Prodigies 651

The Prodigies War

Chapter 651: An Alarming Name List

Lin Xun's questioning made Lin Huaitang turn rigid as his expression became incomparably ugly.

Earlier, he had egged Lin Huaiyuan to seize power in Mind Cleansing Peak, berated Xiaoke, called Spirit Vulture a cultivation cripple, and had been nothing but disrespectful and spiteful to Lin Zhong.

In the face of Lin Xun's cold eyes, Lin Huaitang felt a terrifying and suffocating pressure for the first time.

It was far too frightening!

He felt as if he was on the verge of collapsing.

However, the subsequent developments surpassed Lin Xun's expectations. Before Lin Huaitang could speak, someone angrily stood up and loudly shouted, "Lin Xun, is this how a younger person like you should speak to his uncles? Are there no more rules in this clan?"

With someone taking the lead, the other North Light Lin Clan higher-ups were emboldened and also began to speak up one after another.

"Exactly, according to seniority, he is your uncle. It is far too disrespectful for a nephew like you to reprimand him like that."

"Hmph! Even your father did not dare to speak to us in such a manner when he was alive. Lin Xun, you've gone too far!"

"How unbecoming. As soon as you return, you didn't even bother checking who was right or wrong before you started aggressively throwing accusations at your elders. What has become of the rules?"

Upon seeing this, the originally crumbling Lin Huaitang secretly breathed a sigh of relief as a pleased smile appeared on his lips.

Lin Xun, no matter how arrogant you are, you're still a junior member of the Lin Clan. Even if you control Mind Cleansing Peak and are the legitimate successor, do you dare to ignore the clan rules and commit the offense of disrespecting an elder?

Naive!

Lin Xun's expression remained unchanged despite being accused by many. However, his eyes grew increasingly cold as a mocking smile rose from his lips. "Rules? Trying to use seniority to suppress me? In my view, I was too accommodating of you guys which made all of you not treat me seriously."

"What are you trying to say?"

Lin Huaitang had also become emboldened and sternly chided, "Do you feel these elders are wrong?"

"It seems that you people still do not believe that you are wrong."

Lin Xun suddenly sighed as he displayed a look of waning interest.

Under the crowd's confused gazes, he silently waved his hand.

Chii!

A flash of scarlet red suddenly burst in from outside the hall and turned into a noble-looking scarlet eagle that seemed to have been born from divine flames.

Fiery light sprinkled from its wings. Although it was only two feet tall, it gave off a terrifying pressure that immediately caused the temperature in the hall to rise rapidly as if they were in a furnace.

It was the Scarlet Eagle King.

Everyone was bewildered, unable to understand what Lin Xun was trying to do.

"You...what are you trying to do?"

Lin Huaitang was outraged. "Could it be that you're going to take action here? How disgraceful!"

Lian Huaiyuan seemed to realize something, causing his heart to slam against his chest uncontrollably. His expression drastically changed as he cried out, "No!"

But it was already too late!

Swish!

Dreadful fire-light shot from the Scarlet Eagle King's eyes as it gently spread its blade-like wings, creating a fireball that immediately shot forth.

The attack was as sharp as a blade and was so hot that it burned the surrounding space!

"This..."

Everyone was horrified. They could not imagine that Lin Xun had indeed done it!

Plop!

The attack was far too swift. Although Lin Huaitang was a strong expert and a higher-up of the North Light Lin Clan, he was facing a sure-kill strike of a peak Heaven Ascension monster-beast cultivator.

Moreover, it was a situation where he was utterly unprepared. Hence, he was immediately engulfed by flames that began to burn his body.

"You actually dared..." Lin Huaitang's eyes bulged from their sockets, his expression filled with disbelief and indescribable fear.

Boom!

The flames burned with terrifying power and instantly turned him to ashes, not even leaving any bones behind.

Even until death, he had never imagined Lin Xun would go through with it!

He didn't care about rules, reasons, or the elders' opinions. If you didn't agree with him, he wouldn't hesitate to kill without warning. It was honestly far too shocking to everyone present.

Lin Huaitang was dead!

The hall became deathly silent.

Lin Huaiyuan's younger brother and an influential higher-up of the clan had been killed just like that!

Lin Huaitang was also Lin Xun's uncle, but he had still been murdered in cold blood!

To add insult to injury, it wasn't even at Lin Xun's hands but what appeared to be his battle pet. Such a death was undoubtedly crude, insulting, and humiliating.

Don't agree with me?

Then I'll kill you!

I'll be the judge of right or wrong. Who cares who you are? Why would I care who you are?

If you refuse to admit your wrongdoing and face punishment, then I'll kill you a hundred times over if need be.

This was Lin Xun's stance!

"How did things...develop to this stage..."

Lin Huaiyuan sat in his chair in a daze, his brows filled with anger and sorrow. It looked as if he had aged countless years in an instant.

Lin Huaitang was his younger brother, but had been killed just like that...this...whose fault was it?

The expressions of the other North Light Lin Clan higher-ups turned ashen as their hearts trembled uncontrollably. Lin Huaitang's death was akin to a warning bell for them, causing them to become terrified and outraged. They realized that the youngster before them could not be judged using common sense.

He didn't care about what was right in the clan, and there was no such thing as seniority in his eyes. In fact, even blood relations were ignored by him!

Who would dare to rashly speak against such an unscrupulous, vicious, and forceful youngster?

Even Lin Zhong was surprised, his eyes wide open in shock as complicated emotions churned in his heart. The Young Master...would likely have to bear the infamy of being a 'kin killer' in the future.

However, if he didn't do so, how else could the Young Master find a way out of this predicament?

"A serious illness requires potent medicine. If you do not show that you will kill when you say so, no one will respect you. Whether it's the struggle for the crown or vying for the clan leader position, it is unavoidable for blood to be shed and conflicts to arise. Fathers and sons can turn on each other, and it is not rare for even brothers to butt heads. If Lin Xun keeps giving in, a similar situation will occur sooner or later."

Spirit Vulture transmitted to console Lin Zhong. "This is the cruelty of a power struggle. If you've never experienced it, then you will never understand how difficult it is to stabilize your position."

The Scarlet Eagle King withdrew its wings and landed on Lin Xun's shoulder. It lowered its head, fire seemingly flashing in its eyes as if searching for the next target, causing numerous higher-ups to shy away from its gaze.

"I've already given him a chance. It's regrettable that he did not treasure it."

Lin Xun's expression was calm. He looked at Spirit Vulture and said, "Mister, how many people present do you think have turned traitor? How many of these people have entertained treacherous thoughts and sought to obtain things they should not?"

Everyone's expressions filled with horror. Killing Lin Huaitang wasn't the end, Lin Xun planned on eradicating all traces of corruption!

"Clan Leader!"

Lin Huaiyuan sorrowfully rose to his feet as his heart bled inside. "All of the blame for today's matter lies on me. I hope that you can be forgiving and let this matter rest!"

He could no longer remain calm. If they were to continue, the North Light Lin Clan would receive an unprecedentedly terrible blow and blood would certainly flow. It was something that he could never bear to watch.

Lin Xun was expressionless. "I won't be able to rest easy until all of the tumors are purged. I hope that Uncle will not make this more difficult for me."

Today's affair might very well be largely Lin Huaiyuan's fault. However, Lin Xun absolutely could not allow such a thing to happen again!

If he didn't find all of the rotten apples and punish them severely, the same thing would only happen again when he headed to the Ancient Wasteland Domain in the future.

"Here's a name list."

At this juncture, Spirit Vulture wheeled himself forward and handed a scroll to Lin Xun.

A chill rose in everyone's hearts. They had viewed Spirit Vulture as a useless old cripple and never imagined that he had been secretly collecting information to be used at the right moment.

They didn't need to see the scroll to know that it contained all of the information regarding the North Light Lin Clan's activities over the past few months!

Lin Xun did not seem surprised. Although Spirit Vulture's cultivation had been crippled, he was still extremely intelligent and wise. If not, Lin Xun would have never given him the authority to manage Mind Cleansing Peak.

Spirit Vulture did not disappoint. The name list was excellent proof of this.

Lin Xun opened the scroll and his expression turned stormy as wisps of unconcealable killing intent surged out in his black eyes.

The contents of the list were simply shocking! It detailed all the shady activities of several North Light Lin Clan higher-ups while Lin Xun was gone.

There was collaboration with the enemy!

There was secret scheming to seize power in Mind Cleansing Peak!

Although there were those that might seem to have done nothing wrong, they had still chosen to do nothing when their fellow clan members colluded with the enemies!

The atmosphere in the hall grew increasingly stifling.

The higher-ups present felt as if they were sitting on needles and panicking like crazy. Some broke out in cold sweat, some had blank looks in their eyes, and some looked crushed. Although they sported various looks, all of it clearly reflected the same state of turmoil in their hearts.

"You guys...have really done it now!"

Lin Xun kept the scroll. His black eyes looked over all of them as ice-cold killing intent poured out of his body like a tide.

More than ten years ago, a bloody incident occurred in the Lin Clan that nearly wiped out all of the main clan's bloodline.

