

## Prodigies 371

### Chapter 371 Sky Martial Arena

Just as Lin Xun stepped out of Mind Cleansing Peak, he noticed some people waiting for him.

It was Shi Yu, who was dressed in a graceful white robe, and Ning Meng, who looked as imposing and tall as an iron tower. Then, he noticed Gong Ming and Ye Xiaoqi were also among them.

"You guys—?" Lin Xun said in puzzlement.

"Don't talk nonsense. Your brothers will accompany you there. We can't let others look down on our brother!" Shi Yu chuckled.

"Yes, the rumors that you have angered the Song and Hua Clan have spread throughout the Forbidden City. You are surrounded by enemies and have no one on your side. Isn't that a slap to your brothers' faces?" Ning Meng said scornfully.

Lin Xun felt a warm current burrowing into his heart. It must have taken a lot of courage for Shi Yu and Ning Meng to stand on his side.

"Haha, we're here to join the fun," Ye Xiaoqi said aloud.

"Yes." Gong Ming nodded.

That was the way of communication between men. They seemed to be joking with each other, but it represented their resolute stance.

In truth, Lin Xun was surprised to see them support him at such a time. Moreover, he and Ye Xiaoqi and Gong Ming were at most acquaintances in Blood Kill Camp.

Lin Xun chuckled. "You guys...seem to have a lot of free time."

"Stop talking nonsense! Let's go, hurry up, and set off to the Sky Martial Arena," Ning Meng urged impatiently.

Everyone got onto the jeweled carriage and disappeared into the distance.

"Lin Xun, there is something I need to tell you," whispered Shi Yu on the carriage.

"I, Ning Meng, Gong Ming and Ye Xiaoqi have all decided to secretly help you get rid of some of these hindrances using our respective families' powers."

Before Lin Xun could respond, Shi Yu continued, "We all know that you have to first solve some internal problems if you want to sit firmly as the clan head of Mind Cleansing Peak. Those so-called internal problems are basically the West Creek, Cloud Weight, Flying Peak and North Light Lin Clans.

"It may be difficult for us to deal with them openly, but if we secretly give them a taste of some suffering, it will be incredibly easy."

"For example, the West Creek Lin Clan owns over fifty properties in the Forbidden City. Although it's not considered a lot, the West Creek Lin Clan depend on them to live. We can use our families' powers to suppress those properties!

“The same method can be used against the other three collateral branches of the Lin Family.”

Shi Yu smiled. “This is a business battle! We can inflict heavy damage to them without much effort!”

“A cultivator can’t cultivate without a supply of resources. How can a clan survive after losing the wealth that supports them?”

“If successful, this method can deal a heavy blow to them. At that time, you can take advantage of the opportunity to unify them!”

Lin Xun’s emotions turned complicated. He knew the plan had to be Shi Yu’s idea because only he could think of such a ruthless strategy yet achieve an effortless victory.

The joint powers of the families of Shi Yu, Ning Meng, Gong Ming and Ye Xiaoqi were no doubt terrifying!

After all, the four collateral branches of the current Lin Family were at most considered a low-class aristocratic clan. How could they compete with top forces such as Stone Cauldron Alms, the Ning Family, the Gong Family, and the Ye Family?

Even if Shi Yu and the others could only mobilize a small portion of their families’ powers, that was already enough to make the four Lin Clan branches suffer hugely!

“What do you think?” asked Shi Yu.

He first needed to figure out Lin Xun’s opinion on the matter. After all, he, Ning Meng, Gong Ming and Ye Xiaoqi were outsiders and shouldn’t interfere in the Lin Family’s affairs.

Lin Xun responded, “Let’s decide after the duel is over.”

“Okay.” Shi Yu nodded.

He would also give the matter a serious thought if he was Lin Xun since it was of great importance.

“By the way, the duel between you and Hua Wuyou has attracted the attention of the entire Forbidden City. Many influential figures are very likely to watch the duel in the Sky Martial Arena,” Shi Yu suddenly reminded him.

Lin Xun nodded and said with a smile, “Hua Wuyou is amazing. Then, if I lose, wouldn’t everyone in the Forbidden City know about it at once? That’s so embarrassing. My reputation would be utterly destroyed.”

Shi Yu smiled. “So, you can’t lose. If you lose, we will also be made fun of.”

“Make fun of you for what?” Lin Xun was baffled.

“Make fun of us for having the wrong friend.”

Lin Xun rolled his eyes and told him to get lost.

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Rumors had it that Sky Martial Arena was a purgatory battlefield in ancient times. The spirits and corpses of many gods and demons were buried there, and it was only later that the founding emperor of the Ziyao Empire built a huge arena above it.

Sky Martial Arena was already packed with people. All one hundred thousand seats were filled for the duel! The box seats on the second and third floors around the arena had long been occupied by famous figures in the Forbidden City. The duel between Lin Xun and Hua Wuyou had captured the attention of the entire city before it even started!

This wasn't because they were big shots. Instead, it was because they both had special identities.

One was a descendant of one of the seven high clans and was well-known in Qinglu Academy's Dao Martial Department. She was strong enough to be ranked in the top one hundred among the aristocratic clan descendants of the younger generation.

The other was a descendant of the Lin Family. Although the Lin Family had deteriorated over the years, it has had glorious days. Moreover, Lin Daochen was a legendary figure known all over the empire.

Lin Xun was a direct descendant of Lin Daochen and was only fifteen years old, but he had dared to offend the descendants of two high clans. It was hard to not draw notice.

Moreover, to some influential figures who knew about the situation of the Lin Family, Lin Xun's appearance was worth paying attention to for many different reasons.

His background was unusual, and the bloody tragedy more than ten years ago involved many shocking secrets. He had just returned to the Forbidden City, but dared to anger the Song and Hua Clans, two top high clans in the empire. It was very abnormal.

The Chi Family had launched encirclement operations against Lin Xun in the past, so they were also paying close attention to this duel. They couldn't understand why Lin Xun would be so fearless.

How many colossi were standing behind him in the dark?

Everyone had different perspectives and different attitudes towards the matter.

Many of the cultivators in the audience hadn't considered such problems. They were only interested in the duel between Lin Xun and Hua Wuyou.

"What a marvelous situation. Who would have thought Sky Martial Arena would become so lively because of a duel between Hua Wuyou and Lin Xun?"

"Yes, Lin Xun has stirred up a tremendous storm. He dared to anger two top clans! He is fearless."

"Ah, if Lin Xun doesn't show up, it will be very disappointing."

"Impossible! I heard that Lin Xun will definitely appear. Let's just look forward to the battle."

"Hey, then Lin Xun is really not afraid of death! Hua Wuyou is known as the Demoness. She will likely beat Lin Xun to death in this duel."

"Indeed. Hua Wuyou is incredibly strong. Lin Xun's chances of winning against her are very slim."

There were clamors of discussions all around the huge arena. The waves of voices reverberated across the world like the rumble of thunder.

Most people weren't optimistic about Lin Xun's situation. They felt that he was doomed to lose because, no matter how talented he was, he was just an initial Spirit Sea cultivator and an entire cultivation level below Hua Wuyou.

Some people disagreed, thinking that Lin Xun must have some tricks up his sleeve since he had accepted the duel. However, very few cultivators held that view.

"Hahaha, do you see? Many people in the audience aren't optimistic about Lin Xun. I admire his courage to come to the duel."

Lin Tianlong, the clan head of West Creek Lin Clan, laughed loudly in a box seat.

"If he doesn't come, he will be ridiculed by the entire Forbidden City and become a laughing stock. He can't lift his head in the future. So, even if he knows he will lose, he has to come."

Lin Nianshan said leisurely, "I'm just very curious as to whether Hua Wuyou will instantly kill Lin Xun."

"I hope not. If Lin Xun is dead, it will be difficult for us to regain control of Mind Cleansing Peak." Lin Pingdu frowned.

"Indeed, I hope she only cripples him. If Lin Xun dies, it won't be good for us. I just hope that Hua Wuyou will have mercy and let Lin Xun live," Lin Tianlong said aloud.

At that moment, the audience erupted in cheers and all gazes shifted in a certain direction.

A beautiful fire-like figure floated up to the center of the arena.

She was stunning and elegant, but wore an expression as cold as frost. As she walked forward, she exuded a powerful and calm bearing like a proud phoenix patrolling the mountains and rivers.

Hua Wuyou!

Her appearance caused a sensation. All eyes gathered on Hua Wuyou, filled with amazement, fear, envy and admiration.

Hua Wuyou didn't seem to notice those gazes. She stood tall in the arena, her red dress fluttering like flames, and her silky hair swaying in the breeze. She radiated an unparalleled charm.

Some people were clearly extraordinary from one glance, just like Hua Wuyou. She could be said to be the pride of heaven. She had abilities to be proud of and a terrifying background. It was difficult for someone like her to not draw any attention.

The arena grew more and more lively following Hua Wuyou's arrival. Many people couldn't help but discuss when Lin Xun would appear.

It was then that a handsome but lonely-looking figure emerged on the other side of the arena and headed up the platform.

Chapter 372 Spirit Obliteration Flower Rain Art

Lin Xun!

Many people in the audience were shocked to see that Lin Xun actually had the courage to battle. They had to admire him for that. At least in terms of courage, Lin Xun was worthy of their respect.

However, a hint of a gloating smile touched most people's lips when they saw him appear. They felt he was just going to bring humiliation to himself.

Gazes of pity, disdain, contempt and ridicule fell on Lin Xun like a huge net.

Amidst those countless gazes, Lin Xun indifferently stepped onto the platform. His figure was slender and graceful. Clad in a bright white robe and with his jet black hair loosely tied behind, he exuded a calm aura and looked like he was taking a stroll around a courtyard.

It was many people's first time seeing Lin Xun, but his extraordinary bearing surprised them.

A flash of realization struck them. If Hua Wuyou's opponent is too weak, it wouldn't be a good match to watch.

Only if Lin Xun was strong would they see Hua Wuyou's truly remarkable abilities.

Of course, even so, many people still weren't optimistic about his situation. They only hoped that he wouldn't be too weak.

In one of the box seats, Shi Yu, Ning Meng, Ye Xiaoqi and Gong Ming sat together, watching Lin Xun come onto the platform.

"To be honest, I'm really worried for him," Shi Yu sighed.

"Me too," Ning Meng agreed, his expression grim. "Although Hua Wuyou is obnoxious, she is indeed very strong."

Although Gong Ming and Ye Xiaoqi hadn't said a word, their expressions were just as nervous as Shi Yu and Ning Meng.

At that moment, an old man walked into the box seat and said in a low voice, "Young Master, I have investigated, other than the Qin and Hanliang Families, influential figures from the other five clans have come to watch the duel in the Sky Martial Arena."

"In addition, there are countless people from mid- and low-level aristocratic clans."

"I'm certain that Bai Lingxi and Zhao Yin have also come. There are also some powerful and fierce characters from Qinglu Academy."

"Because so many different clans and sects have come to watch the battle, it's hard to know whether they are here for Hua Wuyou or Young Master Lin Xun."

Shi Yu's expression remained unchanged. He had already predicted the answer. After all, there were too many cultivators present in Sky Martial Arena, and many of them were young descendants of aristocratic clans. It was no doubt difficult to find out why they came.

However, the old man's next sentence made Shi Yu narrow his eyes.

"I should also mention that I heard an influential person from the imperial family also came!"

Shi Yu trembled inwardly. The battle even attracted the attention of the imperial family?

"I knew this matter wasn't that simple!"

Shi Yu's eyes lit up. "It's just a match between two people of the younger generation. How can it attract the attention of so many clans? The reason has to be related to Lin Xun!"

