

## Prodigies 471

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#### Chapter 471

In the end, the Zuo and Qin clans left unwillingly.

They had no other choice. Zuo Yang and Qin Xing were too important as they were direct descendants, so they were worried their actions would put their lives in danger.

After they were captured and taken to Mind Cleansing Peak, they could only return to their clan and report the matter.

On Mind Cleansing Peak, youngsters cheered and applauded.

A while ago, enemies were blocking the entrance of Mind Cleansing Peak and constantly provoking and humiliating them. Although they were furious, they had no choice but to clench their teeth and endure them.

However, Lin Xun emerged from his closed-door cultivation and slaughtered Lin Zhi and dozens of people like a killing god. Then he captured Zuo Yang and Qin Xing in one move. His swift and domineering means were equivalent to helping the youngsters vent their anger.

Only some powerful people donned worried expressions. The current situation might be satisfying, but Mind Cleansing Peak's situation was becoming increasingly dangerous.

Mind Cleansing Hall.

Xiaoke, Spirit Vulture, Lin Zhong, Third Old Zhu and the higher-ups of the North Light Lin Clan were gathered together.

"This is a little troublesome. We have detained Zuo Yang and Qin Xing, so the Zuo and Qin Clans will leave this matter at that," sighed a middle-aged man from the North Light Lin Clan.

"Lin Zhi has died tragically, and all the cultivators with her were also killed. If the West Creek, Cloud Weight and Flying Peak Lin Clans find out about this, the consequences will be unimaginable."

"What do we do?"

"Lin Xun is too reckless. As they say, great plans can be ruined by a lack of forbearance. What he has done is the same as piercing the sky!"

The higher-ups of the North Light Lin Clan sighed one after another. Their faces were grave and overcast with worry.

On the other hand, Xiaoke, Spirit Vulture, Lin Zhong and Third Old Zhu kept quiet and didn't utter a word.

However, they could tell that the members of the North Light Lin Clan were unhappy with Lin Xun and were complaining.

"The worst thing is that Lin Xun has offended the imperial family and some powerful figures of the empire at the empress' birthday banquet. Now, he has ruined all relationships with the Zuo and Qin Clans. The situation is very serious. We will be destroyed if we're not careful," a man with long black hair said aloud in a grim voice.

He was Lin Huairen, the younger brother of Lin Huaiyuan, the North Light Lin Clan Head.

"What should we do?" the clansmen sighed.

Lin Zhong couldn't help but speak out, "Everyone, I believe Young Master is not acting recklessly. He must have a plan that we don't know about."

"A plan?" Lin Huairen cast a glance at Spirit Vulture.

Spirit Vulture no longer remained silent and said calmly, "Lin Xun will come later. You can ask him then."

"Hmph, he just finished his closed-door cultivation and he doesn't understand the situation. Yet, he stirred up so much trouble! What plan could he have?! He is just a little boy fooling around!" someone snorted coldly.

It was a white-haired old man called Lin Zifang.

He was very old and so was regarded as an elder of the North Light Lin Clan despite his Spirit Sea cultivation.

Lin Zhong and Spirit Vulture frowned when they heard him criticize Lin Xun, but they didn't refute.

"In my opinion, Lin Xun must be properly lectured when he comes. If jade is not cut and polished, it can not be made into anything. If he continues to cause trouble like this, Mind Cleansing Peak will be destroyed one day!" Lin Zifang spoke sternly.

He seemed to be extremely dissatisfied with Lin Xun's actions.

"That..." Lin Zhong said aloud, "doesn't seem right."

Lin Zifang's face darkened. "Lin Zhong, you are regarded as an elder of our Lin Family. Don't you know what our current situation is? Lin Xun is messing around, but you are still protecting him! What's the difference between that and harming him?"

Before the others could say anything, Lin Zifang continued angrily, "If I had known that the kid was this incompetent, I wouldn't have let the North Light Lin Clan support him. Now we are also affected by his actions!"

The atmosphere in the hall turned tense.

Strange expressions flickered across the eyes of Lin Huaiyuan and other North Light Lin Clan members.

Xiaoke, Spirit Vulture and Lin Zhong frowned, not expecting Lin Zifang to say such words at such a critical moment!

“When Mind Cleansing Peak was doing well, you all moved back happily, but now that some bad things happened, you are complaining endlessly. Don’t you think that’s unnecessary?” Xiaoke couldn’t stand it any longer.

“How dare you! How can an outsider intervene in the affairs of our Lin Clan?” Lin Zifang reprimanded her.

“Xiaoke, don’t say more,” Spirit Vulture reminded her.

In the past, Xiaoke would listen to Spirit Vulture but today, she couldn’t stand it anymore. Lin Zifang took advantage of his seniority to patronize others, but he didn’t think of ways to solve a problem and instead pushed the blame onto Lin Xun.

“So you also know that this is your Lin Clan’s affair? But I don’t see you treating Lin Xun as the head of the Lin Clan!” Xiaoke coldly retorted.

Lin Zifang was so furious that his face turned livid. “Little girl, how dare you talk to me like that! Do you want me to expel you from Mind Cleansing Peak?”

“Expel me?” Xiaoke’s lips curved in a cold smile.

Just when she was about to say something, Spirit Vulture stopped her, “Don’t argue...”

However, before Spirit Vulture finished, Lin Zifang interrupted in a deep voice, “Mind Cleansing Peak is handed down by the ancestors of our Lin Clan and it is not a territory of outsiders! If you don’t apologize to me today, leave Mind Cleansing Peak immediately!”

Spirit Vulture’s expression turned cold, Xiaoke’s bright eyes became chilling and Lin Zhong’s brows were furrowed with fury.

The atmosphere in the hall suddenly became extremely tense.

“Sixth Uncle, don’t be angry. Miss Xiaoke was invited by Lin Xun and she has done a lot for Mind Cleansing Peak,” Lin Huai ren persuaded as he had sharply sensed the change in atmosphere.

He knew very well that Xiaoke had a very important position on Mind Cleansing Peak, and she was in no way inferior to Spirit Vulture and Lin Zhong.

Lin Zifang seemed like he wouldn’t take a step back as he sneered, “So, should I apologize to her? I think even Lin Xun wouldn’t dare to tell me to do that!”

Everyone looked at each other.

“Sorry, I’m afraid I am going to disappoint you.” Lin Xun’s voice sounded in the hall.

Followed by him walking out from the side of the hall. His black eyes swept over Lin Zifang coldly like a flash of lightning.

“You keep saying that you need to teach me a lesson, saying that I have dragged the North Light Lin Clan into trouble, but now you want to expel my people. Who gave you the power to do this?”

The hall fell utterly silent.

Lin Xun had overheard the conversation just now.

In terms of seniority, Lin Xun had to address Lin Zifang as granduncle! It was just that their relationship was very distant.

It was extremely disrespectful of Lin Xun to reprimand and question Lin Zifang in front of everyone.

“You...are you talking to me?”

As expected Lin Zifang was so angry that he couldn't believe what he heard.

“You heard it right. I'm talking about you. What? Do you think it's fun to patronize other people using your seniority?” Lin Xun said coldly.

There was an indescribable hatred in his heart. While they were under internal trouble and outside aggression, Lin Zifang, an elder, didn't help solve the problem, but instead jumped out to cause trouble. How could Lin Xun respect him?

“Are you saying I patronize people?”

This is outrageous! Lin Zifang trembled with anger. In his view, Lin Xun was a junior, but he had lectured and humiliated him in front of everyone!

Others were also shocked. It was taboo to disrespect someone more senior within a clan. If the matter spreads out, they would become a huge laughingstock.

“Lin Xun, let's just forget about this,” urged Spirit Vulture.

“Yes, take a step back. Don't give other people a chance to laugh at us.”

Other people persuaded them.

“No way!” Lin Zifang roared. Lin Xun was a junior, but he had embarrassed him in front of so many people. How could he stand that?

“When your grandfather was alive, he wouldn't dare to do this to me. You are a little kid, but you ignored the etiquette of the clan and disrespected your elder. If you don't kneel and apologize, I won't forgive you!”

He rose to his feet, his hair taking on a spiked appearance and he almost sputtered on Lin Xun's face.

Lin Xun looked at Lin Zifang coldly and finally took a deep breath and said, “Uncle Zhong, take him to the ancestral land on Mind Cleansing Peak to reflect!”

Everyone was shocked.

Lin Xun didn't intend to argue and just wanted to imprison Lin Zifang!

“Lin Xun, that doesn't seem right.”

Lin Huai ren scrunched his brows. Other North Light Lin Clan members were bewildered. In their opinion, Lin Xun had committed the worst offense of disrespect. Isn't he worried about being criticized?

“Young Master, th...” Lin Zhong was extremely worried.

“Go.” Lin Xun didn’t waver in the least as he spat out one word.

“You...how dare you...you are rebellious—”

Lin Zifang’s eyes almost popped out as he roared, but deep down, he was a little scared.

Lin Zhong stepped forward, and an invisible force poured out, restraining Lin Zifang and bringing him away.

“Lin Xun! You—”

Lin Huaiaren finally couldn’t hold back and stood up. Lin Zifang was from the North Light Lin Clan, and Lin Xun’s move was no different from hitting them in the face.

“Once the internal troubles and external aggression of the Lin Family are dealt with, I will apologize to you, but now, whoever dares to cause disturbance on Mind Cleansing Peak will be punished severely!”

Lin Xun’s expression was indifferent, but there was a sense of oppressive authority.

“Now that we are in a situation of internal troubles and external aggression, everyone should work together to fight against outsiders.”

Spirit Vulture said warmly, “I believe you all don’t want to see anything happen to Mind Cleansing Peak, right?”

Lin Huaiaren let out a long sigh and sat down again with an overcast expression on his face.

The other North Light Lin Clan members also looked gloomy. Lin Xun’s ruthlessness was unexpected.

He is so cruel to his people, what would he be afraid to do in this world?

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The North Light Lin Clan members didn’t stay long before they left under the leadership of Lin Huaiaren. It seemed that they knew it would be meaningless to stay any longer.

Lin Xun didn’t try to persuade them to stay and just watched them leave. “Uncle Zhong, keep an eye on them. If you notice anything unusual, immediately capture them!”

Lin Zhong nodded.

He also knew that Mind Cleansing Peak was in a danger-ridden situation. The consequences could be serious if they couldn’t maintain stability within the clan.

“Lin Xun, what do you plan to do?” Spirit Vulture asked.

“From today onwards, close Mind Cleansing Peak. Can you all stay here for a while and live a period of isolation? As for the outside world, I will deal with it alone.”

Lin Xun’s expression was incredibly calm, indicating that he had given their situation a long thought.

“By yourself?”

Spirit Vulture, Xiaohe, and Lin Zhong were all taken aback. Even Third Old Zhu couldn't help but stare at Lin Xun in surprise.

They all knew well that Lin Xun intended to deal with the two high clans, the Zuo and Qin Clans, and the three collateral branches of the Lin Clan alone!

Could Lin Xun do that by himself?

Spirit Vulture had a suspicion that the matter wasn't as simple as Lin Xun had said.

In the end, Lin Xun didn't disclose the reason for his decision because he didn't want them to worry.

Although Spirit Vulture and the others were puzzled by his decision, they had no choice but to agree when they saw his unyielding determination.

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On the same day, Lin Xun left Mind Cleansing Peak accompanied by Third Old Zhu and Lin Zhong.

It was also on that day when Mind Cleansing Peak was closed and isolated from the world.

As one of the seventy-two aristocratic peaks, Mind Cleansing Peak was protected by a mysterious defense formation. It would be difficult for even a Life-Death Stage King to break through it.

Therefore, Lin Xun wasn't worried that the Zuo and Qin Clans would try to break into Mind Cleansing Peak to get revenge.

Furthermore, he had imprisoned Zuo Yang and Qin Xing on Mind Cleansing Peak, so the Zuo and Qin Clans would first have to weigh the consequences before they launched a retaliation attack.

"Young Master, are you going to ask the Qinglu Academy for help?" Lin Zhong anxiously asked on the jeweled carriage.

"It's better to depend on yourself."

Lin Xun shook his head and his eyes took on a pensive look as he said indifferently, "Uncle Zhong, would you believe it if I say that it won't be long before many people will help me on their own initiative?"

Lin Zhong gazed at Lin Xun's sharp and handsome face for a moment before he said firmly, "I believe it."

Lin Xun exclaimed in surprise, "Uncle Zhong, you don't doubt me?"

Lin Zhong smiled. "Young master, you have never made a wrong decision."

He hesitated for a moment and then he choked, "Young Master, no matter what happens, even if...even if you lose Mind Cleansing Peak, you must live!"

Lin Xun nodded, closed his eyes, and sank into deep thought.

Zhao Tailai, the owner of the Sky Martial Arena, had specifically looked for him to tell him some extremely important secrets back at the empress' birthday banquet.

Five years!

The mysterious influential figure of the imperial palace had guaranteed that Yun Qingbai from the Omega Sword Sect would not appear in the next five years.

To this day, Lin Xun still clearly remembered Zhao Tailai's words at the time. Do what you want and create all the disturbance you want. The greater the noise, the better, especially in Qinglu Academy. It's even better if you cause so much disturbance that the principal takes notice of you. It will only be beneficial to your situation."