Back then, the four branch clans had also colluded with others to conduct the despicable act of dividing up the Lin Clan's assets.

Lin Xun never imagined that the same events would nearly repeat themselves again today.

Lin Huaitang definitely deserved to be cut into a million pieces. He had secretly contacted the other three branch clans while egging on the North Light Lin Clan higher-ups to work together and secretly fan the flames to topple Lin Zhong from power and seize control of Mind Cleansing Peak!

It was a devious plan to seize control of Mind Cleansing Peak by attacking from both the inside and outside. Lin Huaitang had sought to join forces with the other three branch clans and seize Mind Cleansing Peak, becoming the new leaders of the Lin Clan!

Lin Xun did not dare to imagine what would have happened if he arrived a little later. By then, Mind Cleansing Peak would have welcomed a new dynasty and it would have been too late even if he tried to save it!

Murderous intent violently churned in Lin Xun's heart, threatening to break out of control. It showed just how much the name list had affected him.

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Chapter 652: Secret Letter

Mind Cleansing Peak enjoyed a pleasant climate throughout the four seasons.

Despite this, everyone in the hall felt as if they were freezing. It felt as if the cold was aggressively invading their bodies as a bone-piercing killing intent made their souls tremble.

Too terrifying!

Although Lin Xun didn't say anything, his aura was akin to a killing god that had walked out from a mountain of corpses and a sea of blood.

Everyone knew that the scroll's contents had been so astonishing that it nearly made Lin Xun lose control of his killing intent.

Thud!

Amidst the incomparably tense and oppressive atmosphere, the North Light Lin Clan Head, Lin Huaiyuan, fell to his knees and slammed his head onto the ground. "Clan Leader, please give the North Light Lin Clan one final chance!"

Everyone was stunned. Lin Huaiyuan's actions were earth-shattering!

He was Lin Xun's elder and uncle and was considered an influential figure in the Forbidden City. Despite this, he was currently kneeling to his nephew!

If word of this spread, Lin Huaiyuan would become a laughing stock and even Lin Xun would be implicated.

After all, it was far too unbecoming for a younger clan member to force an elder to kneel and beg.

"Clan Head!"

"Clan Head, you can't do that!"

The North Light Lin Clan higher-ups panicked as they hurriedly tried to dissuade him. However, Lin Huaiyuan ignored them, refusing to remove his head from the ground.

Even Spirit Vulture and Lin Zhong were surprised. The implications of this were far too unusual, so how would Lin Xun respond?

Lin Xun was silent for a moment. In the end, he calmly said, "I can give the North Light Lin Clan a chance. However, those who have conspired with outsiders must be harshly punished!"

He looked away from Lin Huaiyuan and fiercely glared at every single North Light Lin Clan higher-up in the hall, causing them to feel uncomfortable.

"Now, it's time for you guys to atone for your crimes. Those who voluntarily confess will receive a lighter punishment, but those who stubbornly refuse will be killed without mercy!"

Each word was said with a noticeable pause and powerfully echoed across the hall.

"Thank you Clan Leader for being forgiving!"

On the ground, Lin Huaiyuan understood that this was the best outcome he could hope for.

He rose to his feet and said, "Clan Leader, although I wasn't the person who started this, it was my inaction that allowed it to grow. I hope that you will allow me the chance to personally settle this matter to make it up to you."

Lin Xun asked, "How do you plan on doing that?"

Lin Huaiyuan gritted his teeth as his expression hardened. "Kill those who should be killed, and punish those who should be punished. I would rather kill or punish by mistake than risk a single guilty person escaping!"

"Excellent, I will give you this chance."

Lin Xun stared at Lin Huaiyuan for a moment before he nodded and agreed.

The North Light Lin Clan higher-ups in the hall were shattered and dumbfounded. They never imagined that Lin Huaiyuan would be the one to raise the butcher knife at them...

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Four hours after Lin Xun returned to Mind Cleansing Peak.

In the North Light Lin Clan, four Steward Elders had been secretly executed, and thirteen Elders had been stripped of their positions and locked in Mind Cleansing Peak's restricted zone to reflect.

Nine Guest Stewards, seven Guest Elders, nineteen disciples, sixty-three attendant guards...were all given varying punishments.

Lin Huaiyuan seemed to be strongly intent on showing his stance and obtaining Lin Xun's forgiveness. Hence, he acted swiftly, decisively, and showed no mercy.

When everything was done, Lin Huaiyuan seemed to lose all of his energy and practically crumpled into his chair with a blank and sorrowful expression.

The great culling was devastating to the North Light Lin Clan, and it was impossible for them to recover without substantial time.

However, this was already the best outcome for them!

At the very least, there were still many young saplings in the North Light Lin Clan who would hopefully strengthen the clan in the future.

If Lin Xun were to have done it instead...

Lin Huaiyuan did not dare to imagine the outcome.

"Lin Wenjing, ah, Lin Wenjing, you've bore yourself a great son...with such a successor, it might not be impossible for the Lin Clan to regain its former glory from five hundred years ago and become one of the high clans again..."

Lin Huaiyuan mumbled, his brows filled with exhaustion and emotion.

"Milord!"

An attendant walked in with a letter and reported that it had just been delivered and was requested to be given to Lin Huaitang.

The corners of Lin Huaiyuan's mouth twitched as indescribable pain welled up in his heart.

Lin Huaitang was his younger brother and had been killed by Lin Xun's battle pet!

"Wait a minute!"

Just as Lin Huaiyuan was about to open the letter, his expression changed slightly as if realizing something. In the end, he carefully put it away instead.

After which, he hurriedly left for Mind Cleansing Hall.

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"That's about it."

In Mind Cleansing Hall, Lin Xun had just given a quick recount of the events he had experienced in the Spirit Burial Sea.

Although he had simplified most of it, Xiaoke, Lin Zhong, and Spirit Vulture were deeply shocked by the tale and were unable to compose themselves for some time.

He had swept through the Deva Secret Domain like an unstoppable hurricane, slaughtering so many members of the various clans that even the saints and saintesses would rather avoid him.

Later on, he had taken on four of the apex saints alone and defeated them all, becoming the ultimate winner of the Deva Secret Domain!

Even after turning against Spirit Treasure Holy Land and being trapped by the Life Death Stage Kings from the various clans, Lin Xun still managed to escape unharmed!

He was subsequently tossed into the South Dark Sea where he was once again surrounded in Yunpeng Market. Despite this, he managed to use the Grand Universe Ark to slip into the Dao Burial Sea Mound and escape once again.

In addition, more than one of the old monsters had lost their lives amidst the process!

It sounded like a heart-pumping and unbelievable fairytale. If Lin Xun had not personally told them about it, even the highly intelligent Spirit Vulture would not have dared to believe it, let alone Lin Zhong and Xiaoke.

After knowing that Lin Xun currently possessed perfect Heaven Ascension stage cultivation and was near invincible among his peers, Lin Zhong and the others were utterly dumbfounded.

This was a true heaven pride!

In half a year, he had leaped from the Spirit Sea stage into the Heaven Ascension stage, and stepped into the legendary supreme path, allowing him to tower over his peers like a king. He was the strongest among the strongest that could suppress all opponents in the same cultivation stage!

If word of this spread, the Forbidden City would be turned upside down by the astonishing news.

Who would dare to imagine that a Spirit Sea stage youth from half a year ago would return as a great cultivator who was also a supreme king among those of the same cultivation?

"No wonder he's such a freak. It turns out...that even Life Death Stage Kings can't kill him...how terrifying, I doubt you could find many such heaven-defying monsters even in the ancient era..."

The Scarlet Eagle King's heart churned wildly as it finally understood how terrifying Lin Xun was. This also made it grow increasingly respectful and obedient toward him.

"He's only a teenager, and yet he's already become a supreme king in the Heaven Ascension stage. Moreover, he has obtained a great blessing from the Deva Secret Domain...serving such an expert doesn't seem to be bad at all..."

The Scarlet Eagle King suddenly had an epiphany. If it grasped this opportunity to follow Lin Xun, then it would also obtain unimaginable benefits when he proved his dao in the future!

This was the moment that the Scarlet Eagle King was fully convinced. It could see a huge gold mine in Lin Xun and believed that following him would benefit it tremendously.

As the saying went, when a person obtained the dao, even chickens and dogs could fly together with him to the heavens!

Lin Xun's peerless feats made the Scarlet Eagle King desire the eventual coming of that day.

"Even if I didn't return, I believe that given Mister Spirit Vulture's intelligence, you would not have allowed what happened today to continue, right?"

Lin Xun suddenly looked at Spirit Vulture.

Spirit Vulture smiled faintly and bowed his head. "I have indeed made preparations and commanded Third Old Zhu to secretly be on standby. However, I also did not wish to give the command unless there was no other choice. After all, these are the internal affairs of your Lin Clan and the interference of an outsider like me will ultimately leave too many future problems."

"It's fortunate that you returned on time and such an event will never happen again."

Lin Zhong and Xiaoke were taken aback. Only now did they find out about the many secret arrangements Spirit Vulture had made.