Ning Meng couldn't help but ask, "What do you mean?"

The old man had already quietly left.

"Everyone in the world thinks that Lin Xun angered the Song and Hua families in one night. They think he is fearless and has a death wish, but they don't know that Lin Xun has already become enemies with the Chi Family before he came to the Forbidden City!" There was a deep look in Shi Yu's eyes.

"I have been wondering why the Chi Family suddenly stopped attacking Lin Xun after he came to the Forbidden City but, after looking at the situation now, I realize that there are many hidden secrets behind this."

"And these hidden secrets have to be related to Lin Xun. After all, Hua Wuyou wouldn't attract the attention of so many people no matter how dazzling she is."

After hearing Shi Yu's analysis, Ning Meng, Gong Ming and Ye Xiaoqi were a little bewildered that there were so many unknowns behind the duel.

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Lin Xun came to a stop around ten feet away from Hua Wuyou.

"I'm a little surprised that you dare to come to fight. But if you don't, you will not only destroy yourself but also everything you have. You made a wise choice," said Hua Wuyou indifferently.

Her bright eyes were biting-cold as she locked them on Lin Xun, and her overbearing presence exuded a deterring power. Her gaze would have made many other cultivators scared out of their wits and collapse on the ground. However, Lin Xun didn't seem affected in any way. "Did you arrange the duel to spew such nonsense?"

He seemed very rude.

Some of the more sensitive cultivators couldn't help but smack their lips together. Does Lin Xun not want to live anymore? He is so fearless! Is he not afraid of infuriating Hua Wuyou?

The commotion in the arena subsided, and everyone was intently watching Lin Xun's and Hua Wuyou's every move.

However, Hua Wuyou's expression remained unchanged as she said nonchalantly, "It's clear that you're prepared to die. This proves that you're not stupid. To tell you the truth, I have no intention of letting you leave here alive."

Everyone in the audience inhaled sharply. They knew Hua Wuyou would absolutely do what she said!

Shi Yu, Ning Meng and the others turned ashen-faced. It would be troublesome if Hua Wuyou intended to kill Lin Xun!

The faces of Lin Tianlong, Lin Nianshan and Lin Pingdu grew overcast. They didn't want Lin Xun to be killed as it wouldn't benefit them in taking charge of Mind Cleansing Peak in any way. After all, if Lin Xun died, the imperial family would take back control of Mind Cleansing Peak, and the collateral branches of the Lin Clan wouldn't be able to return to Mind Cleansing Peak.

"So, this duel is a battle of life and death. Either you die or I die." Hua Wuyou's voice was chilling.

From the beginning to the end, there wasn't a ripple of emotion on her face. It was as though she was staring at a dead person.

"Battle of life and death?" Although Lin Xun was surprised, he couldn't help laughing in his heart. Does Hua Wuyou think she can win against me?

"You didn't think that I went to such great lengths to challenge you to a battle here just to give you a beating?" Hua Wuyou's bright eyes were filled with malice. "Don't think that luck will be on your side. No one who has angered my Hua Family can continue to live in the world! You can only atone for your sins with death."

Everyone knew that Hua Wuyou was determined to kill in the duel! Many people looked at Lin Xun with pity.

Unexpectedly, Lin Xun grinned, looking pleased. "That's good."

Many people couldn't help but wonder whether he was truly confident or if he had given up all hopes because he knew he would die.

"Hahaha, Lin Xun, you deserve it!"

In a box seat, Hua Wuhen laughed sinisterly. Lin Xun had violently beat him up on the street and made him lose all face. He would never be able to raise his head again if Lin Xun was alive.

It would no longer be a problem if Hua Wuyou managed to kill Lin Xun for him.

"Just you wait, after killing you, I will destroy Lin Xuefeng to vent my anger!" Hua Wuhen gritted his teeth, looking sinister.

"Stop talking nonsense. Let's start the battle."

In the arena, a sky blue glow shrouded Lin Xun while his robe billowed around him and his aura changed. It now had an indomitable and superior spirit.

Many people's eyes lit up. That aura...isn't something that ordinary Spirit Sea cultivators can possess. Although the kid is haughty, his background isn't bad.

"Since you're in a hurry to seek death, I will fulfill your wish"

Her indifferent voice echoed as her fiery red figure flashed. She soared and drew her slender and fair fingers across the air.

Ssssi!

A shower of blood-red flowers rained down, fluttering in the air, and dying it a gorgeous red hue.

“Spirit Obliteration Flower Rain Art! One of the six great cultivation arts of the Hua Clan!”

The audience gasped. They didn’t expect Hua Wuyou to launch a killing move right away.

The rain of flowers in the sky looked soft and gentle, but it produced a destructive power upon contact and caused irreparable damage to one’s spirit.

Evidently, Hua Wuyou didn’t want to waste time or give Lin Xun even a chance to struggle! After all, so many people were watching the battle. The longer the battle dragged out, the more shameful it felt to Hua Wuyou!

Rumble—

Flowers drifted in the air, making it look like blood had washed the sky. It was beautiful, charming, but filled with endless murderous spirit.

However, Lin Xun didn’t dodge or evade her attack. His body erupted with thousand wisps of pale blue light. They rapidly burrowed into his fist before he punched out with explosive force.

Sea Splitting Destruction!

The fist power was as powerful as a tsunami as it crushed the void and pulverized the flowers that filled the sky.

Everyone was stunned into silence. What fist art is that? How can it be so strong to dissolve the Spirit Obliteration Flower Rain Art?

It seems like Lin Xun is quite capable.

“Hmph!”

A cold glint flashed in Hua Wuyou’s eyes. Her silky hair danced in the air, and a murderous look crossed her face. Her slender and fair hand streaked across the air again.

A delicate flower bloomed in the air like a drop of blood. Its beauty was breathtaking, but it seemed capable of seizing one’s spirit. Many cultivators fell into a trance-like state, affected by the power of the move.

Lin Xun had lit up seven hundred and twenty spirit stars in his mind-sea. His spirit had long been tempered to a terrifyingly sturdy state. How would he be affected by it?

Calmly, he leapt up and performed the Soul Shattering Destruction.

Boom!

Who would have thought that before the fist neared the flower, the beautiful flower ruptured and shot out a splash of red that instantly engulfed the area?

It was as though a sea of blood was about to drown the world!



It was the Mirror Flower Blood Sea, one of the ultimate moves of the Spirit Obliteration Flower Rain Art. The flower was like a mirror of illusions, containing endless murderous spirits!

Instantly, Lin Xun trembled all over and then a scorching and terrifying force slammed into him until he was stumbling back.

Everyone gasped. Has Lin Xun been defeated already?

Shi Yu, Ning Meng, and the others felt their hearts leap into their throats, and their bodies tensed.

Chapter 373 Scarlet Firmament Sword

Just as the glow of the sea of blood was about to drown Lin Xun's entire body, he released a deafening roar, "Open!"

Boom!

A terrifying, unparalleled fist force burst forth like a prison subduing everything. Instantly, the sea of blood exploded. Naturally, it was the Prison Suppression Destruction!

At the same time, Lin Xun whizzed into the air, charging toward Hua Wuyou.

Uproar broke out from the audience. That kid is amazing! I never imagined he could escape Hua Wuyou's ultimate killing move

"He didn't die..." Hua Wuyou frowned, surprised by Lin Xun's tenacity.

Immediately, flames frantically leapt all over her body, and her imposing aura intensified. She charged forward to meet Lin Xun head-on.

Boom!

She swung one hand across the air, sending a sharp beam of blood-red light slashing through the space and aiming for Lin Xun's head.

Lin Xun's expression remained unchanged. He left countless images behind him as he sped through the air. Then, a giant ancient dragon seemed to be tearing the sky apart. It was Dragon Destruction.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Within a second, the two had clashed dozens of times, erupting in blazes of light that engulfed the huge arena. It was as though fireworks were dancing in the air.

The void shook, and the air currents were disturbed.

Everyone quivered with emotion. They had thought that Lin Xun would be suppressed within seconds but he had managed to hold out against Hua Wuyou for such a long time!

That fact alone was enough proof that Lin Xun was extraordinary.

Shua!

Suddenly, Hua Wuyou made several mysterious steps towards the astral deities, like she was dancing in the sky. Her figure was enveloped in divine, scarlet light like a blood-red sun.

A wave of blood-red light rushed out from her body, crushing the space and producing a terrifying destructive force.

It was another cultivation art unique to the Hua Clan—Blood Rainbow Airslash! It could split mountains and the void!

An influential figure of the older generation couldn't help but gasp in surprise, "Hua Wuyou is so talented. She has mastered two unique cultivation arts of the Hua Clan!"

However, Lin Xun seemed unafraid and intended to strike first. A wave of frightening aeth power shot out from his fingers and palm as though it was capable of pushing through mountains.

Sky Devouring Destruction!

It was one of the three most powerful strikes of the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction. It was terrifyingly obscure just like the Prison Suppression Destruction and All-Spirits Destruction.

As Lin Xun slammed his fist forward, the space before him constantly collapsed with a rumble.

Crack!

In everyone's eyes, the space seemed like a fragile mirror splitting apart with countless cracks like it was about to engulf everything.

Many people's hair stood on end at the sight of such a spectacle. What terrifying cultivation art has Lin Xun learned? Why is it so powerful?

"It's definitely not a secret cultivation art passed down the Lin Family!" remarked an influential figure. He had a great deal of experience, but Lin Xun's power and cultivation arts still astonished him.

An earth-shattering collision shook the entire area.

Fortunately, it happened in the arena. Otherwise, the shockwaves of the collision would have devastated everything within a radius of dozens of miles!

It was a showdown between Spirit Sea cultivators and was completely different from those at the Spirit Dipper Stage. Spirit Sea cultivators could manipulate the mighty force of heaven and earth, move unhindered in both air and land, and produce unimaginable destructive power.

Hua Wuyou remained unscathed after that mighty blow, but her expression tensed when she saw Lin Xun counter her Blood Rainbow Airslash. The murderous intent around her intensified even more.*novelNext.com*

Opposite her, Lin Xun was also secretly amazed. She indeed lives up to her name. Her strength is stronger than I imagined.

In other words, Hua Wuyou was no doubt the strongest opponent Lin Xun had faced after breaking through to the Spirit Sea Stage!

"I can't help but look at Lin Xun differently now!"

"Indeed. He can last till now against Hua Wuyou despite being only at the initial Spirit Sea Stage. This isn't something ordinary cultivators can do."

"I didn't expect it. I really didn't expect it. No wonder Lin Xun was so fearless. It turns out that he is a rare genius!"

Uproar broke out from the audience. Not a single person wasn't surprised by Lin Xun's performance.

After all, they weren't optimistic about Lin Xun, and they couldn't imagine how an Initial Spirit Sea teenager could battle against Hua Wuyou.

Hua Wuyou no longer held back. She came to realize that Lin Xun was an extraordinary cultivator, and she had to bring out some truly powerful combat means if she wanted to kill him.

Shua!

With a slight movement, the imposing aura around her intensified even more, and flames surged around her body. She resembled a phoenix bathed in flames and wielded unparalleled power.

Instantly, she suppressed Lin Xun's attack and completely covered up his brilliance. His situation grew more perilous.

"Senior Sister Hua is truly enraged. This is her true strength. I have seen her go crazy before in the Dao Martial Department. She was exactly the same as she is now."

"The Demoness is indeed frightening. Her power is infinite and unfathomable," a Qinglu Academy student marveled with admiration.

Many people in the audience also couldn't stop their expressions from changing. Hua Wuyou is worthy of her name. Her foundation is strong, and her power is astonishing.

