

## Prodigies 401

### Chapter 401 Class 9C

Shen Tuo added, "The academy organizes a competition every year to refresh the Spirit Sea Gold Rankings. However, the rankings rarely change because most of the spots are occupied by the Dao Martial Department elites."

Lin Xun digested this material and came to a conclusion. Of course it's normal for the Hidden Dragon Department students to be incapable of matching the Dao Martial Department elites.

As for the True Martial Department students, they had already long surpassed the Spirit Sea stage and obviously could not participate.

Lin Xun suddenly asked, "Given my current status, can I also participate in such competitions?"

Shen Tuo was taken aback. "Of course you may."

Only then did he recall that Lin Xun had defeated Hua Wuyou a few months ago, who was one of the Dao Martial Department students!

With that in mind, wouldn't Lin Xun's current combat power allow him to vie for a spot on the Spirit Sea Gold Rankings?

Even someone like Shen Tuo could not help but inwardly call Lin Xun a freak of nature. He had already displayed such unbelievable talent in runes and yet he hadn't slouched one bit in his martial cultivation.

A genius like him was nearly impossible to find even in a place like Qinglu Academy!

"Let's continue."

Shen Tuo continued leading Lin Xun into the academy.

It was not long before they arrived at a group of buildings that were covered in lush vegetation amidst a forest of tall, ancient trees. The buildings were incomparably old and thoroughly marked by the mottled traces of time.

Under the morning sun, the scene gave off a beautiful and solemn charm.

This was the Rune Department.

Shen Tuo brought Lin Xun into one of the buildings that turned out to be an accommodation for instructors.

Qinglu Academy had clearly put a lot of thought into securing Lin Xun. The accommodation they had provided for him was a spacious room with elegant furnishings. Everything looked meticulously prepared, and it had all the facilities he would need.

Three sets of instructor navy-blue clothes had already been prepared along with a blue jade insignia that represented his instructor status and a room key.

Shen Tuo explained, "This insignia has a special function. It can record the points collected by you. These points have many uses. They can not only be exchanged for aeth tools, pills, and medicine but are also used to borrow books from the martial manual library."

"In other words, the more points you have, the more privileges and benefits you can enjoy in the academy."

Lin Xun was surprised. He had not anticipated that even the instructors would need to earn and accumulate points.

This made Lin Xun recall Blood Kill Camp. Wasn't there also a similar system back then?

"Since we're done here, let me bring you to class."

After Lin Xun had changed into his navy-blue clothes and tied his hair into a bun, Shen Tuo led him out of the accommodation.

"The academy has prepared a level one instructor position for you. You will be responsible for teaching class 9C."

Shen Tuo went on to explain that the Rune Department classes were categorized according to mastery level.

The A class was for students with advanced rune master aptitude, and their instructors were usually rune grandmasters.

Take Shen Tuo, for example. Although he was the head instructor, he was also responsible for teaching one of the A classes.

The B class was targeted at students with intermediate rune master aptitude while the C class was targeted at students with initiate rune master aptitude.

Lin Xun was in charge of teaching class 9C.

One point worth mentioning was that an instructor's test results were tied to their students' results. The better the students did, the better it would reflect on the instructor, and the more points the instructor would earn.

It could be said that their success and failure were tied together.

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There were a total of nine C classes which were all held in an old three-story building.

Each floor had three classrooms and each class had thirty students.

The class allocated to Lin Xun was located on one corner on the first floor. The walls were covered in green vines, making the room look like a secluded sanctuary far away from the hustle and bustle of society.

"The students are already waiting inside. Go ahead."

This was where Shen Tuo's tour came to an end.

Lin Xun nodded and walked toward the entrance. However, he suddenly sensed something, causing him to quickly scan the surroundings as an amused look flashed in his eyes.

In that instant, he had detected numerous gazes secretly watching this place with curiosity, amusement, excitement, and various other emotions.

Lin Xun withdrew his gaze and walked into classroom 9C.

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A strange look rose in Shen Tuo's eyes as he watched Lin Xun's figure disappear into the classroom. After standing on the spot for some time, he ultimately let out a soft sigh and left.

He did not walk far but found an empty spot before looking back at classroom 9C as if he was waiting for something.

"Hmph, what's so amazing about the nine draconic cries? He's just a hairless kid that doesn't have any teaching experience. Aren't you guys just causing problems by letting him replace me to teach class 9C?"

A tanned elder had appeared at some unknown time. He was clearly a little miffed as he icily snorted. "I'm interested to see how big of a joke his first lesson will be. He'd better not be blasted out of the classroom by the students."

His gloating voice was filled with a sliver of anger and resentment.

The old man was called Fang Zhongjian and he was a very veteran advanced rune master. He was also the original instructor of class 9C.

Having his nest suddenly taken over by another bird naturally made him very unhappy.

"Old Fang, the academy has made other arrangements for you that are far better than being an instructor. Don't say such cynical things."

Shen Tuo frowned. Although Fang Zhongjian was only an advanced rune master, he was very experienced and was also from the same generation as Shen Tuo. As such, it was difficult for him to say much.

"Hehe, kicking me aside for a kid that's still wet behind the ears might be nothing, but have any of you considered that although he might be a talented genius, he has yet to create any masterpieces to prove himself!"

Fang Zhongjian sullenly said, "Most importantly, he has no teaching experience, and letting him be a lecturer is no different from leading the students astray! Who will bear responsibility if anything happens?"

Shen Tuo's expression darkened. "Old Fang, watch your words!"

Fang Zhongjian snorted. "Fine, I won't say any more. Let's watch how this kid will make a fool of himself!"

Shen Tuo frowned as a sliver of worry rose in his heart.

From what he knew, class 9C was a very problematic class. If they were determined to make life difficult for Lin Xun, his first lesson would likely end in failure.

It was not something Shen Tuo wished to see.

As Fang Zhongjian had said, Lin Xun might be a true rune grandmaster with outstanding talent, but he was ultimately still a young teenager who had never taught a class before.

This meant that it was very easy for him to make a mistake during his first lesson and become a laughing stock. In fact, it might even hurt his pride, making it very difficult for him to raise his head in front of his students.

That would be problematic.

However, since things had already reached this point, Shen Tuo could only pray that Lin Xun would be able to subdue those students and successfully finish his first lesson.

Fang Zhongjian offhandedly said, "I forgot to mention that because of Lin Xun's arrival, all of the instructors and students in the Rune Department are watching his first lesson today."

These words made Shen Tuo's expression darken again. "Are you the one who told them? Are you intentionally trying to show Lin Xun his place?"

Fang Zhongjian expressionlessly said, "Who doesn't know that Lin Xun is the most amazing rune grandmaster of the younger generation? In fact, rumors about him are still spreading like wildfire in the Forbidden City. Who wouldn't wish to personally see such a legendary young genius in action?"

His words were not wrong, but his tone was sarcastic and filled with mockery. It made Shen Tuo slightly enraged. "Old Fang, you've gone overboard!"

"Overboard or not, things have already happened. Let us quietly watch the show."

Fang Zhongjian softly chuckled.

Shen Tuo inwardly sighed and did not say anything else.

The truth was that it was exactly as Fang Zhongjian had said. Upon knowing that Lin Xun was coming to the Rune Department today, the attention of numerous people was drawn toward him.

Everyone was waiting to see how the Forbidden City's most famous rising star would perform in his first lesson.

Would he make a fool of himself and become a joke or would he successfully overcome this trial?

Everyone was waiting for the answer.

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Classroom 9C was rather spacious. Behind each of the thirty, neatly arranged tables was a radiantly glowing youngster.

These youths ranged between sixteen and seventeen years of age. They were all dressed in the same white clothes and were nearly impossible to distinguish at a glance.

However, from the aura and energy they radiated, it was clear that these youths never had to worry about money.

There were also a few of them that stood out from the rest due to their uniquely prideful looks.

Ever since coming to the Forbidden City, Lin Xun had seen many noble disciples and could easily identify them at a glance.

While he was observing the students, they were also observing him.

Their gazes contained various things such as haughtiness, willfulness, curiosity, amazement, etc. For a time, the large classroom was very quiet.

"Everyone....."

Lin Xun stood on the podium. Just as he was about to introduce himself, he was interrupted by an odd cry.

"F\*ck, are you Lin Xun? You don't even look as old as us! Has your hair even started growing yet?"

The voice was extremely rude and sudden, causing Lin Xun to swallow the words he had prepared.

Roaring laughter immediately followed.

Lin Xun's expression remained unchanged as he looked over to find a tall and muscular young man with a fat head and large ears in the third row. He had crossed his arms, raised his chin, and was looking back at Lin Xun with an expression that was filled with ridicule.

#### Chapter 402 Unbecoming

The students' faces were filled with amusement as they laughed loudly.

The sound spread outside the classroom, causing Fang Zhongjian to laugh as well. "The show has started."

Shen Tuo frowned.

In the classroom, Lin Xun silently stood there for a moment before he smiled faintly and continued, "Good day everyone, I am called Lin Xun and will be your rune instructor from now on..."

His expression was relaxed, seemingly unaffected by laughter. Several students could not help but be surprised by his composure.

The fatty who had interrupted Lin Xun earlier griped, "Of course we know who you are. No need to speak any further. You want to be our instructor? Sure, show us your capabilities then!"

"Agreed, you aren't older than us. Although you've passed the rune grandmaster test, you're still too young and have no teaching experience. We are worried about being led down the wrong path."

A freckled girl also chirped up. She looked like quite a fiery young lady.

"Exactly, how about showing us that you're capable? Let's verify if the rumors are real."

The other students also verbalized their agreement.

Lin Xun raised his brow. He finally realized that these students were clearly prepared to try and show him who was boss.

Lin Xun wasn't a pushover. He would never tolerate something like this happening especially when he was on the side that possessed absolute power.

Hence, an icy smile rose from the corners of his mouth. His gaze swept across the class and ultimately stopped on the fatty youngster as he softly spat out, "Trash!"

Everyone was stunned as their eyes widened in shock. No one could believe that Lin Xun had not only counterattacked but also went straight to scolding!

Which instructor in the academy dared to say their student was trash?

Wasn't that too much?

Even Fang Zhongjian was taken aback.

Why is this kid so...so rude? Doesn't he care about his instructor status at all?