"This is a Dao-Refining Seaspirit Flower. It can neutralize the Demon Tribulation Poison in your body."

Lin Xun took out a sealed jade box and handed it to Spirit Vulture with a smile. "I look forward to the day when your cultivation recovers."

The usually calm and collected Spirit Vulture suddenly seemed to lose his composure. His pupils shrank, and his lips trembled as he received the box with shaky fingers. This showed just how shaken he was.

All those years ago, he had been a mighty Heaven Ascension cultivator who also possessed peerless wisdom and was a strategic genius. He had been a dazzling existence with a bright future that would make anyone envious.

However, ever since he was afflicted by the Demon Tribulation Poison and his cultivation was crippled, all of this had vanished into nothing!

He had become a cripple who was chained to his wheelchair and could only drift about without purpose. He had originally believed that he would live out the rest of his life in this manner. Who could have imagined that Lin Xun would give him a 'new lease of life?'

To Spirit Vulture, the Dao-Refining Seaspirit Flower was akin to obtaining being reborn and a second chance for him to run on the path of cultivation again!

"I will repay everything you've given me!"

Spirit Vulture left this single sentence behind before he went into closed cultivation. It was said with sincerity, solemness, and a calm decisiveness.

"Lin Xun, thank you." Xiaoke was also filled with emotion. Spirit Vulture was like a father to her, and she understood how hard his life had been for many years. How could she not feel happy and emotional when Lin Xun gave Spirit Vulture a new chance to cultivate?

"Instructors, this is for you."

Lin Xun took out another jade box that contained a jasper blade. It was a powerful ancient treasure that had originally belonged to the Jade Qilin Clan saint.

He had also prepared presents for Lin Zhong, Third Old Zhu, and Xia Zhi which he had carefully selected from the many battle spoils he had collected from the Spirit Burial Sea. Each gift was precious and priceless in its own way.

Lin Xun asked, "Right, why has Xia Zhi gone into closed cultivation again?"

Lin Zhong explained, "A month ago, Miss Xia Zhe suddenly said that she wanted to go into closed cultivation. After which, she seemed to fall into a deep slumber and has not awakened since then."

Lin Xun thought for a while and soon understood. Xia Zhi had begun her second cycle of obliteration.

She practiced the mysterious and terrifying Nine Cycles of Obliteration Art. Every cycle of obliteration was akin to cutting off all of her previous cultivation and turning it into enormous potential as she began cultivating from scratch again.

It was comparable to reincarnating and cultivating anew and was an unbelievably magical process.

"I wonder if she will lose all of her memories during the second cycle of obliteration..." Lin Xun rose, intending to see Xia Zhi.

There were not many people who Lin Xun cared about in this world, and Xia Zhi was undoubtedly the most important among them.

The thought of her cutting off her past each cycle and restarting from the beginning made Lin Xun feel somewhat worried and uneasy.

But before Lin Xun could leave, Lin Huaiyuan suddenly rushed over with an unopened letter and handed it to Lin Xun.

Lin Xun accepted it, opened it, and took a look, only for killing intent to flash in his black eyes.

The contents of the letter were simple. The West Creek, Cloud Weight, and Flying Peak branch clans had sent an invitation to Lin Huaitang to meet at the West Creek Lin Clan to discuss the matter of ruling Mind Cleansing Peak at ten o'clock at night!

Evidently, they believed that Lin Huaitang's 'coup' would succeed and had already prepared to meet up and discuss their future plans on how they would rule over Mind Cleansing Peak.

Unfortunately, they were still unaware that Lin Xun had returned, and Lin Huaitang no longer had any chance to receive this invitation...

"I originally wanted to let you guys keep hopping about for a few days but since this is the case, let us end everything tonight!"

Crackle!

The letter burned to ashes in Lin Xun's hand and was blown away by the wind.

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Chapter 653: To The West Creek Lin Clan

"What! You plan on...attending the West Creek Lin Clan's banquet tonight?"

Lin Huaiyuan's heart trembled as he hurriedly tried to dissuade Lin Xun, "Clan Leader, you must not. Tonight, the higher-ups of all three branch clans will be gathered at the West Creek Lin Clan, making it a den of tigers. You just got back to the Forbidden City and are still unclear about the current situation. How can you personally take the risk of going there?"

Lin Zhong also said, "Young Master, this matter should be properly discussed first."

However, Lin Xun merely chuckled and indifferently said, "Won't the higher-ups of all three clans be gathered in one spot? That's perfect, it'll save me the trouble of having to find them one by one!"

His voice was filled with chilling killing intent.

In the year he first entered the Forbidden City, he promised to give the West Creek, Cloud Weight, and Flying Peak branch clans three years to deliberate their position. For three years, he would not take any action against them.

Lin Xun had originally believed that he had already compromised enough and that his terms were attractive. However, after three years, the other party had begun to scheme to take over Mind Cleansing Peak. This undoubtedly showed the choice they had made.

Since that was the case, why would Lin Xun continue to tolerate them?

Lin Huaiyuan hesitantly said, "Clan Leader, I'm not trying to nag but you should also know that the three branch clans are backed by...two high clans, the Zuo Clan, and the Qin Clan..."

Before he could finish, Lin Xun laughed and said, "High clans my ass, they can only call and act like lords in a tiny place like the Forbidden City."

"You guys do not need to worry about me. When I step through the West Creek Lin Clan's gates, let's see what they can do to me! If they do not give me a satisfactory answer, don't blame me for placing justice before family!"

Lin Xun's voice was cold. Although his tone was normal, Lin Huaiyuan, Lin Zhong, and Xiaoke could hear a certain boldness in his words.

It was astonishing to think that even two of the empire's seven high clans, the Zuo Clan and the Qin Clan, were held with contempt by Lin Xun.

This wasn't arrogance, but how he genuinely felt. Any random clan from the Spirit Burial Sea could easily crush any of the high clans. Despite this, Lin Xun had killed the elites of the various clans until they wet themselves, and even the Life Death Stage Kings could not deal with him.

No matter how strong the Zuo Clan and Qin Clan were, were they stronger than those factions?

It could be said that his experiences in the Spirit Burial Sea had completely changed him.

In the past, he had been far too weak and had no choice but to employ various tactics to protect himself. Moreover, he often had no choice but to tolerate being humiliated and targeted by acts of revenge.

Back then, he would always wear a bright smile to conceal his feelings whether he was sad, frustrated, or disappointed in order to avoid making things more difficult for himself.

The present-day Lin Xun had experienced numerous dangers and trials. His mindset and views had become completely different after stepping onto the strongest supreme path!

In the past, the high clans had seemed like behemoths, and he had not dared to face or clash with them directly.

Now, however, he no longer held such fears.

"The Young Master has changed and now seems like a true big shot. He has a natural arrogance and a magnanimous heart, and is akin to a treasured sword that has finally been unsheathed to reveal its sharpness!"

Lin Zhong felt dazed as he remembered that it had been almost three years since Lin Xun first stepped into the Forbidden City.

Over these three years, Lin Zhong had seen each step of Lin Xun's rise and how he had grown stronger.

Although Lin Xun was merely a seventeen-year-old youth, his experiences and the power he wielded were already enough for him to stand proud and call himself a great cultivator! He was a true generational heaven pride who could look down upon those of the same cultivation level!

In the Forbidden City, at least, Lin Xun had already surpassed his peers and even the so-called bigwigs were likely unable to compete with him.

"Master is right. We cultivators should have hearts and minds as tough as steel. Influence and wealth are ultimately meaningless and only one's own strength can become the true foundation of eternal power!"

The Scarlet Eagle King sighed in amazement. "What's more, Master fought alone in Spirit Burial Sea for nearly half a year, killing the great elites of the various clans until they feared him, and even a group of Life Death Stage Kings failed to take his life. How can such power be belittled by mere worldly factions?"

At this point, the peak great monster-beast cultivator turned even more emotional as it said in a powerful voice, "In the ancient era, a true powerhouse could destroy an entire world with a flip of the hand and bring down the sun and moon with a snap of the finger. These almighty cultivators relied only on their own strength! The so-called factions, wealth, and status, were nothing more than smoke to us cultivators."

Lin Xun was surprised by the beast's passionate speech. As an individual with peak advanced Heaven Ascension cultivation, the Scarlet Eagle King was indeed no ordinary individual and possessed knowledge that far surpassed the norm.

Lin Huaiyuan, Lin Zhong, and the others went silent. They realized that after disappearing for half a year, Lin Xun had become completely different from before.

"Clan Leader, since that is the case, I will accompany you tonight!"

Lin Huaiyuan took a deep breath and volunteered himself.

"Young Master, bring me along as well."

Lin Zhong also looked toward Lin Xun.

Just as Xiaoke was about to speak, Lin Xun quickly interjected, "No need. The Scarlet Eagle King will be enough. Having too many people there will only make them think lightly of me!"

To be frank, Lin Xun had made the decision because he was worried that Lin Huaiyuan and Lin Zhong would be unable to bear the cruel bloodshed and try to dissuade him.