They just didn't expect Lin Xun to turn the situation around under the terrifying suppression of Hua Wuyou.

Hua Wuyou's pupils shrank. She also never thought that Lin Xun, a teenager at the initial Spirit Sea Stage, would be so difficult to deal with.

"Die!"

With a clear roar, a cloud of scarlet light took the shape of a sharp blade and lunged toward Lin Xun. It was the Scarlet Cloud Blade Art, a swift, unstoppable attack.

Everyone's chest tightened, and the same thought appeared in their minds. It's over for Lin Xun!

Who would have thought that before such a thought faded from their minds, a storm of light sprang out from Lin Xun's body and shot into the sky?

His body was like an abyss spewing out molten lava. Then, he slammed his fist forward, causing the heaven and earth to pale! It was an indescribable fist force, full of destructive power and the aura of despair. It was about to wipe out all life force.

Many people shuddered inwardly and were chilled to the bone. The fist force seemed to be shaking their spirits.

It was All-Spirits Destruction!

It was the final stroke of the Nine Heavenshaking Destruction Art and also the strongest!

With an explosive bang, the arena plunged into chaos. Divine light engulfed the area and caused a tremendous earthquake. Rune symbols emerged one after another around the arena. The earth-shaking collision had activated the defense mechanism around the arena. Otherwise, the impact would have spread to the audience!

Hua Wuyou's slender figure swayed in the air, and then she staggered back and her pretty face flushed.

On the other side, Lin Xun reeled back, tottering. His face blanched and blood trickled down the corners of his mouth.

Si—

Gasps rang out in rapid succession from the audience. The battle was too terrifying! They were most shocked that Lin Xun managed to block the attack! Moreover, Hua Wuyou seemed to be caught off guard and was blasted back. It was too unbelievable.

Not a single person thought that Lin Xun, whom they had previously looked down on, would possess such heaven-defying strength. No one could imagine how he, an initial Spirit Sea cultivator, could fight against Hua Wuyou who was at the intermediate Spirit Sea Stage.

So strong!

Unquestionably, Lin Xun was a genius descended from heaven. Not many teenagers would be able to do the same as him in the entire Forbidden City.

"Damn it. I haven't seen him in two years, but he has become even more abnormal!" Ning Meng cursed.

Previously, he was worried to death about Lin Xun but Lin Xun had demonstrated such astonishing powers.

Shi Yu, Gong Ming and Ye Xiaoqi all nodded with agreement. Lin Xun was the same as he was in Blood Kill Camp—abnormal! No wonder he could repeatedly create many miracles in Blood Kill Camp!

"That kid...how is he so powerful?"

In another box seat, Lin Tianlong, Lin Nianshan, and Lin Pingdu looked overcast and troubled. They had been worried that Hua Wuyou would accidentally kill Lin Xun, but now that they saw Lin Xun evenly matched with Hua Wuyou, they felt a little unhappy.

There was even a killing intent surging in their hearts. If Lin Xun is so amazing at such a young age, then what will happen if he grows up?

However, they suppressed it for now. The battle wasn't over, and it was still too early to make any decisions.

“Damn it! Damn it! Lin Xun must die. Can’t let him live!” Hua Wuhen screamed furiously, his voice echoing endlessly in the box seat. He felt strongly threatened by Lin Xun’s performance.

Previously, he wanted Lin Xun dead to vent his anger, but now, it absolutely wasn’t only to vent his anger. He wanted to eradicate a potentially huge threat!

Lin Xun is only in his teens, yet he’s already such a demonic monster. He would no doubt become a serious problem in the future.

At that moment, many influential figures as well as leading figures of the younger generation had different thoughts and ideas after witnessing Lin Xun’s frightening strength.

It was the same with Hua Wuyou.

Her killing intent intensified, and she grew increasingly determined.

At the beginning of the battle, she attached no importance to Lin Xun, but she finally understood that he was a terrifying, demonic monster!

Clang!

A scarlet sword sprang into the air. It seemed to be burning in blood as it landed in Hua Wuyou’s beautiful, fair palm. Her expression suddenly turned chilly.

At the same time, an indescribable sword qi spread out from her slender body, shaking the void.

The spectacle of the sword alone was enough to make the surrounding air whimper! The sword was called Scarlet Firmament, and it was an ancient sword passed down the Hua Clan!

The clamor muted and everyone’s expression tensed. They realized that Hua Wuyou was truly enraged and was about to unleash her most powerful trump card!

Chapter 374 Like an Immortal in a Blade

As Hua Wuyou clasped the Scarlet Firmament Blade, her aura grew increasingly fierce.

Shua!

Instantly, images and shadows of swords swept the area like blazing clouds rolling across the sky. They rapidly enveloped Lin Xun.

“The Hua Family’s Formless Scarlet Sword!”

“She has mastered three great cultivation arts of the Hua Family. Her talent is too astonishing!”

“If it weren’t for Lin Xun, no one would have known that Hua Wuyou’s true killing move is an ancient sword art.”

While the audience was in shocked disbelief about Hua Wuyou’s astonishing combat means, a clear blade cry rang like a dragon’s roar.

Clang!

A ray of black light suddenly emerged like eternal darkness. The Flowing Light Blade had flashed out of its sheath. At the same time, a terrifying aura erupted from Lin Xun's body like he was a volcano. To everyone's surprise, his aura was rapidly soaring, but he seemed calm and indifferent.

Previously, Lin Xun could be described as a raging and violent storm, but now, his aura had become transcendent. He was like a drifting cloud, an immortal concealed in a blade, untainted and unlike an ordinary mortal.

Everyone couldn't help but feel amazed again. They never thought that Lin Xun, an initial Spirit Sea Stage cultivator, would be so unfathomable!

He wielded the blade calmly, but he exuded an unusual aura that sent a chill down everyone's heart.

Boom!

As Lin Xun held the blade in one hand, blade shadows danced in the air like surging waves. Instantly, the rain of fiery swords that filled the sky vanished without a trace like it had been swept into a galaxy.

Seeing Lin Xun's relaxed and leisurely bearing, everyone couldn't believe that he could easily counter the Formless Scarlet Sword, a secret cultivation art of the Hua Clan.

"The younger generation will surpass us in time!" an influential figure of the older generation exclaimed emotionally.

Both Hua Wuyou and Lin Xun had displayed unusually terrifying strength since the beginning of the battle. Every attack was more astonishing than the previous and repeatedly shocked everyone.

Even if the battle hadn't ended, they had already shown how extraordinary they were. They were no doubt the strongest of their peers!

"Hmph!"

Hua Wuyou's expression had already turned ice-cold. Her sword moved unhindered in the sky, and a shower of scarlet swords swept across the world, formless and unpredictable.

However, the situation had already been reversed!

As Lin Xun strolled across the arena with a blade in his hand, his gestures and movements were ethereal like an immortal's, and his rays of blade light were untraceable.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The rolling rain of fiery swords was pulverized inch after inch without exception. It was as though dazzling bright fireworks were blooming above the arena. Lin Xun was leisurely strolling among them. Wherever his blade passed, everything was obliterated without exception.

It was too terrifying. A seemingly simple and ordinary blade was erupting with unimaginable powers in Lin Xun's hand.

Many influential figures were stunned into silence by Lin Xun's control of the blade art.

Hua Wuyou's Formless Scarlet Sword was incredibly terrifying and could instantly kill any ordinary advanced Spirit Sea Stage cultivators.

However, in front of Lin Xun, it seemed completely useless and unable to withstand a single strike!

The change was so fast that many people couldn't digest it yet.

Previously, although Lin Xun was able to hold out against Hua Wuyou, he was always in a disadvantaged situation and on the verge of being suppressed.

But now, it was the reverse situation!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Rays of blade light crushed the shower of swords the instant they appeared. No one could sit still anymore and their faces contorted with shock. Lin Xun's strong performance had once again exceeded their imagination!

Boom—

After a while, a ray of blade light blasted Hua Wuyou back and made her pretty face blanch.

At that moment, her expression wasn't only ice-cold but had also become grave, and her eyes were wide with disbelief.

How is that possible?!

How could he, a teenager at the initial Spirit Sea Stage, control such terrifying blade power?

Bewildered, Hua Wuyou couldn't accept the truth, and her attacks became increasingly terrifying. She truly resembled an enraged Demonness. The Scarlet Firmament Blade released a fierce cry in her hand.

However, before long, she was blasted back once again. A strand of her silky hair beside her ear had been slashed off, and the cut had almost severed her neck!

Hua Wuyou was horror-struck; her pretty face was livid with disbelief, and her teeth were tightly clenched together. A current of intense anger and unwillingness surged in her heart as she charged forward again.

Ever since she had embarked on her cultivation path, she had rarely failed because of her remarkable talent. She was a well-known outstanding figure of the younger generation in her clan. It would be the greatest humiliation for her if she lost to Lin Xun in front of everyone.

The battle intensified.

The blade and sword continued to clash in the arena, agitating the wind and clouds in all directions. The entire audience was captivated by the battle, their minds swayed and they almost forgot to breathe.

This battle was not only exciting, but it was also a battle between the top figures of the younger generation!

However, all eyes were focused on Lin Xun. He was too unbelievable!

Who would have thought that Lin Xun would be evenly matched with Hua Wuyou and launch such an unexpected counterattack!?

No one!

“Abnormal! So abnormal! Damn it! If he had taken the national exam, he could have easily been ranked in the top five!” Ning Meng cried out strangely, unable to control his emotions.

“Damn it! I was so worried that he would die. It turns out that the bastard was very confident in winning and wanted to see me make a fool of myself!” Shi Yu said through gritted teeth.

Gong Ming and Ye Xiaoqi couldn’t help but smile wryly. They also didn’t think Lin Xun would become more abnormal two years after their time in Blood Kill Camp. He could suppress Hua Wuyou when he was just at the initial Spirit Sea Stage! Who would believe it?

In another box seat, the atmosphere was terrifyingly still, and Lin Tianlong, Lin Nianshan and Lin Pingdu all looked ashen-faced.

After a moment, Lin Tianlong squeezed out a sentence from between his teeth. “That kid...that kid... has to be killed! I would rather give up on Mind Cleansing Peak than let trouble like him grow up. Otherwise, it would be hard to rest and sleep in peace!”

His face contorted in a sinister expression, filled with endless murderous intent.

Lin Xun’s performance was too dazzling. He was only in his teens, yet he was able to suppress Hua Wuyou, a fierce character who had long made a name for herself in the Forbidden City.

Nothing good would come for them when he grew up!

Lin Tianlong’s words made Lin Nianshan and Lin Pingdu look even more overcast, and their hearts churned endlessly in their chests.

“Why is it like this? Why? Why?”

Meanwhile, Hua Wuhen’s expression morphed indefinitely as if lightning had struck him. He couldn’t imagine how his second elder sister, who was like a goddess of war, would fall into such a perilous situation and end up failing to kill Lin Xun quickly!

How could Hua Wuhen accept this?

Similar discussions, uproars, and exclamations rang throughout the various areas of Sky Martial Arena. Lin Xun’s strong counterattack was truly too astonishing.

“He has begun to touch upon the door of the imagery power of martial arts. In that regard, Hua Wuyou is inferior to him,” analyzed an influential figure of the older generation.

“It may be an exaggeration to say that the kid is a martial arts genius, but he isn’t far from it. I have watched the recent national exams, and I know that not one of the top five youngsters could do what he is doing.”

“Duke Daochen finally has a successor!”



“If this kid rises, the bloody tragedy that happened more than ten years ago will surface again. I’m afraid...many people wouldn’t want to see that happen.”