Soon after, he sneered and said, "Shen Tuo, is this the kind of instructor you've recruited? Someone who goes straight to name-calling after being questioned a little by the students? How unbecoming! I will be requesting the department head to strip him of his title!"

To be frank, Shen Tuo was also shocked by Lin Xun's retort. However, Fang Zhongjian's rude rebuke snapped Shen Tuo back to his senses. "Old Fang, you can stir up whatever ruckus you want when the lesson is over, but it's not the time to pass judgment yet!"

Fang Zhongjian smirked. "Then we shall wait and see."

In the classroom, the fatty youngster who had been called trash by Lin Xun angrily stood up and glared at him. "Does someone like you deserve to be an instructor?"

"Yeah, how can you resort to name-calling?"

"Disappointing, far too disappointing."

The other students began to echo in as well, clearly finding a common enemy.

"You guys have misunderstood. I wasn't just talking about him. Instead, I'm saying that all of you trash!"

Still fully composed, Lin Xun smiled faintly. He had held nothing back this time either.

All of the youths were now enraged. They all started shouting, creating a chaotic din in the classroom.

"Look, the class has already devolved into such a state. How lamentable, I feel that it won't be long before it's cut short."

Fang Zhongjian gloated.

Shen Tuo's expression darkened, but he remained silent.

He was suddenly beginning to regret that he had not cautioned Lin Xun about this.

“Hmph, with such an instructor, I might as well not leave!”

The fatty youngster sneered, rose to his feet, and began swaggering out of the classroom.

It was human nature to blindly follow sometimes. If he was allowed to leave, many students would certainly follow.

It would be an outcome that was too horrible to imagine.

Rumble!

Lin Xun casually raised his hand, sending out a wave of terrifying power that instantly made the fatty youngster fall to his knees.

The class instantly fell frighteningly silent. All anyone could hear was the fatty youngster’s miserable pig-like cry.

The students’ hearts rippled, unable to believe that Lin Xun had not only scolded the students but also forced a student to his knees without any warning!

It was crazy!

Wasn’t he afraid of being fired by Qinglu Academy?

“If you don’t shut up, the consequences will become worse than it is now.”

Lin Xun revealed a dazzling smile. However, he looked more terrifying than a devil to the fatty youngster. It caused his body to tremble as he clamped his mouth shut. His expression had turned incomparably ugly.

The humiliation of being forced by someone of the same age to kneel with everyone watching nearly made the fatty youngster go crazy.

The freckled girl mustered her courage and asked in a shaky voice, “You...you’re resorting to violence?”

“I not only dare to use force but will also kill if I wish to.”

Lin Xun withdrew his smile and indifferently said, “If you don’t believe me, go ahead and test me.”

“You—”

The freckled girl was fuming but when she met Lin Xun’s emotionless gaze, an indescribable chill surged in her heart, making her too afraid to continue.

It was as if Lin Xun would kill her without hesitation if she said one more word.

The classroom was deathly silent for a time.

The students might be of similar age to Lin Xun, but they had grown up living a life of luxury and had never experienced any of the world’s evils. How could they possibly compare to Lin Xun, who had been forged in a sea of corpses and blood?

“He not only scolds the students but even uses violence and threats. How can such a person be a Qinglu Academy instructor? If this spreads, everyone will laugh at us!”

In the distance, Fang Zhongjian's eyes had turned red due to rage.

However, he was actually super happy inside. The more Lin Xun acted like this, the worse the repercussions would be. Fang Zhongjian eagerly hoped that Lin Xun would go even further.

Shen Tuo had a gloomy expression as he remained silent.

"Alright, since none of you are talking, it should be my turn now, right?"

Lin Xun softly chuckled. No one made any noise but the students' gazes were filled with fury. They had evidently yet to submit for real.

"You guys are still too young. You should know that it was the academy that invited me to be an instructor and not me who wanted to apply. Do you people really believe that I want to impart my knowledge to trash like you?"

Lin Xun's words were filled with disdain, and he made sure to place extra emphasis on the word 'trash,' which caused the students to tremble with anger.

They had seen bad-tempered instructors, but they had never seen someone like Lin Xun, who fearlessly did whatever he wanted.

He was essentially a thug!

"Remember this, you guys have no right to question my ability unless you can also pass the Dragon Gate Nine Tablet test and cause the nine draconic cries!"

Lin Xun's words stabbed the students' hearts like a sharp knife, causing their expressions to fluctuate in uncertainty.

"If you guys can't accept that, suck it up and don't even think about provoking me. Hua Wuyou also refused to back down against me, but in the end..."

Lin Xun's gaze swept across the surroundings as his voice turned indifferent, "If the Hua Clan didn't shamelessly interfere, she would have lost her life long ago."

The students' hearts violently shuddered as they suddenly recalled that the ruthless young instructor before them was not only a rune grandmaster, but also a cultivation genius who possessed terrifying combat capabilities!

A while back, the news of him brutalizing two Song Clan disciples and defeating Hua Wuyou had caused quite a sensation in the Forbidden City.

This was someone who dared to beat up and kill high clan descendants, so what could he possibly fear doing?

Compared to someone like Hua Wuyou, the students present were indeed not even worth mentioning!

For a time, all of the students were silent. The indignation on their faces was rapidly replaced by fear and terror.



Yes, they were starting to regret that they had recklessly provoked such a ruthless demon-king-like individual.

The fatty youngster on the ground especially regretted his actions. His entire body was trembling as his complexion turned white as a sheet.

“Of course, if you guys don’t make mistakes and complete the tasks I give out, I will naturally not bother to bicker with you all.”

At this point, Lin Xun glanced at the fatty youngster on the ground and asked, “What’s your name?”

“Liu Hui.”

“Return to your seat.”

The fatty hurriedly climbed to his feet, obediently returned to his seat, and lowered his head. There was no trace of the unbridled arrogance he had shown earlier.

Lin Xun casually instructed, “Now, take out your rune brushes and paper and write the Little Five Elements Reversal Rune. The time limit is an hour.”

“You’d best show me your true abilities. If I find anyone slacking off, don’t blame me for showing no mercy.”

The deeply intimidated youths immediately complied. None of them dared to try anything funny as they obediently took out brushes and paper and began to work.

Shashasha~~~

The room was silent for a time. Only the sound of rune brushes sliding across paper could be heard.

Lin Xun sat down and closed his eyes to rest.

After witnessing all of this from a remote corner some distance from the classroom, Fang Zhongjian gnashed his teeth and said, “See, he’s only a young teenager, and yet he dares to abuse his power in class and force the students to submit. That scum!”

Shen Tuo inwardly breathed a sigh of relief. Although he felt Lin Xun’s methods were a little extreme, seeing the youth perfectly control the situation made him relax substantially.

“You should also know that there are quite a number of problematic students in this class. If they were instigated by someone to intentionally cause trouble for Lin Xun, an incident would happen no matter how good his temper is!”

Shen Tuo icily glanced at Fang Zhongjian.

Fang Zhongjian’s expression abruptly changed. “Are you accusing me of instigating those students?”

Shen Tuo replied, “Time will tell.”

By this time, five or six figures had begun to appear from a distance. They were Rune Department instructors that had been drawn over by the disturbance in class 9C.

Upon seeing this, Fang Zhongjian quickly approached them and indignantly described all of the atrocities Lin Xun had committed.

The instructors could not help but feel puzzled as they frowned.

#### Chapter 403 Guidance

“Lin Xun is too much. His terrible conduct and disregard for the instructor etiquette will destroy the Rune Department’s image!”

“If that is true, Lin Xun has indeed gone overboard.”

“Heh, is this the standard of the most outstanding younger generation rune grandmaster? I think this makes him far inferior to Feng Qingyou!”

The instructors voiced their unhappiness.

“Everyone, that is not the whole truth. The students were also causing a ruckus earlier that angered Lin Xun.”

Shen Tuo frowned and said, “What’s more, the lesson isn’t over yet. Isn’t making such judgments before understanding the situation quite inappropriate?”

Shen Tuo was the head instructor and was someone with great status and authority. Hence, several instructors could not help but become apprehensive when they saw him speak up for Lin Xun.

“Let’s put this aside for now. We can make judgments after seeing Lin Xun’s teaching standard later. If he does have no experience and fails to reach an acceptable standard, we will not allow someone like him to ruin these students’ futures.”

Suddenly, one of the instructors declared in a serious voice, “If his standards do meet our criteria, let’s agree that no one shall say anything else about him in the future.”

Several instructors immediately voiced their agreement.

Upon seeing this, Shen Tuo and Fang Zhongjian could not say anything else.

One of the instructors asked, “What is he doing? Letting the students self-study?”

Shen Tuo casually answered, “Lin Xun instructed them to write the Little Five Elements Reverse Rune. If my guess is correct, he is probably trying to gauge their ability.”

One of the instructors could not help but say, “The Little Five Elements Reverse Rune? Is he joking? There are usually only three methods to evaluate an initiate rune master’s ability.”

“First, make them write a Basic Five Elements Rune and evaluate it.”

“Second, make them craft a low-grade Five Elements Armor and evaluate it.”

“Third, to discuss a rune with the student to gauge his or her knowledge.”

“These three methods are also known as the ‘three talents test.’ I’ve never heard of anyone using the Little Five Elements Reverse Rune as an evaluation method.”

His voice was filled with skepticism.

“Agreed, evaluating someone’s rune mastery is an extremely stringent process. I’ve never heard of his method either.”

“The method is clearly borderline delusional. The Little Five Elements Reverse Rune contains 199 different rune strokes. Ordinary initiate rune masters can’t even write it, so how is he going to use it to evaluate them?”

The other instructors voiced their opinions as well.

As people who had dedicated many years to their craft, they were naturally very familiar with the common rune mastery evaluation methods. However, none of them had ever heard of anything that remotely resembled Lin Xun’s unique method, making it appear quite ludicrous to them.

“I feel that he’s just playing around!”

Of course, Fang Zhongjian’s comment was the rudest and directly accused Lin Xun of not taking things seriously.

“His ‘playing around’ could create a ‘nine draconic cries.’ Dare I ask if anyone here can achieve that as well?”

Shen Tuo had no choice but to retort. He was the one who had personally recruited Lin Xun and naturally would not tolerate such an accusation.

The group was silent, feeling rather complicated.

