin Xuefeng. From the moment that Lin Xuefeng had decided to assist Lin Xun with all his strength, the North Light Lin Clan had basically surrendered to Lin Xun. It was only a matter of time before they officially surrendered and paid allegiance.

"Lin Xun...is indeed a rare talent. If he wins the duel against Hua Wuyou, it will be a tremendous shock and warning to the other three branches."

Lin Huaiyuan contemplated this alone.

From what his son Lin Xuefeng had said, he came to realize that Lin Xun could not be underestimated. He had huge potential since he could become friends with the influential figures of the younger generation such as Shi Yu, Ning Meng, Bai Lingxi and Zhao Yin!

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In the West Creek Lin Clan, the meeting hall was brightly lit.

Lin Tianlong, the clan head of the West Creek Lin Clan, couldn't contain his laughter when he received the news. "Good, good, very good! That kid finally encountered trouble. Not only did he beat up Hua Wuhen in public, but he also seriously wounded two young masters of the Song Clan in Precious Laughter House. He had consecutively angered two of the seven high clans in the empire!"

"The best thing is that he agreed to Hua Wuyou's duel. I wonder if he has a death wish. Hua Wuyou is the Demoness known throughout Qinglu Academy for her unruly and ruthless behavior."

Lin Nianshan, the clan head of the Cloud Weight Lin Clan, also chuckled.

Lin Pingdu, the clan head of the Flying Peak Lin Clan, suddenly said aloud, "This is called karma. It's impossible to avoid it. Given the Demoness' ruthlessness, even if Lin Xun doesn't die, he would be crippled if he loses. At that time, we can perhaps take the opportunity to seize back the power of Mind Cleansing Peak!"

Their days have been very depressing recently. They had originally planned to find an opportunity to completely control Lin Xun and make him their puppet.

Who would have thought that Lin Xun seldom left Mind Cleansing Peak? On the rare occasions that he did, he was accompanied by Lin Zhong and Third Old Zhu, two Heaven Ascension masters.

While they were feeling powerless and irritable, such a piece of good news had come. How would they not be elated?

"However, we mustn't underestimate that boy's networking strength. According to the news, even Shi Yu, Ning Meng, Bai Lingxi and Zhao Yin, influential figures of the younger generation, stood up for him at the banquet he attended. In the end, Song Chonghe and Song Zhe were forced to leave in humiliation," Lin Tianlong stated.

The excitement in Lin Nianshan and Lin Pingdu's hearts faded, and their minds became calm again.

"We still can't confirm what sort of relationship he has with those young people, but there is no need to worry too much. After all, no matter how powerful the forces and clans behind those youngsters are, they wouldn't necessarily stand forward to support Lin Xun for those youngsters."

Lin Nianshan calmly analyzed their situation, "For example, although Shi Yu is the third son of Fortune God Shi, he can't possibly make the entire Stone Cauldron Alms fully support Lin Xun."

"Let's not talk about this. Based on the fact that Lin Xun has angered the descendants of both the Song Clan and Hua Clan, he is already doomed!" Lin Pingdu said coldly, "So all we have to do now is watch him destroy his reputation and seize the opportunity to control him!"

"How about we watch the match in the Sky Martial Arena in three days?" suggested Lin Tianlong.

"That's what I was thinking," Lin Nianshan and Lin Pingdu readily agreed.

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That night, not only the four collateral branches of the Lin Family received the news, but also many major clans and forces in the Forbidden City.

After all, it was shocking that descendants of the Hua Family were violently beaten up on the street and descendants of the Song Clan were severely wounded. Most importantly, the same person was responsible for both incidents. How could it not attract the attention of the major forces and clans?

"Lin Xun? Who is he?"

"I heard that he's a descendant of Duke Daocheng, and he is now living on Mind Cleansing Peak.

"Haha, interesting! I haven't heard much about the Lin Family ever since the bloody incident more than ten years ago."

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"That boy is so domineering. He angered the descendants of two high clans in one night. I don't understand where he got the confidence from."

"Yes, in three days, he will duel against Demoness Hua Wuyou in the Sky Martial Arena. It's so unbelievable."

