

Prodigies 531

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Chapter 531

Clang!

Lin Xun put away the Shattered Tragedy Spear.

Yao Tuohai had died, and the grudge between them had been settled, so he felt a weight lifting off him.

Without much emotion, he began to sort out the spoils.

To his surprise, Yao Tuohai, the head of the Yao Family, had few valuables on him except for some aeth crystals and medicinal pills for cultivation.

However, soon, his eyes were drawn to the octagonal nine-storey golden pagoda.

Buzz—

He picked up the treasure. It was surprisingly heavy and felt like he was holding up a mountain. He was only barely able to lift it up after mobilizing his powers. It weighed no less than a hundred thousand pounds.

It had an ancient style, and the body was octagonal shaped. Although it had a lustrous golden color like it was constructed from pure gold, the pagoda body was actually made from a kind of primitive jade. It only emitted a magnificent and golden glow, which made it even more impressive looking.

It was only the size of a palm, but it wasn't difficult to see that the pagoda had miraculous powers. The octagonal body was divided into eight parts and each seemed to be its own territory. Each side presented mysterious visions such as the sun, the moon, the mountains and rivers, heaven and earth, the stars of the sky, the ancient gods and so on.

It was as though traces of the ancient world were split into eight parts and marked on each side of the pagoda.

For a moment, Lin Xun couldn't help but fall into a trance-like state. It was as though he could see the pagoda standing tall among the vast starry sky and the boundless earth from the ancient times. It propped up the universe, watched over the eight ends of the earth and illuminated the nine continents!

Unfortunately, the pagoda was damaged. The top of the pagoda should have been engraved, but only traces of the inscriptions remained.

Faintly, there seemed to be a word.

The remaining writing seemed to contain the Dao energy of heavens in its strokes and slashes. Although it was incomplete, it exuded a chilling majesty that made Lin Xun feel small, insignificant and oppressed.

It was just incomplete handwriting, yet it possessed such tremendous divine power. Lin Xun was becoming more and more aware of the extraordinariness of the pagoda.

That was indeed the case. When he fought against Yao Tuohai, he was instantly swept into the pagoda and imprisoned on the first floor. The inside was filled with mysterious golden light with incomparably terrifying power that almost obliterated him.

Fortunately, Yao Tuohai hadn't fully refined and controlled the mysterious golden light, which allowed Lin Xun to take advantage of the opportunity to mobilize all his power and the Shattered Tragedy Spear to evade the oppression of the golden light and escape.

Otherwise, the consequences would be unimaginable!

There was no doubt that the nameless pagoda was an ancient treasure with boundless power. Even Yao Tuohai hadn't truly controlled its divine powers.

Lin Xun put away the treasure, intending to study it more in the future. If he could control it, it would no doubt become another of his trump cards.

Swoosh!

Without further delay, Lin Xun put away the Four Coiling Dragon Pillars and withdrew the illusion.

The battle in the outside world had come to an end, and the huge Yao Family residence had been devastated.

The nearby world had also suffered great damages. Corpses were strewn across the ground and the blood-soaked ground was split with multiple cracks. It was a ghastly scene.

It made sense. How could the Yao Family who was only an overlord in Qingfeng County survive the bombardment of a group of Heaven Ascension cultivators?

Bursts of wailing and sobbing could be heard in the distance. Lin Xun looked up and saw a group of miserable looking women and children.

They were also descendants of the Yao Family, but they were weak and powerless. Following the destruction of the Yao Family, they all became prisoners and were grieving loudly.

On the other side, the cultivators from Stone Cauldron Alms, the Ning Family, the Ye Family, and the Gong Family were going over the spoils.

That was the catastrophe of exterminating a clan. No matter how powerful they were and strong their foundation was, once destroyed, everything would fade like clouds and smoke.

Lin Xun quietly watched on, his expression neither sad nor happy. They brought disaster upon themselves, so who could they blame?

"Yao Tuohai is dead?"

As Mu Wansu came over, her eyes swept over Yao Tuohai's body not far away, and a strange expression crossed her face.

She never thought that Lin Xun could kill Yao Tuohai, a famous figure of the Heaven Ascension Stage in the southwest province of the empire.

However, Lin Xun, a teenager of the Spirit Sea Stage, had slaughtered him. This incident would no doubt set off a storm if it spread out.

Lin Xun nodded and then looked at the women and children of the Yao Family wailing and sobbing in the distance again. "What will happen to those people?"

Mu Wansu said casually, "It's very simple. They will be left for the military to deal with. The Yao Family colluded with the Darkness Kingdom, and there is irrefutable evidence for that. The punishment for the crime of treason is execution of the entire clan."

Lin Xun nodded and didn't ask any more questions.

"Let's go, Elder Steel-Blood King is waiting for you in the battleship," Mu Wansu said gently.

Lin Xun trembled inwardly, realizing that the battle between Life Death Stage Kings that took place beyond the nine heavens had already ended. He didn't know the outcome yet.

He turned around and walked towards the Mighty Eagle Battleship.

However, he suddenly paused and looked back at the Yao Family residence, only to see it had been reduced to rubble and shrouded in dust and smoke. He heard bursts of wailing echo endlessly across the bloody land.

Then, he retracted his gaze and didn't turn his head around again.

However, deep down in his heart, he vowed to never let that kind of disaster befall the Lin Family as long as he was alive!

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At noon that day, the Mighty Eagle Battleship roared, pierced into the sky, and vanished into the horizon.

On the same day, the prestigious Yao Family that had been standing for hundreds of years in the southwest province of the empire was destroyed, and its territories were turned into rubble.

The entire Qingfeng County was shaken, and countless cultivators were struck dumb. The incident sparked a lot of uproar and discussion as it spread throughout the entire southwest province of the empire.

The huge Yao Family had been erased from the empire's territory! It was no doubt a shocking incident to anyone.

It was only later that the truth gradually came out. Many people finally came to realize that the destruction of the tremendous Yao Family was the doing of Lin Xun!

However, no one could imagine how such a young rune founder would possess such frightening power to destroy an illustrious clan overnight.

However, some major forces knew that behind the clan extermination was the shadow of the darkness race and a battle between true kings.

However, the matter was too shocking and would only cause turmoil in the world if it spread out, so the news was blocked from spreading.

Moreover, only very few people knew that the Yao Family had betrayed the empire.

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The Mighty Eagle Battleship took off, heading for the Forbidden City.

The incomparably spacious cabin was split into rooms of varying sizes, and in one of the rooms, Steel-Blood King Ning Bugui was laughing heartily.

“Hahaha, I came at the right time. I’ve wanted to kill that old thing for a long time. Unfortunately, he is afraid of death and cares for nothing except for saving his own skin, so he went into hiding and won’t come out.”

“It’s a pity that he managed to escape in the end despite that I have already severely wounded him. He is extremely cunning...” Ning Bugui grunted regretfully.

He glanced at Lin Xun and said, “Little guy, you made a lucky hit this time and helped the empire eradicate trouble. Not bad! Not bad!”

Lin Xun said quickly, “Elder, if you weren’t there, even if I discovered the Yao Family’s betrayal, I wouldn’t be able to do anything.”

Ning Bugui laughed heartily. “Kid, when did you become so humble?”

His eyes sparkled with admiration. Lin Xun’s performance was absolutely splendid.

He killed Yao Tuohai by himself. Perhaps he had achieved that with the help of the Shattered Tragedy Spear, but he also survived a blow from a Life Death Stage King!

That fact alone was enough to make Ning Bugui look at him with admiration.

“Elder, who is this ‘old thing’ you speak of?” Lin Xun changed the topic to the one that he was most concerned about.

“A king of the Water Tribe of the Magi-Brute Race. His name is Shui Qianshan; he made a name for himself more than one thousand years ago and is regarded as an extremely powerful guy.”

Ning Bugui couldn’t help but frown, “That old thing is cautious, cunning, and cowardly. Why would he suddenly appear in the empire? Little guy, do you know why?”

“The Water Tribe...”

A thought struck Lin Xun’s mind. Back when he was in Blood Kill Camp, he had slaughtered many experts of the Water Tribe, and it was also at that time that he inadvertently obtained the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead

The item was rumored to be a sacred treasure of the Water Tribe and had incredible magical abilities. After all, Lin Xun only managed to escape from the ancient ruins in the Spirit Burial Sea using the power of the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead.

However, the Omega Door had long destroyed and refined the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead and transformed it into the purest power and integrated it into Lin Xun's body.

Shui Qianshan wouldn't have come all the way to the Great Three Thousand Mountains for this treasure, right?

Lin Xun was unsure.

A Life Death Stage King ignored the risk of crossing the borders and sneaking into the empire. Also he clearly stated that he came to take me away. It wouldn't be just for the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead, would it?

I don't know.

He shook his head.

Ning Bugui didn't ask any further questions. He got up and said, "Okay, I should go now. Little guy, if you have time in the future, you should drop by the Steel Blood Army Camp on the western frontier. I can take you onto the battlefield and we can drink to our heart's content there!"

"Elder, thank you so much!"

Lin Xun quickly got up and bowed respectfully. Ning Bugui had given him a huge favor. The consequences would be unimaginable if Ning Bugui hadn't shown up.

"Haha, train hard. The world belongs to you young people in the future!" Ning Bugui waved his hand and drifted away.

Lin Xun felt a warm current swirling in his heart. It was a pleasant surprise that Steel Blood King Ning Bugui suddenly appeared and helped him.

But he was touched more than anything. After all, Ning Bugui was a powerful Life Death Stage King who could shake the world! He wouldn't just help anyone!

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It was late in the evening, and a large semicircle of the sun was still lingering on the horizon.

A group of peculiar looking people were approaching the east gate of the Forbidden City. The men were dressed in shabby animal skins, the women were wearing rough linen, and some children were running around barefooted. Over hundreds of people were there.

The guards at the city gate felt queasy at the sight of them. Where did those country bumpkins come out from? They are dressed so shabbily. It's obvious that they are from some poor places.

"Stand there! Get in line and wait to be inspected!" a guard shouted.

He found their appearances too bizarre. How could he allow just any Tom, Dick or Harry to enter the Forbidden City, the capital of the empire?

PA!

Just as he finished his sentence, he was slapped in the face and felt his head spin and sparks fly across his eyes.

He was most shocked that it was the guard commander who hit him!

“Sir, why...” the guard asked in a trembling voice.

The guard commander ignored him and hurried over to the group of unusual-looking people. A warm and humble smile spread across his usual stern and arrogant face.

The guard stood there stunned. What is going on with the Boss? Aren't they just a group of beggar-like country bumpkins? What is he doing?

The guard commander whispered something to the young man leading the group of people and then he bowed respectfully with an ingratiating smile on his face. Then, he quickly cleared the way for the villagers, releasing them without conducting the usual inspection and questioning.

It wasn't until the peculiar team of people disappeared that the guard commander stopped bowing and waving enthusiastically.

The guard who was slapped in the face couldn't believe his eyes. He looks more enthusiastic and polite than when he has sent off his own family in the past. When he brought his mother into the Forbidden City, I didn't see him act so humble and enthusiastic!

The guard commander wiped away the cold sweat on his forehead and returned. When he saw the guard, he lashed out with a kick to his leg and cursed, “Bastard, you are usually very clever, but what happened to you!? You almost got me killed just now!”

The guard was kicked to the ground, but he didn't care and just asked, “Boss, what's going on?”

The guard commander said angrily, “What's the matter you ask? Did you not see that it was Lin Xun? Even the Marquis of Rising Sky was violently beaten up by him. Is he the kind of person you and I can provoke?”

The guard froze for a moment before he reacted, exclaiming in a stammer, “He...that's...him...”