The nine draconic cries were indisputable evidence of Lin Xun’s talent. Anyone who tried to criticize him would appear powerless before it.

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An hour quickly passed.

Lin Xun opened his eyes and rose from his chair.

His eyes scanned the classroom, finding that most of the students had already completed the task and only four of five students were still hard at work.

Lin Xun said, “Everyone, stop what you’re doing.”

The four or five students immediately stopped as their expressions turned uneasy. The fatty, Liu Hui, was among them.

For them, the Little Five Elements Reverse Rune had high difficulty and was a tall task to complete within an hour.

Even among those that had completed, several were also showing worried expressions. Although they had completed the assignment, they knew that their work had many mistakes and errors.

They were worried about receiving punishment from the temperamental ‘demon king,’ Lin Xun.

“Starting from the left row, take your work up to the podium.”

Lin Xun nonchalantly instructed before sitting down again.

Numerous students grew increasingly anxious, unable to understand what Lin Xun wanted. They were afraid he would suddenly go crazy again without any warning.

“Instructor Lin, please

The first student from the left row approached with a sliver of panic on his face as he handed over his rune paper.

Lin Xun took it and began to inspect it.

The atmosphere in the classroom seemed to solidify. None of the students dared to breathe too loudly, and they were clearly all very nervous.

Moments later, Lin Xun raised his head and asked, “What’s your name?”

“Fan Zhiqiu.”

The youth nervously clenched his fists. His face was tense as he stammered, “Instructor, I just learned the Little Five Elements Reverse Rune, I...”

He was interrupted by a wave from Lin Xun. “No need to be nervous. I’m not nitpicking your bad habits but evaluating your capability. I will not criticize you no matter how poorly you do. After all, I wasn’t the one who taught you previously so whatever mistakes you made are pardonable.”

Fan Zhiqiu immediately breathed a deep sigh of relief.

The other students also relaxed and were no longer as anxious as before.

However, they did not understand how Lin Xun was going to assess their ability using the Little Five Elements Reverse Rune.

They had never heard of such a peculiar evaluation method.

Lin Xun returned the paper to Fan Zhiqiu and said, “Take a closer look at your work. I have roughly understood your ability and will now break down your strengths and weaknesses. I hope you will remember this well.”

Fan Zhiqiu’s body shook, somewhat unable to believe that a single rune would allow anyone to understand his strengths and weaknesses.

Wasn’t that far too inconceivable?

The other students’ eyes also widened in disbelief.

“Ridiculous!”

In the distance, Fang Zhongjian could not help but laugh when he heard this. This was just nonsensical. Mastery was mastery and not a rune master’s strengths and weaknesses. It was common knowledge that everyone knew.

Maybe a rune founder might be able to do so, but Lin Xun was only a recently acknowledged young rune grandmaster. How could he possibly have such discernment and judgment capabilities?

He was clearly making things up!

The other instructors were also astonished and bewildered. However, they restrained themselves from saying anything until they properly grasped the situation.

Shen Tuo was slightly dazed as a sliver of curiosity suddenly surged in his heart.

Lin Xun was different from any rune master Shen Tuo knew, and everything he did appear unique and unorthodox.

Given the special insights Lin Xun had displayed towards runes, Shen Tuo could not help wondering if the youth would give him another surprise this time.

“Look carefully, there’s a trace of sluggishness along the ninth rune stroke, the thirteenth stroke has inconsistent width, the fourteenth stroke has a clear rotation error, the...”

Lin Xun spoke concisely like an expert with great familiarity on the topic.

Fan Zhiqiu’s disbelief was soon replaced by shock as Lin Xun accurately described every mistake in the rune, not missing even the tiniest error.

Even Fan Zhiqiu himself had not noticed many of these mistakes, but after having them pointed out, he did indeed realize that there was something amiss.

Moreover, Lin Xun was able to accurately pinpoint any error on each stroke as if even the tiniest of flaws could not escape his all-seeing eyes!

Lin Xun’s unhurried voice rang out in the class while the students displayed bewildered and uncertain expressions.

Although they did not fully understand the situation, seeing Fan Zhiqiu’s constantly changing expression told them that Lin Xun was not bullshitting but actually giving focused and effective guidance!

When Lin Xun finished, Fan Zhiqiu’s face was filled with shame, wishing he could hide as he stuttered, “Instru...instructor Lin, I...I...”

Lin Xun casually replied, “Don’t mind it, these are just small mistakes. Moreover, didn’t I say earlier that I’m helping break down your strengths and weaknesses.”

“Please guide me!”

Fan Zhiqiu took a deep breath and displayed a respectful expression.

The others felt deeply curious.

“You have several weaknesses but the most prominent one is your calligraphy.”

Lin Xun thoughtfully glanced at Fan Zhiqiu’s hands. “Your current calligraphy style does not suit you. I advise you to change to a meticulous and smooth style.”

A problem with my calligraphy style?

Fan Zhiqiu was perplexed. He never imagined that his bad habits and mistakes were because of his calligraphy style.

It was a small problem that was often the easiest to neglect.

Fan Zhiqiu's heart shook as he fell into deep thought.

Lin Xun continued, "As for your strengths, they are also quite obvious. Your writing speed is fast due to your excellent spirit sense and control. You should be practicing a spirit cultivation method. Not bad, properly developing this advantage will bring you immeasurable benefits in the future when you construct rune arrays."

Fan Zhiqiu was immediately struck by another wave of shock. He had never expected that a single rune would allow Lin Xun to discover his secret!

Lin Xun was right, the reason behind Fan Zhiqiu's fast writing speed was indeed a spirit cultivation method inherited from his ancestor!

"You may return to your seat. The second person can come over."

Lin Xun waved his hand.

Fan Zhiqiu took a deep breath. Heartfelt admiration flooded his face as he bowed deeply. "Thank you for your guidance, Instructor!"

His voice was also filled with respect.

The students looked at each other in astonishment and bewilderment.

Was Lin Xun truly able to discern their strengths and weaknesses from a single rune?

The second student quickly arrived in front of Lin Xun.

Chapter 404 Convinced

"From the situation, he seems to have identified that student's weaknesses?"

In the distance, the group of instructors was astonished as well.

"That seems to be the case."

The other instructors were bewildered. It would be shocking if that were true.

It was hard to believe a single Little Five Elements Reverse Rune could be used to discern a student's rune mastery, strengths, and weaknesses.

"Hmph, he's just putting up an act. That student is only an initiate rune master and was probably intimidated earlier. How can he possibly tell if it's real or not?"

Fang Zhongjian icily snorted.

Shen Tuo said, "Then let's continue watching. We'll be able to tell if it's real once all of the students have been evaluated."

The other instructors nodded in agreement.

They had also become curious. Lin Xun's novel evaluation method transcended everything they knew.

If his method worked, it would be the discovery of a new method to evaluate initiate rune masters.

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"What's your name?"

"Yang Jingyao."

"Alright then, take your rune diagram and listen well. The strength used in the seventy-third stroke is not evenly distributed, the hundred and twenty-fourth stroke lacks balance in its bend..."

Lin Xun's voice methodically sounded in the classroom.

Opposite him, the expression of the female student rapidly changed, evidently surprised that her rune diagram contained so many minute mistakes.

Toward the end, the young teenager's eyes had begun to glisten, and her tiny face turned red with shame.

She pursed her lips into a little pout, making her look rather pitiful.

Numerous male students could not bear the sight and felt that Lin Xun was being too cruel with his remarks. How could he point out so many of her flaws in front of everyone? He was clearly incapable of empathizing with the fairer sex.

Lin Xun was also taken aback and wondered if he had gone too far. However, Yang Jingyao took a deep breath and earnestly said, "Instructor Lin, please continue."

Her voice was clear and resolute.

She was evidently a strong-willed girl.

Lin Xun cast aside his hesitation and continued to dissect all of her mistakes, strengths, and weaknesses.

After listening to everything, Yang Jingyao stood there stunned for a brief moment before she respectfully bowed in gratitude and admiration, "Thank you, Instructor Lin. I went too far earlier and angered you. Please forgive me."

She is truly a courteous and good kid!

Lin Xun inwardly praised her, forgetting that he and Yang Jingyao were actually of a similar age...

He seemed to have already changed his mindset to that of a teacher or elder and viewed the students as juniors. It was a smooth, almost natural transition without any hint of discomfort.

It did make sense. Lin Xun had not only experienced numerous dangers and hardships but was also the master of Mind Cleansing Peak who led numerous subordinates. His mindset and attitude had already

been honed into a wise and stable leader, which naturally made it impossible for ordinary peers to compare.

After Yang Jingyao returned to her seat, the students finally realized that Instructor Lin Xun was indeed very capable. He was the real deal!

Such a person could not be judged based on age. The methods he casually used were different but able to achieve unimaginable results. It was a genuinely eye-opening experience for the students.

Their attitudes were already subconsciously changing.

As the lesson continued, the students approached the podium one by one to receive Lin Xun's evaluation and guidance. Their reactions were almost identical to Fan Zhiqiu and Yang Jingyao.

It started with being embarrassed and ashamed, which then turned to happiness and excitement after obtaining Lin Xun's guidance. Every student was thoroughly subdued by his capability.

All of this was observed by the group of instructors some distance away.

By this time, they no longer doubted Lin Xun's teaching ability. The earlier scenes had already proved that he was more than qualified.

They could not help but inwardly sigh. As expected of the young rune grandmaster who had caused the nine draconic cries. A casual display of his abilities revealed such unique and astonishing insights that made it impossible not to feel impressed.

How had Lin Xun used the Little Five Elements Reverse Rune to do it?

Could there be some hidden secrets in the rune that had escaped their notice?

The instructors were all seasoned veterans in the domain of runes, and there was no lack of rune grandmasters like Shen Tuo among them. They were naturally deeply obsessed with runes and could not help but become curious about Lin Xun's unique method, wishing they could study it to unravel its secrets.

Fang Zhongjian was the only person with a constipated expression, making it look as if his mother had just died. He was also clearly unwilling to accept this development.

"From what I know, there are a few students in class 9C who are not capable enough to write the Little Five Elements Reverse Rune. I wonder how Lin Xun will measure their ability."

Fang Zhongjian said in a final attempt to bring Lin Xun down.

"Then let's continue watching."