The empire will not ignore real talents. You must have the strength worthy of the empire's attention. The more outstanding you are, the more the empire will value you. When a calamity descends upon you, the empire will provide a path for you!"

Those words were simple and easy to understand. It was the source of Lin Xun's confidence to face all the crises alone.

However, he wouldn't pin all his hopes on other people. He had his own plans.

Just as he had told Lin Zhong, it was better to depend on yourself!

When I am strong enough, who would dare to bring trouble to me in this world?

The Ancient Spirit World had been an eye-opening experience for him. He saw a more vast world and understood that the great Ziyao Empire was nothing compared to the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

If he couldn't solve the troubles in front of him, how could he avenge his family in the Ancient Wasteland Domain?

Suddenly, his eyes sprang open. "Uncle Zhong, remember to send a letter to the three collateral branches West Creek, Cloud Weight and Flying Peak and inform them that the three years I promised them will remain unchanged, but since they have already chosen to betray Mind Cleansing Peak and cooperate with the Zuo and Qin Clans, they will have to pay a high price for it."

Lin Xun's dark eyes glinted coldly. "Tell them to sever relationships with the Zuo and Qin Clans within half a year. Otherwise, they will have to pay for the price of betrayal!"

Lin Zhong shuddered and solemnly nodded.

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Qinglu Academy.

It was noon, and the students had all finished classes. On the peaceful ancient campus were high-spirited teenagers everywhere.

Dressed in the same uniform, they looked especially young and energetic like the rising sun.

A carriage clattered to a stop in front of Qinglu Academy. Lin Xun got off, waved goodbye to Lin Zhong and Third Old Zhu, took a deep breath and walked into Qinglu Academy. He had been gone for two months.

"Hey, that person looks familiar."

“Lin Xun! No, Little Instructor Lin. He’s finally back!

Lin Xun was quickly recognized and his appearance caused a commotion.

Soon, the news of his return spread at an incredible speed throughout the Hidden Dragon Department, Dao Martial Department, True Martial Department and the Rune Department.

“What? Lin Xun showed up? Doesn’t he know how many people are looking to defeat him to wash away the humiliation the imperial family suffered?”

“I recall that the Zuo and Qin Clans had besieged Mind Cleansing Peak, and it is in a precarious situation. Why did Lin Xun come back to Qinglu Academy instead, is he here to seek help?”

Lin Xun’s return made Qinglu Academy very lively, and everywhere was filled with discussions.

It was understandable because Lin Xun was too famous. He had become a legendary young genius after he stirred up one sensational incident after another in the Forbidden City. Each one had set off storms and was widely discussed in the empire.

He had the title of Master of Mind Cleansing Peak, leader of the Lin Clan, and the young rune grandmaster of the Qinglu Academy, the Divine Workshop and the headquarters of the Rune Master Association.

Who would have imagined that beneath those glorious halos was only a sixteen-year-old boy?

The number of sensational things he had done was even more incredible.

He successively defeated Hua Wuyou, violently beat up the descendants of the Song Clan, evoked the nine draconic cries and repaired the Sword of Apocalypse, a precious treasure of the empress.

Chu Haidong, who was from one of the three great rune clans, was labelled a stupid idiot because he had offended Lin Xun and became a laughingstock in the Forbidden City.

Chu Haidong’s elder, Chu Shanhe, the vice department head of the Rune Department, tried to take action against Lin Xun but he failed miserably. In the end, he was too ashamed to show his face again.

Even the widely circulated song Heaven Pride was said to be related to Lin Xun!

Lin Xun could be said to be a monster that appeared out of nowhere. He had shaken the Forbidden City too many times.

However, the good times didn’t last long. He had acted without restraint at the express’ birthday banquet. He had defeated Chi Cangfeng and forced the Marquis of Rising Sky to kneel. As a result, he had offended the imperial family and angered the powerful and influential figures of the empire and brought trouble upon himself!

In the end, he had lost the life-changing opportunity to train in the mysterious domain.

This incident had shaken the Forbidden City, and many people believed that Lin Xun was doomed to fall and his fate worried many people.



Many people believed that Lin Xun had gone into closed-door cultivation on Mind Cleansing Peak because he was afraid and that he knew that a calamity was looming.

Now, after two months, Lin Xun suddenly appeared in Qinglu Academy. Naturally, his return attracted all sorts of attention.

“That guy still dared to show up here. This is going to be interesting. I remember that Zuo Yujing, who is ranked third on the Spirit Sea Gold Rankings, vowed that he would make Lin Xun unable to eat or walk around if he showed up.”

“Not only Zuo Yujing, but many genius cultivators from the Martial Dao Department are also waiting to teach Lin Xun a lesson to wash away the humiliation that the imperial family had suffered.”

“It’s a pity. Lin Xun is such an outstanding person, but he stirred up so much trouble.”

Lin Xun’s appearance set off a storm in Qinglu Academy!

Meanwhile, Lin Xun was in a discussion with Shen Tuo.

“Lin Xun, don’t worry, you are at Qinglu Academy. No one would dare come here and cause trouble. Now that you are back, you should concentrate on teaching and not let the storm happening in the outside world affect you,” Shen Tuo said warmly, pleased to see Lin Xun return to the academy.

Lin Xun felt a warm current rushing up his heart. He thought that the rumors circulating in the outside world would change Shen Tuo’s opinion of him.

Clearly, he had overthought.

Even if Shen Tuo knew that Lin Xun had offended the imperial family and other influential and powerful figures, he still guaranteed his safety. This showed how strong the foundation of the Qinglu Academy was.

However, Lin Xun didn’t return to the Qinglu Academy to take refuge.

“Can I borrow the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower for a while?” Lin Xun stated his true purpose.

“Of course.” Shen Tuo agreed without hesitation. But then, he seemed to remember something as his eyes widened and he exclaimed, “What did you say? You want to use the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower?”

Lin Xun nodded.

Shen Tuo stared at Lin Xun with shocked disbelief. “You...you wouldn’t be planning to cast a rune armament, right?”

The ninth floor of the Refinement Tower was specially reserved for creating rune armament!

It was a well-known fact in Qinglu Academy but Lin Xun requested to borrow the ninth floor of the tower. How would Shen Tuo not be shocked?

“Correct.”

Lin Xun had nothing to hide so he nodded calmly.

After receiving confirmation, Shen Tuo, an experienced rune grandmaster, lost his composure. His lips quivered.

If he remembered correctly, Lin Xun was only sixteen years old and had only been at the rune grandmaster level for less than half a year.

However, he wanted to create a rune armament!

It was too unbelievable!

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Rune Armament!

It was a kind of unfathomable aeth treasure that only a rune grandmaster who had mastered spirit gathering was able to fathom.

Of course, that was only the qualification to study it. It would be even more difficult to make one!

Shen Tuo was an experienced rune grandmaster with a spirit-gather ability, but he had never made a rune armament in his life!

He knew about the difficulty in making a rune armament better than many people in the world.

First of all, it required several rare rune materials, which would cost at least fifty million gold coins.

That alone was an obstacle to many rune grandmasters.

After all, fifty million gold coins were enough to purchase a large battleship! It was an astronomical amount.

Secondly, the making of a rune armament involved many ancient, obscure rune patterns and arrays, and the slightest error could cause a catastrophic change and failure in the rune armament!

Shen Tuo had previously spent several years making a rune armament along with several rune grandmasters from the Rune Department, but a slight mistake in the rune patterns ruined the rune materials and their efforts had all been wasted.

The most terrifying thing was that one of the rune grandmasters had been hugely impacted by the failure. Almost half of his cultivation was destroyed after he had invested so much time and energy into the making of the rune armament.

The experience made it clear to Shen Tuo that not anyone could make precious treasures such as rune armament.

In the present empire, only the old monsters of the rune founder level could successfully cast a rune armament!

However, there were only a handful of such old monsters in the world.

The most famous rune founders were all being worshiped in the Divine Workshop, Rune Master Association, the Rune Department or the three great rune clans.

Therefore, that was why Shen Tuo had an unusual and rude response when he confirmed that Lin Xun had wanted to borrow the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower to cast a rune armament.

Shen Tuo drew several deep breaths before he could suppress the astonishment in his heart. Then, he wanted to confirm it again. "Are...are you kidding?"

"No."

Lin Xun shook his head. He, of course, wasn't joking.

Shen Tuo's eyes blazed as he asked, "How confident are you in succeeding?"

If someone else had said they wanted to make a rune armament, he would have treated them as a lunatic, but Lin Xun was different. Despite being only sixteen years old, he had evoked the nine draconic cries phenomenon and had created an unprecedented miracle.

Moreover, he had miraculously restored the damaged Sword of Apocalypse, a rune armament, which had no hope of being repaired!

Lin Xun's amazing feats had made Shen Tuo start to believe that the youth could make a rune armament!

Lin Xun shrugged and said, "I have a rough idea, but I'm not sure about my chance of success."

Shen Tuo stared at him blankly, the excitement subsided from his heart and his mind became much calmer. He realized that he had been a little too excited too early.

Lin Xun had no experience in refining rune armament so he, of course, had no idea how difficult it was.

Perhaps, he only wanted to attempt to make a rune armament.

"Then, what kind of rune armament are you planning to make? Have you got the rune materials ready?" asked Shen Tuo.

"A spear," Lin Xu stated without hesitation.

He had wanted to make it for Lin Zhong. There were only very few people he could trust with his life in the entire world, and Lin Zhong was no doubt one of the very few.

"As for the rune materials..." Lin Xun sounded helpless.

"What is it?"

Lin Xun didn't try to hide anything and calmly explained, "I'm still missing seven or eight kinds of rune materials, such as the five-element iron of the ancient star, cloud light sea soul silk, black divine gold jade essence..."

Shen Tuo was dumbstruck. He realized that he had gotten too excited too early. Those rune materials were not only rare but also almost impossible to find!

For example, the five-element iron of the ancient star contained the essence of the five elements and even a thumb-sized piece was worth thousands of gold coins. It was considered a heaven-grade rune material.

The black divine gold jade essence had long disappeared from the world. The only ones remaining were only found in the imperial family and ancient aristocratic clans.

“Kid, it's going to be difficult.” Shen Tuo sighed

He had started to suspect whether Lin Xun was playing a prank on him. If he lacked so many rune materials, how could he make the rune armament?

“Which is why I came here to find you.” Lin Xun grinned.

“Me?”

Shen Tuo smiled wryly. “Kid, you think too highly of me. I might know a little about the rune materials you lack, but it would be extremely difficult to get hold of them...”

Lin Xun's eyes lit up. “As long as you know a little about them, I have some rune materials to exchange for them.”

With a flick of his sleeve, a silvery glow on the ground dazzled their eyes.

Shen Tuo didn't believe Lin Xun at first and thought he was only joking. After all, the rune materials he wanted were extremely rare and nothing could be exchanged for them.

However, he froze and fell into a dazed-like state at the dazzling glow from the treasure.

The silvery glow was illusionary as it swayed like the stars like a miniature roaring waterfall. It wasn't only magnificent but also had a natural supreme beauty!

Too beautiful!

Shen Tuo was shaken. He could instantly tell the treasures were silver grass stems. They were all perfectly straight and sharp and looked like supreme swords or halberds capable of piercing the sky!

Shen Tuo was most stirred by the extremely pure and rich aeth qi that surrounded the silver rune materials. They seemed ethereal, cold but fragrant and could penetrate the depths of the soul.

“Their leaves are like swords, their spirits are like stars, their light is dreamy and illusionary...”

A thought flashed across Shen Tuo's mind like lightning and made his body go stiff. He cried out, “Could they be silver frost sword grass?”

To Lin Xun's surprise, Shen Tuo had recognized them right away. He nodded. “That's correct.”

Lin Xun had acquired the silver frost sword grass from the ancient ruins in the Spirit Burial Sea.

When he had first arrived in the Forbidden City, he had an urgent need of money so he sold several kinds of medicinal herbs, such as the nine twisted heart iron, pure void spirit flower, Azure Fiendish Dragon Wood, Great White Meteorite Iron and Tear Stained Scarlet Shadow Grass, to Stone Cauldron Alms. He had received an astonishing amount of money for them.

As for the rune materials left on Lin Xun, such as the silver frost sword grass, true sun dragon essence fruit and purple sprite iron, they were all extinct treasures worth a remarkable amount.

“It’s really them! They still exist in the world!”

Shen Tuo’s eyes blazed with excitement. “Even in ancient times, they were considered rare treasures because they are first-class medicines. They could bring people back to life and restore flesh and bones. Even great cultivators of the Cyclic Derivation Stage would fight to the death over them and even a Life Death Stage King would covet them!”

Lin Xun was surprised once again. Shen Tuo had said the same thing as the Azure Turtle when he had described the marvelous ability of the silver frost sword grass.

“Those treasures have long disappeared from the world. I thought they were only legends. I never thought that I could see some today. Unbelievable!” Shen Tuo repeatedly marveled out loud.

The appearance of the silver frost sword grass had a huge impact on him.

Just as Lin Xun was about to speak, Shen Tuo exclaimed again, “Heavens, there are ten of them! Isn’t it said that a person would burn to ashes if they touch one?”