In the arena, Lin Xun’s blade shot forth like flowing light without the slightest showy spark. In the blink of an eye, Hua Wuyou was staggering to dodge the attack!

Within seconds, Hua Wuyou was riddled with blade wounds and blood.

Taking advantage of that moment, Lin Xun’s blade released a glow that made it seem like eternal night had descended upon the world. Countless stars fell from the sky; it was as if doomsday had come and the world was being obliterated.

Star-Gather!

A chilling killing intent flashed in the depths of Lin Xun’s eyes. A battle of life and death had no room for mercy. In Lin Xun’s heart, there was no difference between men and women, and only differences between enemies and him! Moreover, Hua Wuyou had planned to kill him from the beginning, how could he pretend to want to let her live?

At that perfect moment, Lin Xun launched the Star-Gather!

Instantly, the commotion ceased in the Sky Martial Arena and it fell deathly silent. Everyone’s eyes were wide with horror and disbelief.

Lin Xun... is going to kill?

Isn’t he afraid of angering the Hua Family?

Even Shi Yu and Ning Meng were horrified and surprised, let alone other people. They had already witnessed Lin Xun’s ruthlessness in the past, but they had never thought that he would go all out! However, when they thought about it more, the feeling of slaughtering an enemy in a fit of rage and disregarding everything...was indeed very satisfying!

“No—!”

The funniest scene was the fact that Lin Tianlong and the others had turned ashen-faced as they were unwilling to see Hua Wuyou killed.

“Second Elder Sister!” Hua Wuhen screamed like his soul had left his body.

Everything was happening very quickly, and it was all at the same moment. During that cusp of life and death, Hua Wuyou felt her eyes blur and she fell into a daze. It had never crossed her mind that she would lose, and the duel would end with her death...

“Little junior! Don’t you dare act wildly!”

Just as Lin Xun had already brought his blade down to obliterate Hua Wuyou, a gush of incomparably terrifying pressure enveloped the arena.

With a loud bang, Lin Xun quivered like lightning had struck him, and his blade strike was instantaneously disintegrated.

Almost at the same time, a wrinkly and slender old man emerged in front of Hua Wuyou like he had teleported. The old man was dressed in a violet robe. His beard and hair were silvery-white, and his eyes were sunken in, swirling with flashing lightning.

It was Hua Qiancheng, a Heaven Ascension cultivator of the Hua Clan!

The audience erupted into a wild uproar. Everyone was dumbfounded, not expecting a cultivator of the Hua Clan to be so shameless as to interfere in a duel between juniors.

Chapter 375 Tiger Generals of the Empire

Pff!

Lin Xun coughed up mouthfuls of blood, and his body throbbed with burning pain. He had sustained significant injuries from the unexpected attack of a Heaven Ascension cultivator. If he hadn't decisively withdrawn his blade at the critical juncture, the attack would have taken his life!

The power of the Heaven Ascension Stage was evident!

Hua Qiancheng's sudden interference surprised everyone. Hua Wuhou had proposed the battle of life and death, but her Hua Family shamelessly broke the rules of the battle.

However, unexpectedly, Hua Qiancheng didn't rescue Hua Wuhou right away when he stepped into the arena. Instead, he aimed a palm strike toward Lin Xun from a distance.

"He has gone too far!"

"Shameless!"

Cultivators of the older generation fumed. It was obvious to them that he wanted to use the opportunity to kill Lin Xun once and for all!

"So hateful!"

Shi Yu, Ning Meng and the others felt a chill go through their bodies as if they had fallen into an ice cave. Hua Qiancheng's shamelessness and ruthlessness caught them by surprise.

"Despicable!" Spectators who previously looked down on Lin Xun also frowned.

"The Hua Family is too unscrupulous!"

Boom!

However, it was too late to say anything because a terrifying cloud of light had transformed into a jet-black hand. It rapidly slammed down, crushing the air.

Lin Xun's body stiffened, and his blood and qi seemed to have frozen. It was as though a mighty mountain was pressing on his body! He couldn't move. Moreover, the frightening power contained in the palm strike destroyed all his thoughts to resist.

However, facing such a sudden unexpected situation, he remained calm and composed. He stood tall in the same spot, a chilling glint flashing in his dark eyes and a jet-black bead glistening in the palm of his hand.

Swoosh—

Spinning, the bead rose into the air and formed layers of dense, terrifying restriction runes. Then, a wave of cryptic energy spread out.

Boom!

Following an earth-shattering explosion as if a tsunami had swept the arena, a devastating pillar of light sprang up. It instantly crushed the surrounding space and annihilated the airflow.

The entire arena shook, producing unbearably sharp whining. The scene was too frightening. It was as though a top Heaven Ascension cultivator was on a rampage and wanted to destroy the world!

Many cultivators screamed in terror seeing such unimaginable power of destruction. Even some influential figures' expressions morphed and their hearts quivered.

Bang—

Amidst the smoke and dust, Hua Qiangchen cried out in pain and anger while his wrinkly body blasted through the air. With a thud, he smashed into the ground and spurted a mouthful of blood. A high and mighty cultivator of the Heaven Ascension Stage had fallen to the ground in such a discomposed manner.

Hisssss!

The audience froze, their eyes wide open, and jaws dropped.

Lin Xun was in a hopeless situation and couldn't counterattack, but somehow he managed to resolve his disastrous situation with just a bead! At the same time, he severely wounded great Heaven Ascension cultivator Hua Qiancheng!

It was the power of the Sky Suppressing Bead.

The bead was a rare treasure that Azure Turtle had created to pass time when he was trapped in the ancient ruins. Azure Turtle had only made nine beads during his one thousand years there, but each one contained incredible power that could wound even Heaven Ascension cultivators!

Azure Turtle had generously given Lin Xun three beads when he left the ancient ruins. Lin Xun had always carried them with him and never had the opportunity to use them.

He never thought it would contain such destructive power. Even he was shaken. So strong! Too strong! It is worthy of the name Sky Suppressor!

"You're just a little junior but you're so ruthless already. Today, even if I lose my dignity, I have to kill you to serve as a warning to others!" Hua Qiancheng quivered with anger. Lin Xun had wounded him, a high and mighty Heaven Ascension cultivator, under the watchful gazes of everyone. It was the greatest shame to him!

Boom!

Before his voice died away, he made another move. His hair and beard stood up in angry spikes, and his eyes seemed to be shooting out lightning. His imposing manner was so strong that the world paled.

However, Hua Qiancheng had lost his chance because before he acted, an indifferent and dull voice rang out, "Trash!"

The voice shook everyone's spirit like the roar of the thunder god.

Everyone felt their vision blur before a mighty figure descended upon the arena and made a grabbing motion with his huge fan-like hand.

With a boom, the void collapsed. The giant hand clutched Hua Qiancheng and hurled him to the ground. It was unknown how many bones had been broken in the process, but the old man's entire body was violently convulsing, and he couldn't stop coughing up blood.

The audience fell deathly silent. Their eyes brimmed with shock and astonishment as they stared at the mighty figure that appeared out of nowhere.

Hua Qiancheng was a great cultivator of the Heaven Ascension Stage, but he was suppressed in one strike.

Too cruel!

Too unbelievable!

Naturally, the mighty figure was Third Old Zhu. He had come to the arena with Lin Xun, and he couldn't tolerate Hua Qiancheng attempting to kill Lin Xun.

"Third Old Zhu, kill him!" Lin Xun ordered without any hesitation, his voice chilly and murderous.

His interference in the battle of life and death not only made Lin Xun miss the opportunity to kill Hua Wuyou but also almost cost his life.

How could Lin Xun still be polite to him?

Third Old Zhu nodded and marched towards Hua Qiancheng in large strides. His face was devoid of emotion, and his mighty body exuded an unparalleled, imposing aura that made everyone in the audience pale.

Lin Xun is ruthless!

Hua Qiancheng likely didn't expect this to happen when he intervened in the battle, right?

"How dare you? You think you can bully the Hua Clan?" A deep, imposing voice reverberated in the air before a majestic-looking man stood in front of Hua Qiancheng.

As he stood there gracefully and calmly in a loose, wide-sleeved robe, he exuded majesty like a king looking over the world.

Hua Qinglin!

He was a renowned Heaven Ascension cultivator of the Hua Family. He held the Lieutenant General position of the imperial army and had fifty years of experience fighting on the battlefield. He had slaughtered countless fierce enemies, and his hands were stained with blood. He was one of the Five Tiger Generals of the Empire!

The audience inhaled sharply upon seeing Hua Qinglin stand forward. The duel was too thrilling with the endless changes!

“Haha, you are going too far.” Lin Xun chuckled, but his dark eyes were still icy.

“Your Hua Family have set the rules, but you also broke them. Aren’t you too shameless?”

Lin Xun was completely enraged. He didn’t care what identity Hua Qinglin had. “That’s not all. Your Hua Family dispatched Heaven Ascension cultivators to kill a junior. I’ve never seen something as shameless,” he scolded without hesitation.

He was right! They were at Sky Martial Arena and it was a duel! Rules had to be followed!

However, the Hua Family went back on their words in front of countless people, broke the rules, and disregarded everything. Who wouldn’t be enraged?

Hua Qinglin’s eyes narrowed slightly as he uttered, “Little junior, you have a death wish!”

He looked elegant and graceful, but he was a fierce, ruthless character. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have received the name of one of the Five Tiger Generals of the Empire.

As his voice rang out, his aura drastically changed. Monstrous, murderous intent and bloodthirst shrouded him like he had transformed into a warrior on the battlefield.

Almost at the same time, Third Old Zhu’s eyes glinted coldly, and his mighty figure erupted with a murderous aura and iron will.

“Oh? I can tell that you’re also a warrior on the battlefield. Why do you want to work for this kid? Hurry and move aside or I will punish you according to the military rules!” Hua Qinglin’s pupils shrank when he sensed Third Old Zhu’s aura. Then, he issued an order like he was a general commanding thousands of troops.

“I have been discharged from the army for many years now. You can’t make me retreat.”

“Then don’t blame me for being rude!”

Just as a duel between two great cultivators of the Heaven Ascension Stage was about to break out, a long sigh sounded. “General Hua, Sky Martial Arena is not a territory of your Hua Family.”

A stout middle-aged man in a luxurious robe and a little round hat suddenly appeared in the arena. With his hands inserted in his sleeves, he looked like an honest businessman.

However, no one dared to underestimate the middle-aged man because he had the surname Zhao. His name was Tailai and was the owner of Sky Martial Arena! Most importantly, Zhao Tailai was a member of the imperial family!

His appearance surprised many people. Zhao Tailai rarely involved himself with such affairs. However, he strangely appeared and wanted to stop Hua Qinglin.

“You want to stop me?” Hua Qinglin scrunched his brows.

"Your Hua Family is the one who broke the rules first. I came because I don't want to let this matter continue to worsen," sighed Zhao Tailai.

"What if I don't agree?"

Hua Qinglin's expression was ice-cold. The others might be afraid of Zhao Tailai because of his identity, but he wasn't. In his eyes, there were many kinds of imperial family members. It just so happened that Zhao Tailai wasn't worthy of his fear.

Everyone in the audience gasped. Hua Qinglin is so obnoxious. His Hua Family is in the wrong, but he still refuses to stop.

But this is the style of the Hua Family. Among the seven high clans, the Hua Family has always been known for being domineering.

"No, General Hua, you must agree this time." Unexpectedly, Zhao Tailai stood his ground and his expression was resolute. "This isn't just my wish. General Hua, please reconsider your action."

Hua Qinglin felt a chill in his heart, and he fell silent.

Everyone could understand the implied meaning. It turns out that Zhao Tailai dared to stop Hua Qinglin so strongly because he was ordered to do so!