Shen Tuo could no longer be bothered to argue. Fang Zhongjian clearly held a grudge against the youth and was unhappy about Lin Xun stealing his position. It was useless to say anything in these circumstances.

"Instructor Lin, I...I didn't finish..."



In the classroom, the fatty with a large head and big ears, Liu Hui, walked over with a nervous and scared expression.

Lin Xun casually said, "Show it to me."

Liu Hui passed his paper to Lin Xun who did a quick scan before returning it.

While Liu Hui was waiting to be scolded and punished, Lin Xun said in a surprised voice, "I did not expect that your foundations would be so solid. There's nothing to critique."

Everyone was shocked.

Liu Hui's performance could only be described as below average in the class. He was a playful boy who disliked learning. Hence, the majority of the students subconsciously believed that he was going to be in trouble this time.

Who could have imagined that Lin Xun would praise Liu Hui instead?

"Instructor Lin, I...I was the one who instigated everyone to challenge you earlier. I was wrong. Please...please don't make fun of me."

Liu Hui was on the verge of tears. He was under the impression that Lin Xun was being sarcastic to mock him.

Lin Xun was speechless for a moment. "I'm telling the truth. Although you have only completed half of the rune, every stroke is flawless."

Liu Hui was taken aback.

Was the instructor actually not making fun of him?

Lin Xun continued, "Do you know what perfection is? It is to reach the correct standard without making any mistakes. That is perfection!"

Everyone was astonished. They had not expected Lin Xun to have such a high opinion of Liu Hui's work.

Even Liu Hui himself was somewhat overwhelmed as he stood there with a silly grin.

Lin Xun said, "However, your weak point is also very clear. You are too slow, likely because you lack practice. Or perhaps you've had very little experience crafting runes in the past. In the future, I advise you to spend more time accumulating rune writing experience."

Liu Hui's expression fluctuated as he stood there. After a long time, he displayed a look of admiration and loudly said, "Instructor Lin, you've won me over!"

The students' gazes turned increasingly respectful as they looked toward Lin Xun. There was no longer any trace of their earlier disdain, ridicule, doubt, anger, and pride.

They had acknowledged Lin Xun as an instructor and could not help but be subdued by his capabilities.

Humans naturally worshiped the strong.

This was the same for rune masters.

The group of instructors in the distance could not help but sigh in admiration. There was no doubt that Lin Xun's first lesson had been beautifully done!

He might be young and had no prior teaching experience, but his unique method that subdued the students was worthy of acknowledgment.

The rune grandmaster who had caused the nine draconic cries was indeed as extraordinary as he was made out to be!

Fang Zhongjian had a dim expression. There was nothing more he could say at this point. No matter how angry he was or how much he refused to accept this, he could only swallow it all in the face of reality.

"Old Fang, you should let it go. Although Lin Xun is young, not everyone should be judged based on their age. He is destined to shine brightly in the future. If you continue to pit yourself against him...sigh, please think about it."

Shen Tuo patted Fang Zhongjian's shoulder.

Fang Zhongjian remained silent.

Just as the instructors were planning to leave, Lin Xun stood up in class 9C and said, "During this first lesson, I've roughly memorized your names and mastery levels. In the future, I will give each of you different guidance, but everything will still depend on yourselves. As the saying goes, the master may show the student the path, but the student still has to walk on the path by themselves."

He paused for a moment before he continued, "Now, I will explain the essence of the Little Five Elements Reverse Rune. After the class is over, everyone should do their best to comprehend the rune because it will be instrumental to you when you advance to intermediate rune masters in the future."

Without skipping a beat or turning his head, Lin Xun began writing on the blackboard behind him.

Shashasha~~

His calligraphy flowed like fluid water as strokes seemed to emerge from rising smoke. The strokes were stable and focused like the slopes of a majestic mountain range or the galloping waves of the ocean. They gave off an indescribable sensation of beauty.

The students were initially unconcerned, but they soon discovered that they couldn't take their eyes away as they had been completely drawn in by Lin Xun's natural and practiced movements.

It felt like the fresh water from a spring or like a carving left by nature without any hint of artificialness that overflowed with elegance!

Unconcealable astonishment surged in every student's heart.

Writing without looking? He can even do that?

Pa!

Lin Xun soon dropped the chalk. A complete Little Five Elements Reverse Rune diagram had appeared on the blackboard.

“Remember, before the next lesson, I need you guys to show your understanding of this rune. My assessment shall affect your points.”

Lin Xun casually said before he turned and walked out of the classroom.

The students were all frozen in place as if they had been hypnotized by the rune on the blackboard. There was only silence in the large classroom.

Chapter 405 Homework

“How long?”

“Three minutes and nineteen seconds.”

“This...”

In the distance, although the group of instructors was still unclear about the specifics, they could not help but be startled when they found out that Lin Xun had completed such a complex rune in slightly over three minutes.

It was a feat that was impossible for them to achieve within such a short span of time.

Quickness could at times also prove a rune master’s ability. It wasn’t impossible to find others who displayed similar skill to Lin Xun, but it was still extremely rare.

At the very least, only a small handful of individuals in the Rune Department could accomplish such a feat.

After walking out of the classroom, Lin Xun smiled and nodded as he passed by the slightly dazed instructors.

He had already noticed them during class and had overheard the arguments between Shen Tuo and Fang Zhongjian.

However, Lin Xun had no interest in bickering with Fang Zhongjian.

It was not because Lin Xun was forgiving, but instead, he felt that bickering with an advanced rune master was honestly a waste of his time...

Would an eagle that could fly freely in the skies care about the provocations of a sparrow?

Hence, Lin Xun walked off in a carefree manner.

His first lesson had ended without any problems. He had not only ruthlessly killed the problematic students’ arrogance but also subdued them with his capability.

Lin Xun believed that similar rebellious events would not occur in the subsequent lessons.

It was like slapping someone before giving them a sweet red date to eat. If Lin Xun had not come off so strongly earlier, it would have been impossible to carry out the lesson!

If an incident did happen, he would be the one to lose face.

.....

Classroom 9C was still very silent.

The Little Five Elements Reverse Rune on the blackboard seemed to have cast a spell on the students, leaving them completely entranced by it.

They were no longer astonished but focused on comprehending the rune. Every student was absorbed in thought.

Rays from the setting sun shone into the classroom, making the atmosphere solemn yet tranquil.

Under Shen Tuo's lead, the instructors entered the classroom in a single file and they immediately looked toward the blackboard.

These instructors, who had studied their craft for many years, narrowed their eyes as astonishment shook their hearts.

Perfect!

It was a flawless rune diagram. It had not been written with rune ink, but every stroke seemed to have a life of its own!

It was honestly very difficult to imagine that Lin Xun had casually written this rune.

The rune emitted an old, humble, heavy, and condensed aura. It also gave off the majestic presence of a mighty mountain and the vast charm of the endless sea, causing Shen Tuo and the others to feel deeply shaken.

It was not long before the other C classes in the building also finished their lessons, and the spirited youths began leaving the other classrooms.

They wore the same white clothes and gave off a youthful vigor that was unique to youngsters.

"Come, let's go to classroom 9C to have a look!"

"This young lady can't wait any longer. I heard Lin Xun will be coming to teach today. He's the rune grandmaster I admire the most, and he's so capable despite his young age. He's the perfect man..."

"How unfortunate. I heard that many pretty girls in the Rune Department are already pining for Lin Xun. I think you'd better give up on him."

"Hmph, this young lady is different from those cheap bitches. I'm like a breath of fresh air in the Rune Department, and I believe I will definitely be able to attract Grandmaster Lin Xun's attention."

"You? Hehe, I think you're more like stale air."

The youths chatted as they rushed toward classroom 9C in excitement and curiosity.

They had heard that the legendary Grandmaster Lin Xun was arriving at the Rune Department today.

Hence, they immediately rushed to classroom 9C after their lessons in hope of catching a glimpse of him.

When the youths arrived, they were disappointed to find that Lin Xun was already gone. All they saw were students staring at the blackboard in deep thought as if possessed.

Shen Tuo and the other instructors were also present, but they tactfully left upon seeing the students.

What's on the blackboard?

The curious youths looked over and were quickly drawn in by the perfect Little Five Elements Reverse Rune diagram.

More and more students began to gather in front of classroom 9C.

Shen Tuo could not help but inwardly sigh and said to Fang Zhongjian, "Look, this is Lin Xun's charm."

Fang Zhongjian's expression dimmed as he remained silent.

"Don't do such silly things in the future."

Shen Tuo softly sighed. How could he not tell that the earlier provocations from the students had been instigated by Fang Zhongjian?

Otherwise, the class 9C students would have shown curiosity and admiration toward Lin Xun like all these other students instead of clashing with him earlier.

By this time, the class 9C students had been awoken from their stupor due to the disturbance outside. They could not help but jump in surprise when they saw the many figures gathered outside.

When they found out that the crowd was here to see Lin Xun, an unexplainable sense of pride rose in the class 9C students' hearts.

After all, Lin Xun was class 9C's instructor!

.....

For most people, arriving at a place like Qinglu Academy, which was the holy land of cultivation in many cultivators' hearts, would be an exciting and interesting experience.

Lin Xun, however, did not share these feelings. He had no interest in leaving the Rune Department to sightsee and thus returned to his room.

Before the desk.

Lin Xun took out a brush and paper before he began to write.

Time flowed, and a dozen or so sheets of paper were soon filled with words.

Upon closer inspection, one would discover that these papers contained the mastery levels, strengths, and weaknesses of each student from class 9C together with specific lesson plans for each person.

Everything was neatly and orderly written.

Lin Xun had been taught by Mister Lu, who often used this teaching method. After giving concrete and precise guidance, he would leave Lin Xun alone to learn and explore by himself.

Lin Xun was merely using the same method on each student from class 9C.

If someone gave you food, you should repay them.

Since he was now an instructor of the Rune Department, Lin Xun naturally would not display any negligence. It was a matter of principle.

Moreover, if he fulfilled his responsibilities well and the students' results became better, he would be able to obtain more points as their instructor.

He currently had a hundred points in his identity token.

Although he did not know their value, they could not be underestimated as they were Qinglu Academy's currency of choice.

This continued until late at night.

Lin Xun finally put down the brush. A thick stack of paper had already accumulated on the desk.