He couldn't even form a complete sentence.

“Yes, it was him! That guy is amazing. Very few people in the Forbidden City dare to provoke him now...”
The guard commander sighed.

The guard stood there in a daze. Why would someone like him bring a group of country bumpkins into the city?

I would have angered the world-famous young master if Boss hadn't stopped me!

The guard shuddered with fear at the thought of offending Lin Xun.

.....

That team of people was naturally the villagers of Feiyun Village.

On the way back, Mu Wansu and the cultivators from Stone Cauldron Alms, the Ning Family, Ye Family, and Gong Family all left one after another after flying on the Mighty Eagle Battleship..

In addition, the battleship belonged to the Steel Blood Army, so it also returned after bringing Lin Xun and the villagers to the periphery of the Forbidden City.

In order to prevent similar tragedies from happening to the villagers again, Lin Xun planned to settle them all on Mind Cleansing Peak since it had enough space to provide the villagers with a place where they can live in peace.

“Father, the guard at the city gate seems to be very afraid of Brother Lin Xun?” Ying Liu’er said aloud.

Three years had passed since Lin Xun had advised this little boy on how to practice martial arts. He had grown into a teenager. His skin was dark, his teeth were pearly white and his eyes were round, making him look very intelligent and quick-witted.

Ying Hao scratched his head and said vaguely, “I think so...” He then glared at him. “Stop talking nonsense and be more serious. This is the Forbidden City, the capital of the empire. It’s also my first time here. Brat, don’t create trouble for your Big Brother Lin Xun!”

The other villagers shared the same thoughts as him. Everything in the prosperous Forbidden City had amazed them ever since they arrived, and they couldn’t believe their eyes. They felt as though they had come to a legendary immortal land.

They had lived in the depths of the Great Three Thousand Mountains all their lives and had rarely visited Donglin City on the borders of the empire. Entering the Forbidden City seemed like a farfetched wish.

Now, Lin Xun had taken them directly into the Forbidden City. How would they not be excited and uneasy?

Lin Xun had planned on hiring a carriage to take them directly to Mind Cleansing Peak, but Village Chief Xiao Tianren declined the offer.

According to him, it was their first time in the capital of the empire, so they wanted to take the opportunity to check out the lively and magnificent city.

Lin Xun understood their feelings, so he didn’t refuse and took them along the bustling streets.

However, Lin Xun couldn’t help but scrunch along the way because the villagers received a lot of mocking and looks of disgust due to their unusual appearances and mannerism.

That massively dampened the villagers’ excitement, and they grew increasingly quiet along the way. They were not stupid, so how would they not sense the contempt and disgust from the people on the streets.

“Lin Xun, are we...are we embarrassing you? If so, let’s head to the Mind Cleansing Peak you mentioned as soon as possible?” Aunt Qiao whispered in embarrassment.

The other villagers also looked at Lin Xun.

Lin Xun smiled. "Aunt Qiao, don't think too much. The Forbidden City is like this. It's inevitable that some people judge other people by their appearances."

He glanced up at the sky and said, "It's getting dark. I will take everyone to dinner first and then we'll head home!"

Ying Liu'er and the other children cheered out loud.

Precious Laughter House.

It was the most prestigious restaurant in the Forbidden City and was built in the middle of the Great Lake. Standing at hundreds of feet high, its body glowed in the night like it was constructed from jade stones.

The beautiful maids standing outside the building to welcome in customers were struck dumb when they saw the large group of villagers appearing in a mighty manner.

Those who dined at Precious Laughter House were usually either wealthy or noble characters.

However, hundreds of villagers in shabby clothes had actually come to the restaurant. The beautiful maids couldn't help but think that they were there to cause trouble.

"Young Master, do you have a reservation?" one of the maids patiently asked Lin Xun. She could tell that Lin Xun was the one in charge.

"We came to have dinner here. Can you help us make arrangements?" Lin Xun asked with a smile.

"This..." The maid said awkwardly, "All the private rooms have already been booked out tonight. Why don't you...try another place?"

Lin Xun was taken aback. Fully booked?

"Lin Xun, why don't we eat at another place? This place...is like the palace. Even if they let us go in to eat, we will feel very uncomfortable," a villager said anxiously.

The other villagers also felt a little dizzy. They had never been to such a grand restaurant let alone spent money in such a place. They had never imagined that a restaurant could be so beautiful and luxurious.

The maids couldn't help but chuckle out loud, which made the villagers more embarrassed and uneasy.

The villagers from the mountains were always in the fields, so how would they have encountered such a situation before?

Lin Xun's face darkened, and he shot a look at the maids. They instantly stifled their laughter, but their attitudes became much colder.

Although they had been trained to be professional at all times, their professionalism depended on what kind of customers they were dealing with. In their eyes, Lin Xun was just a teenager, and he had brought a group of villagers with him. He was obviously not a young master from a wealthy or noble family, so they wouldn't treat him with magnificent hospitality.

Lin Xun didn't bother to quibble with them. They were just maids, and there was no need to make things difficult for them.

He wanted the villagers to have a good meal and see the best sights in the Forbidden City, but the incident had dampened their spirits.

At that moment, a displeased voice sounded in the distance, "Why are there so many beggars here? When did the Precious Laughter House become a territory of the Beggar Gang?"

"Wang Hu, go and take a look. Don't let those beggars get in the way!"

Amidst the shouting, a group of people came over. They were handsome young men and beautiful women, all dressed in luxurious clothes and looked extraordinary.

They were followed by a group of subordinates, and one of them was the source of the displeased shouts.

The subordinates fiercely rushed forward to shove the villagers aside and to make way for the young men and women behind them.

Lin Xun was a little gloomy at first, but when he saw them act so rudely, he immediately lost his temper. With a flash, he appeared before them, flicked his sleeve and sent out a blast of wind.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

Before the subordinates had time to react, they were screaming and being blasted across the air. Blood spurted from their noses and mouths as they collapsed on the ground.

The scene happened too quickly and ended too quickly. When the group of young men and women behind them realized what was happening, they were already writhing in agony on the ground and screaming.

"Do you want to die?!" one of the young masters fumed.

But someone next to him stopped him. "Don't be impulsive."

The person who spoke was a tall, handsome young man. He recognized Lin Xun, but there was a tinge of malice and even resentment that flickered across his eyes.

"I wondered who it was. You guys are so arrogant. You didn't say a word and went straight to attacking my people."

Lin Xun's expression was stern. He ran his eyes across the young men and women and recognized a few acquaintances among them.

They were Qi Yu, Princess Linghuang and others from the True Martial Department!

Qi Yu had been the one who had stopped that young master just now.

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The faces of Qi Yu, Princess Linghuang and the others all darkened when they heard Lin Xun's rude scolding.

They were there to attend a banquet tonight, and they had never thought that they would encounter Lin Xun in Precious Laughter House!

In the past, given Princess Linghuang's haughty and self-important personality, she would have snapped already. But Lin Xun had become a rune founder known all over the world, and even the imperial family had changed their attitude towards him. How would she dare to start trouble?

The youngster before her was younger than her, but his status and power had far exceeded those of their peers.

Therefore, even Qi Yu, who was once forced to his knees by Lin Xun, had to forcibly suppress his resentment and anger.

Qi Yu took a deep breath and asked, "Before you beat a dog, you need to find out who its master is, but you didn't care and wounded my subordinates. Lin Xun, have you not gone too far?"

Lin Xun!

The young men and women around Qi Yu and Princess Linghuang gasped when they heard the name. Their expressions dramatically changed as they realized who the young man in front of them was!

He was a fierce character known all over the world. Even powerful and influential figures wouldn't want to offend him.

It was understandable. He was too abnormal. He was recognized as the most fierce and savage person in Forbidden City. No one would want to go against him.

"Are you claiming that I went too far?"

Lin Xun frowned as he swept a cold glance over Qi Yu. "It seems like you still think your servants have done nothing wrong?"

Qi Yu's expression altered a little. Lin Xun's gaze made him feel uncomfortable. Even though he was a Heaven Ascension cultivator, he still felt a shiver when facing Lin Xun.

It couldn't be helped. Lin Xun had previously subdued him in one move and forced him to his knees when he was helping Gu Yunting fight for the Kui Ox Horn. That incident had left a shadow in his heart.

He gritted his teeth and said, "One who does not know is not guilty. Who would have known they...are your people?"

He glanced at the villagers not far away, feeling a little aggrieved. Who would have thought that they would be related to Lin Xun?

If they had known that earlier, they would rather hide as far as possible!

"Apologize!" Lin Xun was too lazy to talk to them.

"You..."

Qi Yu's face turned dark and unpleasant. He was a direct descendent of the Qi Clan, but he was being told to apologize to a group of villagers! How could he face other people if the matter spread out?

"Lin Xun, although the imperial family doesn't intend to hold you accountable for your past mistakes, that doesn't mean you can act lawlessly!"

Princess Linghuang couldn't stand it any longer. She felt that they had been tolerant enough, but Lin Xun still refused to let them go so she had to say something.

"Haha, do you think you can represent the imperial family?" Lin Xun asked in response.

He had never liked the haughty and wilful Princess Linghuang, so her bossy attitude annoyed him even more. Compared to Princess Jingxuan, this selfish and wilful girl is really unpleasant.

"Lin Xun, what do you actually want?" Princess Linghuang's face turned livid.

"I already told you—apologize." Lin Xun's face was devoid of expression. "Otherwise, none of you can leave here today!"

They were at Precious Laughter House, and it was the busiest time of the day. The area was full of people, so the little disturbance had attracted many nearby people. They looked over and whispered to each other.

"It's Lin Xun. As expected, he is as fearless as rumored. He doesn't even attach any importance to Princess Linghuang and Qi Yu."

"Haha, interesting. I'm glad I didn't come here for nothing tonight. This is going to be fun to watch."

"Who are those beggars? Why did Lin Xun get into an argument with Princess Linghuang and the others for them?"

"Shh! Shut up! What do you mean by beggars? If you want to die, don't drag me in with you. If Lin Xun hears you, don't say that you know me!"

The beautiful waitresses standing in front of the Precious Laughter House were all frozen like clay sculptures.

Lin Xun!

Just now...they had refused entry to the young genius rune founder who had repeatedly caused sensations in the Forbidden City!

But why did he bring a bunch of villagers with him! This.....

All of a sudden, the waitresses' faces paled, and their hearts pounded with worry and many uncomfortable emotions.

Fortunately for them, Lin Xun completely didn't care about that and he never thought to lower himself to quibble with them.

However, he had lost his temper when Qi Yu offended the villagers of Feiyun Village again.

If he didn't do anything, they would think that he was easy to bully!

Therefore, Lin Xun maintained an extremely firm attitude. They wouldn't be allowed to leave if they didn't apologize. He didn't care if he created a scene!

He wasn't the slightest bit worried that anyone else in the Forbidden City would dare to harm him.

"Are you sure you want to be so aggressive?" Qi Yu's voice sounded like it was being squeezed out from between his teeth. Lin Xun had told them to apologize to the villagers in front of so many people.

"What? Do you want to fight?" Lin Xun's black eyes flashed coldly.

"You..."

Qi Yu was about to go crazy. Lin Xun was too difficult to deal with. He was like a stinking and tough stone in a ditch.

At the same time, he was a little fearful. He had already lost face when Lin Xun defeated him last time and couldn't hold his head up in the True Martial Department anymore. If he got into a fight with Lin Xun again and lost, then he would have to bury his head in shame.

Village Chief Xiao Tianren stepped forward and whispered, "Lin Xun, let's leave it." He didn't want Lin Xun to offend so many people because of them.