After all, for elders like them, the blood of the Lin Clan also flowed in the West Creek, Cloud Weight, and Flying Peak branch clans. Hence, they naturally would not be able to bear the horrible act of kinsmen killing each other.

However, Lin Xun needed to do so!

This problem was like a tumor that would bring all kinds of unpredictable disasters in the future if not properly dealt with.

Next, Lin Xun asked about his Fifth Grandfather, Lin Beiguang, who was also Lin Huaiyuan's father.

It was then that he found out that Lin Beiguang had left to travel, and they had not heard from him for a long time.

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Darkness descended, marking the arrival of the night.

In the West Creek Lin Clan, the clan hall was brightly lit and filled with higher-ups from the West Creek, Cloud Weight, and Flying Peak branch clans. Everyone was happily feasting and drinking amidst the festive and relaxed atmosphere.

"Everyone, we lived in panic and anxiety half a year ago after being forced into a desperate situation by that dog Lin Xun. Now, we've risen up again and can lift our heads high. We're about to seize Mind

Cleansing Peak while that dog Lin Xun has long died in some unknown location in the Spirit Burial Sea. How enjoyable! Come come come, let us all raise our glasses together to our great future!"

Flying Peak Lin Clan Head Lin Pingdu raised his wine cup and chuckled heartily.

Everyone loudly agreed, raised their cups, and happily drank.

"Pingdu is right. However, there's still one final step to complete, and we shouldn't be too careless. We can properly toast when Lin Huaitang arrives."

As the Head of the West Creek Lin Clan, Lin Tianlong made sure to remain clear-headed. Despite saying this, there was an unconcealable look of delight deep in his eyes.

Mind Cleansing Peak was currently in a precarious situation like a building that was on the verge of collapsing, and it was all his handiwork!

Moreover, the Zuo Clan and the Qin Clan were backing them. Under such circumstances, seizing control of Mind Cleansing Peak would be easier than taking candy from a baby.

Hence why Lin Tianlong could not help but feel very pleased with himself.

While Lin Xun was in the Forbidden City, he pressured the three branch clans into a corner, but things were different now. The star of calamity, Lin Xun, was finally dead, while the three branch clans were about to make their comeback!

"Big Brother Tianlong, on the way to the banquet, I heard one of the imperial gate guards mention that someone had seen Lin Xun."

The Head of the Cloud Weight Lin Clan, Lin Nianshan suddenly said this, causing numerous people's eyebrows to raise in alarm. The originally harmonious atmosphere also froze for a moment.

"Impossible. Nianshan, you've had too much to drink. Don't listen to the gossip of those guards. Most of the rumors in the empire were spread by them, how can they possibly be trusted?"

Lin Tianlong displayed a carefree smile. "What's more, news of that dog Lin Xun's death was acknowledged by the imperial family! If a jinx like him can survive being chased by a group of Life Death Stage Kings, I will clean my neck and commit suicide!"

Everyone roared with laughter.

Indeed, Lin Xun had disappeared for half a year already and had been acknowledged by many to have died in the Spirit Burial Sea. How could he possibly have survived and returned?

At this moment, however, an indifferent voice sounded from the entrance of the hall.

"Oh, since that's the case, go ahead and commit suicide!"

The atmosphere immediately became somewhat heavy as the higher-ups frowned in bewilderment.

The higher-ups from the West Creek, Cloud Weight, and Flying Peak branch clans were all gathered in this hall today. Who would dare to provoke them at such a time?

Under the crowd's gaze, Lin Xun appeared at the entrance, dressed in his signature moon-white clothes and standing with his hands behind his back.

A proud and noble scarlet eagle was perched on his shoulder.

Lin Tianlong, Lin Nianshan, Lin Feifeng, and the others immediately stiffened and were dumbstruck as if they had been struck by lightning.

Lin Xun?

He...he's still alive?

It was too sudden and felt like a huge joke. It was like being viciously beaten by a bat without any warning, which left all of them stupefied.

The expressions of those who did not recognize Lin Xun darkened. A mere youngster dared to provoke them at such a time? He was courting death!

One of the West Creek Lin Clan elders slapped the table with both hands and loudly shouted, "Where are the guards? Have you guys gone blind? How can you randomly let an outsider in? What a bunch of useless loafers!"

However, not a single guard responded, and there was nothing but silence.

This made him grow increasingly furious, so he decided to personally take action. He frostily glared at Lin Xun and said, "Kid, do you know where this is? Do you think it's a place where you can do whatever you want? Hurry up and scram, or else..."

Scree!

Before he could finish, the scarlet eagle on the youth's shoulder suddenly moved, turning into a scarlet flash as it rushed at the elder under everyone's stunned gazes.

The Prodigies War

Chapter 654: A Bloody Storm Rises

Plop!

The West Creek Lin Clan Elder had his throat pierced by a beam of fire-light before he could react.

His eyes abruptly bulged from their sockets, filled with astonishment, rage, and horror, as if he was unable to believe what had happened.

Roar!

Flames soon enveloped his body, instantly burning him to ashes. The ashes scattered onto the ground, leaving nothing else behind.

The Scarlet Eagle King had already returned to Lin Xun's shoulder. It withdrew its scarlet wings as disdain flashed in its glowing ruby-like eyes.

Such trash dared to disrespect master?

That was basically asking for death!

The hall became so deathly silent that even a needle dropping could be heard.

Tonight should have originally been a happy gathering where the three Lin branch clans' higher-ups gathered in order to celebrate their imminent take-over of Mind Cleansing Peak.

Who could have imagined that one of the higher-ups would be burned into nothingness by a sudden flash of fire-light?

The horrifying scene almost made several guests shriek as the originally festive atmosphere instantly disappeared, replaced by an alarming chill.

Who were the youth and the scarlet eagle? How dare they come to the West Creek Lin Clan's territory and commit murder?

Everyone's gazes changed when they looked at Lin Xun again, now containing varying degrees of bewilderment and graveness.

Only a few people had actually seen Lin Xun's face before. Although the majority of the three branch clans deeply hated him, almost none of them knew what he looked like.

It was honestly quite ironic.

Only Lin Tianlong, Lin Nianshan, Lin Pingdu, and a handful of others managed to identify Lin Xun immediately. However, they were currently dumbstruck as if they had seen a ghost and were still frozen on the spot.

There was no need to mention how shocking it was to see someone who should have died long ago suddenly appear before you.

A stern-looking silver-haired elder rose to his feet and icily said, "Young man, I don't care who you are, where you come from, or your goals. How dare you come here and commit murder for no reason?!"

He was called Lin Tianhun and was the West Creek Lin Clan's First Elder and Lin Tianlong's older brother. As a seasoned veteran, he remained very composed and calm even at this moment.

"Oh, is that so?"

Lin Xun displayed an indifferent expression. He ignored everyone as he strolled into the hall with his hands behind his back.

This caused Lin Tianhun's expression to change slightly, realizing something was amiss. However, he could not believe how a mere youth dared to be so reckless.

"What an arrogant little fellow. Don't think that you can come to bully our Lin Clan just because you're somewhat capable. People like you are at most cannon fodder to us. Speak, who sent you? Do you understand the consequences of offending the Lin Clan?"

Lin Tianhun frowned as his expression darkened. He assumed that Lin Xun was sent by some powerful faction. Otherwise, such a young man would never dare to commit such atrocities even if he had the biggest balls in the world.

"Tell me then, what are the consequences of offending you people?"

Lin Xun's black eyes were emotionless as his gaze swept across everyone's faces.

When he spoke, Lin Tianlong, Lin Nianshan, and Lin Pingdu were finally able to return to their senses a little.

However, they looked terrible. Their entire bodies trembled, while their faces were a mix of alarm, anger, and disbelief.

Some of the nearby higher-ups began to realize that something was wrong, especially when they saw the three heads' expressions.

The three branch clan heads had experienced all kinds of things before. How could the appearance of a mere youth shock them so greatly?

"Hehe, what a reckless and foolish youngster. I'm not afraid to tell you that our three Lin branch clan forces are mostly gathered here tonight and we're also backed by two high clans, the Zuo Clan and the Qin Clan. I highly doubt a rash kid like you even comprehends the extent of such power."

Lin Tianhun softly chuckled. At the mention of the Zuo Clan and the Qin Clan, a proud look appeared between his brows. "Young man, tell us who sent you! If you don't give a satisfactory answer today..."

He was evidently trying to threaten and frighten Lin Xun, but Lin Tianlong interjected before he could finish, "Big Brother! Don't say anymore, he's Lin Xun!"

Lin Tianhun immediately said in a disdainful tone, "Who even is Lin Xun, how dare you come to the Lin Clan and commit murder, even the jade emperor...eh, what did you say? He he he..."

Only halfway through did it finally click in his head, causing his expression to change drastically. His pupils expanded as if he had seen a ghost, so shocked that he could no longer speak.

"He's Lin Xun!?" Lin Tianhun was finally able to utter the name, suddenly feeling very uncomfortable. Shock was plastered across his face, and his eyes nearly dropped out of their sockets.