Simply speaking, someone had asked Zhao Tailai to come forward to stop all this. Who could command Zhao Tailai, the owner of Sky Martial Arena?

"Hmph!"

Hua Qinglin snorted coldly, and his eyes swept over Lin Xun like icy blades. Then, he stormed off the arena with Hua Qiancheng and Hua Wuyou.

The entire audience breathed a sigh of relief. If Hua Qinglin went crazy, it would be too terrifying.

It was good that a duel could be resolved in such a way.

After all, in any case, it was already very good that Lin Xun managed to survive against the domineering and powerful Hua Family.

Unexpectedly, Lin Xun said aloud, "You want to leave? It's not that easy. Third Old Zhu, capture them for me!" His voice was sonorous.

Chapter 376 Mottled Plum Blossom Sword

"Do you want to leave? It's not that easy. Third Old Zhu, capture them for me!" His sonorous voice caused an uproar in the audience.

Is Lin Xun crazy!?

Hua Qinglin has already taken a step back, but he still doesn't plan to let him go. Does he want to fight to the death with the Hua Clan?

He's too crazy!

“What is that guy thinking?”

Lin Xun’s bold, unexpected move also puzzled and surprised Shi Yu, Ning Meng and the others.

“Does that kid want to die?!”

Lin Tianlong and others were taken aback at first, but then they laughed coldly. They couldn’t wait until Lin Xun completely enraged the Hua Clan and died as a result.

“Little trash, I’ve already given you face!”

Hua Qinglin suddenly stopped, undisguised killing intent surfacing on his calm and graceful face.

Boom!

Almost at the same time, Third Old Zhu acted without any hesitation. He charged toward Hua Qinglin with murderous intent. He didn’t seem to care about anything and only followed Lin Xun’s orders. It was as though he wouldn’t even frown if Lin Xun wanted him to die.

Even Zhao Tailai, the owner of Sky Martial Arena, stood there blankly, not expecting such a thing to happen. He didn’t know how Lin Xun, a teenager, could be so ruthless and had no care about the consequences. It was completely unexpected.

“Enough. Time to stop!”

However, before Hua Qinglin and Third Old Zhu broke out in a fight, an arc of light descended from the sky.

It was a sword!

The sword was twisted and shaped like a plum blossom branch. The body was dark, jagged, and covered with mottled rust. The sword seemed to have descended from the sky. It pierced straight into the center of the arena between Hua Qinglin and Third Old Zhu.

Instantly, the two halted.

At the same time, the ancient voice rang again, echoing in all directions, making people wonder where it came from. However, fear inexplicably flooded everyone’s hearts when they heard the voice. Their spirits trembled and they dared not utter a word.

The atmosphere suddenly stilled!

As Hua Qinglin looked at the strange sword covered with rust and was shaped like a plum blossom branch, his face morphed into shock, bewilderment and bitterness.

Third Old Zhu kept silent and dared not act rashly.

It seemed as though the sword possessed a demonic force that instilled fear into Hua Qinglin and Third Old Zhu.

In the surroundings of the arena, the influential figures of the older generation fell silent, and their expressions dramatically changed. It was as though they had recognized the sword. The rest might not

have recognized the sword, but they realized the seriousness of the situation and their expressions morphed indefinitely.

Lin Xun also didn't know the origin of the sword, but he seemed to have guessed something as he furrowed his brows in deep thought.

He had disregarded everything and ordered Third Old Zhu to take action not because he wanted to fight to the death with Hua Qinglin. His true motive was to see if he could lure out the influential figure hiding in the dark.

It seemed like he had succeeded.

That strange mottled plum blossom branch sword must be a symbol of some kind of status!

Lin Xun had speculated this because of Zhao Tailai's sudden appearance. He didn't know the man, but he suddenly appeared at a critical moment and stopped Hua Qinglin's retaliation against him.

Additionally, the fact that Zhao Tailai said 'it's not only my wishes', proved that someone had secretly instructed him to do so!

Lin Xun suspected the person was an influential figure from the imperial family! Everything that had happened had vaguely proved it.

"Disperse!" Like a command, the ancient voice rang again.

Hua Qinglin drew a deep breath and bowed his head at the mottled plum blossom branch sword on the ground before turning around and leaving.

"Third Old Zhu, come back," said Lin Xun.

He had achieved his goal so he could stop now.

Everyone's expressions were crossed with shock and bewilderment like they had just woken up from a dream. They didn't expect the duel between two youngsters to end in such a way.

Regardless, the duel had come to an end.

The end meant that the winner had been decided.

Hua Wuyou was no doubt the loser. Even if she wasn't killed in the end, the battle was no doubt a huge blow to her.

Lin Xun would rise to fame in the Forbidden City after he had shown such strength in the battle. He was bound to become a talented genius that no one can ignore!

Similarly, the Hua Clan had tarnished their reputation. As one of the seven high clans, they had gone back on their word and broke the rules of a duel. Their despicable actions were like a permanent stain.

Hua Qiancheng and Hua Qinglin, two Heaven Ascension cultivators, had appeared in the arena one after another and attempted to kill Lin Xun, who was their junior. Their behavior and actions were too arrogant and tyrannical.

If the incident spread out, it would have a huge impact on their prestige.



However, that was all. After all, the Hua Clan was one of the unshakable seven high clans. The result of the duel and their shameless actions wouldn't have a substantial impact on them.

.....

"Kid, are you happy now?"

When Lin Xun exited the arena, he ran into Zhao Tailai, who looked very displeased and seemed to blame Lin Xun for creating trouble for him.

"No?"

Unexpectedly, Lin Xun said with a smile, "Unless you tell me why you came forward and stopped everything."

"Don't waste your breath!" Zhao Tailai said impatiently, "Go, go, go! Kid, you've already brought me so much trouble. You're a pest that I can't afford to anger, but do you think I can't hide?"

Lin Xun smiled bitterly as he was shooed away.

Before he left, Zhao Tailai suddenly said aloud, "If you want to create trouble, go to Qinglu Academy. I would be impressed if you could turn it upside down."

Lin Xun's eyes lit up. "Elder, did someone tell you to pass on those words to me?"

Zhao Tailai ignored him, turned around, and walked away.

Lin Xun stood there, lost in thought.

Turn the world upside down?

Before he stepped into the Forbidden City, an influential figure from the imperial family had sent him a letter and told him that he could turn the world upside down!

Lin Xun connected everything that he had experienced, and he had a feeling that everything was related to the influential figure from the palace.

"This duel is indeed not that simple. No wonder it attracted the attention of so many clans and forces..." Lin Xun said ruminatively.

.....

Precious Laughter House.

Ninth Heaven Pavilion.

They were at the same place and only Shi Yu, Ning Meng, Gong Ming, Ye Xiaoqi and Lin Xun were present, but the atmosphere was much more lively than that day.

How could men gather without any drinks?

It was similar to how women always exchanged makeup tips when they got together.

To celebrate Lin Xun's victory, Shi Yu brought out his father's precious Ice Flame Jade Dew. There were two full jars, and the value was difficult to estimate.

They drank to their heart's content, and the atmosphere was joyous.

Lin Xun's battle could be called the most sensational event that occurred in the Forbidden City this year. His friends were very proud of the fact that Lin Xun had become victorious in the battle.

After three rounds of drinks and five courses of food, Shi Yu said tipsily, "When I left Sky Martial Arena, I ran into Bai Lingxi and Zhao Yin. Do you know what Bai Lingxi said about the battle?"

Everyone couldn't help but be curious. Bai Lingxi was considered the strongest and most talented maiden in Blood Kill Camp. Moreover, she had a very impressive background and had achieved third place in the national exam. They were very interested in her opinion.

"She said Lin Xun is the same as before." Shi Yu chuckled.

"What does that mean?" Ning Meng furrowed his brows.

"Abnormal!" Shi Yu looked at him like he was looking at an idiot.

Everyone burst into laughter, but Lin Xun was a little stunned and couldn't help but say, "In terms of abnormality, she should be better than me, right?"

Shi Yu smiled playfully. "You two should have a showdown one day. Perhaps, a relationship will be formed in the process. If you can win Bai Lingxi's heart, your Lin Family will rise in no time!"

Ning Meng and others laughed teasingly.

Lin Xun's expression remained unchanged.

Then, he had a drinking contest with Shi Yu, and made his friend collapse on the table after five rounds.

Seeing this, Ning Meng, Gong Ming and Ye Xiaoqi were about to retreat, but Lin Xun stopped them and had a drinking contest with each of them.

In the end, the youngsters all lay there drunk on the ground, mumbling nonsense.

Regardless of their status and power, they were still very young and at the peak of their youth.

In the years to come, they might go their separate ways, make friends with different people and seek different cultivation paths, but the friendships they had formed in their teenage years would always stay with them.

.....

On the same night.

Chi Cangmei walked along a bustling street, her brows slightly wrinkled as scenes from the Sky Martial Arena flashed in her mind.

An inexplicable irritation rose in her heart. Lin Xun is growing too fast! The most terrifying and troublesome thing is that there is an invisible, colossal force hiding behind him.

“Say, who is better between Lin Xun and Cangfeng?” Chi Cangmei suddenly asked.

The Cangfeng she mentioned was naturally Chi Cangfeng.

The old servant behind her said after a while, “Lin Xun is a little inferior. Young Master Cangfeng possesses the bloodline of the Violet Sea Golden Lotus, and within three years, he can set foot into the Heaven Ascension Stage. Very few of his peers can compare with him. Although Lin Xun defeated Hua Wuyou, he is still inferior in terms of his cultivation foundation, background, and talent.”

Chi Cangmei shook her head. “What you said is biased. It’s obvious that you are biased towards Cangfeng. Cangfeng will set foot into the Heaven Ascension Stage within three years, but Lin Xun will also improve in those years!”

She took a deep breath and said, “On the contrary, I have a hunch that if Lin Xun doesn’t die in three years, the so-called heavenly prides and demonic talents in the Forbidden City won’t be able to conceal his brilliance anymore!”

A thunderous uproar in the distance caught Chi Cangmei’s attention.

She scrunched her brows and noticed that the battle between Lin Xun and Hua Wuyou was being broadcast on a rune transmission light screen.

#### Chapter 377 Name That Shook the Forbidden City

It was late at night, but figures were still crowded around the rune transmission light screen, and exclamations and uproar erupted from time to time.

Most of them were unable to purchase a ticket to watch the duel between Lin Xun and Hua Wuyou, so they could only wait there for the news from the rune transmission light screen.

Chi Cangmei was suddenly curious about how the cultivators in the city viewed the duel.

As she thought about it, she had already walked over to the crowd.

“Amazing! Lin Xun is a rare genius! He’s only at the initial Spirit Sea Stage but he is already strong enough to defeat Hua Wuyou, who is blessed by heaven! Who would have thought?!”

“No one thought much of him at the start of the battle, but he made a magnificent counterattack at the last moment and demonstrated his abilities. The match was so thrilling and exciting! It’s a pity that I couldn’t witness it in person and catch a glimpse of Lin Xun!”

“Hey, who would dare say that Lin Xun is the weakest clan leader in the Forbidden City now?”

“I wonder how Lin Xun cultivates. How can he be so strong? Given his strength, he likely would be in the top five of the national exam if he took it, right?”

The news of Lin Xun defeating Hua Wuyou drew exclamations of awe. The cultivators couldn’t hide their excitement, and they made no secret of their surprise, astonishment, and admiration for Lin Xun.

There wasn’t a single negative remark.

Chi Cangmei secretly sighed. They are right. The Hua Clan has always acted overbearing and domineering, and Hua Wuyou is known as the Demoness.

