

## Prodigies 491

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#### Chapter 491

What is Lin Xun doing here?

In the Great Affairs Hall, many people looked curious.

Lin Xun headed straight to the rune material exchange area, took out his identity plate, and gave it to the old man stationed there. "I'm here to exchange for the horn of Kui Ox."

The old man sprang to his feet, his eyes widening and his voice filled with disbelief, "You passed the Sky Stairs?"

"What Sky Stairs?" The students were bewildered.

"The Sky Stairs Mountain. It is a mountain marked with traces of the Great Dao. It is rumored that only the most powerful geniuses in the world can scale it. Due to the difficulty of the Heaven Ladder Assessment, no one has been able to set foot on the mountain for hundreds of years," someone explained, sparking a clamor of discussions.

"No way! Is Lin Xun that amazing?"

"It's true. Didn't you hear? He wants to exchange his points for the Kui Ox Horn. As far as I know, you can only exchange for that treasure after passing the Sky Stairs Assessment."

"He only reached the first spot on the Spirit Sea Gold Rankings yesterday, and today he passed the Sky Stairs Assessment that no one has passed for hundreds of years. How can the students of our Dao Martial Department accept that?"

A great clamor filled the hall, and all eyes brimmed with gazes of astonishment and shock like they were looking at a monster.

Indeed, it was very absurd. Lin Xun was a young rune grandmaster of the Rune Department but he also had such heaven-defying abilities in martial arts. He was like a monster. No one knew what standard to measure him against.

He was a rare talent!

The most terrifying thing was that he was only sixteen years old yet he had made such remarkable achievements in both the art of runes and martial arts!

The old man checked Lin Xun's identity plate, but his eyes suddenly glazed over in a trance as he muttered, "He really passed..."

In the end, he handed Lin Xun a black sealed box that housed the Kui Ox Horn.

"I finally succeeded."

Lin Xun felt a weight lifting off him. Now that he had obtained the Kui Ox Horn, he had the core rune material for making the rune armament he had designed. As long as Shen Tuo helped him gather the

other rune materials, he could start his rune armament-making operation on the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower.

“Wait a moment.” Someone stopped Lin Xun as he stepped out of the Great Affairs Hall.

His hat and clothes were whiter than snow, and his silky black hair glistened in the light. He was handsome and noble-looking and had an ethereal bearing like an immortal. He was Gu Yunting!

The area buzzed nonstop when Gu Yunting showed up. Many students halted, and their eyes blazed fanatically as they stared at Gu Yunting.

Lin Xun might be dazzling, but he wasn't from the Dao Martial Department. Gu Yunting was different because his name had shaken the academy five years ago. He was like a blazing sun, always in the center of attention.

However, he had gone into closed-door cultivation for five years. When he reemerged, he leapt to the top of the legendary Spirit Sea Rankings. An amazing and elegant person like him was naturally a target of fanatical adoration.

“Is there something?” Lin Xun asked in puzzlement. He didn't expect Gu Yunting, who had always been treated as above all mortal beings, would suddenly appear before him.

However, Lin Xun remained unusually calm because he guessed the reason why Gu Yunting would take the initiative to find him.

“I need the Kui Ox horn, can you give it to me? Don't worry, I will compensate you,” Gu Yunting asked indifferently.

As he stood there, he looked remarkable and unrivaled. His flowy robe was whiter than snow, and his demeanor was elegant.

Lin Xun had guessed correctly.

He shook his head without hesitation. “Sorry, but I also need the Kui Ox Horn.”

Gu Yunting wrinkled his brows slightly. “You should know that I had the opportunity to exchange for the Kui Ox Horn before you.”

Lin Xun nodded. “Yes, you and I ascended the Sky Stairs Mountain at the same time, but unfortunately, you were one step too slow.”

The nearby students were astonished when they realized that not only had Lin Xun climbed Sky Stairs Mountain, but so did Gu Yunting!

Something that hadn't happened in hundreds of years had happened twice!

Suddenly, the students looked at Gu Yunting differently. Their gazes were even more fanatical and sparkled with admiration. No wonder he can leap to the top of the Spirit Sea Ranking. He didn't give Lin Xun the chance to dominate the limelight.

Gu Yunting flicked his sleeve and brought a bright and colorful ball of light floating into the air.

Everyone's eyes widened in surprise.

It contained dozens of rare rune materials and aeth medicines! Each one was worth as much as the Kui Ox Horn!

For example, there was a Blood Lingzhi that only matured every three thousand years. It was bright red and overflowed with a splendid essence that dyed the air a deep red. It gave off a unique aroma that relaxed the soul.

Then, there was an octagonal copper iron. A thumb-sized piece was worth tens of thousands of gold coins, but that piece was as big as a fist!

In addition, there were jade fungus, nine-star flowers and other rare treasures.

Everyone gasped. Some eyes gleamed covetously, and some fell into a dazed state. They didn't expect Gu Yunting to have such wealth. The value of that batch of rune materials was worth more than any amount of money!

Lin Xun was also stunned by the offer. As a rune master, he knew the earthshaking values of those rune materials.

"You can choose any two as compensation for giving up the Kui Ox Horn. I believe that shows my sincerity," Gu Yunting said calmly as though he was certain that Lin Xun wouldn't be able to decline such a temptation.

This was because the value of the compensation had exceeded the value of the Kui Ox Horn.

Many people envied Lin Xun. If it were them, they would not dare to expect such generous treatment.

Unexpectedly, Lin Xun's jet-black eyes remained clear and calm as he unwaveringly refused again, "The horn of the Kui Ox is priceless to me. I won't give it up no matter what you offer me."

Everyone was astonished. He refused!?

Even Gu Yunting was taken aback. He couldn't help but frown. "Are you not happy with my offer? Fine, I can let you choose three then."

Lin Xun also scrunched his brows. This guy is so arrogant. Did he not hear that I don't plan to give it up at all?"

"Lin Xun, you should be content!"

"Senior Brother Gu Yunting has already shown his sincerity. Don't try to push your luck."

"Lin Xun, you should be honored to receive such treatment from Senior Brother Gu Yunting."

Some nearby students spoke up, standing up for Gu Yunting.

Lin Xun snorted and glanced around and left. He didn't want to waste time with them.

However, his indifferent attitude irritated many people. Even so, no one dared to stop him or say anything.

Gu Yunting's brows furrowed deeper, and an imperceptible chilling glint flashed across his eyes. He was determined to cast a weapon using the horn of the Kui Ox. He thought he had shown his sincerity with his offer but Lin Xun didn't appreciate it.

"You are Lin Xun? I hope you can give up the horn of the Kui Ox," a sweet-sounding voice suddenly rang out.

A young maiden walked towards them. Her face was stunning, and her skin was smooth as jade and brighter than snow. Her perfectly curved body seemed to sparkle like crystals as she moved. She was flawless in every way.

She was a dazzling beauty like a phoenix.

Everyone broke out in an uproar.

"Princess Linghuang has come!"

"Five years ago, she had a very friendly relationship with Gu Yunting. I never thought that she would come to the academy when Gu Yunting came out of closed-door cultivation!"

Princess Linghuang was the emperor's most favored daughter. Not only was she stunningly beautiful, but she also had an astonishing talent for cultivation and a high and mighty status. She was regarded as a pearl of the imperial family.

She had studied in the Dao Martial Department five years ago and only returned to the imperial family when Gu Yunting went into closed-door cultivation. Ever since then she had never appeared in the academy.

Now that Gu Yunting had re-emerged, she also appeared in the academy. Many people couldn't help but speculate.

She came to a stop in front of Lin Xun, blocking his path like a phoenix descending upon the world.

In truth, she was indeed like a proud phoenix. When she spoke, her flawless chin was slightly raised, highlighting her fair and shapely neck.

"Yes, I'm Lin Xun, but as I said before I have no intention of giving up the Kui Ox Horn. I hope you don't get in my way," Lin Xun said with a smile.

Although he was smiling, he was growing more and more annoyed. It seems Gu Yunting and Princess Linghuang are determined to not let me go until I hand over the Kui Ox Horn.

Many people smacked their lips. Lin Xun is so daring. He first declined Gu Yunting's offer and now he refuses to listen to Princess Linghuang. Is he not afraid of offending them and bringing trouble upon himself?

"I have already heard that you are fearless and perverse. I finally understand now. But since I have come here today, you will have to hand over the Horn of Kui Ox." Princess Linghuang threatened with a frown.

She exuded an air of arrogance and pride. Although her voice was sweet, her words were full of authority. Clearly, this wasn't the first time she had done something similar.

Lin Xun lost his patience. He waved his hand dismissively. "I don't care who you are. Even the King of Heaven can't change my mind today. Move out of the way!"

Everyone gasped. Lin Xun is so crazy. She's Princess Linghuang, a descendant of the emperor. Who dares talk to her like that?

"How dare you?! How dare you offend Her Highness? Do you want to die?!"

A young man bellowed, his body overflowing with a threatening aura.

"Who are you now? Move aside."

Lin Xun's black eyes flashed a cold glint. He didn't want to cause any trouble before he started making the rune armament, but the other party was treating him like a pushover.

Everyone was a little bewildered because the young man also wasn't an ordinary person. He was the direct descendant of the Qi Clan, one of the high clans. He was Qi Yu, a talented genius who was amazing in identity, status, and strength. He had broken through to the Heaven Ascension Stage in the past year and was currently training in the True Martial Department.

However, Lin Xun fearlessly scolded him without any restraint.

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Qi Yu had a slender and tall body. He was extraordinarily handsome with brilliant golden eyes.

Golden Eye Illumination!

It was an appearance unique to the direct descendants of the Qi Family. Only those who had truly reached the Heaven Ascension Stage would be able to perfectly control the terrifying power of the Gold Imago Power.

Qi Yu, a genius figure of the younger generation, had caught the attention of many influential figures when he set foot into the Heaven Ascension Stage last year and was accepted into the True Martial Department. Almost no one dared to oppose him within Qinglu Academy.

Even instructors treated him with courtesy, but Lin Xun had scolded and spoken rudely to him. Many people smacked their lips, shocked by Lin Xun's courage.

Qi Yu suddenly donned a cold and malevolent expression, and his eyes flowed with lightning-like golden light as he swept them over Lin Xun.

"You dare to treat me disrespectfully?" Qi Yu's voice erupted like a sword and launched murderous intent everywhere.

Everyone blanched, knowing that Lin Xun had angered Qi Yu with his words and the consequences were unimaginable.

However, Lin Xun didn't seem to realize as he put his hands behind his back and studied Qi Yu with narrowed eyes. He then reprimanded, "I'm teaching you a lesson. Did you not know that it is disrespectful for a student to argue with a teacher and threaten them?!"

The audience was aghast. No one had thought that Lin Xun would use his identity as a teacher to suppress Qi Yu. No one could say anything because Lin Xun was indeed a teacher despite being only sixteen years old. Even if he was only a teacher in the Rune Department, all students in Qinglu Academy were not allowed to disrespect the teachers.

Qi Yu's expression froze on his face. He didn't expect Lin Xun to play that move.

"You disrespected Princess Linghuang first and then you slandered me. I just wanted to tell you what you did wrong, but you used your status as a teacher to act superior. A shameless person like you is not worthy of lecturing me!" Qi Yu's expression grew fierce.