Lin Xun!

Everyone's expressions changed as well, finally realizing the reason why.

The youth dressed in moon-white clothes, who had appeared at night with an eagle, was that Lin Xun who was supposed to have died in the Spirit Burial Sea long ago!

Numerous people stood up in alarm, their faces filled with horror, shock, and disbelief.

"You...didn't you die in the Spirit Burial Sea?"

Lin Tianhun's previously pleased and arrogant expression had been replaced by horror.

How had the youngster, who had oppressed them half a year ago, survived and returned? Why?

The others were also shocked and confused, unable to process how this was possible.

"Old thing, how can someone like my master be trapped by a tiny little Spirit Burial Sea? You guys are truly idiots."

The Scarlet Eagle King's disdainful words made Lin Tianhun furious, but also caused a chill to rise within him. Although the words sounded offensive, they proved that not even the Spirit Burial Sea could trap Lin Xun!

Lin Xun ignored everyone's horrified looks as he stood there and said, "Everyone is here, right? I'll go straight to the point then. Three years ago, I gave you guys a chance to consider submitting to Mind Cleansing Peak."

"However, it's clear that you guys not only refused to submit, but are instead scheming to take something you should not. Do you guys really think that I do not dare to kill?"

When he said the word 'kill', terrifying and chilling killing intent abruptly rose in Lin Xun's black eyes, causing everyone's hearts to shudder.

"Hahaha, how laughable, truly laughable! We might have been somewhat afraid if it was before, but now, you've walked right into the lion's den and are on the West Creek Lin Clan's territory. Do you think you'll be able to survive?"

Lin Tianlong suddenly laughed as his eyes turned sinisterly cold.

They had finally returned to their senses. Previously, they had only been shocked that Lin Xun was alive. It did not mean they were afraid of him!

"Yeah, he's just one person!"

The higher-ups in the hall also realized this and began to relax. When they looked at Lin Xun again, there was a trace of pity in their eyes.

This fellow was truly arrogant and foolish to have dared to come here alone!

Most of the higher-ups from the three branch clans were gathered here, making it a very strong line-up. A single Lin Xun was no threat to them at all.

"In the past, you would either be hiding in Mind Cleansing Peak or in Qinglu Academy, which admittedly allowed you to survive till now. However, you've voluntarily come straight to our doorstep today. Should I call you arrogant or stupid?"

Lin Nianshan also laughed with a pleased expression.

"Sigh, that's our nephew and Lin Wenjing's son. It's regretful that he insists on opposing us. For the sake of the Lin Clan's future, I feel that we have no choice but to put the big picture before kinship."

Although Lin Pingdu looked calm, he was highly excited inside.

You refuse to take the path to heaven and instead try to barge into hell!

The other higher-ups also sneered while some inwardly berated themselves, feeling that it was shameful for them to have been so intimidated by Lin Xun's appearance.

They should have instead been happy that he had foolishly delivered himself right to their doorstep!

In their view, Lin Xun was indeed a very dazzling star. He was young and successful, and his exploits had drawn the attention of the entire world. However, he was ultimately still just a youngster, and it was going to be far too easy for them to kill him.

Of course, that was because they assumed that he was still at the Spirit Sea stage like half a year ago.

Such cultivation was of no threat to them.

Hence why they appeared so fearless and excited, making them seem like completely different people when compared to their earlier shocked and horrified appearances.

The atmosphere in the hall became relaxed again and was filled with an air of ridicule. All of the higher-ups' faces contained varying things such as pity, excitement, glee, and menacing looks.

What was better than prey delivering itself right to your front door?

The scene encapsulated that very question. Lin Xun's appearance might have shocked them in the beginning but after they returned to their senses, they realized that this was an ideal opportunity to off him!

"What a bunch of pitiful worms..."

The Scarlet Eagle King suddenly sighed as a sliver of pity appeared in its flame-like eyes. Did none of these idiots wonder for a moment why its master had the confidence to come here alone?

"Are you guys done saying your last words?"

Lin Xun seemed to grow increasingly composed as his black eyes looked over everyone. "If you're done, then it's time to send you guys on your way."

Last words?

The higher-ups were enraged. How dare he still act so arrogantly at such a juncture? He must be tired of living!

There were also some that felt an unexplainable sense of foreboding. Lin Xun was far too calm which made them feel that something must be off.

However, they could not imagine how a youngster, who had been at the Spirit Sea stage half a year ago, could possibly do anything in these circumstances.

Was he intending to rely on that scarlet eagle?

Although the feathered bastard was powerful, it didn't mean that no one present could deal with it!

Someone finally seemed to realize something, causing his expression to abruptly change. Why wasn't the White Casanova, Shen Jinglun, and Third Old Zhu with him? How could they possibly idly sit by knowing that the kid was sending himself to his death?

Moreover, Lin Xun was an existence who had bullied them badly in the past. Did it make sense for him to foolishly rush to his death?

He was so successful and accomplished despite his young age that everyone knew about him. How could he possibly be a fool? Moreover, there was practically no one who could compare to him among his generation.

Something's wrong!

There must be something we don't know about!

However, it was already too late by the time he tried to warn everyone.

Shiing!

The clear cry of a blade suddenly rang out across the hall like the tide, rippling through the air like a wind and thunder!

The Prodigies War

Chapter 655: Too Late For Regret!

The cry of a blade rippled through the air like wind and thunder as Lin Xun disappeared from the spot.

Plop!

A scholarly middle-aged man suddenly felt a chill at his chest and lowered his head to look, only to find that a bloody hole had appeared at some unknown time.

"You..." The sneer on his face froze as his pupils expanded. He seemed to want to say something, but no longer had any chance to as he fell to the ground and died.

Rumble!

At another corner, one of the higher-ups, who was drinking from his winecup, suddenly widened his eyes in horror. He had seen a hornless ice dragon made from ice and snow coiling its body in the air as it stared at him with indifferent eyes.

"NO—!" Before he could react, his body was smashed to pieces by a claw, causing flesh and blood to splatter everywhere.

"The little doggy has even drawn his blade, does he actually dare to..."

Meanwhile, a middle-aged woman was in the middle of making a sarcastic remark about Lin Xun when what felt like an ancient barbarian bull suddenly rammed into her, shattering her bones and causing an explosion of flesh and blood, instantly killing her.

He had used Bixi Collision, which could shake a mountain with a single charge!

"Something's wrong..."

A frowning elderly man, who was deep in thought, failed to see a Bi'an phantasm appear from a simple palm imprint above him. It crushed down with dreadful force, smashing him into a bloody pulp.

All of these events happened in an instant as if several powerful experts had prepared in advance to strike at the same moment.

However, the truth was that it had all been done by Lin Xun!

His current cultivation stage and power made him a supreme and near-invincible existence in the Heaven Ascension stage.

There was no lack of Heaven Ascension experts among the higher-ups present. Although they might be influential and powerful figures in the three branch clans, their combat power was inferior to the saints and saintesses from the Spirit Burial Sea. To Lin Xun, they were no different from wild chickens and dogs, so he naturally did not fear any of them at all!

.....

Screams and cries of alarm rang out in the hall.

The place had become a mess with scattered documents, shattered lamps and cups, collapsed walls, and cracked and blood-stained ground. It was as if a storm had passed through and ravaged the place.

Everything had happened in the blink of an eye. The events had occurred so quickly that many of the higher-ups had yet to react even until now.

Who could have imagined that Lin Xun would actually take action?

It was simple, straightforward, and screamed my way or the highway!

"You dare—"

Lin Tianlong roared as he drew an azure copper sword and charged.

Lin Xun casually thrust his palm, sending out a wave of terrifying force. Lin Tianlong was brutally knocked away before he could approach, causing him to spew blood from his nose and mouth.

With a single strike, the mighty West Creek Lin Clan Head, who was also an older-generation Heaven Ascension expert, was sent flying without any resistance like a pathetic clown.

Lin Tianlong was in shock as it finally dawned upon him that Lin Xun had not foolishly come alone to die. He had come because he was completely unafraid of them!

However, it had only been half a year since they last met. How had the Spirit Sea stage youngster become so terrifying?

The other higher-ups' expressions also changed as realization also dawned upon them, causing them to fall into a state of panic.

Most of the three branch clan forces were gathered in this location, and it was basically their strongest possible line-up.

Despite this, Lin Xun had easily killed six or seven people in an instant. Moreover, even an expert like Lin Tianlong had been effortlessly knocked away...

It was horrifying!

How could he be so powerful?

This question rang in everyone's head as they struggled to accept reality. It had only been half a year, but he had already grown to such a logic-defying level. If he were given more time, even the Forbidden City would likely be unable to contain him!

"Attack together and kill him!"

The Cloud Weight Lin Clan Head, Lin Nianshan, furiously roared. He had sensed that numerous people had been intimidated by Lin Xun, and things would only become worse if this continued.

Only by gathering all of their strength would they be able to stop his momentum and have a chance at turning the tables!

A spurt of energy would eventually run out. Lin Nianshan did not believe that Lin Xun could keep this up for long.

Rumble!