It's hard not to be impressed by Lin Xun defeating Hua Wuyou as the underdog.

However, when it was broadcasted that Hua Qiancheng broke the rules and attacked Lin Xun at the critical moment, the exclamations in the audience turned to criticism.

"The Hua Clan has gone too far! They are too shameless!"

"Shh! Be quiet, if the Hua Family hears you say that, you will lose your life."

"Ridiculous, they have done something so shameless, and we can't even talk about it? A high and mighty Heaven Ascension cultivator shamelessly tried to kill a junior and trampled the rules of the duel. Such despicable behavior makes my hair stand up in anger!"

"The Hua Family is too strong. Fortunately, the heavens have blessed Lin Xun, and he managed to escape the danger. Otherwise, if Lin Xun died, the Forbidden City would lose a genius!"

"Despicable! So despicable!"

Chi Cangmei's face didn't ripple in the slightest when she heard the endless scolding. So what if you scold them? It won't have any significant impact on the Hua Family.

At best, it will strengthen their ruthless and domineering reputation.

However, Chi Cangmei had to admit that Lin Xun hadn't suffered from the battle and instead won a lot of admiration.

It would no doubt hugely benefit him in strengthening his prestige and gaining a foothold in the Forbidden City.

"What? Even Hua Qinglin showed up?"

"This battle has caused so many storms? It's a pity! I would have paid to watch it in Sky Martial Arena no matter how much it cost."

"A mysterious figure? An ancient mottled sword in the shape of a plum blossom branch? Which powerful influential being does it belong to? Why did Hua Qinglin suddenly stop?"

"This is too unbelievable. I can't guess, I really can't guess!"

Hearing this, Chi Cangmei knew that there was no need to listen anymore because regardless of the heated discussion, they would never be able to guess the truth.

After all, as a descendant of the Chi Family, she also hadn't figured out the truth. How would the ordinary cultivators be able to?

"Ancient Twisted Plum Blossom Sword..."

Chi Cangmei pondered as she walked away. "That's a weapon of the imperial family that has been lying dormant for many years. Why did it suddenly appear today? Could it be...a shadow of the imperial family is supporting Lin Xun?"

Although she couldn't figure it out, she was certain that the Hua Clan would hate Lin Xun to the bone. However, they wouldn't dare to make any reckless moves until they determined who was supporting Lin Xun from the dark.

Immediately, Chi Cangmei chuckled to herself. It's not just the Hua Family. Isn't it the same with our Chi Family?

In terms of losses, our Chi Family has suffered more in the encirclement operation against Lin Xun!

She got onto a carriage and on her way back to her clan, she inhaled deeply and tried to cast the distracting thoughts to the back of her head for now. She knew that even if Lin Xun had some sort of power supporting him in the dark, the powers that wanted to kill him were greater!

You wanted to use this battle to stand firm in the Forbidden City?

Impossible!

.....

It was early in the morning when Lin Xun left Precious Laughter House. He was so drunk that Lin Zhong had to carry him onto the jeweled carriage and return to Mind Cleansing Peak.

"He's drunk?"

Xiaoke couldn't help but frown when she saw Lin Xun in such a drunken state.

"It's good that he's drunk. At least, it proves that he has either won the battle beautifully or lost tragically. Otherwise, he wouldn't indulge in alcohol." Spirit Vulture smiled slightly.

"Mister Spirit Vulture is right! Young Master won the duel," Lin Zhong replied with a smile, and then he recounted the details of the duel.

"Ancient Twisted Plum Blossom Sword?"

A strange expression flashed across Spirit Vulture's face. "No wonder Hua Qinglin retreated."

Lin Zhong didn't say much and just took the drunk Lin Xun away.

"What's the sword's origin?" Xiaoke asked.

"It is a weapon rumored to be used by the founding emperor when he conquered the world. It was sealed in the depths of the imperial palace because it had been too badly stained with blood and had killed too many."

Spirit Vulture continued, "The sword has not been seen in the world for almost one thousand years, yet it suddenly appeared in the duel between Lin Xun and Hua Wuyou. This matter isn't that simple, and I believe Hua Qinglin also noticed this so he didn't dare to act recklessly."

"You mean an influential figure from the imperial palace is standing behind Lin Xun?" Xiaoke said in bewilderment.

"I'm not sure but there must be some sort of connection. After all, the sword is very special. It is the sword of the founding emperor and has been suppressed in the depths of the imperial palace for years. Ordinary members of the imperial family can't bring it out."

As Spirit Vulture spoke, he suddenly remembered something. "Do you remember what Lin Xun said? The Chi Family launched an encirclement operation on Lin Xun before he came to the Forbidden City?"

Xiaohe nodded.

"But after Lin Xun came to the Forbidden City, the Chi Family has kept a low profile and hasn't made many movements. Perhaps, the Chi Family knows they can't underestimate the power behind Lin Xun. Otherwise, given their powers as a top aristocratic clan, they could kill Lin Xun with a turn of their hands."

A ruminative smile curved Spirit Vulture's lips. "Now, I'm certain that Lin Xun has some sort of trump cards that we don't know about!"

"But so do his enemies," Xiaohe reminded.

"So, if he wants to lead the Lin Family and help it rise, the situation will be complicated..." Spirit Vulture said quietly.

.....

As everyone expected, the news of Lin Xun's victory over Hua Wuyou spread throughout the Forbidden City and caused a sensation.

Some people were amazed by Lin Xun's strength, and some criticized and despised the Hua Family for their despicable actions. Some tried to analyze the background of the ancient sword shaped like a plum blossom branch. Some had a feeling that Lin Xun wasn't just simply the successor of the Lin Family's Mind Cleansing Peak.

Lin Xun rose to fame in the Forbidden City and his name shook the city. His background, identity and strength became popular conversation topics.

When the West Creek Lin Clan learnt about Lin Xun's fame, angry roars rang in their meeting hall for the entire day. No one dared to mention Lin Xun.

By this time, all the clansmen of the Lin Clan knew that Lin Xun had become famous in the Forbidden City! Some were furious and some were shocked.

Regardless, the three branches West Creek, Cloud Weight and Flying Peak still refused to submit to Lin Xun. However, many people knew that if Lin Xun continued to rise, their situation would grow more and more dangerous.

What to do?

No one knew, because even Lin Tianlong, Lin Nianshan and Lin Pingdu, the three clan heads, were at a loss on what to do and couldn't come up with a clear solution.

The situation was different in the North Light Lin Clan. Although they didn't celebrate with Lin Xun, they still felt very proud. Ever since the bloody tragedy more than ten years ago, the Lin Clan's prestige had continued to decline. Many people in the Forbidden City had even forgotten the existence of the Lin Family!

Lin Xun's strong rise would no doubt draw a lot of attention and allow the Lin Family to return to the public's eyes. Even if there was still a long way to go before the Lin Clan restored its former glory, the clansmen of the Lin Clan were still full of excitement.

Early next morning, Lin Xuefeng set off to Mind Cleansing Peak with the 'sincerity' from the North Light Lin Clan.

.....

When Lin Xun woke up, it was already very bright. The warm sunlight spilled into his room and brought with it a refreshing and pleasant air.

No matter how hard Lin Xun tried, he couldn't remember who was the last one to collapse in the drinking contest in Precious Laughter House.

Lin Xun smiled, shook his head, got up, and washed up.

"Young Master, Young Master Xuefeng came to visit and is waiting for you in the North Light Pavilion."

Not long after Lin Xun washed up, Lin Zhong brought breakfast over and reported Lin Xuefeng's visit.

Lin Xun was taken aback for a moment and then he said thoughtfully, "North Light Pavilion? If I remember correctly, that was where the North Light Lin Clan lived back then."

Lin Zhong nodded with a smile. "It seems like Young Master has already guessed that Young Master Xuefeng likely has come with good news."

Lin Xun smiled, got up, and said, "Let's go and see."

The two left Mind Cleansing Hall and followed the winding azure stone path towards North Light Pavilion.

#### Chapter 378 Return the Items

In the past, the entire Lin Family, the collateral branches and the main clan, lived on Mind Cleansing Peak. The North Light Pavilion was the original residence of the North Light Lin Clan.

Similarly, there were residences called West Creek, Cloud Weight and Flying Peak, which belonged to the other three branches.

The North Light Pavilion consisted of rows upon rows of ancient buildings, most of which had been abandoned. But from the scale of it, it was very lively in the past.

When Lin Xun arrived, to his surprise, he saw a group of people rushing towards the North Light Pavilion.

It was the clansmen that Patriarch North Light sent to Mind Cleansing Peak. The majority of them were young, arrogant, and domineering.

Just a few days ago, Blood Thorn had asked Lin Xun to tell them off for trampling on his medicinal garden.

At the time, Lin Xun didn't waste time talking to them and just directly resorted to force. Then, he assigned them to different places on Mind Cleansing Peak to work like servants.

Unexpectedly, they gathered together again and seemed to be very excited about something.

When they saw Lin Xun, someone yelled out loud, "Lin Xun, you made us do tasks that only lowly servants do. We must tell Big Brother Xuefeng about it so he can stand up for us and get justice for us!"

"Yes, you clearly don't treat us as your clansmen!"

The young men and women fumed. They felt very ashamed to be sent to Mind Cleansing Peak to work as servants given that they were all members of the Lin Family.

They were afraid of Lin Xun's power and were watched by Xiaoke every day, so they had to endure being servants.

However, it was different today. They had heard that Lin Xuefeng had come to Mind Cleansing Peak. Overjoyed, they quickly gathered together and ran off to find him.

Lin Xun chuckled. These guys need a beating. I told them to work hard, but it hasn't helped with their problems.

"Huh? What's going on?"

A figure stepped out of the main hall of the North Light Pavilion. It was Lin Xuefeng.

"Big Brother Xuefeng, that guy has gone too far. He doesn't treat us as his clansmen!"

"We came to Mind Cleansing Peak to do great things, but he made work as lowly servants and sent a vicious woman to watch us. If we refuse to work, they physically punish us! You have to get justice for us!"

The young men and women clamored, their faces filled with indignation and humiliation.

However, to their surprise, not only did Lin Xuefeng not stand up for them, his face turned dark and unpleasant.

"Kneel!"

Before they registered the strange response from Lin Xuefeng, he had already uttered coldly like a clap of thunder. The young men and women all trembled all over and their faces blanched. They couldn't believe what they heard.

What...situation is this?

Someone thought they had heard it wrong and asked, "Brother Xuefeng, are you asking Lin Xun to kneel, or..."

PA!



Lin Xuefeng slapped him from afar and sent him flying across dozens of feet, screaming in agony.

Everyone realized that something was wrong and started to panic.

“Kneel!” Lin Xuefeng roared again.

The young men and women didn’t dare to disobey him this time. They dropped to their knees with a thud, and their expressions morphed like wilted eggplants.

“A bunch of trash. You were sent here to serve Mind Cleansing Peak, but you just complained all day long and did no work. You are the shame of the Lin Family!”

Lin Xuefeng was enraged. He had never imagined that his clansmen would have such rotten behavior.

“I’ll let you settle this matter. I’ll wait for you inside.” Lin Xun felt awkward watching this.

After all, it was an internal affair of the North Light Lin Clan, and Lin Xuefeng could easily handle it. The matter might not be resolved if he was around.

“Okay, it will only be a moment.” Lin Xuefeng nodded.

As soon as Lin Xun left, Lin Xuefeng’s face completely clouded over. He ran his eyes across the clansmen kneeling on the ground and felt a headache coming on.

“Brother Xuefeng, you...you’re helping him teach us a lesson? This is...absurd! Lin Xun has never treated us as members of the clan!” Someone mustered up the courage and lifted his head.