"Oh, I didn't expect students nowadays to be so arrogant. They don't even attach any importance to the teachers. When I get the chance, I'm going to ask the principal if any random nobody is allowed to disregard the rules and be disrespectful to teachers," said Lin Xun leisurely, seemingly unafraid.

Everyone cursed in their hearts. That guy is not only arrogant but also very shameless. He saw that the situation wasn't right so he used his identity as a teacher as a shield.

Qi Yu was seething. Ever since he embarked on his cultivation path, who had ever dared to describe him as a nobody? He doesn't want to live anymore!

"People like you are not worthy of being a teacher. I will personally ask the academy to strip you of your teacher status. Let's see how arrogant you are then!"

Everyone was shocked. Princess Linghuang had an extraordinary identity, so it was very possible that the academy would listen to her and strip Lin Xun of his qualifications to teach!

However, Lin Xun didn't seem to care. He sneered, "Okay, go ahead. I'll be waiting for your good news." He turned around and walked away.

"Stand there!" Princess Linghuang gritted her teeth in anger. She was a descendant of the emperor and a peerless beauty. She had been respected wherever she went because of her noble identity but Lin Xun, a little teacher, had attached no importance to her.

"Do you remember the Marquis of Rising Sky?" Lin Xun left those words as he strode away.

The Marquis of Rising Sky!

Who wouldn't remember?

The purpose of Lin Xun's words was obvious: it was a warning.

However, he had never thought that the mention of the Marquis of Rising Sky would make the princess erupt with fury. Lin Xun dared to mention the shame of the imperial family! He didn't reflect after that, but instead dared to threaten me with it. He is too arrogant!

The other students panicked. They had never thought that Lin Xun would dare mention the Marquis of Rising Sky in front of Princess Linghuang. What was the difference between being him and seeking death?

"Lin Xun, if you don't kneel and apologize then don't even think about leaving here today!"

Qi Yu thundered, golden light rioting all over his body and forming a giant hand. It stretched out in the void to grab Lin Xun.

The giant hand boomed, crushing the surrounding air. Golden light flared around it, filled with the great imago power. It was fierce, tyrannical and pulverized everything it came into contact with.

Nearby people felt their skin ache with piercing pain, and their hearts trembled. That was Gold Imago Power—the power of the Heaven Ascension Stage.

No one would have thought that Qi Yu would respond so strongly. He no doubt wanted to defeat Lin Xun with one strike and force him to make a fool of himself.

Princess Linghuang looked proud as she watched on.

Lin Xun had embarrassed her, so she couldn't wait to see Qi Yu oppress him in one move.

Gu Yunting hadn't said much and seemed to not care about everything that was happening before him.

Boom!

The giant golden hand crashed down, collapsing the fabric of space and sending a gush of golden light everywhere.

Just as the golden light was on the verge of drowning Lin Xun's figure, he spun around and his eyes glinted coldly.

A punch blasted forth like a powerful dragon breaking out of an abyss. It was shrouded in a pale azure glow and resembled an azure moon rising into the sky.

Instantly, a violent collision shook the sky and earth, and azure light engulfed everything.

Many people blanched and drew back in terror. To them, Qi Yu's attack was terrifying. It was filled with the destructive power of the Heaven Ascension Stage and could wipe out any Spirit Sea cultivator. But to everyone's surprise, when the smoke and dust dispersed, Lin Xun was still standing tall. His black hair fluttered around him and his body was bathed in a divine azure glow.

"He...withstood it?"

"How is that possible?"

The students stared dumbfounded at Lin Xun, finding it hard to believe their eyes. They knew that Lin Xun was invincible in the Spirit Sea Stage, but there was a huge difference between the Spirit Sea Stage and the Heaven Ascension Stage. The difference was impossible to surpass like heaven's barrier.

However, Lin Xun didn't evade the attack and remained unscathed. How could they not be shocked?

Gu Yunting, who was always aloof and detached, couldn't help but narrow his eyes and furrow his brows.

Although Qi Yu had only broken through to the Heaven Ascension Stage in the previous year, his ancient bloodline was connected to the great dao of gold, which helped him become more outstanding than the average initial Heaven Ascension cultivators.

However, Lin Xun had unbelievably defended against Qi Yu's powerful strike.

The hall fell utterly still and silent.

Even Qi Yu was stunned. The others might not know, but he had only used 50% of his strength in the attack. He had intended to completely oppress Lin Xun in one move and force him to kneel and make a fool of himself in front of everyone. But to his shock, Lin Xun was unwounded under his attack.

"Are you sure you want me to kneel to atone for my sins?"

Lin Xun's handsome face had a detached indifference. His black eyes were as deep as a great abyss and lightning was flashing inside. He was infuriated. He had been provoked again and again and was even attacked. He had reached his limit.

Even clay figurines had earthy qualities, let alone Lin Xun, who didn't like to be at a disadvantage.

"Qi Yu, why should you be merciful when dealing with such shameless people?" Princess Linghuang said aloud, sounding a little displeased. She had thought that Qi Yu had held back his strength and ignored Lin Xun's words.

"Your Highness, rest assured that I will capture him!" Qi Yu's expression turned chilling.

He took a step forward. His tall and slender body looked mighty and imposing. He circulated his powers and golden light flared around him. His blood and qi pulsed through his body and his imposing bearing soared, causing the air to whimper.

Dong!

He folded his hands in a hand seal, forming a golden cloud above him. Then, it crashed down like a mighty mountain.

The entire heaven and earth seemed to be collapsing, unable to withstand the terrifying force. The air boomed and the flow of air was disturbed. Beams of golden light shot in all directions.

Lin Xun smiled, revealing his pearly white teeth. His smile was warm and bright, but his black eyes were filled with nothing but icy coldness.

Anyone familiar with Lin Xun would know that he was truly enraged.

"Since you are looking for a fight, I will fulfill your wish!"

Amid the calm voice, Lin Xun used the Hornless Ice Dragon Step. He soared into the air and mobilized his Spirit Sea power within his body to their fullest. It was as though a giant storm was awakening from an abyss.

The one punch produced terrifying visions such as mountains shattering, seas splitting, voids exploding, and dragons and phoenixes roaring. Each one was filled with mighty power that could shake the world.

It was the Nine Heavenshaking Destructions Art. Lin Xun had combined seven of the nine destructions into that punch!

Rumble!



An earth-shattering collision sent everyone's blood and qi rushing frantically around their body. They shuddered all over and frantically retreated in horror.

Too terrifying!

If the collision had happened in the outside world, the ground within a radius of thousands of feet would have collapsed!

Fortunately, a mysterious, ancient power protected Qinglu Academy and miraculously and silently dissolved the destructive force.

"You..." To Qi Yu's horror, Lin Xun had blocked his attack once again!

The others were just as aghast. A look of sheer terror washed over their faces like they had seen a ghost. He might have blocked the first blow because of luck, but how would he be so lucky to block the second blow?

However, Lin Xun didn't utter a word and vanished into the air like a hornless ice dragon. The next second, he reappeared in front of Qi Yu and threw a punch.

So fast!

He displayed the mystery of the Hornless Ice Dragon Step to its fullest. Qi Yu felt his chest tighten and frantically raised his hand to defend himself.

"Kneel down!"

Lin Xun's handsome face was oozing with superiority, and his body was glowing like a treasured cauldron. He had mobilized all his powers.

It was a simple punch without any spark or fireworks. It was light and natural.

Boom!

Qi Yu's arms throbbed with agonizing pain. A tremendous vast power crashed down on him like a sacred mountain. His head buzzed and his muscles and bones almost ruptured and exploded.

Then, with a thud, he fell from a height.

"You want to die!" he roared, his blood and qi burning.

He was just one step too late. Lin Xun had taken the opportunity to slam one palm down at the top of Qi Yu's head while the other struck his shoulder.

Qi Yu convulsed violently, forced down on his knees!

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Everything had happened too quickly, from Lin Xun's counterattack to Qi Yu being forced to his knees. It all happened in the blink of an eye.

Some people only saw a blur before it was all over. They only saw Qi Yu, a mighty and imposing god-like figure, kneeling on the ground!

Everyone's eyes were wide with shocked disbelief, and their bodies were stiff. They couldn't believe what they saw—a direct descendant of the high and mighty Qi Clan, a Heaven Ascension cultivator of the True Martial Department, had been driven to his knees before he had the chance to demonstrate his powers!

The scene was too unbelievable. They wouldn't be as shocked if another Heaven Ascension cultivator had suppressed Qi Yu, but Lin Xun was only a teenager at the Spirit Sea Stage!

Moreover, he had been suppressed in seconds without any fierce exchange of attacks. It was too unbelievable.

A similar scene had never happened since ancient times!

After all, there was a vast difference between the Heaven Ascension Stage and the Spirit Sea Stage! The weak had defeated the strong!

No one would have believed that if they hadn't witnessed it with their own eyes.

Princess Linghuang's pretty eyes bulged wide open, and her jaw dropped open. She looked as though she had been struck by lightning.

She had never thought that Qi Yu would be defeated in such a way. How humiliating! A Heaven Ascension cultivator was forced to his knees. He will become a laughingstock if word spreads!

Gu Yunting's white robe billowed around him while an indescribable qi circulated his graceful body. He had ascended to the Heaven Ascension Stage and wasn't the same as before. He had regarded himself as an eagle while Lin Xun was an insignificant ant. He had believed they were people from two different worlds, so he had never attached any importance to him.

Only now did he realize that the teenager before him who had scaled the Sky Stairs Mountain with him also possessed heaven-defying strength. He couldn't help but gaze at the teenager in blank astonishment, unable to maintain his usual detached and indifferent expression.

They would not have reacted in such a way if they had known that Lin Xun had slaughtered more than one great Heaven Ascension cultivator in the Ancient Spirit World!

At that time, Lin Xun hadn't fully formed his Origin Aeth Artery. But now, he could be said to have reached a level of perfection in terms of cultivation, spirit and physique!

Lin Xun had mobilized all his strength to deal with Qi Yu. On the contrary, Qi Yu had been caught off guard and unable to defend himself against his attack.

After all, how would he expect Lin Xun, a Spirit Sea cultivator, to be so fierce and savage?

"Ahh..." Qi Yu roared, his eyes almost popping out of the sockets. He grimaced as he struggled to get up.

Ever since he had started his cultivation journey, he had always been in the center of attention even if he wasn't the best among his peers. When had he suffered such shameful humiliation?

To be suppressed to his knees by a teenager of the Spirit Sea Stage was worse than death to him. He was so furious that he almost went berserk.

“Kneel there and reflect!”

PA!

Lin Xun pressed his right hand down at the top of Qi Yu’s head and slammed his left hand on his shoulder. Qi Yu violently twitched, unable to fight back with his strength.

Everyone inhaled sharply at Lin Xun’s ruthlessness. That guy is so cruel!

Qi Yu was so embarrassed that he felt as if he was suffocating. He was a student of the True Martial Department, and he was an outstanding expert of the Heaven Ascension Stage whom teachers would treat with courtesy.

However, he had been forced to kneel. The suffocating humiliation made his eyes red and bloodshot. His expression turned sinister, and he no longer exuded the unique graceful bearing he did before.