Numerous higher-ups rallied around Lin Nianshan and spread out to surround Lin Xun.

For a time, various secret arts and weapons zipped through the air, creating a gorgeous sight of streaming lights and terrifying undulations that quickly destroyed the rest of the hall.

Lin Xun's black eyes remained as tranquil as a lake. In the face of the barrage, he did not even glance away as he activated 'Baxia Imprisonment'.

Rumble!

A dreadful pressure instantly covered the area and turned into a restriction that locked all of the higher-ups in the air.

From a distance, they looked like fish frozen in a layer of ice, unable to move even an inch.

The strange scene made the scalps of several higher-ups in the distance turn numb as a chill filled their insides. What was this terrifying secret art?

Plop plop plop plop!

Before they could return to their senses, Lin Xun lightly swung the Broken Blade, causing several heads to be severed from their bodies.

Only then did the headless corpses fall to the ground, leaving them lying in growing pools of their own blood.

Only Lin Nianshan survived, although it was only because he seemed to have been spared by Lin Xun.

The sight of the heads rolling across the ground made Lin Nianshan's eyes bulge in fear and anger as veins throbbed on his forehead. It nearly shattered him internally.

Too frightening!

Life and death had been decided in the blink of an eye. They had originally intended to stop Lin Xun's momentum. Who could have expected that even their barrage of attacks would be easily brushed aside by him?

The thought of how close he had been to death at that moment absolutely terrified Lin Nianshan, causing his expression to turn exceedingly ugly.

"He's just one person, and he's even a youngster, so he...how can he be so strong?" His entire body trembled, unable to accept what had just transpired.

In the meantime, Lin Xun used the opportunity to take down another four or five people. Almost all of them were killed in a single, simple, and direct strike as if he was merely harvesting wheat. There was basically no resistance from start to end.

His overwhelming and unstoppable might greatly intimidated everyone present!

The most terrifying part was that Lin Xun looked completely calm and composed even at this juncture. Not a single speck of blood or dirt could be seen on his clothes as if he was a superior existence that could not be touched by this world.

However, still-warm corpses lay in pools of their own blood at his feet!

The Scarlet Eagle King merely watched. This was Lin Xun's family affair, and it had been forbidden from interfering. Hence why it could only watch as the battle unfurled.

Although it had already personally tasted Lin Xun's terrifying combat power, the scenes still caused the Scarlet Eagle King's heart to surge in its chest, making it unable to remain calm.

It finally understood why the many races and clans so deeply yearned and revered the 'supreme path' in the ancient era.

Those who could attain this stage were definitely kings even among the heaven prides. They were suns whose rays could reach across every era!

It was the strongest path, and it was said that only these supreme heaven prides could suppress entire cultivation stages and reign supreme among their peers!

Lin Xun was undoubtedly supreme in the Heaven Ascension stage. He was a king of this cultivation stage and a living legend!

"Who could have imagined that this mere teenager would be a king of the Heaven Ascension and a supreme heaven pride?"

The Scarlet Eagle King grew increasingly excited and awed.

At the same time, it was also filled with pity toward the branch clan higher-ups. What a pitiful group of toads stuck at the bottom of the well. It was laughable how ignorant they were about the outside world.

It was only a matter of time before someone like Master displayed his brilliance in the great dao struggle. Moreover, his future potential was limitless.

However, instead of grasping the opportunity to protect the Master, they instead viewed him as their enemy due to some laughable power struggle. Wasn't it such a joke?

"You guys had the best chance right in front of you but you were all blind to it. Hehe, how absurd..."

The Scarlet Eagle King inwardly sneered.

The killing was still ongoing. Lin Xun seemed to have turned into a merciless executioner as he swept through the place like a whirlwind.

There was blood everywhere, the shocking red making it seem as if the place was a slaughter hell.

If outsiders were to find out, their expressions would definitely change. These were members of the Lin Clan! Even if they were from the branch clan, the Lin blood still flowed in their veins.

However, Lin Xun looked as if he was going to massacre them all. If word of this spread, he would definitely be called a 'kin-killer'!

Lin Xun did not care.

For the Lin Clan's future, he needed to do a proper clean-up of the clan. He would not tolerate a repeat of the bloody affair from more than a dozen years ago!

Traitors needed to be dealt with in the harshest of manners.

In Lin Xun's eyes, the West Creek, Cloud Weight, and Flying Peak branch clans were now traitors.

More than a dozen years ago, they had collaborated with outside factions and divvied up the Lin Clan's assets. Despite this, Lin Xun had been willing to give them a chance to repent and gave them three years to consider his proposal.

In the end, however, they had not valued the chance he had given them and instead chose to be Zuo Clan's and Qin Clan's cronies rather than submit and return to Mind Cleansing Peak.

It was something Lin Xun absolutely would not tolerate!

"Stop! We surrender..."

Lin Tianlong sorrowfully roared. His entire body was trembling, unable to control his emotions as his heart bled inside.

The people gathered tonight were the higher-ups of the three branch clans. However, they were being chopped up like vegetables, and more than half of them had already perished. It was definitely an unbearable blow to anyone.

Lin Tianlong could no longer watch. Their losses were too great, and it would likely be difficult for them to even survive in the Forbidden City after this.

At the same time, despair also began to well up in his heart.

Half a year ago, the Spirit Sea stage Lin Xun oppressively suppressed them. Now, he had become even more terrifying and powerful. Would there be any chance for the three branch clans to even breathe in the future?

"I gave you guys three years to think about it and you're only regretting it now? It's too late!"

Lin Xun's black eyes were ice-cold as his calm voice rang out with a sense of unwavering resolve. His heart was overflowing with hatred, and he had yet to release all of his anger. No matter who came tonight, no one would be able to stop this reckoning!

The Prodigies War

Chapter 656: Price of Betrayal

After hearing Lin Xun's resolute reply, Lin Tianlong internally crumbled, becoming akin to a lifeless husk as he blankly stared into space.

The fires of battle continued to spread as screams echoed across the area. More and more corpses appeared on the ground, the pools of blood appearing glaringly red due to the flashes of blade light.

It was an unpredictable tragedy, and it wasn't over yet!

Lin Tianlong wasn't dead and neither were Lin Nianshan and Lin Pingdu. Unlike Lin Tianlong, however, the latter two seemed to have already gone mad.

They had long lost their composure and were falling deeper and deeper into insanity with each scene of carnage they were forced to watch. They continuously charged at Lin Xun without any concern for their lives.

However, Lin Xun did not plan to kill them immediately and merely knocked them away each time.

"You're heartless. Do you plan on making us helplessly watch you butcher all of our clansmen?" Lin Nianshan howled as his eyes bulged from their sockets.

"Kill me if you have the balls! Why don't you dare to? Come on!" Lin Pingdu's hair was messily scattered, and his expression twisted with madness.

Unfortunately, Lin Xun ignored everything they said. His indifferent and callous attitude made the duo nearly go crazy for real.

It was cruel torture that made them wish for the sweet release of death. However, they could only watch helplessly as the tragedy continued to play out, forced to witness each clansman fall into pools of their own blood with expressions of terror, powerlessness, and anger.

It was unbearable torture!

More than half of the people present had already been killed. Lin Xun's clean and efficient killing method was akin to a whirlwind of death which crushed everyone's spirits, causing them to be overwhelmed by fear.

When they tried to escape, however, they were horrified to discover that the surroundings were covered in a thick mist. Four mysterious stone pillars stood amidst the mist, completely sealing off the entire area.

The Four Coiling Dragon Pillars!

How could anyone present fail to recognize this treasure? It was the supreme treasure of the Flying Peak Lin Clan, which had been in the possession of Lin Pingdu's father, Lin Feifeng.

However, Lin Feifeng had been killed by Lin Xun long ago, and the treasure had naturally fallen into his hands.

Everyone began to despair. Only now did they realize that Lin Xun had made ample preparations before he stepped into the West Creek Lin Clan and was not planning on letting any of them leave alive!

It was no wonder that the other clansmen had yet to appear despite the huge disturbance.

The entire area had already been sealed off!

Rumble!

The revelation felt like being struck by a thunderbolt. Lin Tianlong was originally still grasping onto a sliver of hope that their Old Ancestors might notice, rush over, and kill the evil-doer Lin Xun.

However, this hope died the moment he saw the Four Coiling Dragon Pillars.

Sorrow was sometimes greater than death!

Lin Tianlong's current state of mind could be described as having lost all hope.

....

"You three are the only ones left."

After an unknown amount of time, an indifferent voice sounded in Lin Tianlong's ears, waking him from his dazed state like a peal of thunder.

He dazedly looked around only to find that he was surrounded by corpses and blood.

The only other survivors were Lin Nianshan and Lin Feifeng. Their hair was disheveled, their clothes were in tatters, their eyes were blank, and they were covered in mud and blood.

Lin Xun stood opposite them, his clothes still clean and pristine, and his expression still calm and indifferent. He looked like an untouchable existence and appeared very glaring amidst the bloody and messy scene.