The other villagers nodded. How could they not tell that Lin Xun was standing up for them? But they could also tell that the group of young women and men had extraordinary identities and status, so they didn't want Lin Xun to be in a difficult situation because of them.

Lin Xun sighed inwardly. The villagers were very simple people, and they would rather suffer by themselves than see him anger other people.

"If you do something wrong, you apologize," a resounding voice suddenly rang in the distance.

The person who dared to speak out at such a time had to be an extraordinary person, so the voice immediately drew everyone's attention.

It was a thin middle-aged man in a gray robe. His face was sharp and manly, and his inconspicuous body seemed to conceal a volcano that could erupt at any time.

Sea Subdue King Zhao Jiuxiao!

Many people gasped. The legendary prince had suddenly come, but he unexpectedly was not standing on Princess Linghuang's side!

Many people were shocked!

"Uncle, I won't apologize. Did you see what that guy did!?" Princess Linguang sounded aggrieved.

Zhao Jiuxiao looked taken aback. He was clearly a little helpless as he sighed out loud. He looked at Lin Xun and said, "Little friend Lin Xun, how about I apologize on their behalf?"

Whoa!

The audience broke into an uproar.

Zhao Jiuxiao! He is the high and mighty Sea Subdue King! I can't believe he would apologize to a junior in order to resolve the dispute!

"Elder, since you made such a suggestion, how would I not listen? I just hope that this kind of thing will not happen again in the future," Lin Xun said solemnly.

He had to leave the matter at that. Zhao Jiuxiao was here, so how could he refuse to let it go?

Zhao Jiuxiao nodded. "Of course."

"Since this matter has been resolved, I will leave now."

Lin Xun didn't want to stay any longer. It was getting late so he wanted to quickly find a place for the villagers to fill their stomachs.

He had a cultivation base so he could skip meals, but the villagers were ordinary people.

"Wait!"

However, Zhao Jiuxiao said aloud, "You brought so many people here, but why are you leaving before eating inside?"

Before Lin Xun could explain, an old man who looked like the manager hurried over to whisper something in Zhao Jiuxiao's ear.

Understanding dawned on Zhao Jiuxiao's face and then he indifferently said to him, "Go and deal with the matter, and remember to give me a satisfactory answer."

He stepped forward and smiled at Lin Xun, "I already know what happened. Let's go, I will arrange a place for you guys."

Lin Xun shook his head. "Forget it, it's the same wherever we go."

A wry smile appeared on Zhao Jiuxiao's lips, and he whispered, "Little guy, Precious Laughter House belongs to me. If the world finds out that you and your friends were turned away, I would lose face!"

Lin Xun was taken aback. He had never thought that the boss behind Precious Laughter House would be Sea Subdue King Zhao Jiuxiao!

Immediately, his eyes were filled with realization. No wonder this place is so famous and no one has ever dared to stir trouble here. It turns out that it has the support of Sea Subdue King.

"Then, thank you," Lin Xun readily agreed.

"Hahaha, let's go. Last time, I had to smash the pots to gather more than one million gold coins to pay for my bid. I want to take this opportunity to have a chat with you." Zhao Jiuxiao laughed.

He led Lin Xun and all the villagers of Feiyun Village into the Precious Laughter House.

Seeing that, everyone marveled. That's Lin Xun. If it were anyone else, would Sea Subdue King Zhao Jiuxiao treat them so respectfully?

Princess Linghuang and Qi Yu looked glum for a while. In the end, they had no choice but to swallow their anger. They had no other choice. They no longer had the power to compete with Lin Xun.

As they stepped into Precious Laughter House, the old manager who had previously talked to Sea Subdue King Zhao Jiuxiao strode to the door and calmly glanced at the dozen beautiful waitresses.

His voice was devoid of emotions, "You saw what happened just now. I need a satisfactory answer."

The waitresses turned deathly pale, realizing that they had made a huge mistake.

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The Heavens Hall in the Precious Laughter House was a grand and gorgeous hall.

It was brightly lit and the seats were all full.

The hundreds of villagers from Feiyun Village were seated with an array of fruits, wine, and delicacies in front of them.

The beautiful waitresses constantly filled up their tea and wine and provided outstanding service.

The villagers, who used to live in the barren mountains, had never seen such a grand scene so, at first, they were a little anxious and uneasy.

However, after a few cups of warm wine, they started to relax. They drank and ate to their heart's content and paid no attention to the rules and etiquette.

The children run around the hall, having great fun.

Even so, the maids didn't dare to show any strange emotions. They had already been warned, and they knew what happened outside Precious Laughter House, so how would they dare to treat them with disrespect?

Lin Xun chatted with Village Chief Xiao Tianren, catching up about what happened in the three years he was gone.

Later, the village chief drank too much and his eyes became glazed. He sighed emotionally, "I have lived most of my life already, and I never thought that I would have the opportunity to come to the Forbidden City. It's so damn...amazing!"

Lin Xun smiled.

In his heart, the villagers were like his family. He was also very happy and relieved to be able to bring them all into the Forbidden City and settle them on Mind Cleansing Peak.

Not long after that, Zhao Jiuxiao came in and Lin Xun quickly got up to greet him and invited him to take a seat.

After the greeting, Lin Xun asked, "Elder, I wonder when you plan to craft the rune armament?"

Zhao Jiuxiao sighed, his brows furrowing. "There's no hurry. My nephew has already left for the Ancient Wasteland Domain to seek the Dao."

Lin Xun knew that Zhao Jiuxiao hadn't married and that he doted on his nephew Zhao Ziyun.

Zhao Jiuxiao outbid everyone at the auction in Stone Cauldron Alms for Zhao Ziyun.

Zhao Ziyun was one of the most remarkable top figures in the True Martial Department.

Compared with Zhao Ziyun, Qi Yu was much inferior.

"The thing is that until now, I still haven't gathered the materials required for the rune armament. How can I talk about crafting it?" Zhao Jiuxiao smiled bitterly. "Right now, I will have to get everything ready first before I can find you to craft the rune armament."

Lin Xun felt for him.

Why were rune armaments so rare?

Firstly, they were too difficult to make, and secondly, the required rune materials were too rare and precious. It was difficult for even major clans and sects to acquire them.

Zhao Jiuxiao, the high and mighty Sea Subdue King of the empire and such a dazzling influential figure, still hadn't been able to collect all the materials required to craft his rune armament!

Peerless treasures such as rune armaments were not easy to create.

After a brief chat, Zhao Jiuxiao suddenly asked, "Lin Xun, when do you plan to head to the Ancient Wasteland Domain?"

The unexpected question surprised Lin Xun a little. He shook his head and said, "I haven't thought about it yet."

Zhao Jiuxiao also seemed a little surprised. He looked at Lin Xun and said, "In this world, the incompleteness of the Great Dao will gradually worsen and it will inevitably affect everyone's cultivation. The old man from the stargazing platform speculated that, in less than ten years, a change will break out and this change is known as the Great Dao Catastrophe."

Great Dao Catastrophe!

Lin Xun trembled inwardly. He had been crafting the Nine Dragons Cauldron on the ninth floor of the Refinement Tower a while ago, unaware that the Great Dao Catastrophe had already caused countless disturbances and set off storms in the Forbidden City.

In the end, the imperial family came forward to block the news.

Even so, there were still many waves fermenting in the dark and many major clans and sects were preparing to send their core descendants and disciples to the Ancient Wasteland Domain and leave the world where the Great Dao Catastrophe would break out.

For example, Gu Yunting from Qinglu Academy, Xie Yutang from the Xie Family, Shi Xuan from Stone Cauldron Alms...and other elite disciples from the True Martial Department had already left for the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

“According to speculations, the Great Dao Catastrophe in ten years is just the beginning. No one knows how long this process will last. But what is certain is that, when the Great Dao Catastrophe breaks out, the Ancient Wasteland Domain will block all its passageways of entry.”

Zhao Jiuxiao told Lin Xun a secret. “This means that it will be impossible to go to the Ancient Wasteland Domain after ten years.”

Zhao Jiuxiao was a powerful figure of the imperial family of the empire so his words had to be true. Lin Xun suddenly felt very uneasy.

Great Dao Catastrophe!

What kind of disaster is that?

It could be speculated that the catastrophe affected cultivators the most, as it would hinder their cultivation and cut off their way of seeking the Great Dao!

Under such circumstances, many cultivators were most concerned about heading to the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

It was a pity that not everyone could enter the Ancient Wasteland Domain!

Zhao Jiuxiao then explained the reason. A cultivator had to be received into the Ancient Wasteland Domain. Otherwise, they wouldn't find the passage to enter it.

And those able to act as receivers were only the overlord-like ancient Daoist clans and sects in the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

Only those Daoist sects could open up the passage that linked to the Ziyao Empire, and use their supreme ability to arrange the void coordinates to allow receiving.

Imaginably, it was very difficult to enter the Ancient Wasteland Domain. After all, there was only a handful of people in the Ziyao Empire who could ask the ancient Daoist sects to receive someone into the Ancient Wasteland Domain!

The handful of behemoths included the imperial family, Qinglu Academy, the Stargazing Platform, the imperial military and the seven high clans.

Lin Xun's expression changed. The Great Dao Catastrophe that will break out in ten years has caused so much disturbances.

“I'm only telling you about this. Don't spread it out so as not to cause unnecessary problems.” Zhao Jiuxiao got up and left after he finished speaking.

Lin Xun sat there alone, drinking by himself. The Great Dao Catastrophe...Can I only avoid it by going to the Ancient Wasteland Domain?

Should I also make preparations for it?

A thought suddenly struck Lin Xun. I might ask Zhao Jingxuan about this. She just came back from the Ancient Wasteland Domain and should know more about it.

.....

That night, Lin Xun took the villagers of Feiyun Village back to Mind Cleansing Peak and Lin Zhong and he personally helped them arrange their future living places.

As most of the villagers were ordinary people, Lin Xun specially warned that anyone who bullied or suppressed the villagers of Feiyun Village on Mind Cleansing Peak would be severely punished!

By the time he arranged everything, it was already late at night.

"I have an idea. We can select some youngsters with good aptitude from the villagers and carefully cultivate them. By doing so, we can form a force that truly belongs to you in the future. They might seem ordinary now, but once they grow stronger, we can keep the North Light Lin Clan in check. So, even if you leave in the future, they wouldn't dare to mess around."

Spirit Vulture hadn't gone to sleep yet and was still helping Lin Xun analyze the situation on Mind Cleansing Peak.

Mind Cleansing Peak was rising much faster and growing much stronger than before.

This was particularly because the North Light Lin Clan had relocated back to Mind Cleansing Peak, which greatly increased the power of Mind Cleansing Peak.

However, although they were becoming stronger and stronger with each passing day, there was one problem. Lin Xun was the only direct descendant on Mind Cleansing Peak!

It wouldn't be a problem if Lin Xun stayed in the Ziyao Empire for the rest of his life. Lin Xun would eventually marry, have children and carry on the ancestral line. At that time, the Lin Clan lineage would quickly expand and grow stronger.

However, that was impossible. Lin Xun had risen too fast. He was only sixteen years old but he was already known throughout the world and few people in the Forbidden City could rival him.

If Lin Xun wanted to become stronger, he had to leave the Ziyao Empire and find a bigger stage!

Otherwise, if he stayed behind, he wouldn't be able to develop his potential to the fullest, and his cultivation path would be limited to only this world.

However, if Lin Xun left, problems would arise on Mind Cleansing Peak. The clansmen of the North Light Lin Clan wouldn't willingly allow Spirit Vulture, Xiaoke and Lin Zhong to be in charge of Mind Cleansing Peak forever.

That was normal. After all, internal strife often happened without a leader.