“Lin Xun, kill me if you dare. Otherwise, I swear I will pull out your tendons, skin you alive and crush your bones. You will die a tragic death!” Qi Yu’s voice, filled with endless killing intent and hatred, seemed to be squeezed out of his chest.

Everyone felt a chill run down their spine. They were certain that Qi Yu would do as he said. Lin Xun had become his mortal enemy.

PA!

Lin Xun suddenly slapped Qi Yu hard in the face. The clear and crisp sound was followed by a swollen and red handprint on his face. The nearby people flinched from the pain.

“As a student, you have disregarded the rules of the academy and disrespected a teacher. I told you to kneel here and reflect but you not only refused but also vowed to act violently! Do you think I don’t have the guts to kill you?”

Lin Xun’s expression was solemn, and undisguised murderous intent was swirling in the depths of his dark eyes.

Qi Yu was too shocked to react. He had received a loud slap in the face while he was kneeling on the ground! He couldn’t believe that someone in the world would dare treat him in such a way! Were they not afraid of death?!

The others were also dumbfounded. They finally understood why Lin Xun dared to force the Marquis of Rising Sky to kneel. He was fearless and did whatever he wanted!

Qi Yu was about to flip out when he felt a chill penetrate his heart and a blade scraping his bones as he met Lin Xun’s gaze.

He suddenly had a feeling that the guy before him would unhesitatingly kill him if he dared to struggle and fight back!

His face blanched. For the first time, he felt a life-threatening danger.

“Lin Xun, you are too impudent. I will give you a chance. Let go of Qi Yu now. Otherwise, you will suffer a calamity today. I don’t care how talented you are!” Princess Linghuang threatened with an indifferent expression, but her voice was filled with oppressive authority.

Everyone trembled inwardly. Princess Linghuang was stunningly beautiful, and even her voice was sweet and pleasant, but her words were chilling.

No one dared to doubt her threat because she was the young daughter of the emperor. Her identity was like the luminous moon in the vast sky. Her one sentence could decide the life and death of someone!

However, Lin Xun said calmly, “I haven’t settled things with you, but you threatened me first. Do you think you can act lawlessly because of your identity as a descendant of the imperial family? Remember that we are in Qinglu Academy, where your only identity is a student. If you act wildly again, I will teach you how to behave.”

Hiss!

Everyone gasped. How fearless!

Lin Xun was likely the only person who dared to scold the daughter of the emperor.

“Are you trying to provoke me?”

Princess Linghuang’s face was cold as frost. She was utterly infuriated. Not only did Lin Xun reprimand her, but he also repeatedly ignored her. It was the greatest insult to her.

“It’s not quite a provocation. I just wanted to tell you that even the empress didn’t stop me when I suppressed the Marquis of Rising Sky. If you want to repeat the same mistake that the Marquis of Rising Sky did, I can satisfy your wish today,” Lin Xun said calmly.

He was oozing superiority and contempt as he stood there with his dark hair draping down his handsome figure and one hand suppressing Qi Yu.

Everyone stared silently at him. They had to admit that they couldn’t be compared to Lin Xun in terms of courage or strength.

“You—”

Princess Linghuang gnashed her teeth, flames flickering in her bright eyes. It was the first time she had seen someone as mad as Lin Xun.

“Young man, take a step back and stop now.” An old man emerged in the Great Affairs Hall.

It was an old man whom everyone called Elder Cang Yin. He always watched over the Great Affairs Hall and had an unfathomable background and tremendous powers.

“No!” the princess refused.

“I also disagree!”

Lin Xun had already decided to ruin any relationship, so how would he back down now?

“I just didn’t want to give up the Horn of Kui Ox, but I was attacked and humiliated by these students! You should know that I’m a teacher yet they showed no hesitation in their actions. They completely disregarded the rules of Qinglu Academy!”

His voice was powerful and resonating as it rang through the hall and stunned everyone. They knew that Lin Xun was planning to make a bigger deal out of the situation.

Indeed, that was Lin Xun’s intention. He didn’t mind making the situation worse. It might even benefit him if the entire Qinglu Academy knew about it.

“What happened?”

Other people were alerted one after another and rushed to their side.

Elder Cang Yin of the Great Affairs Hall couldn’t help but sigh.

“Lin Xun, I believe the academy will give you a satisfactory explanation for today’s matter. I hope you will stop now and not create more trouble.”

Elder Cang Yin urged. This time, he spoke in a clear and unquestionable tone of voice and with a threatening force that directly penetrated the hearts.

It was obvious that Elder Cang Yin had adopted a neutral stance and didn’t take the side of Princess Linghuang or anyone else!

Princess Linghuang’s face darkened even more. She was about to say something when Gu Yunting interrupted her, “Leave it. Many people are watching. Don’t continue to make a scene.”

Princess Linghuang’s beautiful face clouded over with anger as she shifted her furious stare to Lin Xun’s face. In the end, she snorted coldly.

As for Qi Yu, his face was red with embarrassment. More and more people had gathered around them to watch. He felt so ashamed that he wanted to kill himself.

“Lin Xun, it’s decided. Since Elder Cang Yin has spoken, I believe he will give you a satisfactory outcome.”

Suddenly, Shen Tuo’s voice rang in Lin Xun’s ear. It turned out that Shen Tuo had also been alerted and had come.

Lin Xun was silent for a moment and then he gave a cupped fist salute to Elder Cang Yin. “Since I have the Elder’s promise, then there is no reason for me to not listen to you. I just hope that today’s incident won’t happen again. Otherwise, the rules of our Qinglu Academy will be treated as nothing but decorations.”

He turned around and left.

He didn’t glance at Qi Yu, Princess Linghuang, or Gu Yunting again.

“Just you wait. I don’t believe you can hide in the academy all your life!”

Princess Linghuang quivered with rage as she gnashed her teeth with hatred.

“Lin Xun, I swear I will kill you!” Qi Yu roared, his eyes blazing with murderous intent.

As Gu Yunting watched Lin Xun leave, his expression was as detached as always, but deep in his eyes, cold killing intent gleamed for an instant.

The incident that day was the utmost humiliation for the three. Everyone knew that they wouldn't swallow the humiliation!

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"Lin Xun, why did you mess with Her Highness Princess Linghuang and Qi Yu? Those two have impressive backgrounds and very few people in Qinglu Academy dare to anger them."

"I didn't mess with them. They messed with me first."

"You are still so young, so you might not know that the consequences of angering them are terrifying," Shen Tuo sighed.

His face was clouded with worry on the way back to the Rune Department. Lin Xun's action was a huge shock to him. He had lectured Princess Linghuang and forced Qi Yu to his knees. He was too fearless!

Looking unconcerned, Lin Xun said leisurely, "Elder, I'm a victim. I'm already being very generous to not pursue them for their faults."

Shen Tuo gave a wry smile. "That's true but...aren't you worried about retaliation?"

Lin Xun raised his brows. "Would they dare to act violently in Qinglu Academy?"

"Of course not! Are you kidding? This is Qinglu Academy. Let alone them, even the powerful figures of the imperial family wouldn't dare to act recklessly here."

"Then, that's enough." Lin Xun said with a smile.

"Elder, you don't have to worry too much. Ever since I have come to the Forbidden City, I have offended many people. I don't mind offending a few more."

Shen Tuo smiled wryly again. He couldn't understand Lin Xun. He was too brave and bold like he didn't know what fear was.

When the two returned to the Rune Department, they resumed serious business. Shen Tuo informed Lin Xun that he had done everything he could to help him exchange for the rune materials he required. He predicted that they would acquire all the rune materials within three days.

After learning about that, Lin Xun immediately headed to the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower to start the preparation for the making of the rune armament!

.....

The news that Lin Xun had suppressed Qi Yu and reprimanded Princess Linghuang spread throughout Qinglu Academy and set off huge waves.

Lin Xun craves to be in the limelight so much that he created such a huge scene in the martial arts arena of the Dao Martial Department on the first day he returned to the academy. He even defeated genius figures such as Lan Yu, Jin Zhuliu and Xue Yun.

On the same day, he ascended to the top of the Spirit Sea Gold Rankings and overshadowed the disciples in the Dao Martial Department.

On the next day after his return, he lectured Princess Linghuang and forced Qi Yu to his knees in front of everyone. He is so crazy.

Is that guy Lin Xun not afraid of death!?

Everyone had the same question in their minds. They couldn't understand how Lin Xun could act so recklessly and without restraint like he had nothing to fear.

"No matter what, Lin Xun is a remarkable young genius. He not only has a magnificent mastery in the art of runes but he could also suppress genius talents in terms of strength. He is simply a monster!"

Many people echoed.

"Indeed, I thought he was already amazing to make it to the first place of the Spirit Sea Gold Rankings, but after just one day, he passed the Sky Stairs Assessment that no one had ever passed in hundreds of years. He's too terrifying."

"Not only that, but did you see him suppress Qi Yu? As a Spirit Sea Cultivator, he fought against someone of a higher cultivation level and didn't lose. How many people can do that in the entire Qinglu Academy?"

"That guy makes me speechless. He is so savage and arrogant, but he has such amazing talent and aptitude. It's unbelievable."

Lin Xun had sparked uproars once again. His feats widely circulated Qinglu Academy and alarmed many powerful and influential figures.

However, there were mixed opinions about him. Some were positive, and some were negative. He was a controversial figure.

Some people sneered at his situation because they felt that he would be killed sooner or later. This was because he had offended too many people and clans.

Among the seven high clans of the empire, he had angered six of them—the Hua, Song, Qin, Zuo, Chi and Qi Clans...all except the Xue Clan!

It was too unbelievable. Who would have imagined that a sixteen-year-old boy could anger so many powerful clans one after another after only spending one year in the Forbidden City?

Most importantly, Lin Xun had offended the imperial family more than once!

The first time, he had forced the Marquis of Rising Sky to kneel and sparked outrage. The second time, he had lectured Princess Linghuang in public and embarrassed her.

Understandably, Lin Xun had enemies and opponents everywhere he went.

Some people even joked that Lin Xun was the best at angering and offending people in the Forbidden City!

Many people believed that Lin Xun would face a lot of hostility and suffer retaliation in the future. Perhaps, he might even be killed soon.

In truth, that was indeed the case. On the day after Lin Xun forced Qi Yu to his knees, students from the Dao Martial Department and True Martial Department came forward one after another to condemn Lin Xun's disgraceful behavior and reported him to the higher-ups of the academy.

"Lin Xun humiliated Her Highness Princess Linghuang, insulted the dignity of the imperial family, and forced a student to kneel. Everyone is outraged by his actions. We will not leave the matter until he is punished!"

Students expressed their righteous indignation and spoke as though they couldn't live under the same sky as Lin Xun. They felt that he had tarnished the reputation of teachers by bullying students and adopting cruel means. They demanded the academy to strip him off his teaching qualification and expel him from the academy.

Once the storm broke out, it didn't subside and instead intensified. More and more students joined in to condemn Lin Xun.

All of a sudden, Lin Xun seemed to have become the most heinous person in the world. Many students joined hands to denounce him and caused turmoil in Qinglu Academy.

The higher-ups of the academy didn't dare to sit back anymore and do nothing. They had to resolve the turmoil.