Lin Xun sighed inwardly as he watched on. An always serious and dignified rune grand master was repeatedly screaming and exclaiming like a little kid. That was the power of rune materials. They could tempt any cultivators.

After a long moment, Shen Tuo restored his calmness a little and said with a complicated expression, “It seems like you came prepared.”

Lin Xun bowed respectfully. “Elder, please can you help me?”

“Do you really want to use these stalks of silver frost sword grass to exchange for rune materials?”

Lin Xun nodded.

“Okay, leave it to me. I believe that no one will refuse to exchange for rune materials when they see a silver frost sword grass!” Shen Tuo happily agreed.

“I remember that some old guys in our Qinglu Academy have some of the rune materials you need. Oh, there should also be some in the Divine Workshop...”

He began to think about whom to exchange for the rune materials with the ten stalks of silver frost sword grass.

“Elder, one of the silver frost sword grass is for you. Please don’t exchange it.”

Shen Tuo’s eyes went wide. Then, he immediately understood that this was Lin Xun’s payment for helping him.

He couldn’t help but clap Lin Xun on the shoulder and said emotionally, “You—you still don’t understand the value of these silver frost sword grass. If I let out some words, all sorts of powerful people will come crying and begging me to exchange for one.”

He continued with a smile. “I can also gain some favors that way. There are many benefits.”

Lin Xun gasped inwardly. Ginger indeed gets spicier as it gets older.

“By the way—”

Shen Tuo suddenly remembered something. He said with a frown, “There is a rune material that can’t be exchanged for. From what I know, there is only one stored in the Langya Treasure House of our Qinglu Academy in the entire empire.”

“What?” Lin Xun narrowed his eyes.

Shen Tuo said, “It’s the horn of the Kui Ox!”

That was the core material of the rune armament. Without it, everything would be useless.

“If I can’t exchange it, how do I get it?” asked Lin Xun worriedly.

“It’s very simple, but... it’s too difficult. There are many conditions—first, you have to have 5,000 points before you are qualified to go take the most stringent Sky Stairs Assessment in the Dao Martial Department. And only when you pass can you exchange this treasure in the Langya Treasure House.”

Lin Xun took a deep breath.

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Five thousand points!

Lin Xun felt a headache coming on when he heard he had to meet such a condition alone.

The points from Qinglu Academy were extremely hard to obtain. For example, he only accumulated one thousand points after teaching for one month.

That included even the points he had received as a reward for repairing the Sword of Apocalypse for the empress!

Imaginably, it would be extremely difficult to obtain five thousand points within a short period.

Additionally, there was the Sky Stairs Assessment!

Although he didn’t know exactly what the Sky Stairs Assessment entailed, it had to be terrifying since five thousand points was the minimum requirement required to be eligible to participate in it.

“The horn of the Kui Ox isn’t just a divine rune material as it was born in ancient times. It has long disappeared from the world, but I heard that the principal encountered one when he had accidentally stumbled into a secret realm during his travels to the Spirit Burial Sea.”

Shen Tuo suddenly said, “But because it was such a special treasure, the principal has issued an order that only the person able to pass the Sky Stairs Assessment can receive the treasure.”

Lin Xun couldn’t help but ask, “What exactly is the Sky Stairs Assessment?”

“A test for cultivators,” stated Shen Tuo. “I don’t know much about the specifics but I heard that disciples from the Dao Martial Department will participate. In thousands of years, only a very small number of people have passed the assessment.”

“Simply speaking, only the most talented and marvelous geniuses will be able to participate and pass the Sky Stairs Assessment. Any other people are doomed to fail.”

“I remember that only two people have successfully passed the assessment in the past hundred years. One was Qin Zihuan and the other was Che Qingyu. They are both peerless figures of the world.”

“I heard that Che Qingyu is training in a mysterious sacred land, and Qin Zihuan is now studying in the True Martial Department. I heard that he will soon leave for a mysterious sect outside our domain.”

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After a long discussion, Shen Tuo left with ten stalks of silver frost sword grass to exchange for rune materials for Lin Xun.

Moreover, he had promised Lin Xun that he wouldn't expose to anyone that Lin Xun had intended to make a rune armament before he acquired the rune materials. This was to prevent any problems from arising.

Lin Xun pondered silently for a long moment by himself before he let out a soft sigh.

“The horn of the Kui Ox is irreplaceable. If I can't acquire one, I won't be able to create the rune armament that I have planned out.”

“It seems that I have to make good use of time and earn points.” Lin Xun bore a look of determination.

Before Shen Tuo left, he suggested various ways for Lin Xun to earn points such as lectures, tutorials, outdoor training, assessments and tests. Anyone who contributed to the academy would receive corresponding points as rewards.

After contemplating for a while, Lin Xun decided to make a trip to the Great Affairs Hall.

The Great Affairs Hall was dedicated to assigning various missions and coordinating tasks within the academy. Simply speaking, it was a place to manage tasks.

“Little Instructor Lin, you're back!”

“Great, we have been looking forward to seeing you for a long time.”

Just as Lin Xun stepped out of the teacher's dormitory, he saw a group of boys and girls waiting outside. They exclaimed and cheered when they saw Lin Xun.

Lin Xun was taken aback at first, but then he quickly recognized that many were students from Class 9C. He saw Little Fatty Liu Hui, Fan Zhiqiu, Yang Jingyao and others among them.

“Little Instructor Lin, are you going to stay around this time?”

“Little Instructor Lin, I heard that you have angered the imperial family and many people plan to take action against you. But don't worry, Instructor Shen Tuo said that no one can do anything to you as long as you are in Qinglu Academy.”

“Little Instructor Lin, when will you resume class? We all are looking forward to your return.”

The students chattered nonstop about mundane things, but their heartfelt concern for Lin Xun warmed his heart.

At that moment, he couldn't help but imagine the peaceful life of being a teacher if it weren't for the fact that he had so many matters to deal with.

"Hurry up and go to class! Don't you see that Little Instructor Lin has a lot of things to do?" Little Fatty Liu Hai shouted.

"You should all go to class. I won't be leaving the academy any time soon," Lin Xun urged.

A sharp voice resounded in the distance like a broken gong.

"Lin Xun? Where is Lin Xun? Get out here now!"

"Who the hell is being so rude?!" Little Fatty Liu Hui fumed, but when he turned around, he saw a group of figures aggressively coming their way.

It was a group of men and women in pale azure uniforms with a symbol of a deer riding on clouds embroidered on the shoulders—the symbol of the Martial Dao Department!

"Oh, it's you guys." Little Fatty Liu Hui sounded a little puzzled.

The expressions on the others' faces changed when they recognized the people were a group of students from the Dao Martial Department!

In Qinglu Academy, the Hidden Dragon Department held the most students, especially new students. This was obvious from its name, Hidden Dragon.

The Martial Dao Department was different in that students who were able to train there had to be elites who had passed several selection processes. They were all top geniuses and heroes of the Spirit Sea Stage.

For example, the top one hundred students on the Spirit Sea Gold Ranking were all training within the Martial Dao Department!

As for the True Martial Department, it was more transcendental and mysterious as it was a cultivation place for Heaven Ascension cultivators. Rarely were True Martial Department students seen around the academy.

The Rune Department and Godly Stratagems were cultivation places specially prepared for rune masters and tacticians.

There were few chances for interactions between students of the different departments because of their different paths even though all of them were training in Qinglu Academy.

However, today was different. A group of elites from the Martial Dao Department stormed toward the Rune Department in an aggressive and threatening manner and made a huge fuss to see Lin Xun. They came to start trouble!



Regardless of how slow Little Fatty Liu Hui and the others were, they would know that many people in the academy had threatened to teach Lin Xun a lesson to wash away the humiliation that the imperial family had suffered.

“That way!”

The broken-gong-like voice rang again. It was from a youngster with sunken cheeks, small eyes, and a black mole on the corner of his lips.

He was Li Xiaofei, a pretty famous figure in the Dao Martial Department. His fame wasn’t attributed to his strength or powerful cultivation, but to the distinctive mole on the corner of his lips. He was nicknamed Mole because of that.

As his voice sounded, the Martial Dao students cast their gazes in their direction and their eyes immediately locked on Lin Xun.

“You’re Lin Xun? You’ve finally shown yourself. We have been waiting for you for a long time.”

Li Xiaofei rushed ahead, raised his chin, and studied Lin Xun closely. Suddenly, he smiled coldly, making the mole on his lips even more noticeable.

Based on his tone of voice, they were no doubt there to start trouble, and it made Little Fatty Liu Hui and other Rune Department students scrunch their brows.

“What do you want? This is the Rune Department and not a place for students of the Dao Martial Department to run wild!” Liu Hui thundered.

“Little fat thing, what are you talking about? Get lost, it’s none of your business. I suggest you not talk so much and not get involved. Be careful of getting yourself into trouble!”

Li Xiaofei shot Liu Hui a disdainful glance and then looked at Lin Xun and said threateningly, “Lin Xun, you should know what we came for. If you know what’s good for you then you should quickly come with us!”

His overbearing arrogance infuriated Liu Hui and the others. Lin Xun is a teacher. That guy is too arrogant! How can a student yell at and order a teacher about!?

“Mole, don’t be so arrogant. If you don’t stop now, I’m going to report to the higher-ups of the academy so you will be properly dealt with!” Yang Jingyao shouted.

She looked gentle and delicate, but she suddenly became very fierce and glowered at Li Xiaofei viciously.

She seemed familiar with Li Xiaofei as she addressed him by his nickname.

“Oh...the ninth miss of the Yang Family...”

As expected, Li Xiaofei’s expression stiffened and he stuttered, looking rather afraid.

Lin Xun couldn’t help but feel surprised because he had never thought that Yang Jingyao had such an impressive background.

However, after a thought, it made a lot of sense. He was in the best academy in the empire, so any person able to study there wouldn't be an ordinary person.

Suddenly, a woman from the Martial Dao Department said aloud, "Little Ninth Yang, stand aside. We are not here to cause trouble. We specifically came for Lin Xun."

Her eyes were bright like stars, her lips were cherry-red, her skin was delicate and soft, and her black hair flowed down her back like a waterfall, revealing her beautiful fair neck.

However, she donned an extremely cold expression and her brows were scrunched up condescendingly. She was like the ice on a mountain peak that mustn't be disturbed.

"Xue Yun, are you also here to start trouble for Little Instructor Lin?" Yang Jingyao wrinkled her brows, seemingly apprehensive of the beautiful woman called Xue Yun.

Xue Yun!

Everyone shuddered at her name as they knew that she was a genius maiden of the Martial Dao Department!

She was from a noble family, enjoyed a respectful status, and had a remarkable talent. She was ranked 19th on the Spirit Sea Gold Rankings.

It fell silent for a moment.

Xue Yun swept a cold glance over Yang Jingyao and ignored her. She turned to Lin Xun. "Come with us, since you showed up, you should pay a price for the wrong things you have done."

From the start, she sounded icily arrogant. Her voice and words were not aggressive, but oozing with superiority.

Lin Xun hadn't said a word but he vaguely guessed what they wanted. But there was one thing he was puzzled about.

"What wrong things have I done?" he asked.

"Hey, Lin Xun, are you still trying to deny it? Who doesn't know now that you disrespectfully forced the Marquis of Rising Sky to kneel, insulted the dignity of the imperial family, and committed a heinous crime!" Li Xiaofei snorted coldly.

Lin Xun suddenly smiled. "What does that have to do with you? Are you a member of the royal family? Look at you—your mouth sticks out and your chin is like an ape's. You have shifty eyes and such an ugly face. If you are a member of the imperial family, the heavens are blind to allow you to be born like that."

Fatty Liu Hui and the others burst into laughter. Lin Xun's description of Mole was too fitting.

"Little Instructor Lin, isn't it impolite to call other people ugly?" Yang Jingyao asked in a whisper.

"Who cares! He started it first! Little Instructor Lin is just telling the truth. How can he be rude for stating what everyone knows?" refuted Liu Hui.

Everyone else agreed. Mole was too arrogant and he was also unusually...ugly.

“You—you—how dare you!”

Li Xiaofei raged. He could endure jokes about his ugliness behind his back because he knew he was ugly, but he couldn't tolerate Lin Xun making fun of his weak point in front of everyone!

### The Prodigies War

#### **Chapter 475**

Lin Xun wasn't the least annoyed to be yelled at by Li Xiaofei. “Young man, if you're ugly, you should train more in order to not let other people look down on you. Otherwise, if you can't even marry an ugly wife, it would be very sad then.”

Some girls couldn't help but laugh out loud.

Li Xiaofei's lips quivered with anger. The fact that he was able to study at Qinglu Academy and joined the Dao Martial Department was already very impressive, but Lin Xun made him sound like such an unpleasant person.

“I want to fight against you!” Li Xiaofei bellowed, his eyes wide with fury.

“Enough, move aside.” Xue Yun scrunched her brows, annoyed that Li Xiaofei had lost his composure.

“I...” Li Xiaofei's expression turned dark and unpleasant. He shot a malicious look at Lin Xun and said nothing else.

“Lin Xun, what do you say?”

Xue Yunxing's bright eyes were cold, but her beautiful face was delicate and stunning. She had an icy personality and a noble air, so it made her seem extremely proud and aloof.