If they unified the three collateral branches of the Lin Clan, West Creek, Cloud Weight and Flying Peak, after two years, the situation on Mind Cleansing Peak would no doubt be more complicated!

Spirit Vulture wanted to remind Lin Xun the importance of training up a force of his own. In the future, even if he left, he could use the force to keep the collateral branches of the Lin Clan in check.

The foresight and wisdom of Spirit Vulture greatly impressed Lin Xun. In the end, he nodded and agreed with Spirit Vulture's proposal.

This was because after Lin Xun learned about the news of the Great Dao Catastrophe, he started to seriously consider a question—Whether or not he should travel to the Ancient Wasteland Domain?

That wasn't only to avoid the influence of the Great Dao Catastrophe, but more importantly, the Omega Sword Sect and Yun Qingbai were in the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

Yun Qingbai was the culprit who caused the bloody tragedy on Mind Cleansing Peak. Lin Xun had to travel to the Ancient Wasteland Domain if he wanted to avenge his parents and family!

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Chapter 535

Third Old Zhu had returned!

Early in the next morning, when Lin Xun woke up from meditation, he was informed of the news. He walked out of Mind Cleansing Hall and indeed saw that Third Old Zhu had returned.

However, Third Old Zhu was completely different from the past. It was as if he had been reborn. His figure was still tall, built, and mighty like a mountain, but he looked much younger than before. His rough skin was radiating with an indescribable power and beauty.

As he stood there, he was oozing with superiority as though his powers could suppress the universe. When he glanced around, his cold eyes seemed to be harvesting souls.

Undoubtedly, after several months of cultivation in the Cyclic Derivation Tower in the palace, he made a breakthrough and ascended to the Cyclic Derivation Stage!

Third Old Zhu had only a few years of his lifespan left, but after his breakthrough, his lifespan had been extended by at least five hundred years. During that period, he would no longer be troubled by death.

Lin Xun was very glad to see Third Old Zhu return. Mind Cleansing Peak had gained a powerful great cultivator.

"Thank you."

Third Old Zhu solemnly saluted and bowed to Lin Xun.

Without Lin Xun's recommendation and help, he would never be able to train in the Cyclic Derivation Tower in the palace. To him, the breakthrough not only meant that he had become stronger, but more importantly, he had also gained a new life and would no longer be troubled by the problem of his lifespan!

It was the gift of life!

"I'm glad you are back!" Lin Xun smiled brightly.

On the same day, as the head of the Lin Family, he held a clan meeting for the first time in the Mind Cleansing Hall!

The participants of the meeting included Lin Beiguang, the patriarch of the North Light Lin clan, Lin Huaiyuan, the clan leader of the North Light Lin Clan, and other influential figures of the North Light Lin Clan.

In addition, there were Lin Zhong, Spirit Vulture, Xiaoke, Third Old Zhu, Blood Thorn, Yang Ling, Old Diao and others.

Even Xiao Tianren from Feiyun Village was invited to participate in the meeting.

The hall had a solemn atmosphere. Lin Xun sat in the main seat and, although he looked young, after years of training and experience, he exuded calmness and authority.

He was a young rune founder, a teacher of Qinglu Academy, the specially-appointed rune master of the Rune Master Association headquarters and the Divine Workshop...All those various identities and haloes of light made Lin Xun appear more extraordinary and transcendental.

At least, in the Forbidden City, no one dared to underestimate him including his peers and the powerful influential figures.

All eyes were on Lin Xun, and no one dared to show the slightest bit of disrespect.

Lin Xun was undoubtedly qualified to take charge of the Lin Family and make decisions for the entire Mind Cleansing Peak!

At the meeting, Lin Xun kept everything concise. He appointed Spirit Vulture as the Great Guest Steward Elder and gave him the power to make decisions for all matters on Mind Cleansing Peak.

Xiaoke was specially appointed as the great steward of Mind Cleansing Peak, and she was under the direct command of Spirit Vulture.

Third Old Zhu and Lin Zhong were appointed as clan guardians and would directly serve Lin Xun.

Lin Xun also made corresponding arrangements for the influential figures of the North Light Lin Clan, and there was no objection.

That was the result of Lin Xun's discussion with Spirit Vulture last night. Following the rise of Mind Cleansing Peak, it was time to promulgate new rules and systems.

Even Xiao Tianren was appointed as a steward to specially take care of the affairs of the villagers of Feiyun Village.

.....

"Your Fourth Grandfather..."

After the meeting, Patriarch North Light went to find Lin Xun alone. He said with a complicated expression, "Although he did something wrong, you shouldn't harbor hatred towards his clansmen. After all...they are also descendants of our Lin Family."

Lin Xun's fourth grandfather was Lin Feifeng, the relative who had tried to imprison and kill Lin Xun with the Four Coiling Dragon Pillars.

"Fifth Grandfather, don't worry. I won't go too far. But they must take responsibility for the mistakes they made in the past, Otherwise I won't have the confidence of the public." Lin Xun nodded.

"Okay, that's good." Patriarch North Light let out a sigh before he turned around and left.

He seemed to be feeling a little down and depressed because of Lin Feifeng's death.

However, there was nothing that Lin Xun could do about it. He had almost died at the hands of his Fourth grandfather!

.....

On the same day, Lin Xun left Mind Cleansing Peak with Xia Zhi and returned to Qinglu Academy.

He had taken care of the affairs on Mind Cleansing Peak, and there shouldn't be any problems with Third Old Zhu, Lin Zhong, Spirit Vulture, Patriarch North Light, Lin Huaiyuan and the others watching over Mind Cleansing Peak.

In two years, once the three collateral branches of the Lin Clan, West Creek, Cloud Weight and Flying Peak, were unified, the entire Lin Family would undergo a complicated transformation!

Moreover, Lin Xun left the Shattered Tragedy Spear with Lin Zhong on Mind Cleansing Peak. It was a peerless weapon that could change the power of a clan. He believed that Lin Zhong would find great uses for it in the future.

Lin Xun had a clear goal of returning to Qinglu Academy—He wanted to go to train on Sky Stairs Mountain in order to further understand the water imago power he had grasped and also make preparations for ascending to the Heaven Ascension Stage!

However, he had to make changes to his plan because on the day that he returned to Qinglu Academy, Zhao Jingxuan came to visit him.

"What's the matter? Is there a problem with the Nine Dragons Cauldron?" Lin Xun asked in puzzlement.

As usual, Zhao Jingxuan was disguised as a man. She was dressed in purple clothes that accentuated her bright eyes, white teeth, and her pure elegance and ethereal charm.

She smiled slightly. "Of course not. I just came to express my gratitude. The wonders of the treasure are completely beyond my expectations. With it, I have the confidence that I can compete with experts at the initial Cyclic Derivation Stage." Her voice was as clear as spring water.

"Amazing!" exclaimed Lin Xun.

He had heard from Zhao Tailai that Zhao Jingxuan's cultivation had been suppressed by the emperor for ten years because her talent was too strong and terrifying. Her cultivation level was still only at the initial Heaven Ascension Stage. Even so, she had admitted that she could compete with experts of the Cyclic Derivation Stage with the help of the Nine Dragons Cauldron.

Zhao Jingxuan blinked and said with a smile, "You're not bad either. I remember I wasn't as powerful as you are now when I was at the Perfect Spirit Sea Stage. At least, I couldn't withstand the sudden attack of a Life Death Stage King.

Zhao Jingxuan had learned about the details of the battles that happened at the Yao Family.

"That was just a fluke. There won't be a second time. Oh, by the way, there is one thing that I want to ask you about."

“Let's hear it.” Zhao Jingxuan's interest was piqued.

“It's about the Great Dao catastrophe.” Lin Xun asked bluntly, “I'm curious as to what impact the catastrophe will have?”

“The catastrophe is unimaginable. It involves the changes of the mystery only known to the heavens. Even the immortals in the Ancient Wasteland Domain can't speculate upon it.”

Zhao Jingxuan's expression turned serious. “But what is certain is that the catastrophe will cause a shocking upheaval in the entire world!”

“The entire world? Including the Ancient Wasteland Domain?” asked Lin Xun.

“Yes, but it wouldn't affect the Ancient Wasteland Domain too much. The one that will suffer the greatest may be the world we are currently in.”

Zhao Jingxuan didn't hide anything from Lin Xun. “According to some elders, the catastrophe is full of variables, so it is unpredictable.”

All of a sudden, a strange look came to her clear eyes. “There is a prophecy circulating in the Ancient Wasteland Domain. It is said that when the Great Dao Catastrophe happens, an unprecedented great age will be born. At that time, countless monster-like geniuses and heaven prides will emerge, and the mysterious Daoist sects from the ancient years will also appear at the same time, fighting for the world.”

“That is known as the battle of the great age!”

There was a hint of anticipation in her voice. Clearly, she couldn't calm her emotions when she mentioned the battle of the great age.

Lin Xun was both shocked and amazed. He didn't expect the appearance of a Great Dao Catastrophe would have such a huge impact.

It was a world-changing omen!

The strange look in Zhao Jingxuan's clear eyes suddenly faded. “But it also foreshadows an unprecedented turbulent time. Unexpected disasters will descend upon the world, and countless cultivators will be filled with hatred. At that time, the world will be in chaos, and people will be plunged into misery!”

Lin Xun was taken aback.

Great age?

Turbulent times?

Under the Great Dao, once prosperity and splendor reached their end, would disaster and destruction follow?

The Great Dao Catastrophe was the source of everything. It was like an invisible force that kicked off the unpredictable battle of the great age or the war of turbulent times!

“Of course, there is still a long time before all that happens. At least, you wouldn’t need to worry about such things happening in the Ancient Wasteland Domain for the next one hundred years.”

Zhao Jingxuan said casually, “However, it is predicted that the various daoist sects in the Ancient Wasteland Domains are already preparing for it. They are accumulating their strength to seize good fortune in the shocking upheaval.”

“There is one hundred years left to prepare...” Lin Xun said ruminatively, breathing an inward sigh of relief.

The news was too sudden and unexpected, and made him feel a little caught off guard. Fortunately, he still had time to prepare.

However, as the Great Dao Catastrophe neared, the world would become less and less peaceful!

“Lin Xun, I came here to ask you for help with something,” Zhao Jingxuan suddenly said aloud, revealing the real purpose of her visit.

“What’s the matter?” asked Lin Xun.

“Three days from now, an elder of my sect will come to this world with some disciples. They plan to head to the Spirit Burial Sea to explore an ancient secret domain that is said to be covered with prohibition seals set by the sage of the ancient times. I want to ask you to come with us. It may also be an opportunity for you.”

Zhao Jingxuan stated, “Also, from what I know, the Dao-Refining Seaspire Flower is very likely to be found there!”

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Swoosh!

Three days later, a ship flashed across the blue sky with incredible speed, ripping the layers of snowy white clouds. It was speeding towards the direction of the Spirit Burial Sea in the east of the empire.

The inside of the treasure ship was a completely different world. It was divided into different rooms like a palace.

In one of the rooms, Lin Xun was sitting cross-legged in front of a desk, looking a little distracted as he listened to the conversations among the nearby young men and women.

Three days ago, when he heard from Zhao Jingxuan that there was a high possibility of the Dao-Refining Seaspire Flower being found in the ancient secret domain in the depths of the Spirit Burial Sea, he accepted her invitation without any hesitation.

If he could find the rare medicinal plant, he could dispel the Demon Tribulation Poison from Spirit Vulture’s body!

As for the opportunity that Zhao Jingxuan mentioned, Lin Xun didn’t care too much.

At present, he was not short of cultivation arts, nor was he short of treasures. He only lacked training to help him break through to the Heaven Ascension Stage.