Therefore, some suggested that it might be better to remove Lin Xun's teaching qualification and expel him from the academy to quell the students' fury.

Many refused and argued that Lin Xun had never violated the rules of Qinglu Academy. Many people would be disappointed if he was stripped of his teaching qualifications.

Simply speaking, the turmoil worsened, and ultimately, the question revolved around whether or not to fire Lin Xun.

Some people were excited to know that Lin Xun would be rightly punished and expelled from Qinglu Academy.

Some people were enraged as they felt that Lin Xun had been framed and that all accusations against him were nonsense.

Of course, anyone with a little brain would realize that someone was behind the storm for it to grow so tremendously.

In other words, from the start, someone had been manipulating the storm in the dark!

Would the academy fire Lin Xun?

Many students and teachers were curious.



## The Prodigies War

### Chapter 495

“Haha, let’s see how arrogant Lin Xun is now!”

In a large hall, Zuo Yujing laughed without restraint. His tall and slender figure exuded a powerful and domineering aura as he sat cross-legged in the hall.

Nearby, Lan Yu, Jin Zhuliu, Xue Yun and Shi Yunpeng all wore the biggest smiles.

“We have dispatched all our forces this time. The great disturbance and public outrage have attracted the attention of the influential figures in the academy. Lin Xun is doomed this time!” Jin Zhuli uttered coldly.

“He has brought everything upon himself due to his arrogance. He dared to offend Her Highness and Qi Yu. Isn’t he asking for death?!” Shi Yunpeng sneered coldly.

“Lin Xun has an extraordinary mastery in the art of runes and also remarkable skills in martial arts. What should we do if the academy refuses to fire him?” Lan Yu asked with a frown.

“Impossible.” Zuo Yujing was full of confidence. “This time, Senior Brother Zhao Jingwen and I have asked some elders from the academy to come forward and pressure the academy. I believe the academy won’t want to offend us all just for Lin Xun.”

Some people trembled inwardly when they heard that. They had never thought that Zuo Yujing and Zhao Jingwen would call on some powerful and influential figures to help expel Lin Xun.

Then, they couldn’t help but burst out laughing. Lin Xun is going to suffer a calamity this time.

Not long after that, a man strode into the hall. He was dressed in a beautiful robe that highlighted his bright eyes and dashing eyebrows. As he stood in the hall with his hands behind his back, he radiated a heroic bearing.

It was Zhao Jingwen from the imperial family!

He was also a genius figure in the Dao Martial Department and had once occupied first place on the Spirit Sea Gold Rankings in the past.

However, he had dropped to the second spot when Gu Yunting emerged from closed-door cultivation and Lin Xun returned to Qinglu Academy.

“Paying our respects to Senior Brother Jingwen.” Everyone bowed respectfully.

“How are things going?” asked Zhao Jingwen.

“It’s the end for Lin Xun. The day he is expelled is the day of his death!” Zuo Yujing answered confidently.

“Good.” Zhao Jingwen seemed very calm and there wasn’t a ripple of expression on his face.

“Senior Brother Jingwen, do we need to inform Her Highness Princess Linghuang and Senior Brother Qi Yu first?” asked Xue Yun.

“No need, it’s just Lin Xun, and he’s about to die anyway. There’s no need to drag in so many people. We can let them know once the matter is over.” Zhao Jingwen turned to Zuo Yujing.

“I heard that there is enmity between your Zuo Family and the Lin Clan of Mind Cleansing Peak. Since we have decided to get rid of Lin Xun, will your clan also take action on Mind Cleansing Peak?”

A helpless look creased Zuo Yujing’s brows. “Mind Cleansing Peak has closed its door and isolated itself from the world. For now, it will be difficult to deal with them.”

“Don’t worry, they can’t hide forever. Once Lin Xun dies, they will be without a leader. When a tree falls, the monkeys scatter. We don’t need to do anything,” stated Zhao Jingwen.

“The elders of my clan think so too.” Zuo Yujing chuckled.

“Senior Brother Zuo, it’s not good!”

A sharp voice suddenly pierced the air and Mole Li Xiaofei rushed into the hall, looking exasperated.

“What’s wrong?” Zuo Yujing frowned.

“The academy has made a decision. Anyone who creates more trouble in the academy will be expelled no matter who they are!”

What?

Everyone’s expressions dramatically changed. They had never thought that such a situation would happen. How did it turn into this?

Zhao Jingwen was also baffled. “That shouldn’t be the case. I have asked an uncle to come forward, and he gathered dozens of higher-ups of the academy to put pressure on the academy! How would they not be able to do anything to Lin Xun?”

Zhao Jingwen’s uncle was called Zhao Zhanye and was one of the Deputy Heads of the Dao Martial Department. He had monstrous authority and power within the academy.

They couldn’t believe that even Zhao Zhanye failed to make the academy change its mind and fire Lin Xun.

“Is this true?” Zuo Yujing asked.

Li Xiaofei quickly confirmed.

The atmosphere instantly turned heavy in the hall. Everyone’s faces clouded over. How could this be? We have called on so many people and created such a scene, so why can’t we get rid of Lin Xun?

Soon, they found out a piece of news—Lin Xun planned to cast a rune armament by himself!

The news was like a thunderbolt—it threw Zhao Jingwen and Zuo Yujing into chaos.

If the news was true, it was easy to understand the academy’s reason for refusing to expel Lin Xun.

A young rune grandmaster who had evoked the phenomenon from the Nine Tablets of the Dragon Gate was about to cast a rune armament. No one could touch him, let alone expel him from the academy!

“Annoying! This is so annoying!”

Jin Zhuliu and the others all looked glum.

They had almost been successful in getting rid of Lin Xin from the academy but a sudden change had happened. How could they accept it?

“Impossible, he’s only a sixteen-year-old rune grandmaster. How can he make a rune armament? This has to be a lie! Lin Xin must be deliberately spreading this lie to prevent him from being expelled from the academy!” Zuo Yujing uttered coldly after drawing a deep breath.

Everyone responded strongly.

“Yes! How old is Lin Xin? No matter how good he is in the art of runes, how can he possibly create a rune armament?”

“That boy is so cunning. He used such a trick to deceive the higher-ups of the academy to prevent his teaching qualification from being stripped away!” Jin Zhuliu hissed through gritted teeth.

“No matter what, the higher-ups in the academy believe him. Now, even if Lin Xin fails, who would dare to expel him again?” Xue Yun sighed.

“I inquired and found out that Lin Xin will go into closed-door cultivation in the next few days. He will isolate himself on the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower to prevent any disturbance. The academy has decided to ensure his safety during this period. They made it very clear that anyone who dared to touch him during this period is going against the academy.”

Zhao Jingwen and Zuo Yujing fell silent, complicated emotions swirling in their hearts! Lin Xin had dodged a bullet again!

“Rune armament...If he is successful, it will be even more difficult to deal with him in the future...” Zhao Jingwen muttered.

He knew the value of rune armament very well. He also knew what sort of treatment a rune master would receive after successfully casting a rune armament.

At least, almost no one in the entire Ziyao Empire would willingly go against such a person because it would be met with great resistance! Unless they had some deep-seated hatred between them.

“What can we do now?” Jin Zhuliu and the others asked, upset by the news.

Zhao Jingwen restored calmness to his face and said thoughtfully, “Do you think Lin Xin will succeed?”

“Impossible!”

Everyone’s answer was surprisingly unanimous. They didn’t believe in the slightest that Lin Xin could succeed. How could a sixteen-year-old rune grandmaster cast a rune armament?

No one would believe it!

Never had something similar happened in the past!

“Since that’s the case, this matter is easy to handle. We just have to wait until he fails and then we teach him an unbearable lesson!” Zhao Jingwen’s eyes glinted chillingly.

He was determined to kill Lin Xun. He is just a surviving member of a deteriorated clan. He has slandered and insulted the dignity of the imperial family. He will become a stain on the imperial family if he’s not killed.

.....

“Lin Xun is about to create a rune armament by himself!”

The news caused a sensation in the Qinglu Academy like a thunderbolt that had struck down from the ninth heaven.

A rune armament!

It was an unparalleled treasure in the world. Not only were they invaluable and unfathomable, but also only a handful of rune masters in the entire empire were able to cast rune armaments.

However, Lin Xun, a sixteen-year-old rune grandmaster, had announced that he was going to make a rune armament. How would that not stir the world?

“Is it true?” Many people had the same question.

After all, it was too unbelievable.

“Lin Xun must have noticed that his situation isn’t good so he deliberately made that up to avoid being expelled from the academy.”

Many people shared the same view. In recent days, many students and influential figures had been condemning Lin Xun and demanding he be stripped of his teaching qualifications and expelled from the academy.

Coincidentally, Lin Xun suddenly announced that he planned to make a rune armament. Many people couldn’t help but think that he made up the lie to protect himself.

“I’m not too sure. I heard that Master Shen Tuo came forward and specially provided the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower for Lin Xun’s exclusive use.”

Some people believed in Lin Xun. After all, he had caused the phenomenon from the Nine Tablets of the Dragon Gate, and he was known for his unbelievable talent in the art of runes.

In short, it caused a stir in Qinglu Academy, and the news sparked heated discussions among both teachers and students.

Soon, the news spread out of Qinglu Academy at an incredible speed and pervaded the Forbidden City.

“Create a rune armament? Has Lin Xun gone crazy?”

“If he can do that, I will eat shit! How can a sixteen-year-old kid make a rune armament? He’s so arrogant and ignorant!”

“It’s Lin Xun again! Why is there always news about him these days? That guy creates so many disturbances!”

Almost everyone in the Forbidden City was skeptical about Lin Xun casting a rune armament. He is dreaming if he thinks he can make a rune armament with his current ability. He will only make a fool of himself.

However, many people paid close attention to this matter because Lin Xun was a famous figure in the Forbidden City, and he had created many miracles in the past. They believed that he had to be confident in making a rune armament if he chose to do so.

Regardless of the uproar and sensation in the outside world, Lin Xun was meticulously sorting out the several kinds of rune materials on the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower.

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#### **Chapter 496**

Golden vines were enveloped in a dazzling glow like they were cast from gold, and striking vein lines were marked across their bodies like scars.

The Scarlet Blood Cloud Dipper Stone emitted bright red rays of light as it floated in the air.

The Violet Copper Dragon Iron was translucent and lustrous with purple clouds lingering around it. Faintly, there seemed to be a dragon looming inside.

The Horn of the Kui Ox was half a foot long and entirely azure green. It was simple and unadorned, but it produced faint roars that rippled the fabric of space.

Rare rune materials emerged one after another. There were a dozen in total, and all were the core materials for casting Lin Xun’s rune armament.

Additionally, there were a thousand kinds of assistance rune materials—Some were for extracting rune ink, and some were for arranging rune arrays.

Lin Xun’s expression was calm and tranquil as he concentrated on sorting out the various rune materials.

A huge ancient-looking furnace stood on the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower. It had three legs, two handles, and a perfectly smooth and round mouth.

The furnace was called Azure Sky and was an important weapon in the Rune Department. Its inside was covered densely with rune patterns, which had unbelievable effects in refining rune materials.