The men and women behind Xue Yun also stared at Lin Xun.

“Are you also a member of the imperial family?” Lin Xun asked with a smile.

A young man stepped forward and said sarcastically, “Lin Xun, were you not the one who forced the Marquis of Rising Sky to kneel? When did you become so cowardly? Could it be that you're afraid?”

He was Shi Yunpeng, an expert in the Dao Martial Department and also a leading figure of the younger generation.

“You can ask me that again when you can also force the Marquis of Rising Sky to kneel.” Lin Xun swept a glance over Shi Yunpeng as though implying that he was unworthy of speaking to him.

“You...” Shi Yunpeng was also infuriated.

He thought that Lin Xun was too arrogant to look down on him. After all, Shi Yunpeng was considered the number one figure in the Dao Martial Department. When had he ever been mocked in such a way before?

Suddenly, another young man stepped forward with a slight smile. He said leisurely, “Lin Xun, I forgot to tell you this. Isn't Lin Xuefeng your cousin? Did you know that he is like a scampering rat now? Everyone wants to beat him up.”

“Just a few days ago, he wanted to challenge me but, you know, he’s too weak so I accidentally wounded him badly. Now he has to rest and recuperate for who knows how long.”

Lin Xuefeng!

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. He finally showed a different reaction. Lin Xuefeng was the successor of the North Light Lin Clan, but more importantly, he was the first brother of the clan to submit to Lin Xun.

Lin Xun had never thought that Lin Xuefeng would be affected and bullied in Qinglu Academy because of him!

Unquestionably, they had flipped Lin Xun’s switch.

“What’s your name?” Lin Xun asked the young man.

“Jin Zhuliu,” the young man stated with a smile, his face glowing with pride.

Immediately, Liu Hui and Yang Jingyao became restless. It’s him!

Jin Zhuliu was a genius ranked ninth on the Spirit Sea Gold Ranking. His name had shaken the Dao Martial Department due to his many glorious achievements in the past.

Jin Zhuliu could be said to be more famous than Xue Yun and Shi Yunpeng.

“Lin Xun, I’m going to ask you again, what do you say?” Xue Yun asked coldly after taking a deep breath. Her patience was wearing out.

Lin Xun ran his eyes across Xue Yun, Shi Yunpeng, Jin Zhuliu, Li Xiaofei and the others, and then he smiled brightly. “It seems like that if I don’t agree, you won’t give up today.”

No one spoke as though they agreed.

“In that case, I’m curious as to how you guys plan to avenge the Marquis of Rising Sky?” asked Lin Xun.

“It’s not to avenge the Marquis of Rising Sky, but to wipe away the humiliation that the imperial family has suffered and allow you the chance to atone for the crime you have committed!” Shi Yunpeng said coldly.

“Do you want a battle?” asked Lin Xun.

“Correct.” Shi Yunpeng nodded.

“Okay!”

To everyone’s surprise, Lin Xun happily agreed.

The faces of Liu Hui, Yang Jingyao and the others were all clouded with worry, and they tried to dissuade him.

“Little Instructor Lin, don’t fight with them. They must have thought of a way to deal with you since they dared to challenge you.”

“Yes, as long as you stay in the Rune Department, no one will dare to touch you.”

Although the students had good intentions, Lin Xun shook his head and motioned them to not persuade him anymore.

"Let's go then." Lin Xun cast a glance at Xue Yun, put his hands behind his back, and strolled towards the distance.

"Although that guy is a bit troublesome...he has courage," Li Xiaofei muttered.

"Hmph, isn't this better? Go, tell Senior Brother Zhao Jingwen and Senior Brother Zuo Yujing that we have forced Lin Xun out of the Rune Department!" Shi Yunpeng ordered.

Xue Yun and the others walked with Lin Xun like they were escorting a prisoner.

"Let's go too! If they dared to make things difficult for Little Instructor Lin, we shouldn't let them!" the little fatty roared with righteous indignation.

"Yes, let's go too!"

The students of Class 9C set off together.

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The Dao Martial Department.

Ancient and grand buildings clustered together like a forest.

"What? Lin Xun came?"

"Go, let's go take a look."

"Haha, let's join the fun."

The peace was no doubt going to be disturbed today, especially in the Dao Martial Department. When the students learned that Lin Xun had come as asked, it immediately caused a huge sensation.

A group of people blocked Lin Xun's path as he stepped foot into the Dao Martial Department.

"You're Lin Xun? Why aren't you hiding like a turtle?" the people sneered.

Lin Xun ignored them and continued forward. He couldn't help but find the situation strange and wondered how the students were connected with the imperial family.

Could someone be secretly instigating this and trying to use the power of these students to humiliate me?

"Hmph, you're still so arrogant at such a time. You have a death wish! I'll tell you since you dared to set foot into the Dao Martial Department today, you must atone for the crimes you have committed!" someone else fumed.

Lin Xun continued to ignore the threats and moved forward under the leadership of Xue Yun and the others.

However, more and more figures appeared along the way, all of whom were Dao Martial Department students and many were top extraordinary figures of the Spirit Sea Stage.

However, they treated Lin Xun very badly. Along the way, they pointed and judged Lin Xun as he walked past. He was subjected to much mocking and humiliation.

Lin Xun was more and more certain that someone was behind that!

Whom could it be?

The Zuo Family? The Qin Family? Or the imperial family?

“Lin Xun, I’m talking to you! Do you hear me?” a white-haired young man thundered maliciously, his gaze was violent and wild. The fact that Lin Xun ignored him infuriated him.

Lin Xun glanced at Xue Yun and asked, “Who is the noisy white-haired boy? Could he be aging prematurely, so his mouth is out of control?”

It suddenly went utterly quiet. Everyone was shocked into silence, including Xue Yun, Jin Zhuliu and Shi Yunpeng.

It wasn’t until someone broke the silence with a burst of laughter. “Did I hear it right? That guy dared to call Lan Yu a white-haired boy? He also said he is aging prematurely! Hahaha—”

Everyone nearby donned strange expressions, and no one dared to laugh.

Lan Yu was a fierce character ranked fifth on the Spirit Sea Gold Rankings!

Lan Yu’s ancestors were in-laws with the imperial family, so he was considered half royalty. He had an outstanding aptitude but a fiery temper so not many people in the Dao Martial Department dared to offend him.

On the one hand, it was because of his special identity and status, but on the other hand, he possessed abnormal strength. He was regarded as one of the strongest in the Dao Martial Department, where elite cultivators accumulated.

White hair?

Lan Yu’s nose was almost crooked from the anger. Who in the world would dare to call him that?

Adding to that, Lin Xun said he was aging prematurely. He was a genius with a bright future and endless potential but someone dared to mock him in such a way!

“Lin Xun, it seems like you are tired of living,” Lan Yu hissed through gritted teeth, his face dark and unpleasant.

“White hair, take more care of your body and maybe you can live longer. You’re deteriorating at such a young age. You’re so pitiful.” Lin Xun sighed, shook his head, and continued forward.

Lan Yu boiled with rage. He couldn’t stand Lin Xun’s sympathetic sigh nor his vicious words.

“Do you want to die?” Murderous fury flashed in Lan Yu’s eyes.

Lin Xun cast a glance at him with the same pitiful expression.

“Young Master Lan Yu, ignore him. When he gets to the martial arts arena, you will have a chance to deal with him!” Li Xiaofei said ingratiatingly.

“Hmph!”

Lan Yu’s eyes were ice-cold as he glared at Lin Xun. “Do you dare to fight with me in the martial arts arena?”

Martial arts arena?

A flash of realization struck Lin Xun’s mind. It seems like they wanted to deal with me in the martial arts arena today.

“I suppose, but you will have to wait,” said Lin Xun with a smile.

“Wait for what? Are you afraid?” Lian Yu said disdainfully.

“You misunderstood. What I mean is that many people want to learn from me. You will have to wait in line. I will play with you after I deal with them.”

Lian Yu quivered with murderous rage at Lin Xun’s leisurely words. That guy is too arrogant! How dare he look down on me!

Even the faces of Xue Yun, Jin Zhuliu and Shi Yunpeng darkened. Lin Xun implied that he could finish them all by himself!

“Of course.” Lin Xun continued, “Not just anyone is qualified to challenge me. If you want to fight against me, you must at least bring out some wager.”

“Wager?”

Many people were dumbfounded. Not only did that guy not act humble when he arrived at the Dao Martial Department, but he’s also demanding a bet!

He’s...too arrogant!

Lan Yu was also a little taken aback by his demand. Only after a long moment did he ask, “What kind of wager are you thinking?”

Lin Xun grinned. “Academy points. Whoever wants to challenge me will have to wager all their points. I won’t accept anything below 1,000 points.”

One thousand points as a wager?

Everyone was speechless. What does this guy think the points are? One thousand points are worth as much as ten million gold coins!

“Why don’t you die!” Lan Yu fumed.

He felt that Lin Xun was deliberately messing around because even with his current status and strength, it had taken him several years to accumulate one thousand points!

## The Prodigies War

### Chapter 476

"What? You're so arrogant, so I thought you would have a lot of points but it turns out that you're that poor." A hint of contempt flashed in Lin Xun's eyes.

Lan Yu was so angry that he wanted to slap Lin Xun to death. "Do you know what one thousand points represent? How dare you make such a huge demand?"

"Then you must have 800 points, right?" Lin Xun asked again.

The veins popped on Lan Yu's forehead. Does this guy think academy points are as easy to get as a cabbages?

"What about five hundred points?"

Lin Xun's expression grew more and more contemptuous, "If you don't even have that much then maybe you should try to earn some points first before making fun of others."

Lan Yu's eyes glinted maliciously like he was about to kill. He wanted to teach Lin Xun a lesson, but he held back in the end and just drew a deep breath. "Fine, I agree to five hundred points!"

Lin Xun grinned and patted him on the shoulder. "Good, you can wait in line to challenge me then."

Lan Yu's face almost turned purple from anger when he saw Lin Xun's confident look.

"Oh, by the way, if you guys want to challenge me, remember to prepare your points as well. I won't embarrass you. When you lose, just give me all your points."

Lin Xun swept a glance across Xue Yun, Jin Zhuliu, Shi Yunpeng and the others. Their faces immediately darkened.

So arrogant!

He's too arrogant!

The other students' eyes went wide. Lin Xun is so fearless! Is he not afraid of retaliation?

"You can also notify other people to line up with their points if they want to learn from me."

Lin Xun's remark made all the nearby Dao Martial Department students redden with anger. Who does this guy think we are? Lambs waiting to be slaughtered?

"Lin Xun, don't look so smug! You will suffer later!"

"So infuriating. That guy is so annoying. Senior brothers and sisters, don't be nice to him!"

"Lin Xun, you are so arrogant! Do you think our Dao Martial Department is just decoration?"

Uproar broke out. Many people criticized and scolded Lin Xun.

That was the Dao Martial Department so the disturbance quickly attracted many people, and many students quickly informed others and invited more people to come.



"I have informed Senior Brother Yu Ruhuo. If he knew that Lin Xun was acting so arrogantly, he would definitely do something."

"Hey, I'll tell the students from aristocratic clans that are enemies with Lin Xun, such as the Hua Clan, the Song Clan and the Chi Clan."

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No crowd was considered too big when watching fun. Lin Xun's appearance would no doubt stir up a storm!

Lin Xun seemed to hear those remarks as he asked Li Xiaofei, "Ugly, where is the martial arts arena?"

Li Xiaofei flew into a rage, "Who are you calling ugly?!"

Lin Xun nodded and asked again, "Mole, where is the martial arts arena?"

Flames almost shot out from Li Xiaofei's eyes. He wanted to tear off Lin Xun's mouth.

"It's right ahead," Xue Yun said aloud, cold and indifferent.

Lin Xun raised his eyes and peered at the huge field and the ancient black stone platform ahead. It was stained with blood and marked with flowing obscure rune patterns.

That was the martial arts arena, a place for Dao Martial Department students to learn from one another. In the previous thousands of years, countless genius figures had fought earthshaking matches on it.

Masses of people had gathered around the martial arts arena when they heard the news that Lin Xun would duel there.

Moreover, many students were racing over from other areas.

"Come on, Lin Xun, I will teach you a lesson today. I will wash away the humiliation for the imperial family and make you know how high the sky is!" Lan Yu roared.

He wasn't the first to jump out, but he couldn't control himself after Lin Xun had repeatedly angered him on the way.

"White Hair, didn't I tell you to line up?" Lin Xun waved his hand dismissively.

The nearby people wanted to laugh but they didn't dare to. White Hair? Only Lin Xun would dare call Lan Yu that!

"Lin Xun, just you wait!" Lan Yu's face darkened.

However, Lin Xun ignored him completely and stepped into the martial arts arena. As he stood on the stone platform, he ran his eyes across Xue Yun, Jin Zhuliu and Shi Yunpeng. "You guys called me here. Now, which of you want to go first?"

"I'll go first!"

Shi Yunpeng strode forward, murderous intent surging around him.

"Wait." Lin Xun frowned. "Do you not know the rules?"

Shi Yunpeng was taken aback at first and then he shouted, "We've already waited so long. What else do you want?"

Lin Xun said in a displeased manner, "Hand over your identity plate first. I'm worried that you will refuse to acknowledge your loss and hand over your points later."