Before they set off, Zhao Jingxuan suggested that Lin Xun should temporarily act as a part of her official servants.

He took on a new identity—Lin Xun.

“I didn’t think that there would be an ancient secret domain in this little rundown world where the Great Dao is damaged,” sighed a yelled-robed man beside Lin Xun.

“But in any case, this lower domain world is too barren and bleak. It can’t be compared to our Ancient Wasteland Domain. The fact that there isn’t a decent sect or clan here shows how mediocre it is,” someone remarked idly with an arrogant look.

“You’re right. I would never come to such a hell-like place if not to search for the ancient ruins.”

“That’s a bit extreme. As far as I know, there are also powerful forces in the lower domain worlds, but they are just a little rarer.”

The men and women all spoke with a sense of superiority and conceit. They were like a group of princes and princesses patrolling poor, desolate places.

Lin Xun found it absurd.

The men and women were not the senior or junior brothers and sisters of Zhao Jingxuan, but instead were the servants of the disciples in her sect!

It was very absurd that a group of servants dared to call the world where the Ziyao Empire was located a barren and bleak place. It was ridiculous that they were so arrogant that they would regard people in that world lower than them.

However, Lin Xun was too lazy to refute them. He sat there alone and drank by himself.

His current identity was a servant of Zhao Jingxuan, so he was arranged to sit with the servants of the other sect's disciples.

As for the sect's disciples, Lin Xun had only seen them from afar and hadn’t properly met them ever since he had boarded the ship.

However, he had heard from Zhao Jingxuan that there were around six to seven sect disciples traveling with them, and they all belonged to the ancient Daoist sect in the Ancient Wasteland Domain called the Spirit Treasure Holy Land.

Spirit Treasure Holy Land!

The name reminded Lin Xun of the Heaven Axis Sacred Land that the principal of the Qinglu Academy had previously mentioned. The two ancient Daoist sects should be behemoths of the same level.

An elder of the perfect Cyclic Derivation Stage was the one leading the team of people to the ancient ruins. He was called Gao Yang.

"I heard that the ancient secret domain we are going to explore is left by a deva from ancient times. It is covered with many restrictions and prohibition seals and is full of danger. However, there are also many unimaginable opportunities there such as rare treasures, elixirs and medicinal plants from the ancient times. There might even be a legacy of the Deva!" One of the servant's remarks caught Lin Xun's attention.

Zhao Jingxuan had mentioned to him that the ancient secret domain they were going to explore was located in a mysterious area of the Spirit Burial Sea. It was like a little world filled with many unimaginable opportunities.

At the same time, it was riddled with deadly danger and shrouded in terrifying prohibition seals. A Life Death Stage King would likely not survive there without sufficient preparations, let alone ordinary cultivators.

Of course, the Spirit Treasure Holy Land had come prepared. According to Zhao Jingxuan, Elder Gao Yang held a damaged map of the ancient secret domain and brought many powerful weapons and treasures with him so they should be able to arrive in the secret domain safely.

However, whether or not they would encounter any opportunities was another matter.

After all, it was a terrifying ancient secret domain. It was rumored that a Deva from the ancient times had died there, so how would the opportunities left be so easy to obtain?

"A Deva! They are all terrifying beings who have survived the Nine Immortality Tribulation and set foot onto the pinnacle of the Saint Path. They possess omnipotent powers to control the stars and roam the world!" someone exclaimed.

"If the secret domain is indeed left by a Deva, it will be an incredibly rare opportunity even for people from the Ancient Wasteland Domain!"

"How can there be such a great opportunity in such a bleak, deteriorating lower domain world? It's unbelievable!"

The others exclaimed one after another.

"Hey, isn't this a blessing to the Spirit Treasure Holy Land? I heard that the sect provided Elder Gao Yang with a powerful weapon in order to win the rare opportunity for our sect. If we perform well there, we might also have a share of the opportunity!"

Many servants' eyes blazed with anticipation.

Lin Xun couldn't stop laughing in his heart. If the opportunity was so easy to obtain, the old monsters in the Ziyao Empire would have found it long ago. How would you guys have a chance?

Indeed, Lin Xun found it hard to believe that the principal of Qinglu Academy, the Queen of the Dark Night and the emperor didn't know that such an ancient secret domain existed in the depths of the Spirit Burial Sea!

Since the secret domain still existed to this day, the opportunities within it had to be incredibly mysterious, and not everyone could get their hands on it.

“Little Brother Lin Xuan, why haven’t you said a word?” the yellow-robed man beside Lin Xun suddenly said aloud as he looked over. “I’m curious to know what you think of the ancient secret domain?”

Before Lin Xun could speak, someone sneered, “Liao Jun, he is just a little cultivator from a lower domain world. He mostly has never heard of it before, but you asked his opinion on it! Isn’t that funny, hahaha...”

The others laughed mockingly.

Although they were all aware that Lin Xun was one of Miss Jingxuan’s servants, they also knew that he had trained in a lower domain world so they subconsciously felt superior to him.

Almost no one took the initiative to talk to Lin Xun during the conversation.

Therefore, they felt amused when they heard Liao Jun ask for Lin Xun’s opinion.

Lin Xun’s expression remained unchanged as he twiddled with the cup in his hand. But he was thinking, if even the servants are so arrogant, what kind of people are their masters?

“I heard that there is a young man called Lin Xun in the lower domain. He is well known all over the world. He became a rune founder at the age of sixteen, and he has successfully crafted a rune armament. He can be considered a rare talent even in our Ancient Wasteland Domain,” someone suddenly stated out loud.

The remark immediately caused an uproar.

“A young rune founder? Stop exaggerating. How can there be such dazzling characters in a barren land?”

“Don’t paint everyone with the same brush. Isn’t Miss Jingxuan also from the lower domain world?”

“If it’s true, then Lin Xun is not ordinary. A person like him will sooner or later come to our Ancient Wasteland Domain to train. Maybe we can take that opportunity to get to know him.”

While everyone was discussing and speculating, a young man in a blue robe looked at Lin Xun and asked, “Hey, Lin Xuan, your surname is also Lin. Do you know Lin Xun? Is he as powerful as rumored?”

Everyone’s eyes shifted to Lin Xun.

However, Lin Xun said casually, “I have never met him before so I don’t know much.”

“You are one of Miss Jingxuan’s official servants. If even you don’t know whether Lin Xun is powerful or not then the rumors about him are mostly exaggerated.”

The blue-robed youth sneered, “It makes sense. How would such a heaven-defying genius be born in a bleak place such as the lower domain world?”

They immediately stopped talking about the topic. They had just come to the world and knew little about it, so they subconsciously decided that such a heaven-defying genius wouldn’t exist in such a barren land.

Lin Xun didn't know whether they were too arrogant or ignorant, but he was too lazy to pay attention to them anymore.

He had actually looked forward to meeting the people from the Ancient Wasteland Domain, thinking that they also had to be extraordinary since they were from the same place as Zhao Jingxuan.

Unfortunately, his exchange with the servants made him extremely tired and annoyed.

What kind of people are they? They are just servants, but they act superior and are conceited and arrogant. When they open their mouths, their every sentence consists of words such as lower world, bleak, and barren.

However, the fact that Lin Xun ignored them only made them act more and more unrestrained.

"Lin Xuan, since you managed to become one of Miss Jingxuan's servants, you must be powerful. After all, ordinary people aren't worthy of attention from Miss Jingxuan. Why don't we take this opportunity to learn from each other? Let me understand the martial arts standard in a lower domain world," the blue-robed youth suddenly spoke aloud.

He pointed his finger at Lin Xun and drew the interest of many people.

"What a good suggestion! We have nothing to do anyway. Lin Xuan, why don't you humor Huang Shi?"

"Hey, the people in our Ancient Wasteland Domain would make fun of us if they found out that we had bullied a lower domain cultivator."

"It's just for fun. No need to take it seriously."

"Forget it. We are about to reach the Spirit Burial Sea anyway. We have proper business to do," Lin Xun declined expressionlessly.

He didn't see it as a chance to learn from one another. It was a clear provocation. They only wanted to embarrass him.

"What? It's just for fun!"

The blue-robed youngster called Huang Shi snorted, rose to his feet and swept a cold glance over Lin Xun. "Come on, don't ruin everyone's mood!"

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Huang Shi was dressed in a blue robe. His body was strong and built, and his eyes were long and narrow like sharp blades. Even his words and voice were aggressive and threatening like swords.

Everyone suddenly got excited and clamored for Lin Xun to fight.

Lin Xun knitted his brows. He would have accepted the challenge without any hesitation if it was in the past.

However, he was now only a servant. Zhao Jingxuan had to have a reason for not wanting him to expose his true identity.

He had to try his best to keep a low profile and do his duty as a servant.

“Forget it. I’m going outside for some fresh air.” Lin Xun sighed, stood up, and walked out of the room.

From beginning to end, he ignored the rowdy servants.

However, his action made Huang Shi’s face darken. “Do you want to leave? You have to ask if I agree first!” As he was speaking, he took a step forward and reached to grab Lin Xun by the shoulder from behind. His fingers were like sharp claws, glowing a glaring scarlet hue.

Chi!

Amidst ear-piercing screech, the surrounding space was torn to shreds like cloth.

Huang Shi’s attack was undoubtedly a fully powered blow. He didn’t hold back at all and showed not a hint of mercy.

That showed how fearless he was. He attached no importance to Lin Xun at all. In his eyes, he wasn’t afraid of offending Lin Xun.

Lin Xun’s black eyes flashed a cold light, but his face remained unchanged. In truth, he felt a little irritated. He had been ridiculed and mocked, but he treated it as a group of flies buzzing around.

He endured the mocking and moved aside to not ruin any relationship, but the opponent only saw it as a weakness and attacked him without any restraint.

Kacha!

Lin Xun didn’t turn around as though he did not notice the attack coming from behind, but a faint clattering of bones sounded from his body like metal rubbing against each other.

He was like a huge dragon. His spine suddenly stretched like a bowstring, gathering vast amounts of terrifying powers.

However, it was hard to notice the changes from the outside.

The other servants thought that Lin Xun’s reaction speed was too slow or that he had been scared witless.

They were a little disappointed that he didn’t fight back. The cultivators of the lower domain world are too weak...

However, they heard a muffled boom and saw Huang Shi uncontrollably stumble back dozens of steps when his palm touched Lin Xun’s shoulder. It was as though he had been struck by lightning. He grimaced, gasped, and groaned in agony.

Everyone was taken aback at first before they burst out laughing.

“Huang Shi, what’s wrong? Did you touch a scorpion’s tail?”

”Hahaha, he didn’t fight back, but you got blasted so far back.”

“Huang Shi, are you teasing us? Stop playing around. Pay attention and use some strength, Otherwise, you will be embarrassed.”

Huang Shi’s face turned green, and his chest heaved up and down in anger. But he was a little puzzled in his heart.

His right hand felt like it had touched an erupting volcano. A terrifying force had made his right hand go numb.

However, soon, he erupted with anger.

He couldn’t think about it anymore because he saw Lin Xun continue to walk away and leave the room like he was unaware of everything happening. He hadn’t turned his head around once from beginning to end.

How could Huang Shi tolerate his attitude?

“Don’t think of leaving here if you don’t fight today!” Huang Shi roared, his hair rising upwards and his body glowing brightly.

Burning flames covered his body, and his aura blazed like a furnace about to incinerate everything it touched.

Boom!

He launched another attack. The power was clearly different from before as it made the other servants narrow their eyes. Huang Shi was using all his strength!

It should be mentioned that the servants were all strong characters carefully selected to accompany the disciples of the Spirit Treasures Holy Land with their cultivation. Their inherent potential and strength were not ordinary.