After Lin Xun dealt with all the rune materials, his gaze shifted to the Azure Sky Furnace. At that moment, his body and mind sank into a state of extreme calmness and tranquility. All distracting thoughts were discarded from his mind, and he stood as still as the moon’s reflection on the sapphire sea.

Lin Xun had long been preparing for that moment, so he wasn’t the least bit excited to start casting his first rune armament.

He had no worries, no concerns, no joy and no sadness.

The storm in the outside world and the hatred and distractions he repressed deep inside his mind were no longer important anymore.

“Let’s start.” Lin Xun took a step forward and started the rune armament-making process.

He had already practiced and rehearsed every little step in his mind. As a result, the process seemed incredibly natural, calm and peaceful.

Buzz—

The furnace glowed as its roar reverberated around the ninth floor of the empty Refinement Tower.

Lin Xun solely focused on refining rune materials, extracting rune inks, and inscribing rune patterns. His brows were ruffled in concentration and seriousness, and he had temporarily forgotten everything.

.....

In the outside world, storms were raging, and there was an underlying turmoil.

Qinglu Academy has become the center of attention of countless cultivators in the past two days. Many sects and clans were closely watching the academy.

A sixteen-year-old rune grandmaster was going to cast a rune armament!

That might feel very surreal and impossible for ordinary people, so many people felt that Lin Xun had very little chance of succeeding.

Rune armaments were too rare, so the difficulty in making one wasn’t known to ordinary people. They just thought it was so out of reach to them, so they didn’t believe that Lin Xun could succeed.

Only well-experienced powerful figures knew the terror of rune armaments!

They were incredible weapons, and it was not an exaggeration to say that any aristocratic clans with a rune armament would have the power to suppress their enemies!

If low-level clans acquired a rune armament, they could change their situation and compete with middle-level clans!

That was the power and influence of a rune armament.

Rumor had it that Heaven Ascension cultivators could compete with Cyclic Derivation cultivators if they wielded a rune armament!

Understandably, the news of Lin Xun making a rune armament drew the attention of the world and caused a sensation.

Even if the vast majority of people didn’t believe that he would succeed, that didn’t stop them from paying close attention to the matter!

A rune armament!

One could change a cultivator’s situation and power. Who wouldn’t be tempted by it?

Qinglu Academy became the eye of the storm.

Clatter—

Nine divine Fire Qilin Beasts pulled a jeweled carriage through the dense clouds and landed in front of the gate of Qinglu Academy.

A purple-robed middle-aged man stepped out of the gorgeous carriage with his hands clasped behind his back, exuding an imposing and majestic bearing like a sacred mountain. As he scanned the area, bolts of lightning shot out from his eyes.

The cultivators watching the academy closely couldn't help but exclaim, "The Fire Qilin Beast Carriage! It's Great Heaven Ascension Cultivator Qin Baoji from the Qin Family!"

Qin Baoji was a powerful figure among the aristocratic clans.

Qin Baoji stepped into Qinglu Academy without any obstruction.

Swoosh!

A divine rainbow cut through the sky.

A slender figure standing alone on a floating boat drew everyone's attention.

His figure was straight as a spear, and his clothes were fluttering around him. His body was enveloped in rainbow-colored light formed from the imago power of the great dao, making it impossible to see his true face.

"The Marquis of Hundred Battles from the Zuo Family!" some of the cultivators of the older generation exclaimed.

They recognized that he was a famous Heaven Ascension figure from the Zuo Clan—the Marquis of Hundred Battles Zuo Fuguang!

He was an invincible, tyrannical figure who had won every battle and killed hundreds of powerful figures of the brute race!

His amazing feats were all adorned with blood, so the emperor specially bestowed him the title 'of Hundred Battles.'

Zuo Fuguang's appearance stunned many cultivators.

It was no doubt not going to be peaceful in Qinglu Academy that day. Powerful and influential figures came one after another as though they had arranged this beforehand. Every one of them was considered an authority leader with monstrous power!

Naturally, the news of Lin Xun casting a rune armament drew them to Qinglu Academy. Otherwise, it would be impossible to see any traces of them on normal days.

Rumble!

Booms resembling beating drums rang out from the horizon, followed by fluttering flags, and guards clearing the way. Sixteen servants dressed in court dresses surrounded a bronze jeweled carriage like stars surrounding the moon.

The bronze carriage was adorned with gorgeous patterns of clouds, mountains, rivers, the sun and the moon, and it was shrouded in violet-gold qi. Its grand appearance made it seem as though a king had arrived.

The other people were visibly shaken by the group of people's appearance.

Violet-gold bronze carriage!

It was the carriage of Zhao Jiuxiao, Sea Subdue King of the imperial family. There was only one in the entire empire!

Sea Subdue King was a legendary and powerful prince rumored to have reached the Cyclic Derivation Stage.

Even a prince had come!

The violet-gold bronze carriage clattered to a halt, and a thin middle-aged man walked out in a gray robe. His sharp face seemed to have been carved by a knife and steely light darted from his eyes. His body was thin, but there seemed to be a destructive volcano concealed inside. If he erupted, he could incinerate mountains and valleys.

The commotion intensified when the powerful figures arrived one after another. Everyone knew that they had come for Lin Xun.

The atmosphere within Qinglu Academy was also very unusual, especially in the Rune Department. All teachers and students had suspended classes, and it was no longer tranquil like it was in the past.

This was because great figures of the empire had successively come to Refinement Tower for the same thing—To watch Lin Xun's rune armament-making operation!

Seats had already been prepared for the influential figures in front of the Refinement Tower.

Shen Tuo's face was overcast with worry as he looked at the uninvited influential figures on the seats from afar.

Shen Tuo had to leak the news that Lin Xun intended to cast a rune armament to defuse the situation of students attempting to get Lin Xun fired.

The news made the academy change its attitude, and Lin Xun's crisis was averted.

However, Shen Tuo didn't expect the leaked news would attract the attention of so many people and make influential figures come one after another.

Even the higher-ups of the academy were alarmed and had arranged for Shen Tuo to properly handle the matter.

"Brother Shen."

Yu Beidou, a senior rune grandmaster from the Rune Master Association, and Cheng Jing, a rune grandmaster from the Divine Workshop, had also come.

"You guys came too."



Shen Tuo cast away the distracting thoughts in his mind and hurried over to welcome them.

“How confident is Lin Xun in making the rune armament?” Yu Beidou asked directly.

His question drew the attention of countless people as it was a question that many people were concerned about.

“You have to ask Lin Xun,” Shen Tuo responded casually. He had answered the same question countless times in the past few days. He didn't try to brush him off, but he indeed didn't know the answer.

“I understand, after all, this is his first time making a rune armament. No one can guarantee that it will be successful.” Yu Beidou nodded.

He, Cheng Jing, and Shen Tuo had overseen the process of Lin Xun being verified as a rune grandmaster and also witnessed the phenomenon from the Nine Tablets of the Dragon Gate, so they knew about Lin Xun's amazing mastery in the art of runes better than many other people.

However, they were still shocked when they found out that Lin Xun was going to cast a rune armament, so they hurried over to confirm it.

“There's something wrong with the situation. Why are there so many people here?” Cheng Jing frowned. “Did they all come hoping to see Lin Xun make a fool of himself?”

“It's hard to say,” Shen Tuo mumbled.

In truth, he could tell that many of those people didn't come to purely witness Lin Xun's rune armament-making process!

Meanwhile, more and more famous figures gathered. Each one of them had an impressive background. There were no ordinary people among them because ordinary people were not qualified to come to Qinglu Academy as they wished.

Buzz!

Suddenly, a mighty wave of energy rippled out from the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower and bell-like noise reverberated between heaven and earth.

Immediately, it captured everyone's attention.

“The Azure Sky Furnace has been activated. It seems like the kid has started,” someone whispered.

The person had a thin face and lightning-like eyes. His long gray hair was perfectly combed. It was Chu Shanhe, the deputy head of the Rune Department!

Chu Shanhe had once schemed to prevent Lin Xun from being able to gain a foothold in the Rune Department as revenge for Chu Haidong. However, Lin Xun had successfully restored the empress' Sword of Apocalypse, and Chu Shanhe had to leave the Rune Department in embarrassment. He had decided to retreat temporarily to protect his face.

Unexpectedly, he had come today.

“If he succeeds, he can make up for his mistakes. He will no longer be held accountable for slandering and insulting the dignity of the imperial family. But if he fails, then I won’t be polite to him!” uttered a mighty-looking old man beside Chu Shanhe. A chilling glint flashed across his eyes.

The old man was Zhao Zhanye, the deputy head of the Dao Martial Department. He was also an important figure in the imperial family. Clearly, he didn’t come with the sole purpose of observing Lin Xun’s rune armament-making process!

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### **Chapter 497**

Zhao Zhanye’s words surprised everyone.

The deputy head of the Dao Martial Department clearly didn’t believe that Lin Xun could make a rune armament. He had only come to take advantage of the opportunity to subdue the youth instead.

“Haha, Brother Zhao is right. Although Lin Xun is extremely talented, he disregards the law, acts without restraint, and is a very bad character. A talent like him would only bring trouble no matter how outstanding he is.” Chu Shanhe chuckled.

Despite being the deputy head of the Rune Department, he had nothing but negative comments about Lin Xun. His intentions were obvious.

It made many sharp people aware that Lin Xun’s rune armament-making operation might turn into a disaster for him!

Unless he could cast a rune armament. Otherwise, his situation would be worrying!

“You’re right! Qinglu Academy isn’t a place to hide filth. Juniors such as Lin Xun will veer onto the wrong path one day and become a trouble if not properly punished and disciplined,” Qin Baoji also spoke out. His eyes glinted like sharp swords.

“If that boy lied and deceived us, he deserved to be killed!”

Suddenly, a voice boomed out like a rumble of thunder, causing the audience’s faces to blanch. It was the Marquis of Hundred Battles Zuo Fuguang. The aura of the great Dao circulated his body as he sat there like a king on a mountain of corpses and blood.

All of a sudden, it fell utterly silent and still.

Everyone could tell that the influential figures had come to target Lin Xun. Moreover, they didn’t try to disguise it!

Shen Tuo’s face grew increasingly overcast. Lin Xun had only started casting the rune armament, but people had already made threats one after another. Fear flooded his heart, and he knew the situation wasn’t favorable to Lin Xun.

“What did Lin Xun do so wrong that people with identity and status such as yourselves have to come forward one after another to criticize him?” a voice suddenly rang out, shocking the entire audience.

Someone had dared to refute so many important figures!

However, a mighty young man walked forward in large strides, exuding a domineering and superior aura.

“Ning Meng, the grandson of the Steel-Blood King!”

Many people recognized the youngster, so their expressions changed dramatically.

“Little kid, do you know where you are? Is there a place for you to interject?” Qin Baoji snorted coldly.

A light bloomed from his eyes and cut through space like sharp blades, chilling everyone.

“Nonsense, this is Qinglu Academy. You old fellows came without invitation and even dared to teach me a lesson!” Ning Meng bellowed, making everyone tremble inwardly.

That kid acts so tough! Does he not attach any importance to the Qin Family just because he is related to the Steel-Blood King?

Qin Baoji’s face suddenly darkened. Before he could speak, the Marquis of Hundred Battles Zuo Fuguang waved his hand dismissively and said indifferently, “Brother Qin, don’t lower yourself to his level.”