“Idiot!” Lin Xuefeng snapped. “If he didn’t treat you all as clansmen, why would he let you into Mind Cleansing Peak? Based on what you guys have done, he could have killed you already!”

Everyone went stiff in bewilderment and disbelief.

Lin Xuefeng’s expression grew increasingly cold. “I’m not afraid to tell you that, just yesterday, Hua Wuyou almost died at the hands of Lin Xun. Do you think your life is more precious than Hua Wuyou’s?”

His words were like a bolt of lightning as it struck their spirit. They trembled with shock. Did he dare to kill even Hua Wuyou?

Isn’t Lin Xun too arrogant?

From their expressions, Lin Xuefeng realized that they still didn’t know what happened in the Forbidden City in recent days. Otherwise, they would have never dared to disrespect Lin Xun!

“Let me tell you, from today on, whoever dares to disrespect Lin Xun again, I won’t let them off! Kneel here and have a good think about it!” Lin Xuefeng uttered coldly as he walked into the North Light Pavilion.

He didn’t bother to explain any further to them.

The young men and women stood there, dumbfounded.

.....

The main hall of North Light Pavilion.

"I apologize for the clansmen's incompetence. I'm embarrassed you had to see that." Lin Xuefeng bowed apologetically as he stepped through the door.

"Don't worry. We are all from the same clan. You already taught them a lesson." Lin Xun smiled.

Lin Xuefeng nodded and sat opposite him. "Father and Grandfather entrusted me to come here. They have decided to return some items that the North Light Lin Clan had kept safe to Mind Cleansing Peak."

Lin Xun's spirits were immediately lifted. "Thank you so much."

Lin Xuefeng said with a smile, "They originally belonged to Mind Cleansing Peak, but the North Light Lin Clan had just kept them all these years. Since you are now the owner of Mind Cleansing Peak, I should return them to you."

He brought out a storage bracelet and handed it to Lin Xun.

"Inside, there are a total of 1,733 books on cultivation, martial knowledge, pill knowledge and medicine."

"In addition, there are three heaven-grade pill furnaces, thirty-six bottles of top medicinal aeth plant seeds, one thousand seven hundred and seventy human-grade aeth tools and one hundred and ten pieces of earth-grade aeth tools..."

Lin Xun's eyes lit up. The North Light Lin Clan is being very sincere this time!

Their attitude had tremendously changed after Lin Xun's battle against Hua Wuyou! They were previously rather reserved but they actively supported Lin Xun now!

Lin Xuefeng continued, "In addition to these, there are ten boxes of various rare treasures, seventy-seven rune creatures, and forty-two rune beasts..."

He continued to list the items and then said, "I couldn't bring the rune creatures and beasts over, but Father will send someone to deliver them here before tomorrow afternoon."

Lin Xun was no longer happy, but astonished.

The North Light Lin Clan was very generous this time!

He had once asked Lin Zhong to count the treasures that were looted from Mind Cleansing Peak, so he knew very well that the North Light Lin Clan had returned most of the items taken from Mind Cleansing Peak!

Lin Xun stood up, gave a cupped fist salute, and said seriously, "Cousin, please thank Fifth Granduncle and Uncle Huaiyuan on my behalf. Tell them that Mind Cleansing Peak will always save a place for the North Light Lin Clan!"

Lin Xuefeng beamed. He was waiting for those words from Lin Xun!

"We're a family, so no need to be so polite."

Lin Xuefeng gestured to Lin Xun to take a seat and then said, "Lin Xun, I have decided to come to work for you at Mind Cleansing Peak. Of course, I will train at Qinglu Academy sometime but this isn't

important. What's important is that you know that I fully support you in taking charge of Mind Cleansing Peak!" His expression was solemn and he didn't seem to be joking around.

Lin Xun was stumped for a moment and then he laughed. "Now that I have my older cousin helping me, I won't need to worry anymore!"

Lin Xuefeng was a rare talented genius. Even though he couldn't be compared to fierce characters such as Hua Wuhen and Hua Wuyou in terms of cultivation, he was still a genius who successfully passed the national examination!

Moreover, he was the successor of the North Light Lin Clan. His help would no doubt greatly benefit Lin Xun.

After a long chat, Lin Xuefeng said goodbye and took his leave.

Lin Xun headed to the Sacred Books Pavilion with Lin Zhong. They dusted the area and cleaned the cobwebs and then took out the books from the storage bracelet and returned them to their original positions.

Lin Xun didn't say a word during the process.

On the first day he set foot on Mind Cleansing Peak, he had vowed that he would take back everything that had been looted from Mind Cleansing Peak! He had vowed to make the enemies who had damaged and looted the Lin Family pay a heavy price!

He had made a huge step towards his goal after less than half a year!

It would be a lie if he said he didn't feel emotional.

After going through so much, Lin Xun had learned to conceal his emotions and remain calm and composed at all times.

Most importantly, he knew that this was just the beginning!

Lin Zhong's face was alight with excitement. He might have seen a glimmer of hope when Lin Xun first appeared on Mind Cleansing Peak, but now, he truly believed that the Lin Family and Mind Cleansing Peak would regain their former glory under the leadership of Lin Xun!

On the same day, Spirit Vulture and Xiaoke learned about the matter, and both were surprised by the North Light Lin Clan's change of attitude.

However soon, understanding seemed to dawn on Spirit Vulture as he sighed, "Everything is difficult at the beginning. Lin Xun has torn a hole into the Lin Family's internal problems. As long as he continues to steadily move forward, it won't be long before he resolves the problems of the other three branches of the Lin Clan."

## Chapter 379 Improving Every Day

The strong support of the North Light Lin Clan undoubtedly brought astonishing benefits to Mind Cleansing Peak.

Mind Cleansing Peak had changed tremendously. It was buzzing like never before.

The Alchemy Workshop had gained another thirty apprentices, all of whom were from the North Light Lin Clan. Although they were young, they were swift and knew all the required technical skills. Blood Thorn no longer had to worry about miscellaneous tasks and could concentrate fully on cultivating medicinal aeth plants and alchemy-related tasks.

The apprentices had huge potential and could become true alchemy masters with the proper training.

Most importantly, they all had the surname Lin and were from the Lin Clan. In other words, they were more trustworthy and reliable than other people.

In the Blacksmith Workshop, there was also a group of new apprentices helping Yang Ling. The division of work was very detailed. Some were responsible for purchasing rune materials, and some selected and smelted rune materials. Yang Ling only had to issue orders; therefore he could free up time to concentrate on forging weapons.

Old Diao had already repaired all the neglected rune arrays around Mind Cleansing Peak with his superb rune skills. Previously, he had to take care of each of the rune arrays' operations and maintenance due to a lack of manpower, but now he could leave such trivial tasks to the subordinates.

However, Old Diao didn't rest. He was a rune master so he threw himself into helping Yang Ling and immediately began to help refine aeth tools.

Every few days, the Alchemy Workshop produced a new batch of aeth medicine. Some were kept for personal usage, but the rest were sold to Stone Cauldron Alms.

Similarly, the Blacksmith Workshop cooperated with Stone Cauldron Alms, so they didn't have to worry about their sales.

According to Spirit Vulture's daily accounts, the Alchemy Workshop and Blacksmith Workshop brought an income of thirty thousand gold coins to Mind Cleansing Peak every month.

The numbers might seem small, but this was only the beginning. As they steadily increased their production, the benefits would also increase.

This was the reason why Spirit Vulture went to great lengths to recruit Blood Thorn, Yang Ling and Old Diao.

They were equivalent to money-making trees for Mind Cleansing Peak and could guarantee a steady income.

Now that they had money, they could easily recruit troops and expand their forces.

In addition, the beast farm on Mind Cleansing Peak reopened. They now had special beast-taming masters to take care of the rune birds and rune beasts that the North Light Lin Clan had sent over.

When Lin Xun first arrived at Mind Cleansing Peak, he didn't even have a carriage and had to rent one. But it was completely different now. The rune birds and rune beasts they raised could be used as transport. Everything was much more convenient.

The North Light Lin Clan had also sent over a group of maids and servants to serve at Mind Cleansing Peak.

If a clan or sect wanted to rise, they needed talents in all aspects and that wasn't a simple matter.

Mind Cleansing Peak was no longer barren and was slowly being transformed.

Naturally, Spirit Vulture was the one responsible for this as he had provided invaluable strategy and advice.

Lin Xun only had to make a decision, and Spirit Vulture completed the rest beautifully.

Of course, the most important thing now was that Mind Cleansing Peak had money and was building its own power.

According to Spirit Vulture's plan, this was just the beginning. Many matters still had to be done to help Mind Cleansing Peak rise and restore its former glory.

For example, setting new rules.

For example, forming an elite battle unit belonging to the Lin Family!

After all, they couldn't expect Lin Xun to charge into any conflict that arose and deal with it. If that was the case, the successor of the Lin Family would be exhausted to death.

Simply speaking, Mind Cleansing Peak was rapidly being restored to its former state, but at the same time, there were still many problems to be taken care of.

Lin Xun didn't need to worry about these things with Spirit Vulture handling everything.

He felt much more relaxed now that he had handed over the financial power to Lin Zhong and the strategic planning to Spirit Vulture.

However, he didn't just sit around and do nothing. In addition to cultivating every day, he patrolled Mind Cleansing Peak with Jiujiu.

He was elated to see Mind Cleansing Peak operating in an orderly manner and showing signs of thriving.

It felt like a seedling that he had carefully cultivated was sprouting and growing. It filled him with hope.

.....

Time flew by. One month had passed since his duel with Hua Wuyou.

That night, Lin Xun meditated and cultivated as usual.

His back was straight as a spear, and his body was shrouded in a dreamy lavender glow.

In his sea of qi, a vast sea of aeth power was surging turbulently and producing thunderous roars.

Above the sea of aeth power was a mysterious spectacle of the sun and moon reflecting each other and stars surrounding them in the sky.

In the center of the aeth power sea was a storm vortex roaring into the sky, setting off thousands of waves and stretching across the sky and sea!

This was the sea of aeth power that Lin Xun had opened up after breaking through to the Spirit Sea Stage. It was magnificent and indescribably mysterious.

It represented a transcendent talent and was different from an ordinary cultivator's aeth power sea.

Average cultivators would never be able to open up a sea of aeth power that could compare with Lin Xun in terms of scale and depth!

Nor would they see any spectacle in their aeth sea!

Only a talent such as Lin Xun who had a terrifying foundation could form such a spectacle when he broke through to the Spirit Sea Stage.

Chi Cangfeng was only thirteen years old when he broke through to the Spirit Sea Stage, but his Violet Sea Golden Lotus bloodline allowed him to create the magnificent spectacle of a rainbow piercing through the sky and purple air rushing in from the east!

It was precisely because of that that Chi Cangfeng became one of the most dazzling talents in the Forbidden City at such a young age.

He had achieved second place in the national examination and was accepted into Qinglu Academy.

However, if one compared the two, one would find that the spectacle that Lin Xun had produced in his aeth power sea was much more special and mysterious.

The sun and the moon had hung high in the sky, and stars guarded them. Moreover, a storm vortex was rushing into and stretching across the sky!

It was a grand spectacle.

Lin Xun didn't lose to Hua Wuyou despite their difference in cultivation level because the foundation of his aeth sea was too extraordinary.

Rumble—

As Lin Xun circulated the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture, his body produced thunderous rumbles as though sacred mountains were colliding inside him. His blood and qi were tumbling around his body, and every inch of his muscles was being tempered. He was undergoing a huge transformation.