For example, Huang Shi was only in his twenties, but he had already reached the advanced Spirit Sea Stage and had mastered several secret arts. He would be regarded as an elite cultivator in the outside world!

However, he had to mobilize all his strength against a little cultivator from the lower domain world.

Immediately, their faces lit up with excitement. They felt the match was finally worth watching.

Huang Shi was previously blasted away because he didn’t use his true power, so he was laughed at and mocked by the other servants.

Boom!

This time, Huang Shi aimed a palm strike at Lin Xun’s shoulder like before, but the strength was completely different.

Everyone had the same thought in their minds. If Lin Xun doesn’t evade, he will be doomed.

The scene of Lin Xun getting slapped in the back and spewing out blood from his mouth flashed across their minds.

However—

To their astonishment, Lin Xun still didn't seem to notice the danger behind him!

What shocked them the most was that Huang Shi's palm looked like it had landed on a giant mountain when it struck Lin Xun's shoulder. His right arm made a snapping noise, and he was blasted into the air like a broken kite. Then, he crashed into the ground dozens of meters away.

He spurted blood from his nose and mouth, screaming in pain. His face was pale and covered in a cold sweat, looking extremely tragic. It looked like he had been trampled by a monster.

It went utterly silent!

Everyone's jaws dropped!

Their expressions changed from excitement and mocking to solemn and serious.

They sensed that the situation didn't feel right!

Huang Shi reeled back the first time because he had underestimated his opponent and didn't use his true power.

But the second time, Huang Shi had mobilized all his strength, yet he ended up in a more miserable situation. He was sent flying and severely wounded. His right arm was fractured, and blood spurted from his mouth and nose!

It was too abnormal!

The most shocking thing was that Lin Xun never looked behind him once. He sent Huang Shi flying away with just the power of his body alone!

The result was completely unexpected. The servants never imagined a teenager from a lower-domain world would possess such incredibly strong power!

The mocking, teasing, pride and conceit in their hearts turned into disbelief and shock.

On the other hand, Lin Xun continued to walk away.

However, he couldn't help but marvel at the abnormal power of the Bixi Collision.

The Bixi Collision was the second transformation of the Tribulation Dragon Nine Transformations. It was a unique and mysterious combat art with tremendous power rivaling that of the sun and moon striking the sky and the mountain crushing the sea!

The legendary Bixi was an ancient mythical beast with monstrous power. It had a dragon head, tortoise body, unicorn tail, and phoenix claws. Its body was covered with steel-like scales, and it possessed unimaginably pure powers.

It could crumble sky-tall pillars and destroy everything with one strike!

The Bixi Collision Art was developed from the power of the mythical beast Bixi. When mobilized, all a cultivator's powers would gather in their spine, causing it to tighten like a bowstring, creating an impossibly tremendous force.

A while ago, Lin Xun grasped the mystery of Bixi Collision. From the ancient and obscure golden tribulation symbol floating in his mind-sea, he obtained the second cultivation art of the Tribulation Dragon Nine Transformations.

The tribulation symbol was the inheritance of the Tribulation Dragon Nine Transformations. Lin Xun had obtained it from the Nine Tablets of the Dragon Gate when he was certified as a rune grandmaster. At the time, it had evoked an earthshaking phenomenon that shook the Forbidden City—The Cries of the Nine Dragons.

Although he hadn't fully mastered the Bixi Collision, he knew it was terrifying since he had managed to severely wound Huang Shi the first time he used it.

He believed that he could display its true power when he truly mastered the art!

Just as he was about to step out of the door, another servant sprang up and charged towards Lin Xun like lightning.

"Do you want to leave after wounding someone? Impossible!" As the servant roared, he slammed his hand down at the back of Lin Xun's head.

It was a black-robed youngster with a cold and stern look. He was undeniably more ruthless than Huang Shi as he aimed directly for Lin Xun's head!

The attack was lightning fast, shocking the other servants.

However, the servants and the black-robed attacker saw their visions blur for a split second. Lin Xun had darted to the other side.

His mysterious and unpredictable movements were too amazing. No one thought that Lin Xun could effortlessly dodge the dangerous sneak attack.

"Huh?" The black-robed youngster was also aghast.

He was about to change tactics when the closed door swung open from the outside.

A tall and slender red-robed man appeared at the door.

The black-robed youngster's strike seemed to be directly aiming for the red-robed man at the door.

The red-robed man also misunderstood. He subconsciously waved his sleeve before he saw who the attacker was.

Boom!

It was only a very effortless motion, but it was as though a giant hammer was smashed through the air. The black-clothed youth's chest collapsed, and he blasted several feet away. With a thud, his eyes rolled backwards, and he lost consciousness.

Everything had happened in the blink of an eye from the black-robed youth's attack to Lin Xun dodging the attack to the red-robed man's appearance.

Everyone stared at the unconscious black-robed youth in disbelief. The atmosphere became silent and strange.

Who would have thought that such a mix-up would happen?!

The black-robed youngster must feel wronged to be struck unconscious!

His murderous attack had failed to hit Lin Xun and instead a red-robed man suddenly appeared and treated him as an enemy...

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The man in the red robe was tall and slender. His black hair draped gently down his shoulders, framing his handsome and almost perfect face.

Around his red robe was a white jade belt strapped around his waist. His face was so handsome that it could be described as beautiful.

However, he exuded an extremely terrifying aura. Even if he was just standing there, Dao fluctuations endlessly circulated his body like swirling flames.

The moment he stepped into the room everyone, except the unconscious black-robed youngster, stood up to greet him, including the severely wounded Huang Shi.

“We pay our respects to Young Master Xingfeng!”

The servants bowed humbly. The arrogance and conceit previously on their faces completely faded.

Lin Xun also couldn't help but narrow his eyes when he saw the red-robed man.

Su Xingfeng!

Before he set off, Zhao Jingxuan had mentioned to him that Su Xingfeng was one of the representative disciples of the Spirit Treasure Holy Land. He was extremely talented and had reached the initial Heaven Ascension Stage despite being only nineteen years old.

Su Xingfeng's powerful aura alone astonished Lin Xun and made him feel a little oppressed.

Lin Xun had previously slaughtered Heaven Ascension cultivators and fought powerful Heaven Ascension cultivators such as Yao Tuohai. But none of them could compare with Su Xingfeng.

He was an extraordinarily talented genius figure from an ancient Daoist sect in the Ancient Wasteland Domain!

“What's the matter?” Su Xingfeng asked in a low voice, putting his hands behind his back.

His eyes scanned the crowd like a flash of lightning.

He was attacked when he stepped into the room, so how would he not be annoyed?

One of the servants hurriedly stepped forward and explained.

Suddenly, Su Xingfeng raised his eyebrows and shot an indifferent look at Lin Xun. "Are you a servant of Junior Sister Zhao?"

He didn't mean to berate Lin Xun, but the Dao ripples surrounding his body made Lin Xun feel oppressed.

"Correct." Lin Xun nodded.

Su Xingfeng nodded and suddenly stretched out his right arm. With a flick of his sleeve, a beam of flame light shot out like a whip.

To everyone's surprise, it was aimed at Huang Shi!

PA!

The splendid flame whip tore apart Huang Shi's skin and flesh in just one strike. The fire imago power contained within the lash marks burned through his skin and penetrated his bones. He dropped to the ground and writhed in agony.

Even so, he didn't utter a word of complaint. He clenched his teeth tight and endured the pain.

Everyone shivered all over. Huang Shi was Su Xingfeng's personal servant, but he was ruthlessly punished!

They could tell that Su Xingfeng didn't hold back at all!

"Trash, you made me lose face! You lost to a cultivator from a lower domain world!"

Su Xingfeng's handsome face was ice-cold, and his voice was like a gust of icy wind. The others felt their backs become soaked with cold sweat. They finally understood the reason why Su Xingfeng was teaching Huang Shi a lesson.

Only Lin Xun thought that Su Xingfeng was too harsh. Is it that embarrassing to lose to me?

"Please forgive me!" Huang Shi pleaded as he knelt on the ground.

Su Xingfeng turned to look at Lin Xun again. "I don't care what the reason is. You wounded my servant, so you will have to pay the price for it. Since you are Junior Sister Zhao's servant, I will give you a chance to kneel and apologize and I will spare you death." His voice was full of contempt like a high and mighty emperor issuing an order that had to be obeyed.

The servants' eyes lit up with excitement. Even Huang Shi, who was kneeling on the ground, was no exception.

Lin Xun stared at him blankly as though he thought he heard it wrong. "Do you want me to kneel and apologize?"

Su Xingfeng's ice-cold eyes were as threatening as sharp blades. "I don't like to repeat myself!"

Lin Xun didn't think that Su Xingfeng would be so domineering. From beginning to end, he was aggressive and overbearing, and now, he wanted to force him to kneel!

He was a bully and he didn't try to hide it.

What was tyrannical?

That was.

“You should get your facts right first. Your subordinate started trouble first. I did nothing wrong.”

Lin Xun decided to tolerate him and didn’t resort to violence right away.

After he finished his sentence, he turned around to leave.

All the servants gasped. That guy is just a servant from the lower domain world, but he disregarded Young Master Su Xingfeng?

Even Su Xingfeng was a little taken aback. He never expected to meet a guy who dared to disobey him.

His eyes immediately flashed a murderous light. Then, with a wave of his sleeve, a beam of fiery light shot out straight towards Lin Xun like a bolt of lightning. It was swift, fierce and filled with terrifying blazing power.

So fast!

It was too fast. It perfectly demonstrated a young Heaven Ascension genius’ control of power, and could make many other cultivators of the same cultivation level feel ashamed.

Lin Xun’s dark eyes narrowed slightly as a tinge of anger flickered across them. He sensed danger. Su Xingfeng was a fierce and tyrannical character.

Bang!

However, before Lin Xun counterattacked, Zhao Jingxuan unknowingly appeared in front of him. She stretched out her delicate and soft hand and, with a gentle motion, dispelled the flame light.

“Senior Brother Su, please be respectful.”

Zhao Jingxuan’s appearance was as calm and pure as still water, and her beauty was out of the world.

“Junior Sister Zhao, your servant is so daring. I just want to teach him a lesson. Is there a need to stop me?” Su Xingfeng frowned.

“He is my servant, so even if it’s a lesson, it should be taught by me. Senior Brother Su, you have overstepped, and I don’t want to see it happen again. Goodbye.” Zhao Jingxuan walked out of the room with Lin Xun.

“Junior Sister Zhao, do you want to ruin friendly relationships with me just because of a servant?”

Flames blazed within Su Xingfeng’s eyes, and imperceptible murderous intent flickered across his handsome face.

“Depends on what you want to do,” Zhao Jingxuan said indifferently without looking back. If you want to teach Lin Xun a lesson, you have to get past me first!

Su Xingfeng didn’t take action in the end. He quietly watched Zhao Jingxuan and Lin Xun disappear, but his face was terrifyingly ice-cold, and his eyes were blazing with killing intent.

The aura exuding from his body alone turned the atmosphere in the room so oppressive and stifling that the servants in the room felt they couldn't breathe. Their bodies became drenched in cold sweat again.

Su Xingfeng smiled slightly, and his eyes turned calm and emotionless. He then said ruminatively, "It seems that in Junior Sister Zhao's heart the servant called Lin Xun is very important."

.....

Zhao Jingxuan and Lin Xun stood side by side on the deck of the ship, gazing into the distance. The mountains and rivers resembled flickering lights and shadows as the treasure ship sped past them.

The clouds were agitated by the strong wind blowing.

Dressed in purple, Zhao Jingxuan looked particularly beautiful and ethereal.