They contained the lesson contents Lin Xun had prepared for his subsequent lessons. He had prepared them with the consideration that these students were initiate rune masters, and thus spent a substantial amount of time and effort.

After binding the papers together, Lin Xun pondered a little and made a cover page for the material — 'Lesson Notes'

Lin Xun did not know that his 'Lesson Notes' would become a research level collection in the future. Moreover, it would greatly influence the empire and spread to the world, becoming an irreplaceable textbook for initiate rune masters.

Of course, this was something that would only happen in the far future.

.....

The next morning.

Lin Xun woke up from his meditation and rose to open the window. Outside, a white crane was sitting on an old tree as it lowered its head to clean its feathers.

Instead of being scared off by Lin Xun, the bird gave him an arrogant look before flapping its wings and soaring in the sky with a loud and clear cry.

In the distance, the faint morning light shone upon the misty foliage as a gentle breeze blew. As the sound of a bell echoed, small groups of students could be seen walking in the campus, their young faces filled with youthful vitality.

As Lin Xun silently watched, he wondered if he could have also lived such a peaceful and worry-free life if he had not been born with such ill fortune and had to carry the many burdens of his clan.

Lin Xun soon shook his head, dismissing these thoughts. After practicing the Nine Heavenshaking Destructions Art, he took his prepared lesson notes and began walking toward the little C classes building.

Lin Xun was soon puzzled to see the figures of numerous youths gathered outside classroom 9C. They were not class 9C students.

Upon seeing Lin Xun, the youths' eyes brightened as they rejoiced.

"Instructor Lin Xun is here!"

"We can finally see what he looks like. He's so young!"

"Woowoo, so handsome. He's totally my type."

"Tch, how superficial. This young lady is most annoyed by such superficial people like you guys. Of course, I admit that Instructor Lin Xun is very handsome and looks like someone you would want to gobble up. Hehehe."

The students created quite a din. Their eyes were filled with curiosity and excitement while some female students were even displaying smitten expressions.

Lin Xun was taken aback.

Fortunately, the fatty youngster, Liu Hui, walked over at this moment and loudly scolded, "Make way, make way. Little Instructor Lin is supposed to teach our class. Anyone who disrupts our lesson will be committing a huge offense!"

He turned around, looked at Lin Xun and said, "Little Instructor Lin, please come. The students are already waiting."

Little Instructor Lin...

Lin Xun was momentarily stunned. He strongly resisted the urge to ask who had come up with this nickname as he was escorted into classroom 9C by Liu Hui.

What surprised Lin Xun was that the other students did not leave but instead gathered outside the window as if they had intended to stay here to listen to Lin Xun's class.

#### Chapter 406 The Test Arrives

Birds chirped on the old leafy trees outside as Lin Xun's clear and calm voice echoed in classroom 9C.

In the classroom, the students attentively listened in their seats, occasionally displaying thoughtful, surprised, joyful, and doubtful expressions.

Outside the classroom, students from the other classes crowded around the windows and doors as they quietly listened with no one engaging in private conversations.

It was a serious and silent atmosphere.

Originally, the students had come due to their curiosity and Lin Xun's fame. However, as Lin Xun began to lecture, they were gradually drawn in and soon forgot about everything else.

Instructors would occasionally pass by and be surprised by this scene. Unable to resist, they would also approach to listen, and thoughtful expressions soon emerged on their faces.

The teaching material was for initiate rune masters and wasn't anything complicated. However, his teaching method was extremely unique.

There was none of the usual lengthy theoretical lecture, instructional tutorial on rune writing, or emphasizing the key points to look out for during rune writing.

Instead, he used various examples to elaborate on the usage of runes while also offering different perspectives such as from tool crafting or setting up an array.

The most interesting part was that these examples were unique and completely different from the common knowledge known by the instructors!

This was why they listened with great interest and found it an incredibly eye-opening experience.

It was honestly difficult to imagine how Lin Xun could possess such profound and unique knowledge at his young age. It felt as if he had opened a completely new chapter for them.

Some of the examples he brought up were especially refreshing, and even the instructors had never heard of them before, making them appear all the more novel.

For instance, one of the commonly used inks to draw the Blue Steam True Yang Rune required more than a hundred types of ingredients to be made.

However, Lin Xun suggested that using Drunk Fish Grass Sap as a primer would reduce the needed ingredients to only a few dozen and increase the quality of the ink.

Due to the Drunk Fish Grass Sap's low value, none of the instructors had ever considered that it could be used in such a manner!

It was like opening a new door, and it made them itch to try it out right now.

The lesson ended two hours later.

Although it was over, the students and instructors both inside and outside the classroom kind of wished the lesson hadn't ended and grew increasingly respectful toward Lin Xun.

As the saying went, there was usually truth to a person's reputation!

.....

From that day onward, Lin Xun would find a huge crowd waiting outside the classroom whenever he arrived for his lessons.

There were not only students among them but also quite a number of instructors.

Moreover, the number continued to increase day by day.

This made the class 9C students feel increasingly proud because Little Instructor Lin was their instructor!

Lin Xun was initially slightly bewildered by this development but soon grew accustomed to it.

Besides teaching, the rest of his time was used for either tempering his cultivation or polishing his martial arts.



Amidst these peaceful and fulfilling days, his intermediate Spirit Sea stage cultivation grew increasingly stronger and refined.

However, compared to the rapid growth of the past, Lin Xun felt as if he had encountered a bottleneck. Despite the aid of various cultivation pills, his cultivation remained stuck at the perfect intermediate Spirit Sea stage and was unable to break through to the advanced Spirit Sea stage.

This was known as a cultivation wall.

It was very difficult to break from purely training in a safe environment and usually required either a certain amount of luck in combination with training or the stimulation of an unforeseeable event to pierce through the final barrier and ascend to the next cultivation stage.

Although he had no breakthroughs in his cultivation, his martial arts progress was very pleasing.

For the Nine Heavenshaking Destructions Art, Lin Xun was now capable of fusing two different moves!

For example, the Mountain Smashing Destruction and Sea Splitting Destruction could be fused to become the Mountain-Smashing Sea-Splitting Destruction.

The Emptiness Destruction and Soul Shattering Destruction could be fused into the Emptiness Soul Shattering Destruction and so on.

The fusion more than doubled the Nine Heavenshaking Destructions Art's power, which could also be further amplified through Lin Xun's powerful cultivation!

Besides this, Lin Xun had also managed to learn the Hornless Ice Dragon Step. When used, he was able to fly in the air, whizz through the fog and clouds, and gallop across the endless space like a hornless ice dragon. Not only did it bestow astounding speed, but it also had transformation abilities that made it impossible to predict.

.....

Time rapidly flew past like an arrow.

It was now a month after Lin Xun arrived at the Rune Department.

In Qinglu Academy, the affairs of the outside world seemed to become unimportant and unrelated to him.

Lin Xun had gradually grown to like this peaceful, comfortable, and fulfilling life. He felt content and happy spending each day with the energetic students.

By now, all of the Rune Department instructors and students were aware of Lin Xun's existence while class 9C had become quite a famous spectacle in the Rune Department.

Whenever Lin Xun was teaching, numerous students and instructors would crowd at the windows to listen.

As the class became more and more popular, many students had no choice but to come earlier to book a good spot to listen to Lin Xun's lesson.

The identities of the students and instructors also became more varied as even the instructors and students from the B and A classes began to drop by to listen in.

It must be known that the A class and B class students consisted of advanced and intermediate rune masters respectively, and their instructors were rune grandmasters.

Hence, it was rather strange for them to travel all the way to listen to Lin Xun's lectures for initiate rune masters.

In fact, even an accomplished rune grandmaster like Shen Tuo would occasionally come to attend!

From this, it was obvious how unique and innovative Lin Xun's lessons were. Only a handful of teachers in the entire Qinglu Academy could make these proud rune grandmasters voluntarily come to listen to their lessons.

However, many instructors grumbled that Lin Xun's popularity had made them appear less capable.

At times, some instructors would discover that several of their students had skipped class to listen in on Lin Xun's lesson instead. These instructors could not help but feel angry, not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

Some of the rune grandmaster instructors had grown unhappy with Lin Xun, believing that he was being overly unique on purpose, and suspected him of grandstanding.

However, they were powerless to do anything because of Lin Xun's high popularity.

Later on, Department Head Tang Gan was alerted about this matter. He was surprised when he found out and soon felt a slight headache.

Lin Xun's unique teaching style disturbed the order in the Rune Department.

In the end, Department Head Tang Gan changed everyone's teaching schedule such that Lin Xun's lesson time did not overlap with any of the other instructors. As a result, the students would no longer have to skip their allocated lessons if they wished to listen in during Lin Xun's lesson.

In addition, the department prepared a large hall as class 9C's new classroom.

In this way, there would be ample space for the students and instructors who wished to attend Lin Xun's lesson as well.

Shen Tuo could not help but sigh deeply at this development. Never in the history of the Rune Department had something like this happened where the Department Head had to intercede to specially change someone's teaching schedule.

.....

It was the end of the monthly teaching term.

According to the rules of the Rune Department, Lin Xun needed to bring his students to the Refinement Tower for a test.

The contents were simple: tool crafting!

Every student with initiate rune master potential would be given different materials to craft a human-grade low-tier aeth tool.

The results would be based on the quality of their work, which would also affect the number of points awarded.

As an instructor, Lin Xun's points would depend on the performance of his students.

Of course, class 9C wasn't the only participating class. All of the other C class students would also be taking the test together.

"As the saying goes, the best way to learn is through practical application. As rune masters, those who only know theory are jokes. Hence, we will be conducting a test in the Refinement Tower to evaluate everyone's standards."

In the classroom, Lin Xun looked at the students and said, "Of course, there's no need to be overly nervous. Treat this as practice."

He then took the lead and walked out of the classroom.

Thirty students swiftly made a noise in acknowledgment, rose to their feet, and nervously followed him to the Refinement Tower.

"The test is finally here. Heh, it's time to see how the class 9C students will perform under Lin Xun's tutelage."

"Hahaha, class 9C students have always ranked at the bottom. It's not as if Instructor Lin Xun will be taking the test this time, so I'm afraid it will be very difficult for the class 9C students to erase their previous shame."

"Exactly, we've also attended Little Instructor Lin's classes so everyone should be on equal footing. It's impossible for them to surpass us."