In his mind, the obscure and inexplicably clear voice reciting the Chaotic Void Dao Scripture was constantly echoing. He sank into a trance-like state and lost himself. His cultivation speed was significantly improved in that state.

Two hours later.

He snapped awake from his meditative state, but his brows were furrowed in bewilderment.

I've improved so quickly!

He had only broken through to the Spirit Sea Stage two months ago, but his cultivation was rapidly improving every day. There were even signs that he was about to break through to the intermediate Spirit Sea Stage!

Other cultivators would be wild with joy to see such incredible cultivation progress.

However, Lin Xun found the rapid change difficult to handle, which made him realize something was wrong.

It was as though a child had suddenly gained the power of an adult. Not only would it be difficult to control the new power, but the child could also easily hurt themselves.

Lin Xun drew a deep breath and began to examine himself.

After a long moment, the corners of his lips curved into a strange, bitter smile. He understood the reason.

There wasn't a problem with his cultivation foundation. In fact, the cultivation resources he possessed were too heaven-defying.

First of all, his cultivation foundation was incomparably strong, and his aeth sea had produced a transcendent spectacle. He had an incomparable advantage over other people.

Originally, the stronger one's cultivation foundation, the more difficult it was for one's cultivation to progress. However, that wasn't the case for Lin Xun. The Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture he cultivated was a mysterious cultivation art that he inherited from the Omega Secret Realm. It was mysterious, unpredictable, and extremely domineering during cultivation. It had the ability to devour the world and possessed terrifying refining power.

Lin Xun wouldn't have been able to handle such a domineering cultivation method if not for his extremely strong foundation.

Additionally, the obscure Dao sound from the Chaotic Void Dao Scripture constantly echoed in his mind during cultivation and made him completely lose himself while cultivating. As a result, it greatly improved his speed, so one day of cultivation was now equivalent to his usual ten days.

Moreover, every time he cultivated, he consumed a Snow Infant Jade Ginseng, a top aeth medicine. Its marvelous medicinal power hugely supported his cultivation.

Based on that, it was normal that his cultivation improved so quickly. It would be strange if it didn't.

Having understood that, Lin Xun felt a lot more at ease. The more you hurry, the less progress you are likely to make.

He knew that his failure to truly control his constantly changing powers was due to his state of mind not being tempered enough.

However, how do I temper it?

As he pondered, he walked out of the training room and stepped out of Mind Cleansing Hall.

It was deep at night. The sky was clear and full of stars, the night wind was breezy, and the clouds and mist floated dreamily. A unique aroma of grass and trees pervaded the air.

Huh?

Lin Xun inadvertently glanced around and noticed Spirit Vulture sitting alone in a wheelchair and gazing up at the night sky.

It's so late, what is Spirit Vulture doing here?

Chapter 380 The Path of the Dao is Difficult

Lin Xun stepped forward and said in surprise, "Sir, there seems to be something on your mind?"

Spirit Vulture's expression was calm as he gazed at the starry sky and answered, "I wouldn't say so. I am just thinking about some problems. Some things should be prepared in advance."

Lin Xun sat down on the ground with his hands on his knees and also gazed up at the starry sky. "Sir, can you talk to me about it?"

"Speaking of which, these things are all related to you."

"Me?"

"Yes."

Spirit Vulture retracted his gaze and looked at the sharp face of the youngster beside him. "Mind Cleansing Peak seems to be thriving now, but there are some hidden problems."

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes and said, "Please tell me everything."

"Mind Cleansing Peak lacks the power to truly take command."

Spirit Vulture continued after a while, "You should also know that Old Third Zhu will leave one day. Although White Casanova Shen Jinglun has the fighting spirit, he only considers himself a servant and likely wouldn't take on huge responsibilities."

"Although the other three collateral branches of the Lin Family can't do anything to you, for the time being, many of their clansmen are Heaven Ascension cultivators. They even have a true Cyclic Derivation cultivator. As long as they seize the opportunity, they can deliver a fatal attack at Mind Cleansing Peak."

Lin Xun's expression turned solemn.

"If this hidden problem isn't resolved, everything on Mind Cleansing Peak will sooner or later only benefit others."

Spirit Vulture's eyes shone with wisdom. "Even if we have the North Light Lin Clan's support, they won't be able to help much in such a situation."

Lin Xun fell silent for a moment, and then said, "Sir, do you have a solution?"

Spirit Vulture pondered for a long moment and said, "It's difficult—unless you can get the owner of the Ancient Plum Blossom Sword to help you."

"Impossible," Lin Xun said bluntly. The mysterious person supported him, but it was impossible to expect them to help him solve his problems.



As for the Black Glory Sacred Hall, Lin Xun knew he couldn't depend on them. They had helped him too much. The old man of Sacred Hall had already made it clear that he wouldn't interfere in his affairs again.

Lin Xun knew he had to solve everything by himself.

Spirit Vulture said after a thought, "If—you can make Old Third Zhu stay and also recruit a true Heaven Ascension cultivator to serve you, you may be able to resolve this hidden problem."

Convince Old Third Zhu to stay!

Lin Xun's eyes lit up. He had also thought about the problem, but he had never come up with a good solution.

"Sir, do you have a way?" asked Lin Xun.

Spirit Vulture smiled. "I've been thinking about this, but I haven't figured out a specific way. But if you can adapt to him and speak and act with a definite goal, perhaps you can make Old Third Zhu willingly follow you."

Lin Xun suddenly fell into contemplation. It won't be easy to impress a powerful upper Heaven Ascension cultivator.

However, what can I give Old Third Zhu to make him willingly stay behind?

Lin Xun couldn't figure it out.

Women, money, power...such worldly things had no attractive power to a powerful cultivator like Old Third Zhu.

"You don't need to rack your brains to think of a way."

Suddenly, a dull voice sounded. Old Third Zhu's mighty figure was standing in the darkness in the distance.

Lin Xun was taken aback.

Spirit Vulture smiled slightly as if he had predicted that Old Third Zhu would appear.

"The Spirit Sea Stage gives a life span of three hundred and the Heaven Ascension Stage gives a lifespan of six hundred. I only have two years left. Even if you make me stay behind, I can't solve your problems," said Old Third Zhu nonchalantly.

Lin Xun's eyes widened and his gaze turned complicated. He had never thought that Old Third Zhu would have less than two years of life left!

But it was the truth!

All cultivators sought the path of the Dao. They cast aside all superficial things such as fame, money and power. Their most fundamental goal was to prolong their life and seek immortality!

The cultivation path was destined to be brutal. Since ancient times, it was unknown how many remarkable talents were lost to time because they had failed to break through. They ended up exhausting their lifespan, losing their cultivation base, and dying with regret.

There had been too many examples of that.

In particular, the higher one's cultivation stage, the more difficult it was to break through. If one couldn't break through, their cultivation path would end regardless of how powerful they were, and they would have to suffer the fate of death.

Old Third Zhu was currently facing the problem of life and death as he was on the verge of exhausting his lifespan!

He might be mighty, but he was still insignificant in the face of time.

This was the path of cultivation. It was full of obstructions and difficulties. Cultivators had to compete with heaven and earth and compete with time. If they failed, their path would end!

Lin Xun was still very young and had endless potential. Moreover, his cultivation was rapidly improving so he couldn't understand that.

However, when he learned that Old Third Zhu was approaching the end of his life, he lost control of his emotions.

Unexpectedly, Spirit Vulture suddenly said aloud, "If you can break through, then this problem can be solved."

Lin Xun's spirits were immediately lifted. Then, he shook his head. If Old Third Zhu could breakthrough, why would he wait until now?

As he had thought. Old Third Zhu indifferently explained, "Impossible, my potential has been exhausted, and I have tried thirty-seven times over the years, all of which have ended in failure. I am already very lucky to survive until now."

"Who said it's impossible?"

An unfathomable smile curved Spirit Vulture's lips. "I heard that there is a mysterious place called the Cyclic Derivation Tower in the depths of the imperial palace. It can perhaps help you breakthrough."

In the depths of the imperial palace! The Cyclic Derivation Tower!

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes as he vaguely realized that Spirit Vulture was actively trying to help him make Old Third Zhu stay. Additionally, he had pointed out a clear path for him.

"That's the imperial palace, a forbidden place, and the Cyclic Derivation Tower is a forbidden place in the forbidden land. Even most members of the imperial family are not allowed to enter there. It's wishful thinking to go there," Old Third Zhu said indifferently.

He seemed to have given up on breaking through.

"You can't, but that doesn't mean Lin Xun can't," Spirit Vulture said leisurely.

“There might be a turning point before you exhaust your lifespan. Please don’t refuse when that happens.”

Old Third Zhu kept silent for a long moment and finally turned away without saying a word.

No one knew what he was thinking, but at least he didn’t decline the offer.

“What do you think? Do you feel that it is more difficult to achieve this step than it is to ascend to the sky?” Spirit Vulture shifted his gaze to Lin Xun.

“It is indeed going to be tricky but I will do my best.”

Lin Xun took a deep breath. He thought of the influential figure from the imperial palace. Perhaps...I can ask that person for help.

“Don’t worry, there is still more than a year. You can decide whether to do this or not when you’re prepared,” reassured Spirit Vulture.

Lin Xun nodded and then he suddenly remembered something. He stared at Spirit Vulture and said, “Sir, I heard that you are afflicted with the Demon Tribulation Poison. Is this poison incurable?”

Spirit Vulture immediately guessed what Lin Xun wanted to do. He waved his hand dismissively. “Don’t waste your time. The poison is hard to treat even in the Darkness Kingdom. I don’t expect to be cured ever in my life.”

“I just think you can give it a try.”

“If it wasn’t for your reminder, I almost would have forgotten. Mind Cleansing Peak will have another Heaven Ascension cultivator if you’re treated!”

“You seem to be full of confidence.”

“I just suddenly thought of a way to kill multiple birds with one stone.”

“What is it?” asked Spirit Vulture.

Lin Xun lightly spat out two words, “A reward! I can gather the wisdom of all people in the world to find a solution to cure the Demon Tribulation Poison in your body!”

Spirit Vulture sighed, “What are you planning to offer as a reward? There are very few rewards that can capture the attention of the entire world.”

He didn’t believe him.

Lin Xun grinned. “When I was cultivating in Haze City, a Heaven Ascension cultivator saved me several times and helped me a lot. When I wanted to repay him for his kindness, he just said that I can create a rune armament for him when I have the ability.”

“It made me realize that rune armaments are treasures that can make even Heaven Ascension cultivators go crazy!”

After a pause, he continued, “If I tell everyone in the world that I will reward whoever treats the Demon Tribulation Poison with a rune armament...who wouldn’t be tempted?”

Rune armament!

Even though Spirit Vulture had cultivated an extremely calm state of mind, he couldn't help inhaling sharply. A strange look flickered across his eyes, including shock and disbelief.

He had never thought that Lin Xun, a teenager, could create a rune armament! It was too unbelievable!

What was a rune armament?

It could be considered the most valuable treasure even among the aristocratic clans. Some top clans didn't even own one rune armament!

The reason was that rune armaments were incredibly difficult to create. Even in the hands of a rune master, the rate of success was still extremely low.

The Divine Workshop was made up of the most outstanding rune masters and even rune grandmasters in the empire. But even so, it would take them at least three months to successfully create one rune armament!

Most importantly, the imperial family, the military and the seven high clans would fight over any rune armaments created so they would never be seen in the outside world!

When a thing is rare, it becomes precious.

Let alone an earth-shakingly rare treasure such as a rune armament?

Cyclic Derivation cultivators would go crazy if someone said that they could customize a rune armament for them!

This was the value of a rune armament.

How could Spirit Vulture not feel ruffled when he heard Lin Xun say he could make a rune armament?