Shi Yunpeng lost his temper and threw his student nameplate to the side of the martial arts arena.

Lin Xun nodded. "Come up then."

Shi Yunpeng grunted and leapt onto the stone platform without any wavering. "Lin Xun, I'm going to kill you!"

With a loud boom, the bearing around him suddenly changed. Clouds rolled and mist spiraled. As he thrust his palm forward, reddened clouds growled with thunder and sharp cracks of lightning pierced the air.

He immediately mobilized all his strength and performed a unique inheritance art. His fingers and hands moved like they were enveloped with thunderbolts.

Little Wind Lightning Art!

Many people's eyes lit up. It was an ancient art of the Shi Clan!

Shi Yunpeng was not an ordinary person. He was a top figure in the Dao Martial Department. He possessed a cultivation base of the perfect Spirit Sea Stage and was ranked in the top fifty of the Spirit Sea Gold Rankings.

Many people ground their teeth in excitement when they saw him launch a devastating blow as his first attack.

Boom!

"You have some ability, but that's not enough." Lin Xun crushed the powerful blow with just one punch.

Many people were stunned into silence. That guy has such a bad mouth.

"Prepare to die!" Shi Yunpeng roared as he activated the Little Wind Thunder Art to its fullest. Reddened clouds rumbled and lightning flashed and boomed.

"Your voice is so loud so I thought you would be powerful, but it turns out that you're not that amazing. Young man, you shouldn't be so exaggerated." Lin Xun never stopped speaking as they fought.

"Die!"

Shi Yunpeng's eyes reddened, and his body surged with divine light. A terrifying aura of thunder and lightning rushed in from all directions.

The duel was very thrilling and exciting. The two both displayed their remarkable power on the stone platform, causing the wind and clouds to riot and dazzling lights to boom.

Outside the arena, many people cheered for Shi Yunpeng.

Some people looked at Lin Xun with disdain, thinking that Lin Xun wasn't that remarkable and the rumors were exaggerated. They started to wonder how such a fierce person such as the Marquis of Rising Sky would lose to Lin Xun.

"In any case, Lin Xun isn't bad. He's much stronger than the freshmen of the Hidden Dragon Department, but he's not good enough when compared to the students of our Martial Dao Department," Jin Zhuliu said leisurely.

"He's worthy of his fame," Xue Yun remarked indifferently.

The others also agreed. They had all come prepared to fight Lin Xun, but when they saw that Lin Xun was equally matched with Shi Yunpeng, they couldn't help but feel relieved. They thought that the rumors outside had been too exaggerated, and Lin Xun wasn't as amazing as rumored.

A small number of people donned strange and complicated expressions. They noticed the oddness right away. How would a savage and fierce person such as Lin Xun need to fight so hard?

There were a small number of people who were the descendants of noble families who had participated in the empress' birthday banquet. They had witnessed Lin Xun's amazing power and how he suppressed Chi Cangfeng and defeated the Marquis of Rising Sky!

Chi Cangmei was also among them. She had a deeper understanding of Lin Xun than the others, so she knew how terrifying Lin Xun was.

She could tell that Lin Xun was deliberately holding back his strength. He was worried that he would scare off some people if he performed too well and lose out on their wagers.

"That guy is so scheming. He's trying to deceive people."

Chi Cangmei sighed inwardly, but she didn't expose him. Lin Xun had defeated her younger brother Chi Cangfeng, and he was still mocked and looked down upon by many people to this day.

She hoped that more people would jump into the pit that Lin Xun had dug and have a taste of being suppressed by Lin Xun.

On the other side, Hua Wuyou was standing with an icy expression. She hated Lin Xun to the bone as well because he would have killed her if one of the experts in her clan hadn't rescued her in time.

Naturally, she hoped that someone would teach Lin Xun a lesson and even cripple him.

However, she could tell that Lin Xun's performance was strange. If he was actually this weak, how could he beat me?

He is doing that deliberately!

"Wuyou, is he the one who defeated you? He doesn't look that amazing," a pretty maiden giggled.

A gush of anger surged in Hua Wuyou's heart, but she said indifferently, "Lady Xianxian, you and the Marquis of Rising Sky are both members of the imperial family, so why don't you take this opportunity to personally teach Lin Xun a lesson to avenge the marquis?"

The pretty girl called Lady Xianxian was taken aback at first. Then, a proud smile curved her lips. “He’s too weak and not worth me doing anything.”

Hua Wuyou no longer said anything else. She just snorted inwardly. He’s too weak? He forced the Marquis of Rising Sky to kneel! How ignorant.

In the martial arts arena, they continued to exchange blows, each matching the other’s skill. After five hundred fierce rounds, Shi Yunpeng was finally defeated.

An uproar erupted from the audience. The battle had been extremely fierce all along, but no one saw how Shi Yunpeng was defeated!

“Young man, go back and cultivate for a few more years. You and I are not on the same level. If I hadn’t shown mercy, you would have been defeated long ago.”

Lin Xun’s forehead was beaded with sweat, and his breathing was quicker than usual but he still spoke in a superior manner as he looked down at Shi Yunpeng.

“Boo—”

A chorus of boos erupted in the audience. He had to fight five hundred rounds before he could defeat Shi Yunpeng, but he said they are not on the same level!

Lin Xun is so shameless. He is brazenly spewing nonsense. Is he not afraid of being struck by lightning?

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 477**

Lin Xun’s comments caused the veins to bulge on Shi Yunpeng’s forehead. He had lost. That shameful bastard had defeated him in front of everyone, making him feel sullen, frustrated, and humiliated.

“Let’s fight again if you have the balls!”

Shi Yunpeng bellowed, unable to accept the result. In the duel, he had been fiercely fighting for five hundred rounds and was already beginning to see the chance to win.

In the end, however, he had bafflingly been swatted out of the arena with a slap. In fact, he still didn’t quite understand what had happened.

By this time, Lin Xun had retrieved the identity token left behind by Shi Yunpeng and discovered that there were roughly three hundred points inside.

Lin Xun unhappily said, “You have too few points. If you want to fight me again, you should bring at least five hundred. Otherwise, I don’t see much point in giving you guidance.”

Shi Yunpeng’s entire body trembled in anger as he ground his teeth so hard they nearly cracked. Lin Xun was far too infuriating.

Numerous people jeered. They could not tolerate how arrogant he was acting since they were still under the impression that it had been a hard-fought victory for him.

"You guys aren't convinced either? That's fine. Line up here with your points, I guarantee that I will accompany everyone until the end."

Lin Xun displayed a wide grin.

The enraged students loudly chided, "Lin Xun, don't be too cocky!"

"A true man doesn't just talk. Bring it on if you have the guts. Those who only know how to mouth off can get lost."

Lin Xun was not the least bit affected, which triggered the crowd even more.

"I'll fight you!"

Lan Yu thundered. He could no longer continue watching.

"White Hair, go and stand in the queue. It's not your turn yet."

Lin Xun cast a disdainful glance at him.

Again with the white hair!

Lan Yu's eyes were red with rage. He was one of the top five most dazzling heaven prides on the Spirit Sea Gold Rankings, and his ancestor had marital ties to the royal family. As someone who was shown respect wherever he went, he had never been called something as insulting as 'White Hair' before.

"I'll make sure you die a very ugly death later!"

Lan Yu murderously hissed each word.

Lin Xun offhandedly acknowledged the remark as he rolled his eyes. His arrogant attitude was unbearable to the Dao Martial Department students.

This is the Dao Martial Department!

Who has ever dared to show such impudence here?

Today, the insufferably arrogant Lin Xun had come and showed them that he dared. It was utterly infuriating.

However, Lin Xun could care less about such things. It was the first day since he had emerged from his seclusion, and yet he had already found a huge group of people at the entrance of Mind Cleansing Peak. It was as if any random person had come thinking it was a public market.

After dealing with them, Lin Xun thought he could focus on his weapon smithing at Qinglu Academy. Who could have anticipated that he would suddenly be provoked by these Dao Martial Department students?

Lin Xun was certain that someone was pulling the strings behind the scenes. Hence, he knew that lowering his head and showing tolerance would not allow him to pass the storm.

The series of events had also genuinely angered him. If he did not stir up a huge enough fuss, even more clowns would keep popping out in the future.

“I’ll fight you!”

Xue Yun stepped forward with a frosty expression akin to a lonely, proud snowy mountain.

Everyone was surprised. They had not expected that even someone like Xue Yun could no longer tolerate Lin Xun’s arrogance. Soon after, the crowd grew excited.

Xue Yun!

She was a well-known heaven pride in the Dao Martial Department who was ranked nineteenth on the Spirit Sea Golden Rankings. Moreover, she came from a noble clan and was very beautiful, making her the target of adoration from numerous young disciples in the department.

Hence, the entire place erupted upon seeing that she would be the second challenger.

“Senior Sister Xue Yun, you must teach that punk a lesson! Let him know the power of our Dao Martial Department!”

Several male students loudly cheered for Xue Yun.

Only a small minority like Chi Cangmei and Hua Wuyou, who understood Lin Xun the most, bore strange expressions. Yet another person has jumped into the trap, and it’s even a popular girl.

Hua Wuyou suddenly asked, “Lady Xianxian, have you heard that a phoenix with its feathers plucked is even lower than a chicken?”

“Eh? What did you say?”

The pretty lady beside her was taken aback.

“Nothing.”

Hua Wuyou did not wish to explain further. In her heart, Xue Yun was about to become a featherless phoenix...

“Wait a moment, did you bring enough points? I won’t lower the requirement just because you’re a girl.”

In the arena, Lin Xun grinned as he looked at Xue Yun.

Several people were stupefied. He was being so disrespectful to Senior Sister Xue Yun! Does he not know the meaning of chivalry?

“Such a person only cares about points. Sisters, make sure you stay far away from these kinds of men!”

One of the female students angrily shouted, drawing several many shouts of agreement.

“We’ll see how much longer you can keep this up!”

Xue Yun’s eyes were ice-cold as she tossed her identity token at him.

With a leap, she landed in the arena and indifferently said, “Lin Xun, if you lose, you’ll have to pay for your crime and apologize to the royal family.”

Lin Xun smiled. "We talk about it after you defeat me."

Rumble!

There was nothing more for Xue Yun to say. Thousands of purple rays instantly shot out of her body, turning into sharp blades that swiftly enveloped Lin Xun.

"Interesting." Lin Xun advanced to meet the attack.

The battle erupted. It was already more exciting than the duel with Shi Yunpeng.

Wave after wave of cheers soared into the clouds. It was, of course, all in support of Xue Yun.

Her white clothes fluttered as her long hair danced around her. Her eyes seemed misty with frost, and her skin sparkled like crystal, giving others a sensation of a snow-like, ethereal beauty.

Streams of purple light flew everywhere, bathing the arena in a dream-like glow. The attacks grew increasingly extraordinary as they suppressed Lin Xun and left him no choice but to occasionally take evasive maneuvers.

Many male students revealed infatuated expressions. Even several of the female students had no choice but to admit that Xue Yun was indeed a rare and incomparably dazzling heaven pride.

"Senior Sister Xue Yun is like a fairy from the nine heavens while Lin Xun is just a clown that won't be able to continue hopping around much longer."

One of the young men slowly remarked. His words were filled with admiration and praise.

"Agreed. Senior Sister Xue Yun's Purple Light Ruyi Art has become increasingly refined. I don't think it'll be long before she ascends to the Heaven Ascension stage and enters the True Martial Department."

In their eyes, Lin Xun was being completely suppressed by Xue Yun and felt like a pathetic little clown in comparison to her unmatched strength and grace.

The battle quickly reached the five-hundredth round.

Piak!

The clear and crisp sound of a slap rang out in the arena.

While the crowd was admiring Xue Yun's grace and enthusiastically cheering for her, they suddenly saw her stagger a dozen steps backward.

A red handprint appeared on her beautiful face which soon began to swell.

The worst was yet to come. Xue Yun ultimately failed to stabilize herself and fell off the arena.

The cheers abruptly stopped as everyone's eyes widened in shock.

What the hell happened? Xue Yun had been slapped out of the arena?

This...this...how is this possible?

Numerous people were frozen in shock as if they had seen a ghost. Just moments ago, Lin Xun had been barely able to hang on. How had things become like this in the blink of an eye?

The entire place was deathly silent.

"Eh, sorry about that. I used too much strength, wasn't able to pull back in time, and ended up hitting your face. My greatest apologies."

Although Lin Xun's words were apologetic, his expression appeared extremely insincere, causing numerous spectators to grind their teeth in anger.

How loathsome!

Xue Yun was their goddess. However, she had been slapped in the face by this obnoxious, vile, and abominable bastard in public. It was a heinous act that should be punished by the wrath of heaven!

Xue Yun was stunned on the ground as if she had been knocked into a daze by the slap. It was a long time later before she finally returned to her senses. She glared at Lin Xun in resentment, unable to hold back her rage as she shrieked, "I'm going to kill you!"

She had always been the exalted moon that was surrounded by and adored by many. Who could have expected that she would one day be slapped in the face?

She was absolutely enraged and wanted to kill Lin Xun at all costs.