Not long after Lin Xun and his students left, the other C class students and their instructors also began heading to the Refinement Tower.

These conversations were from the other classes.

Although they showed no disrespect toward Lin Xun, his students became the target of their teasing.

Angry looks immediately appeared on Liu Hui's, Fan Zhiqiu's, Lin Jingyao's, and the other students' faces.

Just as they were about to retort, Lin Xun waved his hand to stop them. "If you disagree, use the test to prove your strength later. If you guys aren't confident, you may choose to give up now. I will not blame anyone for doing so."

Although Lin Xun's tone was calm, his words ignited the students' fighting spirit!

Chapter 407 Different Treatment

Refinement Tower.

The tower's name sounded frightening, but it was a place where rune masters crafted aeth tools.

It also served as an assessment venue.

Every month, students from the Rune Department underwent an assessment to evaluate their progress.

The results affected a student's ranking and score in the department.

Today, the students from class 9C were taking the assessment.

"Paying my respects to Little Instructor Lin."

"Little Instructor Lin also came."

"Little Instructor Lin, don't be upset when the assessment results are released."

Lin Xun was frequently greeted as he led the students of Class 9C into the Refinement Tower. The instructors and students were all very friendly to him.

Their enthusiasm demonstrated Lin Xun's popularity within the Rune Department.

On the contrary, his students were made fun of and provoked wherever they went.

Of course, it was the students from other classes who made fun of them.

"Hmph, it's so unfair that Little Instructor Lin has to teach those idiots."

"If those guys' results are the worst again, wouldn't Little Instructor Lin lose face?"

"How about we ask the academy to transfer Little Instructor Lin to teach our class instead? Class 9C is hopeless."

There were endless similar discussions, making the students of Class 9C look increasingly annoyed while their hearts burned with anger.

They would have erupted already if Lin Xun hadn't previously warned them.

The reason for the other students' remarks was very simple.

In the past, Class 9C had always ranked bottom among the nine classes of building C. They had never escaped the bad luck of ranking last once.

Additionally, many students in Class 9C were troublemakers, difficult to manage, and had received terrible test results every single time.

Based on that, it was inevitable that the others made fun of them.

In the past, Lin Xun was unaware of the class' reputation, but after witnessing everything, how would he not know that he was teaching a group of bad students?

Besides feeling a little speechless, he sighed with sorrow. No matter what, they were his first batch of students, how could he be dissatisfied with them?

Moreover, in Lin Xun's opinion, the students weren't exactly bad as the others claimed!

The assessment results would be able to prove that.

.....

In a large hall inside the Refinement Tower.

The empty and solemn hall was divided into nine areas for each class of building C.

A total of 270 students were sitting upright on a cushion in front of a desk.

When the assessment began, they would each be given a different assessment to craft a low human-grade aeth tool.

The quality of the crafted aeth tool determined their assessment score.

The three chief examiners were three rune grandmasters—Shen Tuo, Lu Chunsou, a gray-haired and bearded man, and Wu Zhaoyang, a thin and stern-looking man.

The three sat in the center of the hall with the instructors of the nine classes sitting below them.

Lin Xun was among them.

“Little Instructor Lin, I hope you won’t mind the result. Haha,” the instructor of Class 8C said with a smile.

“Don’t say that. Little Instructor Lin has only been teaching for one month. It’s understandable that his students won’t perform well.”

“Yes, improvements in the art of runes can’t be achieved overnight. Class 9C might not show any improvements this time, but in the long term, I believe that, under the guidance of Little Instructor Lin, their score will gradually improve.”

The other instructors echoed his words.

They had no malice, but deep down, they didn’t think Class 9C would show any improvements in their score in the assessment.

Lin Xun didn’t refute and just said with a smile, “I believe in my students.”

His indifferent reaction surprised the other instructors. They just smiled in response and said nothing else.

He’s just a teenager. It’s hard for him to accept it!

The scores of Class 9C have always been bad, how could it be so easy to change this?

They didn’t believe that Lin Xun could transform the students of Class 9C with his rune knowledge.

The assessment was due to officially start in a quarter of an hour.

Bored, Lin Xun glanced around, and to his surprise, he found that the hall was extremely lively. Many figures had already gathered, and an endless number of people continued to stream through the entrance.

Lin Xun quickly recognized that the majority were students from building A and B, and the rest were the instructors.

Lin Xun couldn't help but ask the instructor beside him, "Instructor Huang, are there always so many people observing the assessments?"

Instructor Huang cast a strange look at Lin Xun, saying, "This has never happened before. I think this is related to you, Little Instructor Lin."

"Me?"

"Yes, everyone in the Rune Department is praising your teaching and your unique approach. They must have come to see whether the students of Class 9C will improve after one month of your teaching," Instructor Huang patiently explained.

Lin Xun said in surprise, "I think they are just here to watch. If my students perform badly, maybe they won't praise my teaching anymore."

Instructor Huang's expression stiffened and turned awkward.

Many people in the Rune Department indeed were praising Lin Xun, but many also questioned his teaching approach. They felt his teaching material was unconventional and unusual. They believed that he only did so to get attention.

The monthly assessment could confirm whether Lin Xun's teaching ability was good or whether he was just trying to get attention by doing something out of line.

This was the real reason for the presence of so many instructors and students spectating the assessment.

Lin Xun had also heard rumors about him, so he knew what was going on. Moreover, Instructor Huang's expression confirmed his speculation.

Clang!

The bell signaled the start of the assessment, and the atmosphere in the hall instantly turned still and solemn. All conversations and discussions halted abruptly.

Several attendants walked out in a line and began to cast lots for the students of the nine classes to allocate their assessment tasks.

Although they were all tested on their ability to craft a low human-grade aeth tool, aeth tools were divided into different categories such as combat weapons and armor.

Additionally, different rune inks and rune materials were required to craft different aeth tools, so drawing lots assured fairness.

Each student was provided with different rune materials and inks according to what they drew.

"The assessment begins."

Following Shen Tuo's order, the monthly assessment began.

Rustle—

The rustling sound of rune brushes running across paper filled the quiet hall.

Everyone, including the chief examiners, Lin Xun, instructors, and students were focused on the examination hall.

Of course, many gazes were on the thirty students of Class 9C.*novelnext.com*

Lin Xun was also observing his students. In the past month, he had only taught his students rune knowledge. The assessment was his first time seeing his students craft aeth tools.

Lin Xun's goal in the assessment was very simple, unlike the other instructors. He only wanted to identify each student's rune skills through the assessment and analyze their strengths and weaknesses.

That way, he could use a targeted teaching approach during his lectures.

Crafting aeth tools was a tedious and time-consuming task, especially for initiate rune masters. In general, it could take anywhere from six hours to five days to craft a low human-grade aeth tool!

However, the assessment was different in that rune inks and rudimentary aeth tools were already provided. The students only had to engrave rune patterns on the prepared tool.

Therefore, they should be able to complete the assessment task within five hours.

As time passed, the hall remained quiet and solemn. No one made the slightest noise.

As rune masters, everyone knew that rune masters mustn't be disturbed when inscribing runes.

"Liu Hui has solid basic skills, but his speed needs to be improved."

"Hey, I didn't know that Yang Jingyao's sensing power is so sensitive..."

"Fan Zhiqiu has trouble entering a correct state of mind. This is a huge problem and he needs proper training."

"The little girl is called Ye Sumiao? She's a very good seedling."

.....

Lin Xun was also analyzing the performance of each student in the examination hall. He didn't find it boring to assess his students' abilities in different aspects.

Two hours later.

A slender black-robed youngster from Class C1 suddenly rose to his feet and handed in his completed aeth tool to an attendant.

Everyone's expressions tensed. Mo Yun! A descendant from the Mo Family, one of the three great rune clans. He is the top genius of Class C1. and his scores are always the best among all nine classes!

He is the first to complete the assessment task again!

Lin Xun didn't know who Mo Yun was, but he noticed that Mo Yu's getting up was like a spark as students completed the assessment one after another after he got up.

However, all were from the other classes and Class 9C showed no movement...

## Chapter 408 Shameful To Not Be First

The atmosphere turned tense in the hall. Seeing that no one from Class 9C had completed the assessment, all instructors and students assumed strange expressions.

There was shock, surprise, pity, and knowing.

Fortunately, discussion and talking were not allowed in the examination hall.

More than two hours quickly passed.

Many students from Classes 1 to 8 had finished the assessment. Only a few from the top three classes hadn't completed the assessment.

On the other hand, Class 9C...

Not a single person had completed the assessment!

The atmosphere grew increasingly tense and even the three chief examiners in the center of the hall assumed strange expressions.

Although they didn't expect Class 9C to significantly change in one month, the awkward scene still caught everyone by surprise.

Many people sighed to themselves, feeling bad for Lin Xun.

After all, if the assessment result of Class 9C was too lousy, it would have a negative impact on Lin Xun. Many instructors had already thought that Lin Xun's teaching approach was unusual and was only done for attention.

The instructors wouldn't let go of an opportunity to attack and criticize Lin Xun if they get the chance!

A tall tree tended to catch the wind.

Praise always came with jealousy and dissatisfaction. This was inevitable.

Three hours passed.

All the students of Class 1C had completed the assessment!

Almost all of the students in classes 2C to 8C had completed the assessment, and only a small fraction was still working hard.

On the other hand, Class 9C...

Their situation hadn't changed!

The atmosphere in the hall was no longer tense, and instead had turned strange. Most of the instructors and students were filled with disbelief.

Isn't their performance too awful?

Have the students in Class 9C made no improvement and regressed in the past month?



This is very likely. After all, Fang Zhongjian was the former instructor of Class 9C, and then their instructor had changed to Lin Xun, who adopted a completely different teaching style.

Many instructors shared the same thought. They couldn't help but look at Lin Xun with sympathy and pity.

Ahh, Little Instructor Lin is still...too young!

The other students were a little bewildered. They had attended Lin Xun's lectures in the past and had found they had learned a lot from him. They had actually developed a deeper understanding in the art of the runes afterwards.

They couldn't believe the students from Class 9C would perform so poorly.

How is that possible?

Are those guys hopeless?

Or is there something wrong with Little Instructor Lin's teaching methods?*nOvelnext.coM*

"Little Instructor Lin, don't be discouraged. You've only been teaching for a month. It doesn't matter. Don't take it to heart."