As he was speaking, he swept a glance over Ning Meng. “Little guy, do you not have any manners? Does your family not teach you manners? Hurry up and step back! Don’t make a mistake!”

Ning Meng raged, “Are you criticizing my family!?”

Zuo Fuguang frowned and said in a displeased manner, “Little guy, even your father won’t dare to speak like that if he was here. Do you think we won’t dare to punish you?”

Rumble—

An oppressive force rapidly spread toward Ning Meng to subdue and silence him.

Ning Meng’s expression changed. “Old thing, how dare you?!”

Zuo Fuguang smiled coldly. “Little junior, I will teach you a lesson today on behalf of your parents! I will let you know what manners are!”

As he was speaking, his imposing aura soared.

He had fought hundreds of bloody battles on the frontier and had slaughtered thousands of powerful figures of the brute race. His hands were stained with blood. How could Spirit Sea cultivators defend against him?

“Haha, how imposing! Zuo Fuguang, I haven’t seen you in years. How dare you teach my grandson on my behalf?!”

Suddenly, a thunderous roar resounded, stinging the eardrums of everyone and causing their expressions to dramatically change.

It was just a voice, but it made their hearts tremble like a hammer!

Swoosh!

A tall and burly figure emerged like a sacred mountain. He had disheveled white hair and a long and pointy beard. As his eyes opened and closed, they produced terrifying visions such as mountains of corpses, seas of blood, and stars falling.

He was no doubt a terrifyingly powerful expert. His arrival filled the area with murderous qi, causing the air to screech and clouds to roil.

Everyone's faces were crossed with disbelief.

Steel-Blood King Ning Bugui!

A king who lived to fight. He had vowed to die with his head resting on a mountain of corpses, lying in a sea of blood and facing the sky!

Over one thousand experts had died in his hands, and he was no doubt a king who created a name for himself through slaughtering. His fierceness and power had shaken the empire many times!

It was even rumored that even the five tiger generals of the empire together wouldn't be as majestic and powerful as the Steel-Blood King!

No one had expected such a legendary figure would return to the Forbidden City and appear in Qinglu Academy.

"Brute Ning! Why are you here?"

Zuo Fuguang sprang up, looking a little bewildered.

The other people's expressions also changed. Ning Bugui was stationed in the western frontier of the empire and hadn't returned to the Forbidden City in at least one hundred years. What would be the reason for his return?

"What? Am I not welcome back?!"

Ning Bugui's voice was rough like a thunderclap. He didn't try to disguise his fierce power.

"How would we dare? Brother Ning, please take a seat."

Zhao Zhanye got up and motioned him to sit down. As the Deputy Head of the Dao Martial Department and an influential figure of the imperial family, he had an extraordinary status.

"Hmph, you guys only know how to bully the juniors. I can't sit with you guys."

He grabbed Ning Meng and sat on the ground. The Steel-Blood King was indeed as domineering as rumored. He didn't give face to anyone.

Zhao Zhanye's face clouded over.

"Hmph, so what if you came? Lin Xun has made many mistakes. You can't save him!" Zuo Fuguang sneered after he regained his composure.

Not only him, but Chu Shanhe, Qin Baoji and other important figures also had the same thought.

“Duke Daochen has fought for the empire. Although he has died, his heroic spirit still lives on and he is still admired by thousands of people. I never thought that his only remaining seedling would be treated as a thorn. It’s so upsetting,” someone let out a long sigh. Although the voice wasn’t particularly loud, it rang clearly in everyone’s ears.

An obese middle-aged man strode toward the crowd. From afar, he resembled a moving hill.

The head of Stone Cauldron Alms—Fortune God Shi!

Everyone’s eyes widened. The famous Fortune God Shi had also come. Moreover, from his tone of voice, he seemed to be standing on Lin Xun’s side.

Zhao Zhanye, Chu Shanhe, Zuo Fuguang, Qin Baoji and other important figures narrowed their eyes, their faces darkening.

“Brother Shi, come and take a seat. It’s very hard to see you these days. We must have a good chat and catch up.” Ning Bugui said with a smile.

Fortune God Shi laughed heartily and seated his huge mountain-like body beside him.

It was also at that moment that everyone noticed Shi Yu standing behind Fortune God Shi. He had been unnoticed until now because Fortune God Shi’s body was too huge, like a little mountain...

Many people fell into deep thought. They were aware that Shi Yu, Ning Meng and Lin Xun were close friends, so the appearance of Ning Bugui and Fortune God Shi had to be related to them.

The situation became more interesting.

Some people seemed to be targeting Lin Xun, and some people wanted to protect Lin Xun. The rune armament-making operation had silently set off a storm and underlying turmoil.

“Duke Daochen was a hero admired by countless people in the empire. We also respected him tremendously, but I never thought that his descendant would commit so many vile deeds that sparked widespread indignation and discontent. If he isn’t properly disciplined, he will only tarnish the prestige of Duke Daochen and bring shame to the Lin Family,” Zhao Zhanye said expressionlessly.

The appearance of Ning Bugui and Fortune God Shi didn’t change his attitude.

“What widespread indignation and discontent? I heard that some people had been secretly targeting and trying to suppress him ever since he entered the Forbidden City?”

“I think there are people who don’t want the blood of Duke Daochen to be in the world.”

Another two figures emerged. One was a middle-aged man with jet-black hair, sparse brows and a majestic gait.

The other was a slender and short old man with a goatee and amiable smile.

However, the two’s appearance sparked a commotion again.

This was because the middle-aged man with jet-black hair was the authority figure of the East Sea—East Sea King Ye Qingtian!

The old man with a goatee was a great elder of the Never Falling Geezer Gong Clan—Gong Bupo!

The younger generation might know little about the two, but the influential figures present all knew that the two were ruthless figures who had long made a name for themselves.

Needless to say, Ye Xiaoqi and Gong Ming were following Ye Qingtian and Gong Bupo.

Everyone could tell that Steel-Blood King Ning Bugui, Fortune God Shi, the East Sea King Ye Qingtian and Gong Bupo had come to protect Lin Xun!

Many people realized that the situation had become more and more interesting, and it seemed like a conflict would soon break out.

Zhao Zhanye, Chu Shanhe and the others scrunched their brows, finding the situation a little tricky to deal with. They had never thought that so many fierce characters would emerge when they wanted to deal with a surviving member of the deteriorated Lin Clan.

“Lin Xun has only just started the rune armament-making process. Why are you all arguing so fiercely? Let’s just quietly watch. A sixteen-year-old kid is about to cast a rune armament. This is unheard of!”

Amid the tense atmosphere, a light sigh sounded, and a gray-robed middle-aged man with a sharp face like it was carved from a blade suddenly appeared.

He looked unremarkable but everyone somehow felt as though a volcano was concealed within his thin body. The volcano seemed capable of incinerating mountains and rivers if it erupted.

Zhao Zhanye, Chu Shanhe, Ning Bugui, Fortune God Shi or any other powerful figure sprang to their feet. No one dared to remain sitting.

That was power!

A power that belonged to Sea Subdue King Zhao Jiuxiao!

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 498**

The appearance of Sea Subdue King Zhao Jiuxiao brought everyone to their feet to greet him. He was like the sun or moon shining on the mountains and rivers.

The disputes silently ceased.

Zhao Zhanye and Chu Shanhe breathed a sigh of relief because Zhao Jiuxiao was from the imperial family, which meant that he was on the same side as them.

Steel-Blood King Ning Bugui, Fortune God Shi and the others frowned and kept quiet.

Influential figures continued to arrive one after another, including people from the Hua Clan, the Song Clan, and the Chi Clan.

As soon as they arrived, Zhao Zhanye, Chu Shanhe and the others greeted them enthusiastically because they knew that Lin Xun had previously offended their clan. The enemy’s enemy was their friend. Zhao Zhanye and the others wouldn’t let go of the opportunity to make ‘friends’.

Ning Bugui and Fortune God Shi remained silent. Everyone could tell that if they wanted to protect Lin Xun they would be met with greater resistance.

In truth, the majority of people present had never expected the situation to develop to that stage.

This was because Lin Xun had only begun the rune armament-making process. Even if everyone thought that his chance of success was very slim, they couldn't guarantee that he would fail!

Based on that, it was very strange for Zhao Zhanye, Chu Shanhe, Zuo Fuguang, Qin Baoji and others to take such a direct and aggressive action against Lin Xun.

Were they not worried that they would be embarrassed if Lin Xun succeeded?

Or were they certain that Lin Xun's rune armament-making operation would end in failure?

If so, that meant they had come prepared!

Ning Bugui and Fortune God Shi were very worried because Zhao Zhanye and the others looked too confident and the consequences would be very serious for Lin Xun if he failed.

"Master Shen Tuo, how confident do you think Lin Xun is in succeeding?" Fortune God Shi sent a voice transmission to Shen Tuo.

"I...I'm not sure either." Shen Tuo smiled bitterly.

It was that question again.

"The situation doesn't seem to be looking good," Fortune God Shi said ruminatively.

"As far as I know, it will take at least one month to make a rune armament. Regardless of what the outcome is, I will do everything I can to protect the last remaining seedling of Duke Daochen," Steel-Blood King Ning Bugui said resolutely.

Of course, he only said that to Fortune God Shi, Ye Qingtian and Gong Bupo through voice transmission to prevent it from being heard by others.

On the other side, Zhao Zhanye also sent a voice transmission. "We came in such a mighty manner and already attracted the attention of many people. All eyes are on us so I hope no further changes will happen."

Chu Shanhe smiled confidently. "Brother Zhao, don't worry. Even if the boy can create a rune armament, he is doomed to fail!"

Zhao Zhanye glanced at Chu Shanhe and nodded. "Then I can rest assured. The kid Lin Xun is special, so we can't let him grow up. Otherwise, he will become a disaster rather than a blessing for our empire."

.....

Ten days passed by in the blink of an eye.

On the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower, the furnace continued to roar and produce waves of energy that rippled the space. Occasionally, colorful rays of light burst forth like divine rainbows.

The spectacles sparked commotions and discussions within the audience. Many rune masters joined in and analyzed and explained the visions to the audience.

“Everyone, look, it is currently in the extraction stage. To cast a rune armament, the extraction of rune materials is an extremely important step because, as we all know, every piece of rune material is tremendously rare and full of spiritual intelligence. It’s not easy to extract them and combine them into an elementary form.”

“Yes, rune masters in the past had failed at this stage because they failed to form a perfect elementary structure.”

Many influential figures listened with interest. Someone couldn’t help but ask, “Master, can you tell whether Lin Xun can successfully form a perfect elementary structure?”

“At present, there seems to be no problem. It just depends on whether he can maintain control in the extraction step. In this regard alone, Lin Xun’s performance has exceeded my expectations,” explained Yu Beidou, a senior rune grandmaster of the Rune Master Association Headquarters.

His analysis improved many people’s confidence in Lin Xun.

After all, according to Yu Beidou, it was already amazing for a young rune master like Lin Xun to achieve that step.

Amid the exclamations of amazement, Chu Shanhe snorted coldly, “Haha, I don’t see that. If my guess is correct, Lin Xun will fail to form a perfect elementary form during the stage of rune material extraction.”