"These...are your relatives...how could you..." Lin Tianlong finally managed to croak out, his hoarse voice filled with sorrow.

"Relatives?"

Iciness rose in Lin Xun's black eyes. "I've never seen such despicable and shameless relatives. The moment you guys chose to betray the Lin Clan and become our enemies is the moment you guys became nothing but a group of traitors to me!"

"Hehe, for all of history, the victor always has the final say. You've won this time and I have nothing to say. Death of torture, do whatever you wish!"

Lin Tianlong's expression had become somewhat desolate.

"The victor has the final say, huh?"

Lin Xun suddenly sighed and asked, "Do you think the Zuo Clan and Qin Clan will avenge you guys after they find out what happened today?"

Lin Tianlong was taken aback. Soon after, he answered without hesitation, "Of course!"

"Are you certain?" Lin Xun stared hard at him.

Lin Tianlong's expression changed slightly as his eyes flickered in thought. In the end, he did not dare to meet Lin Xun's eyes and turned his head to the side.

Lin Xun calmly said, "You already know the answer. The Zuo Clan and Qin Clan will not stand up for you guys!"

"Because I'm still alive and you guys are dead. Dead people have no value to these high clans, and it is impossible for them to offend me for your sakes!"

Lin Xun's words were like a knife that viciously stabbed Lin Tianlong's heart, causing him to tremble as his complexion turned deathly pale.

As someone who could become the West Creek Lin Clan Head, he was naturally no ordinary individual and knew that Lin Xun was right.

However, who would be able to calmly face such a cruel reality?

Lian Nianshan spoke up in a gloomy and powerless voice, "We've already lost. Must you still humiliate us?"

Lin Pingdu muttered with vacant eyes, "Give us a quick death."

"You guys are wrong. I let you guys live not to humiliate and torture you."

Lin Xun indifferently said, "I only wish to give your three clans one final chance."

Chance?

Lin Tianlong and the others were stunned.

Lin Xun said, "You guys might deserve death, but do you want all of your clansmen to accompany you as well?"

These words made the hearts of Lin Tianlong and the others jump. They somehow regained some energy and sternly shouted, "What exactly do you want?"

They were not alone in this world and had wives, children, relatives, and clansmen that depended on them!

Lin Xun heartlessly killing off all of their family was something they absolutely did not wish to see.

"You're asking me what I want?"

The calm in Lin Xun's eyes was finally replaced by unconcealable rage. "If any of you could have thought about your other clansmen just once for the past three years, how could today's events have happened!?"

His cold voice boomed like thunder. Lin Xun had finally snapped. How could personally killing off the traitors of his clan feel good?

Outsiders might view him as a 'kin-killer,' but which of them could imagine the pain he felt?

Lin Tianlong and the others could only tremble as their faces grew increasingly pale. In the end, they glumly lowered their heads, unable to speak.

After a long time, Lin Xun took a deep breath and calmly said, "Don't worry. To me, those innocent clansmen are still a part of the Lin Clan. As long as they are willing to turn over a new leaf, there will be a place for them in Mind Cleansing Peak."

Lin Tianlong and the others were stunned as if they were unable to believe what they had just heard. It was an outcome they would never have expected, not because it was terrible, but because it was too good!

"You guys might not believe me, but ever since I was given Mind Cleansing Peak, I've never had any interest in the so-called clan authority. In fact, I planned long ago to give up the Clan Leader position after I've resolved all the clan's internal and external troubles."

Lin Xun softly said, "I still have to avenge my parents, search for my teacher, and seek my own dao. I have neither the time nor effort to spare on managing a clan. Unfortunately...even if you guys knew about this, you would have never believed it."

Lin Tianlong's and the others' expressions fluctuated indeterminately in silence.

Rumble!

With a wave of his sleeve, Lin Xun dispelled the Four Coiling Dragon Pillars, releasing the area from its lockdown.

"Tianlong! You guys...this...how did this happen..."

An elder immediately appeared. He was Lin Xixi, Lin Xun's second granduncle and a Cyclic Derivation expert.

He had been alerted some time ago, but could only worriedly pace about outside as he was unable to break the restriction.

When he was finally able to see everything inside, Lin Xixi was stunned as if he had been struck by lightning as his eyes instantly turned blood-red.

The ground was covered in corpses and blood, making it appear like hell on earth!

"This was all done by you?" Lin Xixi fiercely stared at Lin Xun.

There was a crowd of other Lin Clan members behind him who were also in shock due to the bloody sight as their hands and feet turned cold.

How terrifying!

They could not accept what had happened.

"That's right."

Lin Xun calmly answered. He looked at Lin Xixi and said, "I am the Lin Clan Leader and have eliminated some traitors. Did I do anything wrong?"

"You..."

Lin Xixi trembled with anger, nearly shattering his teeth as he said, "How dare you kill your own clansmen and elders? You deserve death ten thousand times over!"

Rumble!

A dreadful aura spread from Lin Xixi, stirring up the wind and clouds. It was the pressure of a Cyclic Derivation expert. Once angered, he could burn mountains, boil the seas, and create inestimable disasters.

Lin Xun's expression was calm and unafraid. However, Lin Tianlong's expression changed drastically as he rushed forward to block Lin Xixi.

"Father, don't!"

Lin Tianlong cried out, "It's our fault and enough people have already died today! Please do not start it again!"

"You..." Lin Xixi was stunned. He never imagined that his own son would stop him!

Even Lin Xun was somewhat surprised, but he soon regained his calm. He knew that Lin Tianlong merely wanted to try and make some amends.

"Why?" Lin Xixi's face was ashen.

"We made a mistake more than a dozen years ago. Everything that happened today has finally allowed me to understand that we...cannot keep making this same mistake!"

Lin Tianlong gasped for a while before he said in a strong and resolved voice, "Moreover, Lin Xun has already agreed to let off the innocent clan members and will even give them a chance to return to Mind Cleansing Peak."

"Father, this is already the best outcome. I do not wish for us to continue killing each other, because it's too painful..."

"I do not want the other clansmen to be implicated by me. If I allow it, I will be a great sinner who our ancestors will be ashamed of even if I die..."

Toward the end, the mighty Heaven Ascension expert and West Creek Lin Clan Head was crying rivers and on the verge of losing control of his emotions.

Lin Xixi's expression changed along with the other West Creek clan members. They were stunned and unable to describe the emotions they were currently feeling.

In the distance, Lin Xun inwardly nodded as his expression softened slightly. Lin Tianlong had finally gained a sliver of acknowledgment from him.

The Prodigies War

Chapter 657: The Good Show has just begun

The silence felt like a palpable presence.

Lin Tianlong's words were like a barrage of rocks battering the earth, making it difficult for the West Creek Lin Clan to recover from the shock.

Lin Xixi's chest heaved up and down as he tried to suppress his anger. Then, he coldly stared at Lin Xun. "Do you want our West Creek Lin Clan to submit? That's fine, but you have to pass me first! If you get my approval, then...this matter...I will not pursue it anymore!"

Lin Xun scrunched his brows and then quickly regained his calmness. "What I want is for you to acknowledge allegiance and not approval. You can refuse, but don't blame me for washing this place tonight with blood."

A bloodbath!

Everyone shuddered inwardly and their expressions changed dramatically.

Lin Xixi's face turned livid and his hair almost stood up in anger. His expression alternated for a good while before he could compose himself and say, "Allegiance? You are just a little guy! What qualifications do you have to make me acknowledge allegiance to you?"

His words were bold, confident and tinged with disdain.

Based on seniority, he was Lin Xun's second grandfather. It was the greatest insult for a junior to come to his door and threaten him.

"Father!" Lin Tianlong anxiously dropped to his knees with a thud and kowtowed. "I beg you, for the sake of our West Creek Lin Clan, please stop!"

"You..." Lin Xixi was so angry that he couldn't form a complete sentence. Do you want me to bow to a grandchild-level junior? Impossible!

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes and sighed, "Because you knelt, I will give your father a chance to submit!"

His black eyes darted at Lin Xixi. "Didn't you ask me what qualifications I have? It's very simple—It's strength!"

Shua!

Before his voice faded, his figure flashed and a fist blasted towards Lin Xixi.

The punch was simple and unpretentious yet it seemed capable of oppressing the universe like an ancient god-king lifting a mountain.

The entire audience gasped. He attacked like that! So domineering!

No matter what, Lin Xixi is a great cultivator of the Cyclic Derivation Stage! How can a teenager at the Heaven Ascension Stage provoke him?

Even the Scarlet Eagle King couldn't stop his eyelids from twitching as he watched from the distance. Is the master going to fight someone of a higher cultivation level? Does he want to suppress someone at the Cyclic Derivation Stage?

"I'm going to teach you why elders shouldn't be insulted!" Lin Xixi laughed in fury.

His anger had reached its peak. His body glowed brightly and his imposing bearing soared, crushing the nearby clouds.

With a roar, he leapt into the air.

"No—"Lin Tianlong cried out but he couldn't stop him in time.

"Father, what kind of identity and status do you have? How can you compromise with that kid? Everything will be fine as long as Grandfather is around." A youngster in a luxurious robe rushed over to pull Lin Tianlong up from kneeling, looking annoyed.