Lin Xun unhappily chided, "Can't admit your loss? This makes me very disappointed in the Dao Martial Department. It's only a slap. Take it as a lesson that you shouldn't be so overbearing in the future."

"Xue Yun, bear with it for a moment. I'll take care of this runt!"

Jin Zhuliu stepped forward to stop Xue Yun, who was about to lose control, and led her away. It would only feel worse if she stayed.

By this time, the crowd also returned to their senses, realizing that Xue Yun had indeed been defeated by a slap. For a time, everyone furiously cursed at Lin Xun.

"Lin Xun, are you still a man? Is this how you treat women? You're less than an animal!"

"Bah! So ruthless even against a woman, how shameful!"

"Don't stop me, I'm going to avenge Senior Sister Xue Yun and kill the bastard!"

Lin Xun stood alone in the arena, trying to catch his breath. His face was pale and he was drenched in sweat, making it look as if he was at his limit.

Despite this, he still put up an act and sighed, "The world is full of unpredictability, but it is still so difficult to find a worthy opponent. It is so lonely at the top."

The crowd was speechless.

You're clearly already so exhausted. What worthy opponent? Can you not be so fake and shameless?

Chi Cangmei sighed inwardly.



What a master at drawing hate. A single sentence and now everyone is rebuking him.

“Is this the featherless phoenix you were referring to?”

Lady Xianxian seemed to understand Hua Wuyou’s earlier remark.

Hua Wuyou expressionlessly replied, “I wasn’t referring to Xue Yun.”

Lady Xianxian had a thoughtful look. She had a faint feeling that there was a problem with Lin Xun!

“Only two hundred points. And here I was thinking you were actually somebody.”

In the arena, Lin Xun could not help but remark after he picked up Xue Yun’s identity token. His words had been caught by a few sharper individuals, causing them to shout in anger again.

However, Lin Xun soon realized that it was actually very difficult to accumulate points in the academy. After all, the students were here to cultivate, and it cost points to buy medicine, access martial manuals, participate in external training exercises...almost everything required them to spend points.

“Lin Xun, I’ll fight you!”

Jin Zhuliu returned. His cold eyes seemed to flash like lightning as a chilling killing intent spread.

Iceiness flashed in the depths of Lin Xun’s eyes. He has finally jumped out!

Jin Zhuliu had personally bragged that he had seriously injured Lin Xuefeng, who had yet to recover even until today!

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 478**

Jin Zhuliu was ranked nine on the Spirit Sea Golden Rankings. He was famous in the Dao Martial Department and boasted extremely illustrious battle accomplishments.

He was a tall, handsome young man. Every movement he made gave off an oppressive pressure that could only belong to a battle-hardened veteran.

Pah!

Without wasting any time, Jin Zhuliu threw out his identity token and arrived in the arena. His figure was as straight as a spear. Strands of light rose around him, making him appear refined and elegant.

Excitement immediately filled the air. The crowd was more pissed than ever with Lin Xun, and Jin Zhuliu’s entrance finally made them see hope that Lin Xun would soon be crushed.

“Taking turns to challenge me? Sure, let me rest for a while first. Even a Heaven Ascension expert won’t be able to take it after two consecutive battles.”

Lin Xun sat on the ground as he spoke.

The crowd was immediately filled with disdain. What a thick-skinned fellow. Even a Heaven Ascension expert won’t be able to take it? An expert of that level could continuously fight for three days without tiring!

Jin Zhuliu was expressionless as he frostily said, "I'll give you the time. Do you need any recovery medicine?"

Lin Xun smiled and replied, "I'll have to decline. What if it's poisoned? I heard that there are several poisons that can cause someone to lose their strength without anyone noticing."

"You..."

Jin Zhuliu's expression somehow turned even colder. It was a long time later before he finally said, "Later, I will let you taste the same miserable defeat that your cousin, Lin Xuefeng, experienced."

It was a clear provocation. However, Lin Xun merely smiled faintly in response.

After a long time, Lin Xun rose to his feet and energetically said, "Come then."

"Hmph!"

Jin Zhuliu's icy snort rumbled like thunder as brandished his battle spear and ferociously attacked like a god of war.

Rumble~

The air wailed in the arena as the sky seemed to change color. These phenomena were caused by Jin Zhuliu.

There was no doubt that he was very powerful. His spear shone brilliantly, and his aura was mighty and fierce, making it feel as if he could slay any gods or buddhas in his path. It was to be expected of the ninth ranker of the Spirit Sea Golden Rankings.

Numerous students were stunned by his power.

Chi Cangmei's, Hua Wuyou's, and the others' expressions turned serious. The strength Jin Zhuliu displayed did not lose to any elite heaven pride.

This was especially so in battle because Jin Zhuliu's unmatched bravery allowed him to display overwhelming combat power. In fact, he was not the least bit inferior even when compared to the likes of the Marquis of Rising Sky, Zhao Jingyin.

"Kill."

The only sound that could be heard in the arena was Jin Zhuliu's murderous roar. It boomed across the nine heavens like thunder, his black hair wildly dancing around him, as his spear thrust with deadly force. A murderous qi unfurled across the area, drawing numerous gasps from the crowd.

In contrast, Lin Xun appeared dull and ordinary. He was brutally suppressed and was nearly knocked out of the arena several times. It was clear that his defeat was imminent.

Numerous people had arrived at some unknown time such as the Spirit Sea Golden Rankings third-ranked Zuo Yujing, the most royal disciple, Zhao Jinwen...

There was also no lack of students from other departments such as the Rune Department, Godly Stratagems Department, Hidden Dragon Department... In fact, even several instructors had been drawn over to watch the fight.

Ning Meng, Shi Yu, Ye Xiaoqi, Gong Ming...and Lin Xun's other old friends, who were currently cultivating in the Hidden Dragon Department, had also rushed over.

They were rather bewildered to find that Lin Xun was fighting in the Dao Martial Department. They had originally believed he was still in secluded cultivation in Mind Cleansing Peak and had not expected that he had not only exited his seclusion but had also stirred up such a commotion in Qinglu Academy.

"Something is amiss."

Ye Xiaoqi widened his eyes.

"Heh heh heh heh."

Upon hearing this, Shi Yu and Ning Meng could not help but laugh as they displayed strange and mysterious smiles.

"What's wrong with you guys? Can't you see that Lin Xun is being suppressed and is going to be defeated soon!"

Ye Xiaoqi glared at them.

"Sigh, you don't understand Lin Xun at all. He might seem completely harmless, but he's eviler and more devious than anyone else."

Ning Meng patted Ye Xiaoqi's shoulder as if he had already seen this play out countless times before.

Shi Yu unhurriedly said, "Jin Zhuliu is going to suffer soon."

Ye Xiaoqi was taken aback. He knew something was up but could not figure out what it was.

Gong Ming, who had been silent since the beginning, remarked, "It does seem that he's pretending to be a pig to eat a tiger."

Ye Xiaoqi was just about to say something when an uproar rose around them.

In the arena, Lin Xun's fist smashed into Jin Zhuliu's shoulder, sending him flying.

No one had seen what had happened. Lin Xun had clearly been dodging and had been about to lose a split second earlier, but then Jin Zhuliu was suddenly forced back!

Everyone was confused. Something just didn't add up.

The corners of Ye Xiaoqi's mouth violently twitched. He finally understood that Lin Xun had been putting up an act!

"Kill!"

Jin Zhuliu loudly shouted. He was also confused and dazed due to Lin Xun's punch and had not expected him to still be capable of counterattacking.

However, Lin Xun flickered forward like a phantom, avoiding several attacks before sending a vicious kick at Jin Zhuliu's abdomen.

Lin Xun's speed was too quick. The crowd was unable to keep up and only managed to catch Jin Zhuliu screaming in pain before he doubled over and fell face-first onto the ground.

This...

Everyone was stupefied. Jin Zhuliu had been so valiant and domineering just moments ago. Why was he suddenly unable to suppress Lin Xun?

"The revenge begins."

By now, Chi Cangmei and Hua Wuyou could tell that even Jin Zhuliu was no match for Lin Xun.

Both of them were astonished. Lin Xun had vanished from the public eye for two months, and he seemed to have become even stronger after emerging. They found themselves unable to gauge how strong he had become.

"Die!"

Jin Zhuliu clearly still refused to believe what was happening. His face was white with rage, and his hair messily scattered around him as he swung his spear. His body gave off a resplendent glow as a terrifying pressure pulsed from him.

"Heh heh."

Lin Xun's smile was equally dazzling, but became filled with provocation and ridicule when it entered Jin Zhuliu's eyes.

To the audience, Lin Xun's smile also felt very offensive and akin to the smile of a smug, petty clown!

Piak!

Jin Zhuliu soon received a slap on his head, leaving a blood-red handprint on his forehead. The crowd was shocked and began to realize that something was wrong.

Lin Xun remarked, "What a hard head you have. Can't believe it wasn't smashed to a pulp."

"You're courting death!"

Jin Zhuliu could no longer maintain his composure. His eyes turned bloodshot, and his face white with fury as he unleashed a thunderous roar and madly charged again.

Rumble~

In the arena, space distorted as light surged through the air. The blinding light was so harsh that no one dared to look directly.

"You're no good. How about you admit defeat now? I still have to spar with others later and can't waste too much time on you."

As Lin Xun's voice rang out, a punch viciously smashed into Jin Zhuliu's face. His nose and mouth bled and several of his teeth were knocked loose, causing him to scream in agony.

Everyone could almost feel his pain and panic. What a vicious punch!

Some of the sharper individuals had already realized that Lin Xun had been acting weak earlier!

"I'll kill you!"

With a roar, Jin Zhuliu charged once again.

His hair was in a mess, and his face was swollen and red like a pig. It was a miserable look with no trace of his earlier elegance. Instead, he resembled an enraged beast that was driven by rage and instinct.

Under the crowd's watching gazes, Jin Zhuliu was first sent flying by a punch before receiving a stomp to the stomach and then another slap to the head. By this time, even his face had nearly caved in. How could he possibly endure such brutality?

Worst of all, Lin Xun maintained the same bright smile from start to end and never relented on the taunting, making it impossible for Jin Zhuliu to keep his cool.

"He's doing it on purpose!"

"He must have been acting weak against Shi Yunpeng and Xue Yun earlier and was tricking everyone from the start!"

By this time, even the slowest person had realized what was happening. Their expressions became an interesting mix of bewilderment, sullenness, anger, hatred, and shock.

The truth was very difficult for them to accept. They had originally believed that even if Lin Xun was a dragon, he would have to behave in the Dao Martial Department. None of them would ever have imagined that he had never once used his true power since the beginning!

The most infuriating part was that they had only realized this now.

It was too much!

"You already knew?"

Lady Xianxian had an unhappy look on her face.

"How can someone who can beat the Marquis of Rising Sky be a simple individual?"

Hua Wuyou was expressionless.

Ning Meng, Shi Yu, Ye Xiaoqi, Gong Ming, and the others were openly laughing. As they had expected, Lin Xun had trapped yet another fool.

Boom!

An earth-shaking collision occurred in the arena. When the dust cleared, Jin Zhuliu was found pressed to the ground with a foot on his body, making it impossible for him to get up.

The foot naturally belonged to Lin Xun.

The crowd went completely silent. Numerous people were stunned, unable to believe their eyes.

Compared to Shi Yunpeng and Xue Yun, Jin Zhuliu had lost far more miserably. It was a difficult scene for the crowd to swallow.

That was the ninth ranker on the Spirit Sea Gold Rankings. How had he been subdued so easily?

They could not accept this outcome.

No one's expression was more entertaining than Lan Yu's. He had nearly coughed blood in frustration from being insulted by Lin Xun and had been denied the chance of fighting him several times, making him feel even worse.

Lan Yu was originally worried that Lin Xun would lose to Jin Zhuliu, leaving him with no outlet for his anger. After seeing the end of their fight, however, his face had turned rigid as his expression turned grim and uncertain.

He was no fool and could naturally tell that Lin Xun had not once used his true power! Moreover, Jin Zhuliu's miserable defeat scared him.

How is this hateful bastard so strong?

Lan Yu wasn't the only one. Everyone present could not comprehend this either.

"Sigh, three wins in a row."

Lin Xun sighed as he kicked Jin Zhuliu off the arena. His body crashed to the ground and he fell, unconscious.

Lin Xun had used his true power to seriously injure Jin Zhuliu. It would not be easy for him to recover.

There wasn't much choice since killing was forbidden in Qinglu Academy. Otherwise, Lin Xun would not have minded taking Jin Zhuliu's life.

Jin Zhuliu has lost!

The crowd finally realized Lin Xun's strength. Although they heard his sigh, they did not feel as angry as before, though their expressions were still very ugly.

Arrogant!

It was absolute arrogance that viewed all of them as insignificant!

How hateful!

Lin Xun gaze slowly looked around as he unhurriedly asked, "Anyone else?"

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 479**

Anyone else?

The words had been said very casually without any hint of oppressiveness.

However, this nonchalant attitude made the Dao Martial Department students very angry.

Arrogant, too arrogant!

No matter how angry or sullen they felt, no one dared to step into the arena and face Lin Xun.

They already understood that Lin Xun was not just arrogant as his strength was the real deal.

Shi Yunpeng's, Xue Yun's, and Jin Zhuliu's defeats had already clearly proven this.