"Sorry you had to suffer." Her voice was as pleasant as a clear stream.

"It's fine." Lin Xun smiled.

"Are you sure?"

"You can't bite a dog back if it bites you, right?" Lin Xun said with a smile.

"Of course not, but I will slaughter the vicious dog." Zhao Jingxuan laughed out loud and blinked her eyes.

Her red lips were curled upwards in a captivating smile and coupled with her graceful demeanor, she exuded an alluring charm.

"Hahaha, that sounds good, but unfortunately I am just a servant and can't eat meat." Lin Xun laughed. He had grown rather fond of Zhao Jingxuan.

Despite being the daughter of the current emperor, she showed not the slightest bit of arrogance. On the contrary, she was gentle, easy-going, and graceful. Moreover, she was not inferior to any man in the world in terms of aspiration and vision.

"Endure it a little longer. When we get to the Deva Secret Domain, I will split up with the other senior brothers and take action alone. We will each use our own strength to compete for opportunities in the secret realm. At that time, you can also show your strength."

Zhao Jingxuan tucked her hair behind her ears.

Lin Xun nodded.

Both of them were using voice transmission for fear of others overhearing their conversation.

At that moment, melodious sounds rang from the end of the jeweled ship.

Lin Xun turned his head and saw a man sitting cross-legged on the deck with a guqin in front of his knees. He was plucking the strings leisurely, weaving notes as pleasant and calming as the sound of nature.

The man was slender and looked to be around twenty-four years old. His plain white robe fluttering in the wind added an ethereal elegance to him.

When Lin Xun looked over, the man raised his head and gave him a friendly and warm smile.

Lin Xun was stunned for a moment, but when he looked again, the man had already retracted his gaze and returned to playing the guqin.

“That's my third senior brother Xiao Ran.”

Zhao Jingxuan introduced the man, “He is an extraordinary genius. Among the official disciples of Spirit Treasure Holy Land, he is the one I admire the most.”

“He was shrouded in mysterious great dao divine light when he was born, and he was brought to train in Spirit Treasure Holy Land when he was three years old. At the age of fifteen, he became one of the top three disciples within the sect.”

“He has only been cultivating for twenty-odd years, but no one among the official disciples of the thirty-six peaks of Spirit Treasure Holy Land can compare with him.”

“There are rumors that Senior Brother Xiao Ran is strong enough to be ranked at the top even compared with geniuses from other ancient holy lands. He likes to keep a low profile and doesn't like conflict, so not many people know how powerful he is now.”

Lin Xun couldn't help but feel awe and admiration. He knew how impressive Zhao Jingxuan's foundation and talent were, so he never thought that she would admire someone so strongly. Imaginably, Xiao Ran was amazing!

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Xiao Ran seemed lost as his fingers flew over the strings like clouds gliding across the water. Every note of the guqin was being played with such beauty.

The sound of the guqin was like the gurgling of a clear spring and the dancing moonlight. It was elegant and soothing and created a beautiful scene.

Even Lin Xun and Zhao Jingxuan were immersed in the beautiful melody. The wonderful heavenly sounds were like the sounds of nature, containing wisps of Dao fluctuations. They felt they were in an immortal land, listening to the wonderful meaning of the Great Dao.

The sound of fluttering wings of birds and the humming of bees resounded in the air. The melody was so wonderful that it attracted hundreds of bees, sparrows and snow geese to dance around the guqin to its rhythm.

Their harmonious movements added to Xiao Ran's ethereal, immortal-like aura.

The amazing scene moved Lin Xun. Xiao Ran is no doubt an extraordinary person. His deep core of understanding in the art of music has touched upon the Great Dao. Sooner or later, he will become famous and attract everyone's attention in the world.

A shrill cry of a bird interrupted the beautiful scene formed from the heavenly notes of the guqin.

The corners of Xiao Ran's lips curved in a helpless smile.

Lin Xun looked up and saw a black-clothed youth sitting on the sail, a sparrow in his hand. He suddenly sank his teeth into its throat. A drop of red trickled down the sides of his mouth as he sucked its blood.

It was a bloody scene. The black-clothed youth looked extremely carefree and elegant and was full of smiles, but he sent a chill down everyone's spine.

"Do you also want some meat?" As though the black-clothed youth sensed Lin Xun's gaze, he lowered his head and smiled.

Lin Xun shook his head.

The black-clothed youth nodded and continued to suck blood from the sparrow.

The savage killing of the sparrow ruined the ambience created by Xiao Ran's guqin, but he couldn't do anything to it.

"He is called Yun Che and is ranked sixth among the official disciples of Spirit Treasure Holy Land. He is a demon-like man. He always wears a smile on his face and seems carefree, but he is the most ruthless person within the sect. He practices the Murder Dao and will kill anyone he regards his enemy."

Zhao Jingxuan's voice rang in Lin Xun's ear, making his heart tremble. The Murder Dao? Demon youth?

Lin Xun somehow felt a familiar feeling as he looked at the young man smiling and sucking the blood of the sparrow.

Yun Che reminded him of himself. He was also a ruthless person who disguised himself with a smile.

"You have to be careful around him. Once he regards you as an enemy, he will do anything to kill you. He is the most ruthless and heartless person."

Zhao Jingxuan reminded him, "Although he is only at the perfect Spirit Sea Stage, he can already kill initial Heaven Ascension cultivators without the help of any treasures and rely on his combat power alone!"

Lin Xun finally looked directly at the black-clothed youth. He had also killed initial Heaven Ascension cultivators, so he knew very well what it meant that Yun Che was able to do the same.

Yun Che suddenly lowered his head and asked with a smile, "Senior Sister Zhao, are you talking bad things about me?"

"What do you think?"

Yun Che shook his head and suddenly pointed at Lin Xun, "Your servant is very unusual. I sense a unique aura coming from him."

After saying that, he somersaulted off the sail with a smile and disappeared from the deck.

"What does he mean by that?" Lin Xun was perplexed.

However, Zhao Jingxuan wrinkled her brows, and her face clouded over. She only responded after a long moment, "It won't be good anyway. You should be careful of him in the future."

"Junior Sister Zhao, don't worry too much. Yun Che will not attack your people," Xiao Ran reassured warmly from a distance.

"I hope so." Zhao Jingxuan smiled.

"Sister Jingxuan, hug me—"

A crisp and immature voice sounded, followed by a boy in colorful clothes walking out of a room not far away. His hair was bunched up in two buns, and his eyes were mischievous.

He quickly sped over and was about to hug Zhao Jingxuan, but was sent flying with a swift kick.

Lin Xun's eyes almost popped out. Zhao Jingxuan resorted to violence right away towards such a cute little guy.

The boy flashed in the air, and he landed firmly on the ground. He grinned as he rubbed his belly. "It's fine if you don't want a hug, but why did you kick me? Senior Sister Zhao, you are so beautiful even when disguised as a man. It's a pity that I can't hug a beauty like you." Unexpectedly, a lecherous expression came to his young and cute little face.

Lin Xun couldn't believe his eyes.

Zhao Jingxuan's delicate face darkened, and her voice was filled with murderous intent, "Junior Brother Wen, if you try that again, I will gouge out your eyes and sever the root of your life!"

Lin Xun inhaled sharply. He couldn't believe his eyes just now, but now, he couldn't believe his ears. He didn't think a woman such as Zhao Jingxuan would say such cruel words.

The boy in colorful clothes shuddered all over and stuttered awkwardly, "Senior Sister Zhao, calm down. I won't tease you again."

As he was speaking, he darted away.

Only then did Zhao Jingxuan resume her usual expression. A faint blush came to her face when she saw Lin Xun's dazed expression. Then, she cleared her throat with a cough and explained, "You might not know this, but although that guy looks young, he has already been cultivating for over twenty years. He only became like this after practicing a secret art."

Understanding dawned on Lin Xun. He couldn't help but marvel in his heart. There is such an incredible mysterious art in this world that can make someone's appearance return to a child's!

After Zhao Jingxuan's explanation, Lin Xun gathered that the boy in colorful clothes was called Wen Xiang and was also a genius in Spirit Treasure Holy Land. Interestingly enough, he was also a charming playboy who had broken many girls' hearts.

However, he undoubtedly possessed unimaginable combat strength and had already reached the Heaven Ascension Stage!

"Another monster," Lin Xun muttered.

Da! Da! Da!

A rhythmic low thud of footsteps suddenly sounded, followed by a proud azure goat walking over to Xiao Ran with its head held high like a noble. "Third Senior Brother, Elder Gao Yang asks to see you."

The goat's voice was low but full of charm.

Immediately, Xiao Ran nodded, stood up with the guqin, gave a nod to Zhao Jingxuan and Lin Xun and walked into the cabin.

The goat stretched its slender but strong legs and disappeared behind Xiao Ran with a unique rhythmic clatter.

"A monster-beast cultivator!"

Lin Xun sensed an aura not inferior to Heaven Ascension cultivators from the azure goat.

Zhao Jingxuan's response confirmed his speculation.

"That was Junior Brother Gong Yangyu. He is a pure-blooded descendant of the Azure Goat Spirit Clan. It is a supreme and powerful clan in the Ancient Wasteland Domain that once had an Eternal watching over them."

Zhao Jingxuan smiled. "Junior Brother Gong Yangyu might seem extremely proud and elegant, but in truth, he is the best-tempered disciple in the sect. He has a very kind heart. Of course, he won't admit it, and it's best to not offend him. He might have a good temper, but once he gets angry, no one can stop him."

Gong Yangyu!

Azure Goat Spirit Clan!

It once had an Eternal in the clan!

Lin Xun couldn't help but marvel. The Ancient Wasteland Domain is indeed amazing as expected. There are so many amazing talents and geniuses in the Spirit Treasure Holy Land alone.

The elegant and ethereal but unfathomable Xiao Ran...

The carefree but ruthless Yun Che who always wore a smile...

The charming playboy Wen Xiang who looked like a little child...

There was also the imposing and domineering Su Xingfeng and the graceful but terrifying Gong Yangyu.

Every disciple of Spirit Treasure Holy Land gave Lin Xun a unique impression.

Their distinctive style might not seem anything special, but on closer look, it was terrifying because it indicated that the disciples had all found their own way, so they were all so different from one another!

It was the same with Zhao Jingxuan!

"Heaven prides will rise together under the wide starry sky, competing for the great dao..." Lin Xun suddenly thought of the prophecy of the war of the great age.

Lin Xun felt that the disciples from Spirit Treasure Holy Land were destined to be contenders in the competition of the great dao when the war of the great age kicked off in a hundred years!

They were just a handful of disciples from the Spirit Treasure Holy Land, and the Spirit Treasure Holy Land was only one of the many ancient Daoist sects in the Ancient Wasteland Domain! There had to be more outstanding geniuses and unparalleled monster-like figures in other ancient Daoist sects in the Ancient Wasteland Domain!

“Lin Xun, you met them all just now. They are the disciples who will search for opportunities in the ancient ruins with us.”

Zhao Jingxuan’s expression turned solemn. “However, the relationship between us isn’t as simple as it seems. On the contrary, to win opportunities, conflicts will inevitably break out among us. There will be no mercy even if we were to face each other.”

“So I hope you are ready. No matter who attacks us, you mustn’t show any mercy!”

Only then did Lin Xun realize that fierce competition existed among disciples of the Spirit Treasure Holy Land.

“Is it surprising? You will understand when you enter the Ancient Wasteland Domain. Although it is a holy place for cultivation, it is also the most realistic and cruel place in the world...” Zhao Jingxuan sighed, a faint frown creasing her beautiful brows.

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Chapter 540

Lin Xun was in deep thought in the room.