The audience was a little perplexed. Chu Shanhe was from the Chu Clan, one of the three great rune families, and he was also the deputy head of the Rune Department. If such an experienced rune grandmaster made such a clear claim, he had to have noticed something.

“That old thing has such a bad mouth!” Ning Meng fumed.

“That old guy deliberately made things difficult for Lin Xun when he was repairing the empress’ Sword of Apocalypse, but he had to leave in embarrassment in the end. Naturally, he wants Lin Xun to fail to make a rune armament,” Shi Yu said with a frown.

“That old thing needs a beating. No one in the entire Rune Department could repair the Sword of Apocalypse and only Lin Xun succeeded. Lin Xun had done him a huge favor, but he didn’t show any appreciation and instead he deliberately targeted Lin Xun with other people,” Ye Xiao remarked.

“Brother Chu, I wonder if you have any basis for that claim?” Shen Tuo questioned Chu Shanhe, looking dissatisfied.

“Hmph, of course, I noticed something. Just wait and see if you don’t believe me.” Chu Shanhe snorted and didn’t explain.

His confidence made many spectators wonder whether Lin Xun would indeed fail at the extraction stage.

That would be bad!



Boom!

As though fulfilling Chu Shanhe's prediction, a thunder-like explosion resounded from the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower.

Immediately, the light dimmed and the rainbow disintegrated. Not long after that, the entire ninth floor of the Refinement Tower fell into silence. The furnace no longer rumbled nor produced any gorgeous spectacles.

Everyone's eyes went wide.

"How would this happen? Is he going to fail at this stage?"

Shen Tuo trembled inwardly and his face turned ashen. Even the faces of Yu Beidou and Cheng Jing were filled with disbelief.

He failed!

"Hahaha, what did I just say? Did my prediction come true?" Chu Shanhe burst into laughter.

"I already said earlier that Lin Xun can't cast a rune armament!"

The audience exchanged glances with each other. Many were disappointed, but some gloated and sneered.

Ning Bugui and Fortune God Shi assumed solemn expressions. Although they knew that Lin Xun's chance of success was slim, they couldn't believe that he would fail at the rune material extraction stage.

"Okay, go and ask some influential figures to come. The kid has failed so it's time to settle some accounts with him!" Chu Shanhe said smugly.

In recent days, some influential figures had left and some had just arrived. People with their identities and status wouldn't wait there patiently.

Sea Subdue King Zhao Jiuxiao and Zhao Zhanye, the deputy head of the Dao Martial Department, had left a few days ago.

The atmosphere became deathly silent. Lin Xun has failed?

Ning Meng and Shi Yu couldn't accept the result.

In contrast, it was the best result for those who viewed Lin Xun as an enemy.

Lin Xun would be doomed once the influential figures return!

Shen Tuo's face was bleak as he murmured, "How could that be...given his ability...it shouldn't be hard for him to extract rune materials and form a rudimentary form...Could some kind of accident have happened..."

Not long after that, powerful figures such as Zhao Jiuxiao, Zhao Zhanye, Zuo Fuguang and Qin Baoji returned one after another, turning the atmosphere austere.

“I didn’t expect him to fail.” Sea Subdue King Zhao Jiuxiao sighed. His attitude was the most intriguing because he seemed to have come to solely watch the rune armament-making operation and had no other motives.

However, he was a member of the imperial family, so there was no way he would help Lin Xun.

Zhao Zhanye, Chu Shanhe and the others grinned. The outcome allowed them to breathe a sigh of relief. Next, they need to consider how to deal with Lin Xun.

“Lin Xun, since you failed, come out and face reality!” Chu Shanhe yelled like thunder, shaking the sky and ground.

“That damn old thing! Is he that urgent to deal with Lin Xun?” Ning Meng fumed.

Shi Yu and the others scrunched up their faces in worry. It was undoubtedly the worst outcome for them. If they wanted to protect Lin Xun, it would no doubt be difficult and full of obstructions.

Zhao Zhanye and Chu Shanhe wouldn’t let go of the opportunity to subdue Lin Xun!

The area seemed to be pervaded by a grave atmosphere. Everyone knew that a storm targeting Lin Xun was looming!

Ever since Lin Xun had entered the Forbidden City, he had offended many powerful forces, such as the Hua Clan, the Song Clan, the Chi Clan, the Zuo Clan, the Qin Clan, the Chu Clan and the Imperial Family...

Today, people from those great forces had gathered to settle accounts with Lin Xun!

It’s over for Lin Xun...

Even Ning Bugui and Fortune God Shi likely wouldn’t be able to protect him!

“Lin Xun, are you afraid? If you don’t come out now, don’t blame me for sending someone to invite you out!” Chu Shanhe thundered, his expression chilling and his voice full of threat.

“How dare he?!”

Ning Meng and Shi Yu gnashed their teeth. Chu Shanhe had gone too far!

Everyone looked at each other in dismay, but no one dared to speak up to stop Chu Shanhe from doing so.

Amidst a tense atmosphere, Lin Xun’s indifferent and calm voice sounded.

“Old man, what are you talking about? Who said I failed?”

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### **Chapter 499**

His one sentence dumbfounded the audience.

Lin Xun is still quarreling with Chu Shanhe at such a time!

Everyone finally saw that Lin Xun was standing at the top of the Refinement Tower. His figure was tall and elegant, and his clothes were whipping around him. It was as though he was a god looking over the mortal beings.

“Little guy, why don’t you hurry down here and apologize?” Chu Shanhe bellowed, his face darkening.

He spoke bluntly and rudely as though he wanted to quickly subdue Lin Xun.

“Old thing, you will delay my rune armament making. Can you bear the consequences?”

Lin Xun’s counterattack was equally direct and rude. He called Chu Shanhe an old thing in front of so many influential figures! The audience couldn’t help but mutter to themselves, That guy is as fearless as rumored.

“Bastard, you failed to make a rune armament, but you still won’t admit your wrongs and even dare to argue back! Do you think I don’t dare to punish you?” Chu Shanhe was livid, and his eyes were filled with murderous rage.

“Lin Xun, we will not tolerate you creating trouble today. Quickly get down here and receive your punishment!” Zhao Zhanye hissed, lightning flashing in his eyes.

“Young man, I advise you to not struggle anymore. You should know what situation you are in now. Don’t force us to capture you ourselves.” Zuo Fuguang, the Marquis of Hundred Battles, emitted killing intent.

Qin Baoji, Chu Shanhe and the others all wore unfriendly looks. They looked at Lin Xun like he was a dead object. They would have already acted and oppressed Lin Xun if it weren’t for Qinglu Academy’s obstruction.

“Lin Xun, you have already failed. If you admit fault now, there may be a chance for you.”

“Quickly get down here!” Influential figures from the Hua Clan, Song Clan and Chi Clan also thundered.

All of a sudden, the atmosphere turned tense and hostile and everyone pointed fingers at Lin Xun like he was a criminal.

Some people sighed inwardly. Lin Xun likely can’t get out of his situation today even if he possesses abnormal strength!

Ning Meng, Shi Yu and the others gritted their teeth in fury. Those old things are bullies! What are they treating Lin Xun as? A criminal?

“Everyone, aren’t you all too impatient? Let’s see who dares to bully the descendant of Duke Daochen today!”

Suddenly, Steel-Blood King Ning Bugui rose to his feet. Lightning flashed in his eyes, and the murderous aura around him soared skyward, causing many nearby faces to turn pale.

“What did Lin Xun do wrong for you all to treat him like that?” Fortune God Shi sighed as he stepped forward.

His huge figure resembled a little mountain emerging from the ground and filled the space with an oppressive atmosphere.

On the other side, East Sea King Ye Qingtian and Gong Bupo also got up and stared indifferently at Zhao Zhanye, Chu Shanhe and the others from afar.

The situation grew increasingly tense and the air seemed to freeze. Many people felt stifled.

Authority figures with earthshaking powers stood facing each other like volcanoes on the verge of erupting.

One side wanted to suppress Lin Xun, and the other side wanted to protect Lin Xun. The situation was very clear but the outcome was unknown.

“What did he do wrong? The entire world knows what he had done wrong! He is a looming calamity. If he is not suppressed today, he will bring disaster to the world in the future and cause harm to everyone!” Zhao Zhanye snorted coldly, seemingly not the slightest afraid of Ning Bugui, Fortune God Shi and the others.

“Lin Xun, since you have failed to make a rune armament then hurry up and come down. It’s time to put an end to today’s matter.” Chu Shanhe’s eyes glinted like a sharp blade as he locked them on Lin Xun. He couldn’t stand seeing Lin Xun standing on the top of the Refinement Towering and looking down at them from a height.

“Lin Xun, come down. Even if I sacrifice my life I will keep you safe,” stated Ning Bugui indifferently. His aura grew increasingly terrifying.

He was a king who had fought on the battlefield for hundreds of years and trampled on countless enemy corpses. His resolute statement moved the audience.

“Come down, I might not be amazing but I will not tolerate you being wronged,” Shen Tuo said aloud, surprising many people.

To the surprise of many people, Lin Xun, the only remaining seedling of the main Lin Clan, had so much support.

“Hmph!” Zhao Zhanye snorted coldly.

Even if he was dissatisfied with the others’ responses, he wouldn’t let go of such a good opportunity to subdue Lin Xun. He had to kill him before he rose.

Atop the Refinement Tower, Lin Xun condescendingly ran his gaze across the gathered influential figures. When he saw Ning Bugui, Fortune God Shi and the others, he felt a warmth swirling in his heart. He had never thought that they would appear to protect him at such a time.

But when his eyes swept to Zhao Zhanye and Chu Shanhe, they turned chilling. He didn’t attempt to disguise his hostility.

He smiled slightly, showing his pearly white teeth. “When I finish making the rune armament, I will stand in front of you and ask you how you want to deal with me!”

He spoke calmly but his words shocked and puzzled the audience. He has already failed to make the rune armament, why is he still saying that?

Zhao Zhanye scrunched his brows. "Brother Chu, what's going on?"

Chu Shanhe was also a little surprised, but he immediately reassured, "Impossible, he absolutely can't succeed. He must be bluffing."

Ning Bugui, Fortune God Shi, Shen Tuo and the others were a little perplexed. They could tell that Lin Xun wasn't joking, so could it mean that he hadn't failed?

Ning Bugui couldn't help but ask, "Master Shen Tuo, can you tell us what the situation is?"

"Only ten days have passed and the abnormal phenomena indicate that an accident has happened during the process of extraction and forming a rudimentary structure...I also don't understand the situation." Shen Tuo frowned.

The fact that an experienced rune grandmaster was uncertain about the situation made Ning Bugui even more puzzled.

What is that kid doing?

"Lin Xun, are you still trying to fool everyone? You should know that your situation won't change even if you drag it out!" roared Chu Shanhe.

"Old thing, you are a rune master. How can you speak so loudly before you even understand the situation? You are an embarrassment to rune masters!" Lin Xun said rudely.

The rune grandmasters exchanged strange glances with one another. Could there be something that they hadn't noticed?

Chu Shanhe laughed angrily, "Hahaha, fine, I'm also curious to see what tricks you are playing!"

He was convinced that Lin Xun couldn't turn his situation around!