Only a fool would continue to underestimate Lin Xun at this juncture.

Many people were also alarmed. The three defeated students were elites of the Dao Martial Academy and were pretty famous on the Spirit Sea Golden Rankings.

Since even they weren't Lin Xun's match, it was easy to imagine how strong his current cultivation was. It would be impossible to subdue him without sending a powerhouse.

Chi Cangmei, Hua Wuyou, and the others who had grudges against Lin Xun before had complicated feelings. It had only been two months, but Lin Xun seemed to have transformed into a completely different person who was becoming increasingly impossible to measure.

They could still remember that Lin Xun had only possessed intermediate Spirit Sea cultivation when he had defeated the Marquis of Rising Sky during the empress' birthday celebration.

Now, he was already a proud perfect Spirit Sea expert!

In the distance, Shi Yu sighed, "Sigh, now that everyone has seen through his act, even a fool would know not to jump into his trap."

This also resonated deeply with Ning Meng, Ye Xiaoqi, and Ming Gong. They were honestly astonished by Lin Xun's current strength.

He was becoming more and more abnormal. His rapid progress had rocketed him so far ahead of them that it began to feel impossible to catch up.

In the arena, Lin Xun could not help but sigh inwardly. He knew the ruse was up, and he could no longer trick people like earlier.

He suddenly looked toward Li Xiaofei with a playful smile and shouted, "Mister Ugly, it's your turn."

Li Xiaofei's expression immediately turned ugly as he roared, "Lin Xun, don't be so happy yet. Do you really think the Dao Martial Department has no capable individuals?"

Lin Xun frowned, "Since that's the case, why don't you come up and fight?"

"I..."

Li Xiaofei's expression changed indeterminately. If it was before, he would have already leapt onto the arena by now. However, even the likes of Shi Yunpeng, Xue Yun, and Jin Zhuliu had lost. How could he possibly have the courage to duel Lin Xun?

Lin Xun disdainfully said, “Hehe, is this how a student of the Dao Martial Department acts? How disappointing?”

The students were immediately triggered and began yelling.

“What the hell, Mole? Don’t you even have the balls to accept a single fight?”

“Quickly get up there and destroy him! Didn’t you hear him insult you?”

“Even if you lose, lose like a man. How can you be afraid of even accepting a duel?”

Li Xiaofei was nearly about to cry. God damnit, you guys want me to go up and receive a beating? Didn’t you all see how Jin Zhuliu was brutalized till he was about to cry for his parents?

“Never mind, I’ll let you off since you’re a coward.”

In the arena, Lin Xun let out a soft sigh. His gaze slowly moved across the crowd. Every student he looked at felt uncomfortable as if they were afraid of being selected by him.

In the end, Lin Xun’s gaze stopped on the white-haired youngster, Lan Yu.

“White Hair, I’m sure you’ve been itching to get it on. Come, I’ll give you the chance to fight me now.”

Lin Xun displayed a dazzling smile.

Lan Yu’s expression changed indeterminately as he struggled internally.

Earlier, he had wished he could be the first to face and destroy Lin Xun. However, witnessing the earlier battles made Lan Yu regain his calm and realize that Lin Xun was no ordinary individual. If he were to fight and ultimately lose, it would be a huge loss of face.

Hence, no matter how sullen, frustrated, and angry he felt, he was already thinking about withdrawing and did not wish to come into conflict with Lin Xun.

However, Lan Yu had not expected to be called out by Lin Xun!

White Hair!

Again with that humiliating name-calling. It made Lan Yu almost want to rip his hair out.

“Why? Have you also become a coward as well?”

Lin Xun frowned.

“Since you want to die, I shall grant your wish!”

Lan Yu was completely enraged and dashed into the arena with a roar. He could no longer afford to have any more concerns. If backed down now, he would soon become a laughing stock in the Dao Martial Department.

Cheers immediately sounded all around.

Lan Yu was ranked top five in the Spirit Sea Golden Rankings. With him pitted against Lin Xun, there was surely going to be an exciting battle soon!



However, there was one slight difference from earlier. A good portion of the crowd was now worried about what would follow if even the likes of Lan Yu was defeated.

Shi Yu, Ning Meng, and the others chuckled evilly as if they were watching a pig that was about to be slaughtered.

In the arena, a battle erupted once again.

This time, Lin Xun did not hide his strength because there was no longer any need to do so.

Rumble!

His back was straight, and his black hair danced around him as he used the Hornless Ice Dragon Step. It made it seem as if he could walk amidst the mist as a faint azure glow surrounded his body.

The crowd felt a change occur in Lin Xun as an ungraspable and ethereal aura spread from his body. Paired with his deep black eyes and his handsome features, it made him seem like a spring deep in the mountains or a cool breeze from a holy land. It was as if he had transcended his mortal existence.

Even his attacks had become simple, natural, and ethereal, yet also whole, perfect, and harmonious.

It was a sensation akin to being perfect like the full moon, in complete harmony with nature, and returning to the most basic truth!

Someone asked in a trembling voice, "Is this his real strength?"

Numerous Dao Martial Department students were stunned. Lin Xun gave off an indescribable elegance that made them fearful.

It was an invisible pressure that was somehow whole yet ethereal and able to intimidate the soul.

In the distance, the instructors' hearts stirred at this moment. With their superior cultivation, they could naturally tell that Lin Xun had attained the perfect pinnacle of the Spirit Sea stage. He was akin to a king that could easily overwhelm most cultivators from the same generation.

"How the hell does he cultivate?"

Shi Yu, Ning Meng, and the others' expressions turned serious, astonished by the brilliance Lin Xun had displayed.

Even the Dao Martial Department students who had viewed Lin Xun with disdain and hatred had no choice but to admit that the strength he displayed was supreme!

Moments later, Lan Yu admitted defeat. There was no longer any anger on his face, only bitterness and a slightly lost look.

Only after exchanging blows did he finally realize Lin Xun's strength. All of Lan Yu's techniques and tactics were effortlessly neutralized, making it such that he could not even put up a struggle.

He knew that it wasn't because he was weak. Instead, his opponent was too strong. Against someone at the pinnacle, it would only be a certain defeat unless you possessed an equal level of cultivation.

Hence, Lan Yu cleanly admitted defeat.

Lin Xun did not make things difficult. In fact, he was a little impressed by Lan Yu's attitude.

Lan Yu has admitted defeat!

The entire place was silent. Their gazes changed when they looked toward Lin Xun again. Their initial disdain, anger, and hatred had turned into wariness, bewilderment, and astonishment.

No one had expected such a young man to possess such frightening cultivation.

At this point, everyone understood that Shi Yunpeng's, Xue Yun's, and Jin Zhuliu's defeats were not surprising.

Even in the Dao Martial Department, someone like Lin Xun would be hard-pressed to find any worthy rivals.

"He's incredible. His qi flows perfectly, and his cultivation has reached the peak of the Spirit Sea stage. With every gesture, he seems to shift ever so closer to ascending beyond."

In the distance, a young man wearing a jade robe softly sighed in admiration. He was not handsome, but he gave off an astonishingly heroic aura. His eyes shone like stars, and his brows were shaped like swords. As he stood there with his hands behind his back, he gave off the sensation that he could exist even without the rest of the world.

He was called Zhao Jingwen and was a descendant of the imperial family. His bloodline was very pure and his grandfather was the current emperor's brother!

In the Dao Martial Department, Zhao Jingwen was akin to a proud rising sun. His talent stood above everyone else's like a king, and he occupied the number one spot on the Spirit Sea Golden Rankings!

"I'll go test him later."

A voice sounded from his side. It originated from a dignified-looking man with a wide forehead and a thin face. His eyes shone brilliantly as he gave off a dangerous and intimidating aura akin to a peerless sword.

He was Zuo Yujing, a descendant of the Zuo Clan. He was also a famous heaven pride that was ranked third on the Spirit Sea Golden Rankings.

"It's fine. There aren't many chances left to suppress him this time, and it will not be appropriate to move against him at this juncture. After all, he has already fought four battles in a row. Even if you defeat him, it will not be a good victory."

Zhao Jingwen softly sighed.

"We're going to let this go just like that?"

Zuo Yujing frowned.

"Don't be too anxious. I merely wanted to test him and figure out his capability. From the looks of it, he does live up to his reputation."

Zhao Wenjing's eyes turned deep as he pondered, "Most importantly, it is essentially impossible to kill him in Qinglu Academy, and even I do not dare to act too recklessly here. Since that's the case, we might as well withdraw for the time being such as not to alert him."

Zuo Yujing still seemed somewhat reluctant, "He's merely the spawn of a fallen clan who can be killed at whim. Why the need to go through such trouble?"

"You don't understand. If it was that easy to kill him, he would have long been eliminated when he forced my elder brother Zhao Jingyin to kneel. Let's go. There will be opportunities in the future. We'll let him live a little longer."

Zhao Jingwen turned around and left.

Zuo Yujing was taken aback. He cast an icy glance at Lin Xun before taking a deep breath and following Zhao Jingwen.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun seemed to sense something and looked in their direction. He immediately frowned when he caught sight of Zuo Yujing's and Zhao Wenjing's figures.

Two experts!

Much stronger than the likes of Lan Yu.

This was Lin Xun's evaluation. Despite being at the peak Spirit Sea stage, the two individuals gave him a faint dangerous sensation.

Lin Xun suddenly did not dare to underestimate the Dao Martial Department. As a place where talented individuals gathered in Qinglu Academy, it had frightening foundations and was full of hidden experts.

Lin Xun soon cast away these thoughts. Although he had defeated Lan Yu, he did not plan to stop there and intended to keep fighting in order to discover the mastermind.

After all, Lin Xun had offended the imperial family whom these students did not have much relation to. Despite this, many of them had provoked him aggressively. Even a fool would realize that there was something fishy going on.

Unfortunately, Lin Xun did not get what he wished. A senior instructor of the Dao Martial Department appeared and put a stop to the entire affair. He sternly scolded the students and quickly cleared the area.

Although the Dao Martial Department students were reluctant to accept the current results, they knew that it would be meaningless to continue unless one of their supreme elites appeared because Lin Xun would only continue winning otherwise.

"Lin Xun, you're a respected instructor of the Rune Department. It is unbecoming of you to come here and clash with the Dao Martial Department students."

The senior instructor frowned. He was called Wang Qingtian and was an almighty Heaven Ascension cultivator.

Lin Xun shrugged and said, "Senior, would you believe it if someone else has set this trap for me? You should have seen earlier that the students wanted to subdue me and force me to apologize to the imperial family."

Wang Qingtian was taken aback. He seemed to recall something and sighed, "Don't worry, I can guarantee that in the Qinglu Academy at least, no one will dare to take your life."

Lin Xun smiled brightly as he responded, "I hope so."

Although Wang Qingtian had an idea of what was going on, he clearly did not wish to be entangled in the matter and hurriedly left.

"Damn, son, you're becoming more and more impressive!"

Ning Meng strode over, patted Lin Xun's shoulder, and heartily laughed.

"Indeed, it will not be long before this news shakes the entire Qinglu Academy. After all, everyone will want to hear more about a rune grandmaster from the Rune Department defeating several Dao Martial Department powerhouses in succession."

Ye Xiaoqi sighed deeply. Lin Xun would always become famous wherever he went. He had just left his seclusion but had already caused a huge commotion in Qinglu Academy.

"Are you guys praising me or making me the butt of your jokes?"

Lin Xun felt speechless but also happy. When he initially became an instructor of Qinglu Academy, Shi Yu, and the others had been out on a training exercise and they had not had the chance to meet up.

Reuniting with his friends naturally filled him with happiness.

Ever since he entered the Forbidden City, he only had a few friends such as Shi Yu, Ning Meng, Ye Xiaoqi, Gong Ming, and the gang.

Ning Meng fiercely pressed Lin Xun, "Tell me truthfully, did you eat some kind of godly tonic? How did your cultivation grow so rapidly and make you so formidable?"

Lin Xun replied in confusion, "Is my cultivation progress that good? I was under the impression that all of you had long surpassed me in Qinglu Academy."

The group was speechless. Each step in the cultivation journey was incredibly difficult and only after personally experiencing it would someone understand how tough of a path it was!

"Do you think we're all freaks like you?" Ye Xiaoqi rolled his eyes.

Gong Ming could not help but speak out as well, "Yeah, you were only at the Heaven Dipper stage when you first arrived in the Forbidden City, but in less than a year, you've now reached the perfect Spirit Sea stage. Who can possibly match such outrageous cultivation progress?"

Shi Yu said, "Lin Xun, your current circumstances don't look good."

Lin Xun acknowledged his comment and began giving his friends a summary of Mind Cleansing Peak's current situation. There was not much point in hiding anything after all.

Ning Meng cursed, “Damnit, the Zuo Clan and Qin Clan are too much!”

Ye Xiaoqi and Gong Ming also frowned. They did not expect Lin Xun to be in such big trouble this time.

“It’s not just the Qin Clan and the Zuo Clan.”

Shi Yu shook his head. He had evidently already done some research. “Like what happened today, there must be someone pulling the strings. Otherwise, things would not have escalated so quickly.”