Instructor Huang's voice rang in Lin Xun's ear.

He turned his head and saw Instructor Huang looking sincerely at him like he wanted to console him.

The other instructors' expressions were more or less the same as Instructor Huang's.

Of course, Lin Xun also noticed some instructors were looking at him disapprovingly or gloatingly.

Lin Xun smiled, retracted his gaze, and focused his attention on the examination hall. He sent a voice transmission to Instructor Huang. The assessment isn't over yet. Let's watch further.

Instructor Huang was taken aback at first and then he couldn't help but laugh to himself. This kid is so stubborn. Does he think that Class 9C can turn the situation around?

In truth, the other people in the hall had the same thought as Instructor Huang—Class 9C would be ranked bottom again and stay the worst of the nine classes.

Even Shen Tuo, who was very confident in Lin Xun's ability, couldn't help but frown. Based on Lin Xun's ability, even if he couldn't help Class 9C improve massively, they shouldn't be this bad.

If Fang Zhongjian was present, he would have criticized Lin Xun already!

"Instructor Huang."

Suddenly, Lin Xun spoke out and a smile spread across his lips. "You should watch carefully."

"What?"

Immediately, his body froze and his pupils enlarged.

All thirty students of Class 9C stood up as they had finished crafting their aeth tool at the same time!

Swoosh!

It was as though the thirty students had coordinated things beforehand. The unusual scene shocked all the students and instructors.

What...

What is going on?

Did they all suddenly complete the assessment?

For a moment, everyone's expression was very entertaining. It was as though they had seen a pile of mud transform into flawless jade!

"Did they...they discuss things beforehand?" Instructor Huang asked in bewilderment.

"Should be. I only just figured it out," Lin Xun responded with a smile.

He had indeed only just noticed. He had noticed that many of his students had slowed down their speed when they reached the final stages of crafting the aeth tool.

It had clearly been planned out!

"It must be Liu Hui's great idea."

Lin Xun swept a glance across the students and immediately identified the culprit of the plan because Liu Hui's chubby face was glowing with pride.

The other instructors and students started to snap out of their shocked state as they had guessed what was going on.

The students from Class 9C have such bad intentions. They deliberately planned this to strike a blow at those who looked down on them.

But then again...

The scene of thirty students completing the assessment at the same time was unarguably spectacular!

At present, only all the students of Class 1C had completed the assessment!

In other words, regardless of the final score, Class 9C was second only to Class 1C in terms of completion speed!

"Hey, I didn't expect it. I didn't expect Little Instructor Lin to have such an arrangement for Class 9C to enjoy the limelight," Instructor Huang marveled. He thought Lin Xun had directed everything.

Lin Xun didn't explain and just said with a smile, "If they are incompetent, it would be impossible for them to achieve this."

Instructor Huang looked taken aback, complex emotions swirling in his heart.

The meaning of Lin Xun's words was obvious: the students in Class 9C had completely transformed compared to one month ago.

This proved that Lin Xun's unusual teaching method, which other people had criticized, was not done only to draw attention to himself!

On the contrary, Lin Xun was able to transform the bad students of Class 9C in just one month. This miracle had shut everyone up.

The assessment continued.

However, the atmosphere had changed. The students of Class 9C were grinning from ear to ear and in high spirits.

On the other hand, the other instructors and students wore complicated expressions. They had never thought that such an unexpected surprise would happen.

Their eyes sparkled with admiration when they looked at Lin Xun. The changes in Class 9C were so great that they had to accept them.

Lin Xun deserved the credit for the transformation of Class 9C.

When the assessment ended, Shen Tuo and the other chief examiners graded the nine classes and an uproar broke out in the hall.

"Amazing! I can't believe it!"

"I told you Little Instructor Lin would amaze the world again."

"Indeed, Class 9C stole the limelight and successfully counterattacked after suffering from humiliation earlier."

"Unquestionably, Class 9C wouldn't be enjoying such a moment without Little Instructor Lin!"

"Little Instructor Lin is so handsome. I've decided to go after him!"

"Pah, Little Instructor Lin wouldn't necessarily like you!"

All sorts of commotions, discussions, and arguments broke out one after another.

The reason was very simple. Class 9C had leapt to fifth place on the rankings like a dark horse and had successfully thrown away the title of bottom ranking that had been shackled to them forever.

In just one month, they had jumped to fifth place after being on the bottom!

The change was astonishing!

After all, it was an assessment for rune masters. How could it be that easy to show any improvement?

Moreover, the students of Class 9C were all seen as troublemakers. It was very shocking that Lin Xun could lead those troublemakers to counterattack.

The assessment result had thoroughly demonstrated Lin Xun's teaching ability. As a result, he won praise and respect from everyone.

No one would dare to criticize Lin Xun's teaching ability again.

“Little Instructor Lin, we did it!”

Liu Hui skipped towards Lin Xun to take credit.

“Huh?”

With an indifferent expression, Lin Xun asked with a frown, “Aren’t you ashamed?”

Liu Hui looked dumbfounded for a moment. Ashamed? Isn’t what we did enough?

“As my student, it’s shameful to not get first place.”

Lin Xun’s following sentence made Liu Hui feel so ashamed that he wanted to hide. It turns out...turns out that Little Instructor Lin has such high expectations for us!

When Liu Hui passed on his words to the other students in the class, they all flushed with shame.

However, they didn’t feel crushed; instead, they felt a strange sense of pride.

It turns out that in Little Instructor Lin’s eyes, we should be getting first place!

#### Chapter 409 Ulterior Motives of Chu Shanhe

Almost instantaneously, Lin Xun’s words ‘It’s shameful to not get first place’ spread throughout the audience.

Many instructors’ and students’ gazes turned complicated as they looked at him. It had never crossed their minds that Class 9C, who was always ranked at the bottom, would achieve such splendid results. In addition, it astonished them that Lin Xun would still be unsatisfied with their results.

Shameful?

That’s...

That’s a huge blow to the students!

Even Shen Tuo smiled wryly. Lin Xun...I don’t know if I should call him arrogant or ambitious.

“Hahaha, it’s so lively here. Did something big happen here?”

Amid the uproar, a dull, thunder-like voice rang from the hall on the first floor of the Refinement Tower.

Then, a group of people stepped through the door of the examination hall.

An old man with perfectly combed hair and beard headed the group. Dressed in a purple robe adorned with gold details, he exuded a superior and lofty bearing.

Immediately, the commotion ceased, and the hall fell utterly silent. Everyone recognized that the old man was the deputy head of the Rune Department, a renowned intermediate rune grandmaster—Chu Shanhe!

Chu Shanhe had a high and mighty status within the Rune Department, and he was second only to the department head and a few others. He could be said to wield monstrous authority.

He was also a powerful elder of the Chu Clan, one of the three major rune master families in the empire!

“Paying our respects to Deputy Head Chu.”

Shen Tuo and the others stepped forward, greeted him with a smile, and informed him of the assessment results.

Chu Shanhe couldn't help but marvel, “No wonder it's so lively here. It is indeed amazing that Class 9C has achieved such a result.”

Liu Hui, Fan Zhiqiu, Yang Jingyao and other Class 9C students all flushed with pride.

“Deputy Head Chu, Little Instructor Lin played a huge role in helping us achieve such a result!”

Liu Hui grinned. “Oh, Little Instructor Lin?”

With a smile on his face, Chu Shanhe locked his eyes on Lin Xun and said, “Many days ago, I heard that Little Instructor Lin's teaching approach is amazing and unique. It is indeed true.”

“Thank you, you flatter me,” Lin Xun responded calmly.

Chu Shanhe's appearance made Lin Xun think of Chu Haidong. He cast his mind back to the battle about who was the stupid idiot and how Chu Haidong had spewed out blood in fury.

In the end, everyone in the Forbidden City knew that Chu Haidong had deservedly become the stupid idiot after being utterly crushed by the cries of the nine dragons.

The incident had become a laughing matter for the people in the Forbidden City.

After the incident, Lin Xun had undoubtedly displeased and angered the Chu Family. Knowing that, Lin Xun was subconsciously wary of Chu Shanhe.

This is just an assessment for initiate rune masters from building C. It's not a grand event, yet he showed up here. This is very unusual.

“Little Instructor Lin, you're too modest. To be honest, I'm also very curious about your mastery in the art of runes.”

Chu Shanhe said with a smile, “After all, in only one month you were able to improve the grades of Class 9C from the bottom of the ranking to fifth place. This isn't something that any instructor can do.”

His remark drew agreement from everyone.

Indeed, until now, all the instructors and students only knew that Lin Xun had invoked the cries of the nine dragons, causing a sensation in the Forbidden City and becoming a genius young rune grandmaster.

However, no one knew about Lin Xun's rune skill level.

Although Chu Shanhe seemed to be complimenting Lin Xun, it only increased Lin Xun's vigilance towards him.

He has to be up to something.

I have angered the Chu Family. Why would Chu Shanhe be so forgiving and generous to praise me, their enemy?

It's impossible.

As expected, Chu Shanhe's following words confirmed Lin Xun's speculation.

He smiled. "I have a suggestion. Little Instructor Lin, why don't you take this opportunity to show us your exquisite rune skills, so that I and the other instructors and students can learn from your unparalleled ability?"

"Wonderful idea! Deputy Head Chu's request is exactly what we wanted to ask!"

"Yes, we have all been wanting to have a taste of Little Instructor Lin's skills, but unfortunately, we never had the chance. It would be great if you can fulfill our wish."

"Little Instructor Lin, please show us your skills."

"Little Instructor Lin..."

Chu Shanhe's words sparked enthusiastic responses from everyone. Not only the students, but even some of the instructors had also spoken out in excitement.

Only Shen Tuo and a few others realized that something was wrong. A worried frown creased their brows as their gazes hovered between Chu Shanhe and Lin Xun.

They remembered the grudge between Lin Xun and the Chu Family.

They were certain that the motive behind Chu Shanhe's request wasn't that simple and pure!

All eyes gazed at Lin Xun. It was as though he would disappoint everyone if he didn't agree.

Lin Xun remained quiet.

The originally buzzing atmosphere turned strange because of his silence.

"Little Instructor Lin..." said a student from Class 9C.[novelnovelnext.com](http://www.novelnovelnext.com)

Before he finished his sentence, Liu Hui interrupted with a glare. "Shut your mouth, how can you intervene in Little Instructor Lin's affairs?"