He felt a little uneasy after meeting Xiao Ran, Su Xingfeng, Yun Che, Wen Xiang and Gong Yangyu, who were all such peerless geniuses.

Ancient Wasteland Domain!

What kind of vast and sacred land of cultivation is it?

“I must make good use of time to raise my strength...”

After a long moment, he took a deep breath, and his black eyes restored their usual calmness. His mind also became clear and free of distracting thoughts.

Xiao Ran and the others might be dazzling, but he wouldn’t be affected by them. Even if he hadn’t reached the Heaven Ascension Stage, he wasn’t the slightest bit afraid of Xiao Ran or anyone else!

He had firm belief and confidence in his cultivation. Without a strong will, determination and ambition, it would be difficult to achieve anything on the cultivation path.

Hu—

Lin Xun’s breathing became long and relaxed as he slipped into a meditative state, comprehending and grasping the wisp of water imago power.

In his Spirit was an almost imperceptible ripple of calm water. It was a fluctuation of the Dao, a type of mysterious truth of the Great Dao.

Lin Xun speculated that once he completely grasped the wisp of water imago power, he could begin to attack the Heaven Ascension Stage!

Heaven Ascension!

A great cultivation realm that allowed a cultivator to undergo significant transformation. Cultivators able to reach the Heaven Ascension Stage would be able to comprehend and manipulate the Great Dao of heaven and earth, as well as open up a void hole in their body.

Void hole?

The void hole was like a cave dwelling of the great void, the embryonic form of one's great dao. Once successfully refined, the imago power that a cultivator had mastered, as well as their insights, knowledge and martial arts would be stamped inside!

After the transformation, it became the Heaven Ascension Cave Dwelling!

The void hole that held the embryonic form of the great dao was akin to a world opening up in a cultivator's body. That was the Heaven Ascension Stage!

The cave-dwelling gathered a cultivator's everything—great dao imago power, comprehension, insights, knowledge and cultivation. The stronger a cultivator's heaven ascension cave dwelling, the stronger and more terrifying the power they could mobilize.

Only those able to reach that stage were regarded as great cultivators.

The title represented transcendent power!

The most significant and obvious change after reaching that stage was that the lifespan would be extended to six hundred years...

Previously, Lin Xun could have stepped into the Heaven Ascension Stage, but when he accidentally grasped a wisp of water imago power, he felt that his Spirit Sea Stage was incomplete, so he decided to perfect it before making the breakthrough.

In short, Lin Xun wanted his spirit, physique and imago power to achieve ultimate perfection before he underwent a transformation of the Heaven Ascension Stage!

.....

Half a day later.

The treasure ship finally came to the easterly borders of the empire, and a boundless sea came into view.

The sea was so vast it seemed connected to the sky. But it was strangely black, unstable and roaring endlessly. Waves lifted high up into the air and crashed down like thunder.

It was the Spirit Burial Sea!

The mysterious and terrifying sea region was well known not only in the Ziyao Empire but also the Darkness Kingdom.

The reason being that the sea was too vast and riddled with dangers and deadly disasters. The turbulent flow of air could shatter space, and the violent lightning could obliterate the world. At the bottom of the sea were terrifying volcanoes erupting, tsunamis, whirlpools and vortex storms...

Additionally, in the depths of the Spirit Burial Sea were ferocious underwater beasts, demons, monsters, spirits and ghosts...as well as some grotesque creatures from ancient times!

For thousands of years, the Spirit Burial Sea had been regarded as a forbidden place. Even mentioning it made many people's faces pale. In fact, even a Life Death Stage King wouldn't recklessly enter the area.

There were rumors that the Spirit Burial Sea had long existed since ancient times, and countless heroic souls were buried there.

There was a more exaggerated rumor that the vast and mysterious Spirit Burial Sea was formed from the teardrop of an immortal.

However, no one had been able to determine its reliability.

Fortunately, there was a three-month dormant period in the Spirit Burial Sea every year. During that period, many adventurers from the empire would search for opportunities in the Spirit Burial Sea.

Although this expanse of sea was terrifying, it was relatively safe as long as one did not travel into the depths. There might be countless deadly dangers, but there were also many rare treasures such as fire coral, sea jade, and sea essence.

However, the Spirit Burial Sea was still in a period of turmoil, so it was deathly quiet and deserted when Lin Xun and the others arrived on the treasure ship. Not a single figure was in sight.

"This is the Spirit Burial Sea? According to ancient records, this place is full of great dangers and is extremely mysterious."

Xiao Ran, Su Xingfeng, Yun Che, Wen Xiang and others scanned the Spirit Burial Sea from the deck of the ship, amazement flickering across their faces.

The scene formed from the turbulent air above the Spirit Burial Sea, the roaming lightning and the roaring wind, was beyond terrifying!

A strange feeling surged in Lin Xun's heart. He had once fallen into a space vortex and was brought to an ancient ruin in the depths of the Spirit Burial Sea. It was there that he met the Azure Turtle and learned that he had been trapped there for thousands of years.

However, only now did he realize that the Spirit Burial Sea was more terrifying than he had thought!

Immediately, a thought struck his mind. Is it possible that the secret realm that the people from Spirit Treasure Holy Land are looking for is the ancient ruins where the Azure Turtle was trapped?

As such a thought came to his mind, he couldn't help but frown. He remembered that the Azure Turtle was trapped on the first level of the ruins!

Azure Turtle had personally told him that there were many levels in the ruins, but the prohibition seals on these levels were deadly and there was only a slim chance of surviving.

When Lin Xun left the ancient ruins, he had already planned to return to further explore the area.

However, he never thought that he would return in less than two years, only that he was acting as a servant and following Zhao Jingxuan's orders.

"A dangerous place such as the Spirit Burial Sea is extremely rare in the Ancient Wasteland Domain. This lower domain world is not ordinary..." an old voice suddenly sounded, followed by an old man with a beard and hair whiter than snow stepping out of the cabin.

Xiao Ran and the others immediately greeted him with the utmost respect.

The servants were even more respectful. They stood to one side and dared not to breathe loudly.

Naturally, the old man was Elder Gao Yang from Spirit Treasure Holy Land, a powerful cultivator at the pinnacle of the Cyclic Derivation Stage.

Lin Xun couldn't help but feel awe in his heart. He only caught a glimpse of the old man when he set foot on the treasure ship. But now that he saw him from a closer distance, he felt strangely oppressed as though a dazzling god had descended upon the world.

So strong!

Lin Xun had come across Cyclic Derivation Stage cultivators before, such as Third Old Zhu, and had killed Lin Feifeng, a powerful Cyclic Derivation figure of the older generation.

But compared to Elder Gao Yang, they were like fireflies. The difference in strength between them was too great.

Lin Xun even felt that Elder Gao Yang was comparable to Shui Qianshan, a Life Death Stage King from the Darkness Kingdom!

Lin Xun trembled inwardly. Elder Gao Yang's imposing bearing was as terrifying as that of a Life Death Stage King.

According to Zhao Jingxuan, Elder Gao Yang was a top figure of Spirit Treasure Holy Land. His cultivation was unfathomable, and rumor had it that he had long become a Life Death Stage King.

"Elder, is there truly something extraordinary about this lower domain world? It doesn't seem that impressive." Su Xingfeng frowned.

He looked down on the lower domain worlds and couldn't help but disagree with Elder Gao Yang.

"The great dao of this lower domain world is damaged, so it can't be compared with the Ancient Wasteland Domain, but do you know what caused the incomplete great dao?"

Elder Gao Yang's words caused everyone to fall into contemplation.

The question touched upon the mysteries of heaven and earth, a level beyond their grasp.

“When you reach my level, you will understand that this lower domain world isn’t as bad as you think. This is proven by the fact that it has survived to the present age from ancient times. Unfortunately, many mighty people have come to investigate this area in the past to find out the reason, but they all went back empty-handed.”

Elder Gao Yang peered at the Spirit Burial Sea from afar. His deep and unfathomable eyes seemed able to penetrate all things in the world. “For example, the Spirit Burial Sea also has many secrets that hadn’t been discovered.”

Lin Xun also fell into deep thought. It was the first time he heard a terrifying influential figure look at the lower domain world from such a perspective.

“Elder is right. The ancient ruins we are about to explore are rumored to be left by a deva from ancient times. It’s almost impossible to find someone able to cultivate to the saint stage in the present Ancient Wasteland Domain,” Xiao Ran said aloud.

Dressed in plain white clothes, he exuded an ethereal demeanor and charm that could not be ignored.

“Yes, now, very few people have been able to pass the nine immortality tribulations, let alone embark on the Saint path. It is indeed too difficult...” Elder Gao Yang sighed.

“The deva is a figure of ancient times after all. When the war of the great age happens in a hundred years, the world will change, and many peerless geniuses will emerge from our generation. Someone will no doubt soar to the top, pass the immortality tribulation, and step onto the Saint Path!” Wen Xiang exclaimed.

His voice was young but resolute and resounding.

Gao Yang’s eyes sparkled with admiration. “Indeed, so you have to take advantage of the next hundred years to grow as strong as possible. The heaven-blessed opportunity will create an unprecedented prosperous world of cultivation. Whoever can seize the opportunity will leap to the top and create a legend that transcends time!”

The eyes of Xiao Ran, Yun Che, Wen Xiang, Su Xingfeng, Zhao Jingxuan and Gong Yangyu were all full of longing.

Even the servants were stirred up. The war of the great age would create a legendary path, so which cultivator would not yearn for it?

Lin Xun was also fired up, but he quickly calmed down. The war of the great age also symbolized an age of great danger. The competition would no doubt be brutal and fierce with the rise of so many geniuses!

It was already difficult to survive the many dangerous competitions until the arrival of the great age in a hundred years!

Who would be able to guarantee they would be alive then? Who could guarantee that they would become a Life Death Stage King?

Even if they become a Life Death King Stage, who could guarantee they could seize the opportunity of the great age?

It would be difficult!

Too difficult!

Enthusiasm alone wouldn't be enough.

"The reason I brought you all here to explore the Deva Secret Domain is an arrangement made by the sect for you to rise as soon as possible."

Elder Gao Yang said in a leisurely voice, "But you all have to remember that all opportunities there are up to you to fight for them yourself!"

Xiao Ran and the others already knew so their expressions remained very calm.

"Let's go!"

Without further delay, Elder Gao Yang waved his sleeve and took control of the treasure ship. He steered the ship directly into the Spirit Burial Sea.

Rumble—

Lin Xun felt as if he was teleporting. Mysterious ancient Daoist patterns flowed around the ship, turning into a dazzling light screen and completely enveloping the ship.

An invisible force dissolved the thunder, lightning and storms that filled the sky above the Spirit Burial Sea as they approached the ship.

The most incredible thing was that the ship showed no hesitation or intention of evading the space-time turbulent zone ahead!

Hiss!

Lin Xun gasped. The turbulent flow of air was extremely terrifying and could trap and kill even Cyclic Derivation experts and Life Death Stage Kings!

However, the ship shuttled straight through...

Lin Xun realized that the ship was a secret treasure with unimaginable powers!

Spirit Treasure Holy Land came prepared to enter the Deva Secret Domain.

A bizarre scene came into Lin Xun's eyes. Regardless of how the thunderstorms raged in the sky and the storms wreaked havoc in the sea, mysterious Daoist patterns around the ship obliterated them all!

After a few minutes, the ship slowed and the scene ahead changed.

The black sea had become deathly still without a single ripple. The storms, thunder and turbulent airflow were gone. It suddenly became eerily quiet!

However, the stark change did not make them feel at ease. Instead, everyone felt a stifling sense of danger.

Elder Gao Yang's expression turned solemn.