"I wonder how the Hua Family and Song Family will react to this news."

"Why don't we go and watch the duel on that day?"

"Sounds good. Duke Daochen was a legendary figure back then. Even the current emperor has nothing but admiration for him. I'm very curious about what's unique about the descendant of Duke Daochen."

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"Who? Isn't he the weakest clan head in the Forbidden City?"

"Yes! Him!"

"That kid is so daring. He even dared to provoke Demoness Hua Wuyou. Does he have a death wish?"

"Haha, I have a hunch that this matter will set off storms in the Forbidden City tomorrow!"

"For sure. It's been a long time since someone who dared to offend the descendants of the high clans like Lin Xun has shown up."

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That night, similar discussions spread throughout the Forbidden City at an incredible speed and caused a lot of uproars.

On the morning of the second day.

Dawn was just breaking when a tremendous rune transmission light screen emerged in the center of the Forbidden City, broadcasting the news.

A dignified and beautiful woman methodically described the series of events that happened in Precious Laughter House last night.

The news caused uproar in the city.

"Lin Xun is so powerful! Why didn't he take the national exam?"

"Nonsense, wasn't it rumored a few days ago that he had affairs to deal with and had no energy to take the exam? Otherwise, he definitely would have achieved a ranking in the national exam!"

"Hmph, regardless of how powerful he is, he is doomed since he has angered the Hua Family and the Song Family. I pity him. He is a youngster and has just taken over Mind Cleansing Peak but his life is finished already. I'm afraid...the owner of Mind Cleansing Peak will change again."

“Stop with the cynical remarks. Even if Lin Xun isn’t good, he has beaten up descendants of the high clans. Would you have the guts to do that? If you don’t, then be quiet.”

“Haha, no matter how powerful he is, how could he be a match for Demoness Hua Wuyou? Just you wait, Lin Xun is doomed to lose tragically and destroy his reputation in three days!”

Lin Xun became the center of attention and set off clamors of discussion.

Inadvertently, the heated discussions further enhanced Lin Xun’s fame and reputation. It wouldn’t be long before his name spread throughout the entire Forbidden City and was known by countless cultivators.

The duel between Lin Xun and Hua Wuyou in three days sparked countless people’s curiosity and anticipation.

Many people raced to the Sky Martial Arena upon hearing the news, only to find out that the tickets for the match were already sold out!

This demonstrated how much attention the duel had received.

Even many students in Qinglu Academy were very interested in the duel. After all, Hua Wuyou was a formal student of the Dao Martial Department.

Naturally, a battle involving someone with her identity and status attracted much attention.

Many students started to inquire about Lin Xun, but they were astonished to find out that he was only a teenager who hadn’t even taken the national examination.

Is someone like him worthy of battling against Hua Wuyou?

However, that only piqued the curiosity of many people. Some students had decided to watch the battle to see what Lin Xun was capable of, hoping that he wouldn’t disappoint them.

Lin Xun was unaware of everyone’s anticipation of his battle.

When he returned to Mind Cleansing Peak, he resumed his usual cultivation life. He meditated, practiced his blade skills, and observed the phenomenons of heaven and earth. He seemed unusually calm as though his duel with Hua Wuyou didn’t set off the slightest ripple in his heart.

On the day of the duel, Lin Xun enjoyed a hearty breakfast prepared by Xiaoke under the warm morning sunlight. Then, he stretched contentedly and said goodbye to Xiaoke and Spirit Vulture with a smile, “When I return, let’s check out Yang Ling’s weapon forging workshop. I have suddenly thought of a great idea to make money.”

After that, he left Mind Cleansing Peak accompanied by Lin Zhong and Third Old Zhu.

“Isn’t the kid a little strange today? The duel is today, but he is still thinking about ways to make money!” A frown of bewilderment crossed Xiaoke’s beautiful brows.

“Haha, the tiger in his heart is sniffing the roses[1]. It means he is confident about the battle.” Spirit Vulture smiled, wisdom shone from his clear eyes.

“I hope that’s the case.”