This was because he had secretly tampered with the Azure Sky Furnace on the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower. He had forcibly removed some of the rune arrays inside the furnace, so even rune founders couldn't possibly succeed in forming a rudimentary form.

How can he cast a rune armament if he can't even make a rudimentary form?

He must be dreaming!

That was the reason for Chu Shanhe's confidence.

That was also the reason he invited Zhao Zhanye, Zuo Fuguang, Qin Baoji and other great figures to oppress Lin Xun together.

Even if the furnace is undamaged and in perfect condition, trash like you can't possibly make a rune armament! Chu Shanhe sneered to himself.

But immediately, he wrinkled his brows. What is the kid doing?

Not only Chu Shanhe but everyone's attention was drawn to the top of the Refinement Tower.

Lin Xun's slender back was facing everyone and his robe and black hair were fluttering around him. He stood there quietly with his hands behind his back as if he was waiting for something.

Occasionally, he would lift his head and glance at the sky.

"Does anyone know what he is doing?" someone asked but no one answered because even the great rune grandmasters were confused.

"What are you doing? Stop pretending!" Chu Shanhe sneered.

Boom!

An earthshaking clap of thunder pierced the clear blue sky, interrupting him.

It was so sudden that everyone in the audience trembled, especially Chu Shanhe. His ears buzzed and his face turned ashen.

What was that?

He looked up to see that thick, dark clouds had obscured the sky, and ink-like darkness had enveloped the earth.

An indescribable stifling aura of oppression spread throughout the world, and everyone's expression dramatically changed.

Lightning Tribulation?

Could Lin Xun be trying to overcome the Lightning Tribulation to make a breakthrough in his cultivation?

That's so unexpected. Wasn't he casting a rune armament? Why did he draw upon the Lightning Tribulation?

Rumble!

Suddenly, purple lightning danced across the sky like thick chains, flashes of light blinded any observers, and a supreme oppressive aura pervaded the space.

It was a destructive aura that could make all spirits tremble and feel despair!

It was the Lightning Tribulation!

Ning Bugui, Fortune God Shi, Ye Qingtian, Gong Bupo and other powerful figures couldn't help but narrow their eyes.

They could tell that the lightning tribulation was no trivial matter. The purple flashes of lightning were followed by ear-splitting claps of thunder. A Spirit Sea cultivator couldn't possibly overcome such a tribulation.

"At such a time, that little trash—"

Chu Shanhe suddenly froze, stunned by an unbelievable scene.

Lin Xun flicked his sleeve, and a silver spear as pure as snow soared into the sky with a buzz, appearing within the lightning tribulation!

Kacha!

The purple bolts of lightning battered the bright silver spear like thick chains, producing ear-piercing booms.

To everyone's surprise, mysterious array diagrams rose from the silver spear and produced visions of sun, moon, mountains, rivers and a galloping Kui Ox to fend off the Purple Lightning Tribulation.

All cultivators stared at the spectacle in stunned silence.

That...

A weapon was overcoming the tribulation!

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 500**

Everyone's eyes widened in disbelief.

They thought that a lightning tribulation had descended and that Lin Xun was about to make a breakthrough, but it turned out that Lin Xun had done something no one expected.

They had all guessed wrong. The lightning tribulation was triggered by the brilliant silver spear that was as bright as snow!

A weapon was overcoming a tribulation?

Who had ever seen such an unbelievable thing?

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Even the rune masters were trembling, and their eyes bulged wide open. Firstly, they were shocked by the terrifying power of the lightning tribulation, and secondly, they were reminded of a legend.

Legend had it that the birth of treasures with spiritual intelligence would spark jealousy from the heavens and draw upon the lightning tribulation to remove them from the world.

However, very few people had witnessed such a scene happen in the world.

Therefore, many rune masters subconsciously believed that it was nothing but a legend.

However, such a scene was happening before them. They were all struck dumb like they had suffered a blow to their heads. They started to believe that the so-called legend was very likely to be true!

"No wonder Lin Xun is so confident. It turns out that he has been waiting for this moment. The spear is the rune armament he created!"

Shen Tuo's irises glowed a brilliant light, and his voice was filled with undisguised excitement. Lin Xun had previously told him that the rune armament he intended to make was a spear for an old servant of the Lin Clan.

A spear had suddenly appeared out of thin air and was fending off the purple lightning tribulation. It was shining with all kinds of mysterious patterns, so could that be the treasure that Lin Xun had made?

“That kid is so good at keeping his composure!” Ning Bugui snorted but his eyes sparkled with admiration.

He was also awestruck by the scene. A weapon that could trigger lightning tribulation was no doubt an extremely powerful rune armament!

Fortune God Shi, Ye Qingtian, Gong Bupo and the others all had the same thought. The unbelievable and rare scene made their hearts flutter, and they lost their usual composure.

Kacha!

The dazzling purple lightning continued to boom in the sky, quaking the area. Its aura of destruction made even Qinglu Academy oppressive and stifling.

Amid the terrifying lightning tribulation, a spear released a silvery brilliance like a proud dragon. The patterns on its surface flowed like waves, flickered, dimmed and roared, producing all sorts of incredible visions.

It stunned everyone, including the living beings thousands of miles away from Qinglu Academy.

It was a lightning tribulation!

A tribulation caused by a rune armament. In the entire empire, who had ever witnessed such a phenomenon?

It was like a miracle!

“How is that possible?”

The corners of Chu Shanhe’s lips quivered and his eyes glazed over in a trance. He looked like he had seen a ghost. Previously, he resolutely promised that he would punish and subdue Lin Xun.

However, now, he was in a panic. Everything happening before him was beyond his expectation like something impossible was happening.

“Didn’t you guarantee that we won’t fail under any circumstances?”

Zhao Zhanye’s ice-cold voice rang in his ears and made him shudder all over. He turned around to see Zhao Zhanye’s sullen expression and his brows furrowed.

“It’s impossible!” Chu Shanhe roared, going berserk. He was livid that everything was slipping out of his control.

“Hmph!”

A chilling voice made him notice that Zuo Fuguang, Qin Baoji and the others were also glowering at him.

A wave of panic swept over him. How could this be?

Lin Xun had failed the stage of making a rudimentary form, so when did he create the spear?!



Moreover, only around ten days had passed. Even rune founders would take at least one month to cast a rune armament, so how can Lin Xun complete one in such a short time?

Furthermore, the spear triggered an earthshaking lightning tribulation!

Boom!

The lightning tribulation in the sky grew increasingly terrifying.

Chu Shanhe broke out in cold sweat, his hands trembling and his face ashen.

“You told us to be passive.” Zhao Zhanye’s face was ice-cold

His one sentence made Chu Shanhe feel so aggrieved that he almost coughed up blood. The worst thing was that he couldn’t understand how Lin Xun pulled it off!

In truth, not only Chu Shanhe but even the rune grandmasters were also baffled by the outcome. In just over ten days, Lin Xun had made a rune armament that attracted a lightning tribulation. That had never happened in the past.

“I made the right decision to come,” Sea Subdue King Zhao Jiuxiao exclaimed emotionally. His gaze tore the void and peered into the depths of the lightning tribulation. He could sense the extraordinary powers and intelligence of the silver spear.

It was also his first time seeing such a spectacle. He couldn’t imagine what sort of divine weapon the treasure would evolve into if it could successfully overcome the tribulation.

The lightning tribulation drew exclamations of awe and attracted the attention of many people. Many people were curious to see whether the spear could survive the tribulation and continue to exist in the world.

Regardless, that alone was enough to make Lin Xun gain resounding fame and make his name shake the world of rune masters.

“I knew Lin Xun doesn’t like to suffer a loss!” Ning Neng chuckled, his face glowing with pride.

“It seems like we worried too much,” Shi Yu said aloud.

Ye Xiaoqi and Gong Ming glanced at each other and couldn’t help but laugh.

Meanwhile, on the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower, Lin Xun still had his hands behind his back and looked up at the sky. His handsome figure was bathed in a billowing glow, looking illusionary and mysterious.

However, no one noticed the look of relief on his face as no one knew how much pressure he was under.

For the past ten or so days, he hardly ate, drank or slept. He had devoted all his energy and effort to make the spear.

He had narrowly avoided failure several times during the process, especially since the Azure Sky Furnace lacked a key rune. When he was extracting rune materials, he had almost failed to form a rudimentary structure for the rune armament.

Fortunately, he used a secret technique he had learned from the Flowing Light Rune to avert the crisis.

The Flowing Light Rune was the first test of the Great Azure Cloud Path in the Omega Secret Realm. It not only allowed Lin Xun to grasp the Little Divine Meditation Art but he also comprehended another type of rune secret from it. It helped Lin Xun mend the defect of the Azure Sky Furnace in a critical moment!

Otherwise, he would have failed to make the rune armament.

It also made Lin Xun realize that the Azure Sky Furnace had been tampered with!

Now, he didn't need to guess to know that it was Chu Shanhe's doing. Only he, the deputy head of the Rune Department, could enter the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower without anyone knowing!

"I finally succeeded. Mister Lu, if you are still alive, you will be happy for me when you hear the news..."

Lin Xun gazed at the sky, a rare melancholic look on his face. This was the first time in his life that he had made a rune armament, and he had used a secret technique that Mister Lu had used before—The Heaven Taboo Secret Technique.

It was a secret technique for making rune armaments. It was extremely difficult to understand, but it was recorded in the animal skin notes. Although the animal skin notes were no longer around, Lin Xun had memorized them long ago and had never forgotten any of them.

It was only then that Lin Xun realized that all his many dazzling achievements in the art of rune had the shadow of Mister Lu in them.

He also realized that Mister Lu had given him and influenced him too much without him knowing it.

Unfortunately, he still didn't know whether Mister Lu was alive or not.

Clang!

Suddenly, the clear and melodious roar of a spear resounded like a dragon's, quaking the sky.

The silver spear erupted in a blaze of light, illuminating the mountains and rivers. With a gentle swaying motion, it produced a blinding shaft of light that tore through and dispersed the tribulation clouds!

The lightning tribulation subsided, and only a spear remained, suspended in the air. The spear body was shiny and translucent like ice and covered with mysterious patterns that cast all sorts of visions of heaven and earth.

The scene was too astonishing. A spear was emitting an indescribable might and a sharp aura that could pierce the vault of heaven.

Everyone looked captivated. What kind of a peerless treasure is that? The aura flowing out of it makes people's minds tremble!

The silver spear was changing. Its surface was bathed in a wave-like glow. Its bright silvery light gradually faded, replaced by a hazy dark gray. It had a simple and natural look, but its power was more frightening and chilling.

The nearby space was visibly collapsing inch by inch and constantly whimpering as though it was unable to withstand the oppressive force!

A spear had overcome the lightning tribulation, evolved and presented itself to the world.

The audience was still and silent.

At that moment Lin Xun suddenly turned around on the top of the Refinement Tower and looked down at the group of powerful figures. His gaze landed on Chu Shanhe.

“Old thing, let me ask again. Do you think I have failed to make a rune armament?”

His voice was indifferent and calm, but it rang loud and clear in the deathly quiet atmosphere, snapping everyone out of their state of shock.

Meanwhile, Chu Shanhe looked livid, aggrieved, bitter and dazed. He knew that it was impossible to oppress Lin Xun again today...