Shi Yu’s expression turned grave as he continued, “Most importantly, you’re a rune grandmaster, an instructor of the Rune Department, and hold special positions in the Rune Master Association HQ and the Imperial Divine Workshop. Moreover, you helped the empress repair the Sword of Apocalypse. Who would dare to offend you under these circumstances?”

Ning Meng and the others were struck by a sudden realization. It was indeed true that Lin Xun’s current status and his identity as a young rune grandmaster made him someone that ordinary people would not dare to offend.

After all, offending Lin Xun was equivalent to offending the Rune Department, the Rune Master Association HQ, and the Imperial Divine Workshop!

All three of these great factions represented a most unique group — rune masters!

If you offended a rune master, who would help you craft aeth tools in the future?

One must know that the higher one’s cultivation, the more stringent their needs. The common goods available in the market were usually unable to satisfy their requirements.

Due to this, they needed to specially request rune masters to help them craft aeth tools.

Hence, it was taboo to offend rune masters!

Of course, real life was never so absolute. Lin Xun was only a single individual and could not represent all rune masters. However, a young rune grandmaster like him was very rare and would only become increasingly influential as he matured.

As such, only someone with a genuine grudge would dare to offend Lin Xun. Anyone else would have to first evaluate the consequences.

Lin Xun asked, “Do you already know something?”

Among his friends, Shi Yu was often the most informed and intelligent.

Shi Yu did not hide anything and said, “If my guess is correct, this matter should be related to Zhao Jingwen.”

Zhao Jingwen!

Ning Meng, Ye Xiaoqi, and Gong Ming gasped in surprise.

He was the top supreme expert in the Dao Martial Department who had occupied the number one spot on the Spirit Sea Golden Rankings for many years. No one had ever come close to shaking his position even until today.

In addition, he was a descendant of the imperial family, was of noble blood, and had superior status. It would make sense if he was the mastermind.

Because everyone knew that Lin Xun had offended the imperial family and, as a member of the imperial family, Zhao Jingwen naturally had a reason to target Lin Xun.

“Zhao Jingwen is no simple character. Although the Marquis of Rising Sky Zhao Jingyin is his elder cousin, his status in the imperial family is far lower than Zhao Jingwen’s.”

Shu Yi’s eyes shone with composed intelligence as he swiftly analyzed, “If Zhao Jingwen is after you, things will become very problematic because you’ll have to add him in addition to the Zuo Clan and Qin Clan to your list of enemies. Although he does not represent the entire imperial family, his influence and power cannot be underestimated.”

Ning Meng interjected, “Then what can he do?”

“No need to worry. It’s enough that I know who the mastermind is.”

Lin Xun’s black eyes shone with an icy light.

Shi Yu suddenly asked, “Do you already have a plan?”

He had realized that Lin Xun was far calmer than expected.

Lin Xun replied, “You guys will know in the future.”

He did not wish to say too much and did not want Shi Yu and the others to be swept up into this affair as well. After all, it was different this time and the enemies were too dangerous.

“Come on, aren’t we brothers?”

Ning Meng was clearly very unhappy.

Lin Xun explained, “I will naturally ask you guys for help when it’s needed in the future. I just don’t need it for now.”

Shi Yu asked, “What do you plan on doing?”

Lin Xun peered into the distance where a golden stone tablet had emerged from the mist. It was over a dozen feet tall and majestically stood there in all its glory.

It was the Spirit Sea Gold Rankings!

It recorded the names of Qinglu Academy’s top hundred most outstanding Spirit Sea students.

Lin Xun asked, “I heard that you’ll be awarded points if you manage to leave your name on the Spirit Sea Golden Rankings?”

“That’s right.”

Shi Yu nodded. Soon after, realization dawned upon him, “You’re going to attack the rankings?”

Ning Meng, Ye Xiaoqi, and Gong Ming were also taken aback as they looked toward Lin Xun.

“I have no choice, I’m in urgent need of some points so I’ll just have to give it a try.”

Lin Xun sighed.

The group was speechless. The Spirit Sea Golden Rankings was sacred to the Qinglu Academy students, and it was definitely a huge honor if they could leave their names upon it.

However, Lin Xun viewed it as a point earning tool. That was just...too ridiculous!

### The Prodigies War

#### **Chapter 480**

The Spirit Sea Golden Rankings stood on one of the mountains in the Dao Martial Department.

The mountain was a thousand feet tall and was aptly named Spirit Sea Peak.

After making his decision, Lin Xun immediately headed toward it.

“He’s really going to attack the rankings!”

Shi Yu, Ning Meng, and the others finally realized that Lin Xun wasn’t joking and hurriedly followed.

They were very curious to find out what ranking Lin Xun would obtain with his current strength.

There were two methods to leave one’s name on the Spirit Sea Golden Rankings.

The first method was pretty much common knowledge: a competition was organized every year to decide the Spirit Sea Golden Rankings.

This was usually the most standard method.

The second method was a solo attempt at attacking the rankings. However, it required a sizable payment of points. Moreover, the process was also extremely particular and stringent.

Normally speaking, very few students would opt for the second method. Firstly, the points required were too high, and secondly, the difficulty was too great.

Let alone ordinary students, even the top heaven prides would not select the second method.

However, Lin Xun was now intending to use the second method!

“Eh? Isn’t that Lin Xun? To think he hasn’t left yet. Could he be intending to attack the rankings at Spirit Sea Peak?”

Along the way, several Dao Martial Department students were astonished when they saw Lin Xun heading toward Spirit Sea Peak.

“He really can keep going huh? He just stirred up such a huge commotion and he’s now going to attack the rankings? How far does he intend to go?”

“How hateful. He’s too arrogant. Weren’t the duels in the arena enough? Why is he still going to Spirit Sea Peak? He’s basically looking down on the Dao Martial Department!”

“That might not be the case. Even the fifth-ranked Lan Yu lost to him. From this, it’s clear that he’ll definitely have a spot on the Spirit Sea Golden Rankings.”

“However, he’s making a solo attempt, and the test requirements will be exceedingly stringent. It’ll be hard for him to find any success.”

“Go, let’s take a look!”

The discussions led to a sizable commotion that drew numerous students to Spirit Sea Peak.

After witnessing the earlier duels, these students’ attitudes toward Lin Xun had changed substantially.

No matter how reluctant they were, they had to admit that Lin Xun was a martial genius who possessed combat power that surpassed their imagination.

In fact, he would be a top-tier expert even in the Dao Martial Department.

However, this was not the same as acknowledging Lin Xun. They still believed that he was too arrogant, overbearing, and had a questionable character!

Hence, the students felt provoked upon realizing that Lin Xun might be attempting to attack the rankings, so they followed him with complicated and hostile feelings.

They wanted to see how long he could keep this up!

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Spirit Sea Peak.

When Lin Xun arrived, he felt an ancient aura smother him. The peak was not tall or beautiful, but it was filled with the vicissitudes of time as if it had stood here for countless eons.

It was rumored that the peak had indeed survived from ancient times and contained a mysterious power. It had been refined by the principal through supreme methods and shifted to this location.

A single stone tablet stood atop the peak. It was more than a hundred feet tall and was entirely pitch-black. Boundless, brilliant golden light filled the air, dying the sky in a golden, sacred glow.

Imprinted on the stone tablet were the names of one hundred students. Each name represented a heaven pride of the Dao Martial Department.

For the Dao Martial Department students, it was undoubtedly a huge honor to have a place on the Spirit Sea Golden Rankings.

It represented a certain identity, fame, and status!

After ascending the mountain, Lin Xun soon arrived before the old stone tablet.

“I’ve heard that this stone tablet was once a supreme treasure of an ancient sect and could evaluate a cultivator’s combat power, talent, and potential. It is an object of unexplainable wonder and innumerable supreme heaven prides have left their names on it since Qinglu Academy was founded thousands of years ago.”



Shi Yu sighed deeply.

A supreme treasure that had existed since ancient times. It was easy to imagine how extraordinary the stone tablet was.

“Oh? Someone else is here?”

Lin Xun suddenly noticed a man in white seated before the stone tablet. He faced the tablet with his back toward everyone, making it such they could only see his back.

His black hair was draped over his shoulders, and his back was as straight as a spear. His entire body was bathed in a layer of faint illusory golden light that resonated with the light from the stone tablet. If no one paid attention, it would be very difficult to discover his existence.

Someone had chosen to attack the rankings before Lin Xun?

Shi Yu, Ning Meng, Ye Xiaoqi, and Gong Ming could not help but be taken aback, especially when they saw the white-clothed man’s back. It felt as if they were not looking at a person but a spiritual entity that was in perfect harmony with the world. He gave off an indescribable presence that made their hearts palpitate.

Who is he?

Their pupils abruptly shrank.

A complete aura that is in harmony with the world. He’s already giving off faint imago power and is no ordinary individual.

Lin Xun’s heart violently shook. He could sense that the man in white was similar to him and had also reached the perfect peak of the Spirit Sea stage. He was definitely an unrivaled genius!

The unique superior aura he possessed was stronger than any other top younger generation expert Lin Xun had encountered!

Who is he?

Was there such a person in the Dao Martial Department?

“My god, are my eyes deceiving me? That’s Senior Brother Gu Yunting!”

“Is it really him? Shouldn’t Senior Brother Gu Yunting be in secluded cultivation? Why has he appeared here? Could he be attacking the rankings?”

An uproar suddenly sounded from behind them, originating from the Dao Martial Department students who had followed Lin Xun. They had originally come to investigate exactly what Lin Xun was up to, but were utterly shocked when they saw the white-clothed man.

Several students revealed almost fanatical looks of adoration, especially some of the female students.

Lin Xun could not help but ask in a low voice, “Gu Yunting?”

Shi Yu covertly pointed at the stone tablet and transmitted, “Look at second place.”

Lin Xun followed his finger and immediately saw the name Gu Yunting in second place.

“Gu Yunting is no ordinary person. It’s rumored that when he was born, golden light descended from the heavens, transformed into a flame that merged into his body, and ultimately evolved into the Dao Fire Golden Body talent! It’s a rare, famous, and terrifying talent even in ancient times!”

Shi Yu swiftly transmitted. There was a sliver of unconcealable excitement in his tone, “He has cultivated in Qinglu Academy since young and was personally taught by one of the old monsters in the academy. He has always lived in nearly complete seclusion and almost never has contact with the outside world, making him extremely mysterious. Despite this, there is no doubt that he is a unique and supreme existence among the younger generation.”

Lin Xun was astonished by this information. Sure enough, there would always be no lack of amazing heaven prides in this world, and Gu Yunting was undeniably one of them.

Even Lin Xun had heard of the Dao Fire Golden Body talent Gu Yunting possessed because it was honestly far too powerful. Legend claimed that at the pinnacle, the body would become akin to impenetrable grand dao true gold. Moreover, the wielder would be able to control dao fire and display inconceivable terrifying power.

Lin Xun could not help but be taken aback when his gaze moved up to the first spot on the stone tablet. Just earlier, he and Shi Yu had been discussing this very individual — Zhao Wenjing!

Lin Xun could not help but ask, “Could Zhao Jingwen be stronger than Gu Yunting?”

“That was Gu Yunting’s ranking five years ago. He’s been in secluded cultivation for the past five years and has not attacked the rankings since. It was only last year that Zhao Jingwen finally managed to surpass him and climb up to number one.”

Shi Yu had evidently heard many things about Gu Yunting and answered easily, “Imagine, Gu Yunting has been in secluded cultivation for the past five years and yet only Zhao Jingwen has been able to shake his position. This shows how amazing Gu Yunting is.”

I see.

Only then did Lin Xun understand. His gaze changed when he looked at Gu Yunting’s figure again.

Dao Fire Golden Body?

What grade was this talent? How did it compare to the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer?

Soon after, Lin Xun shook his head.

In his view, a talent was ultimately only a talent. In addition, each talent had its own unique abilities and strengths. It would be silly to lump them all together as the power of each talent would still hinge upon the user.

“Senior Brother Gu Yunting’s cultivation has clearly become even more unfathomable. He’s obviously here to retake his first-place position!”

“Yeah, after disappearing for five years, he’ll definitely astonish everyone after reemerging!”

“What a pity. Given Senior Brother Gu Yunting’s foundations, if he had participated in the empress’ birthday celebration, he would have long been selected by those otherworld experts and been sent to those mysterious ancient sects.”

“Heh heh, things are going to become interesting. Wasn’t Lin Xun also intending to attack the rankings? He’s destined to be completely suppressed by Senior Brother Gu Yunting!”

More and more Dao Martial Department students arrived and they excitedly talked about Gu Yunting in low voices.

Anyone could see that Gu Yunting enjoyed a special status in the Dao Martial Department. He was absolutely an existence that everyone had their attention on.

“Hmph, how can you compare Lin Xun to Senior Brother Gu Yunting? That’s offensive to Senior Brother Gu Yunting!”

“Agreed. Before someone like Senior Brother Gu Yunting, Lin Xun is merely an arrogant little clown.”

There was also a portion of students who were ridiculing Lin Xun by comparing him to Gu Yunting.

Shi Yu, Ning Meng, Ye Xiaoqi, and Gong Ming frowned and were just about to rebut when the white-clothed man suddenly stood up. Dream-like golden light pulsed around his body, giving him an air of superiority.

Everyone’s gazes were instantly drawn toward him!