It was obvious that Liu Hui had keenly sensed that something was wrong.

"What's the matter? Why does Little Instructor Lin look so troubled?" Chu Shanhe asked patiently with a smile.

Lin Xun smiled and no longer kept quiet. He directly looked at Chu Shanhe and said, "Since Deputy Head Chu enthusiastically requested so, I would be rude to refuse."

As though Chu Shanhe had been waiting for Lin Xun to say that, he laughed heartily. "I knew Little Instructor Lin wouldn't disappoint us."

He turned to the gray-robed middle-aged man beside him. "Help Little Instructor Lin arrange a tool refining task that he can fully display his skills with."

The middle-aged man immediately replied, "Little Instructor Lin is a certified rune grandmaster. There happens to be a tool refining task on the fifth floor of the Refinement Tower that should satisfy Little Instructor Lin's skills."

Chu Shanhe nodded with a smile. "Well then, it's decided."

The matter was settled within seconds, and Lin Xun hadn't been consulted at all.

This was clearly pre-planned!

Shen Tuo's heart sank. He was convinced that Chu Shanhe deliberately came to target Lin Xun.

Besides Shen Tuo, other instructors and students also noticed the change in atmosphere.

"The fifth floor of the Refinement Tower? That's specially reserved for intermediate rune grandmasters, and the tool refining tasks are all prepared for that level. Deputy Head Chu, isn't this arrangement a little inappropriate?" an instructor asked aloud.

Chu Shanhe's face darkened. "You are underestimating Little Instructor Lin. He is the most outstanding rune grandmaster of the younger generation. He even invoked the phenomenon cries of the nine dragons and stirred the Forbidden City. How would a talented person like him not be allowed to enter the fifth floor of the Refinement Tower?" he said vehemently.

He appeared to be standing up for Lin Xun, and it moved many instructors and students.

Yes, Little Instructor Lin isn't an ordinary rune grandmaster!

Lin Xun's eyes flashed with coldness. The more Chu Shanhe explained, the more it proved that his arrangement was full of malice!

"Let's go. Let's all head to the fifth floor of the Refinement Tower so we can all take this opportunity to have a taste of Little Instructor Lin's remarkable ability."

As though afraid that Lin Xun would go back on his words, Chu Shanhe hurriedly urged everyone out of the hall.

"When we get there, if you feel that the situation is not right, just refuse it," Shen Tuo reminded Lin Xun as he walked past. He could tell that Chu Shanhe had an ulterior motive.

Lin Xun smiled and didn't say anything.

.....

The fifth level of the Refinement Tower was huge like a grand square in the center of the tower.

Rune arrays covered every inch of the tower and filled the entire tower with a terrifying aura.

Only intermediate rune grandmasters or people above that level in the rune department were able to step onto the fifth floor.

Therefore, it was many instructors' and students' first time on the fifth floor.

As soon as they entered the hall, they were overwhelmed with shock. The ground, walls, stone pillars, and even the decorations were all shrouded in terrifyingly mysterious and sacred rune arrays.

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. There are at least one hundred terrifying large-scale rune arrays. Even Heaven Ascension cultivators would be killed if they broke in here!

Does Chu Shanhe want to kill me here?

Suddenly, a strange thought came to Lin Xun's mind. He shook his head. That would never happen unless Chu Shanhe has gone crazy.

"That—?"

"What terrifying sword bearing!"

"A rune armament?"

"Nine violet glory flowers are engraved on it, suppressing the ridge of the sword. The hilt is wrapped in golden scales. It seems...it seems to be the Sword of Apocalypse!"

A commotion broke out. Lin Xun peered ahead and saw a three-foot sword inserted into the center of the hall, radiating an indescribably grand, ancient, and majestic aura.

It didn't look like a sword. Instead, it resembled an invincible king who had been standing there since the beginning of time and looking over the world with contempt!

The instructors and students were all staring intently at this sword, their faces filled with excitement, astonishment, and awe.

Four elders were studying the sword at the side. They all looked taken aback and visibly displeased to see Chu Shanhe arrive with so many people.

"Chu Shanhe, how can you bring anyone to such a sacred and important place?" one of the old men asked Chu Shanhe in a reprimanding tone.

#### Chapter 410 True Intention Revealed

The four elders were all experienced rune grandmasters of the Rune Department and were stationed on the fifth floor of the Refinement Tower all year round.

Therefore, Chu Shanhe couldn't care less about them reprimanding him. He laughed. "Don't worry, I came with good news."

"What good news?" One of the elders frowned.

Chu Shanhe pointed at Lin Xun. "This is Lin Xun, the young genius who invoked the phenomenon cries of the nine dragons when he was being verified as a rune grandmaster."

"Lin Xun? That's him?"

"He looks really young."



The old men swept surprised glances over Lin Xun, and their anger eased. Clearly, they attached great importance to Lin Xun.

"I brought Lin Xun here to help solve your troubles," Chu Shanhe said with a smile.

Like exploded pots, anger and shock flooded the elders' faces. [nOVELnext.com](http://nOVELnext.com)

"What do you mean? Do you want him to...repair the Sword of Apocalypse?" someone sounded perplexed.

"Absurd!" another one fumed.

"This is too rash. Chu Shanhe, do you not know how powerful the Sword of Apocalypse is? How can a youngster who has just become a rune grandmaster repair it?" someone else scolded.

The instructors and students who came with Chu Shanhe broke into an uproar of shock and disbelief.

"It's the most powerful divine weapon of the empress. The Sword of Apocalypse is an extremely powerful rune armament!"

"The Sword of Apocalypse! Deputy Head Chu, don't tell me...you want to use it to prove Little Instructor Lin's rune skills?"

Everyone looked bewildered.

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. He was certain that the Sword of Apocalypse was Chu Shanhe's means to deal with him!

An advanced rune armament owned by the empress?

If even the elders couldn't repair the sword, the problems with the Sword of Apocalypse are imaginably troublesome.

"Stop!"

Suddenly, Chu Shanhe coldly grunted, suppressing the uproar.

Amidst the silence, Chu Shanhe said in a deep voice, "You can't repair it but that doesn't mean other people can't. What? Do you think that Little Instructor Lin isn't qualified enough to repair the Sword of Apocalypse?"

The elders' expressions changed, and one of them couldn't help but explain aloud, "That's not what we think, but the Sword of Apocalypse is very important. No one can bear the consequences if something goes wrong."

"Yes, it will be the empress's 300th birthday soon. If the Sword of Apocalypse isn't repaired by then..."

Just as the other elders were about to refuse, Chu Shanhe's face darkened, and he interrupted, "Everyone, I just want to ask you if you have figured out a way to repair the Sword of Apocalypse?"

The elders didn't respond.

"Since you can't, why don't you let Little Instructor Lin give it a try?" said Chu Shanhe, expressionless.

“That...” The elders looked at each other in dismay.

Suddenly, Shen Tuo’s anxious voice rang in Lin Xun’s ears. “Lin Xun, don’t agree! The Sword of Apocalypse is an important weapon of the imperial family. It was fatally damaged in an unknown accident a few years ago, and the empress has asked many experts and masters to repair it, but no one has been successful so far.”

Lin Xun was shocked. There turns out to be such a story behind the sword.

Shen Tuo continued, “The imperial family has asked renowned rune grandmasters from the Rune Master Association headquarters and Divine Workshop to repair the Sword of Apocalypse, but no one has been able to do so. In many people’s eyes, the Sword of Apocalypse can’t be repaired to its original state!”

Lin Xun inhaled deeply. Chu Shanhe is so ruthless. He wants to attack me with this troublesome problem!

If I can’t repair the sword, I would have to face unimaginable consequences.

Just when Lin Xun was about to say something, Chu Shanhe’s deep voice rang again, “Guys, there’s no need to hesitate. I have already sent someone to the palace to inform them that Little Instructor Lin will solve the problem. If you refuse to let him fix it, you will have to bear the consequence!”

Hiss!

A chorus of sharp gasps filled the air. Everyone’s expressions dramatically changed, their eyes wide with shocked horror.

They were certain that Chu Shanhe was deliberately targeting Lin Xun. He wanted to use this matter to attack Lin Xun!

Chu Shanhe wanted to throw a problem that not even experienced rune grandmasters could solve at Lin Xun. Additionally, he had already secretly sent someone to inform the imperial family!

He had blocked Lin Xun’s escape in every possible way.

Terrifying.

Too terrifying!

Only then did many people realize that Chu Shanhe had planned everything before coming to the Refinement Tower!

Most terrifyingly, Chu Shanhe’s scheme was open and without any deception, so no one could say anything.

His move was truly ruthless.

Could Lin Xun refuse?

Impossible! He had already agreed. Moreover, Chu Shanhe had sent someone to report the matter to the imperial family. If Lin Xun refused, he would not only anger Chu Shanhe but also the imperial family!

That would be the most terrifying outcome of all!

The audience fell utterly silent, stunned by Chu Shanhe's move.

Even Lin Xun had never imagined that Chu Shanhe would arrange such a precise and well-thought-out plan to target him.

Lin Xun had thought that he should be more wary of revenge coming from the Zuo and Qin, two high clans in Qinglu Academy.

However, he had overlooked the Chu Family and underestimated their ruthless determination to retaliate!

"Lin Xun, you don't blame me for overstepping and accepting the task for you, right?" Chi Shanhe laughed heartily.

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes, wishing he could smash Chu Shanhe's extremely fake face.

However, he said with a smile, "Deputy Head Chu, have you heard about what happened when I was verified as a rune grandmaster?"

Chu Shanhe's expression subtly changed as he was taken aback by Lin Xun's question. He could guess what Lin Xun was about to say.

Lin Xun continued with a smile, "At that time, there was a man called Chu Haidong, who wanted to use the Nine Tablets of the Dragon Gate to prove who was the ignorant one and who was the stupid one between himself and me."

Chu Shanhe's face was overcast with a fierce frown. He had never thought that Lin Xun would bring up that matter.

To Chu Shanhe, and also the entire Chu family, the incident was a shameful scar!

As though Lin Xun didn't notice the change in atmosphere, his smile widened, and he said indifferently, "I believe you know what the outcome was. So Deputy Head Chu, are you sure you want to use this to force me to...show my ability?"