PA!

Lin Tianlong slapped the youngster in the face, sending him flying across the air and spewing blood from his nose and mouth. The blood-curdling scream was indicative of how powerful Lin Tianlong's slap was.

However, it wasn't over. Lin Tianlong stomped his foot on his son's stomach like a raging lion. Pinning an ice-cold glare at him, he threatened through gritted teeth, "If you dare to say another word, I am going to cripple you!"

He was completely infuriated. He still doesn't understand the situation at such a time! What if Lin Xun hears him? Does he want to die?

The youngster trembled all over, and his blood ran cold at his father's terrifying gaze. He realized that his father wasn't joking!

Meanwhile, Lin Xun and Lin Xixi had launched into a fierce battle. Waves of destructive qi swept the area and sent the world quaking.

In the air, Lin Xun's figure seemed illusory as he activated the Hornless Ice Dragon Step and his fists started flying like rain. He held his ground even in a duel against a Cyclic Derivation cultivator.

On the other hand, Lin Xixi's killing moves weren't successful against Lin Xun.

He couldn't help from feeling angry and shocked. He knew that he had underestimated Lin Xun, but he still couldn't imagine how a teenager at the Heaven Ascension Stage could fight against him!

It was too unbelievable and earth-shaking!

The Heaven Ascension Stage and the Cyclic Derivation Stage were two completely different stages. In the past, Lin Xixi could easily suppress and kill Heaven Ascension experts with a flip of his hand.

But now...

It was different!

Lin Xun's power and fighting will completely exceed Lin Xixi's estimation and imagination. He was like a heaven-defying monster. He broke through the obstacles between cultivation stages and displayed tyrannical strength and foundation.

That was no doubt terrifying.

At least, no one in the entire Forbidden City could be compared with Lin Xun!

"Hmph!"

Lin Xixi's face was livid. He drew a deep breath, and his imposing bearing continued to soar. He activated a secret art to display the power of the Cyclic Derivation Stage to its fullest.

It would be the greatest shame and humiliation if he failed to subdue Lin Xun. He wouldn't be able to raise his head again in the future if word spread out.

He was a high and mighty Cyclic Derivation cultivator and a grandfather figure of the opponent, so how would it not be shameful?

Boom!

Lin Xixi flew into a rage and his power drastically changed.

Everyone gasped. It was the first time they had witnessed such a top-notch battle.

But to everyone's horror, Lin Xun wasn't the slightest bit suppressed even under such circumstances.

Azure Dao Ripple continued to flow all over his body, his robe billowed around him, and a Hornless Ice Dragon circled him. He looked more and more extraordinary.

In his hand, the Broken Blade released a clear cry before it shot out a beam of blade light and split the air with a shocking crack.

How is he so strong?

The members of the West Creek Lin Clan originally had great confidence in Lin Xixi, but that confidence had begun to crumble.

Scarlet Eagle King watched the battle unblinkingly, quivering with shock.

He knew the terror and power of a supreme king of the Heaven Ascension Stage, but he never thought that they could be so strong to stand their ground against someone at the Cyclic Derivation Stage!

"Master...his foundation...what terrifying levels has it reached?" Scarlet Eagle King's admiration and awe for Lin Xun grew stronger and stronger. The power that Lin Xun had shown exceeded his expectation every time.

Boom!

Earth-shattering collisions shook the area and beams of divine light rioted in all directions.

For the spectators, the world turned into a blur, and their blood and qi pulsed frantically in their bodies.

As Lin Xun clasped the Broken Blade, rays of light pierced the sky and slashed the ground. Its sharpness was unstoppable.

So strong!

Lin Tianlong, Lin Nianshan and Lin Pingdu became more and more ashen-faced. They realized that Lin Xun indeed had nothing to fear since he dared to show up at their door.

Ridiculously, they had previously regarded Lin Xun as their prey...

On the battlefield, Lin Xixi's expression was unprecedentedly grave as he stared fixedly at the youngster opposite him.

The power that Lin Xun demonstrated was unheard of at the Heaven Ascension Stage and surpassed everyone else. The most frightening thing was that he was still so young yet he had already accomplished so much on the path of the Great Dao. How much more terrifying would he become in the future if he continued to grow?

Suddenly, Lin Xixi shouted coldly, "Do you think you can defeat me and force me to submit to you with this kind of strength? How ridiculous!"

"Is that right?" Indifferently, Lin Xun swung his blade.

Dazzling brilliance suffused the area, vaporizing like a dreamy scene, and presented thousands of falling stars. Eternal night was descending.

Star-Gather!

The power of the blade was like eternal night, bringing thousands of stars into the world.

The extraordinary power turned everything pale—the sky, the earth and the people.

The blade suddenly slashed downwards.

With a boom, divine brilliance erupted like a volcano, illuminating the night sky. Everyone almost coughed up blood as their visions blurred. The weaker cultivators collapsed on their buttocks, soaked in cold sweat.

Da! Da! Da!

Lin Xixi stumbled backwards, face alternating between shock and anger. Despite his attempt to defuse the attack, he had still been blasted across the air and almost coughed up blood from the impact.

He roared in fury, "That blade is quite impressive, but it won't be enough to defeat me!"

He was a Cyclic Derivation expert. He couldn't believe he would be defeated nor could he accept it.

His figure erupted in a blaze of light and his long hair flowed loosely over his shoulders. He decided to go all out.

"Slash!"

Lin Xun's face was calm without a ripple of emotion as the Broken Blade soared into the air like a river of stars gushing down from beyond the ninth heavens.

Rumble!

The space shattered. Everyone had long retreated into the distance for fear of being impacted.

Lin Xixi couldn't hold on anymore. He coughed up blood and staggered, face deathly pale.

Lin Tianlong and the others trembled all over.

It was one thing to be able to fight someone at the Cyclic Derivation Stage, but it was another thing to be able to defeat a Cyclic Derivation expert!

The two were completely different!

Lin Xun had continuously shaken Lin Xixi with the strength of the Heaven Ascension Stage and had even wounded him to the extent of coughing up blood!

"Again!"

Lin Xixi's hair was disheveled, and his eyes were bloodshot. He resembled a berserk beast as he continued to attack and roar.

Basically, he was unwilling to accept defeat!

"Slash!"

Lin Xun's expression became more and more indifferent, and his black eyes were cold and unfathomable. The Broken Blade again soared into the air like a rising sun before it exploded.

The blazing brilliance blinded everyone's eyes. It was so bright and dazzling that it seemed to contain the destructive power to wipe out the world.

Even Scarlet Eagle King felt a strong sense of imminent danger flood his heart and couldn't help but dart away while screaming.

Boom!

Lin Xixi was blasted into the ground, forming a giant pit. His beard and hair were scorched, his skin was cracked and his clothes were torn.

He convulsed, looking extremely tragic, like a burnt wooden rod.

Lin Xun was a little surprised to see Lin Xixi only seriously wounded because even Niu Tuntian, a top saint, wasn't able to survive that blow. It showed how incredibly strong a great Cyclic Derivation cultivator was.

It became deadly silent. No one dared to speak. They had watched everything happen with mouths dropped wide open.

Someone broke the silence, "Defeated...defeated?"

"Indeed defeated..." someone else said in a daze.

The shock was too unbearable. Lin Xixi was a pillar of the West Creek Lin Clan, but he had been defeated in front of them.

He hadn't been defeated by a powerful cultivator of the same cultivation stage, nor by a more terrifying Life Death Stage King, but instead by a junior of the clan!

The junior was only a teen, and he was only at the Heaven Ascension Stage...

It was no doubt a crushing defeat!

All gazes turned complicated as they looked at Lin Xun. They couldn't imagine how such a teenager could be so heaven-defying and terrifying.

He had set foot into the ranks of the great Heaven Ascension cultivators at such a young age, which was a remarkable feat and outshone all his peers.

Additionally, he defeated a Cyclic Derivation cultivator who had long made a name for himself!

That was the most unbelievable feat.

Scarlet Eagle King murmured, "Master is perhaps the youngest king of the Heaven Ascension Stage in the world. He wouldn't be inferior to anyone at the same cultivation stage! After all, which Heaven Ascension expert had ever suppressed a Cyclic Derivation cultivator in the past?"

He even wondered whether Lin Xun had mobilized all his strength to defeat Lin Xixi. This was because he won too easily and too quickly, and he didn't suffer the slightest injury.

"Now, are you satisfied?"

Lin Xun put away the Broken Blade and walked over to Lin Xixi's side. He glanced down at the tragic-looking old man on the ground, looking as calm as ever.

There wasn't a hint of pity.

Even if the other party was his second grandfather according to the hierarchy.

In Lin Xun's heart, there were only traitors and non-traitors!

Lin Xixi struggled to lift his head. His eyes were dim and filled with indescribable melancholy and disappointment. He said hoarsely, "If your grandfather could see this, he would be proud of you..."

He rose to his feet, expression hollow and haggard. "Don't worry, from today onwards, the West Creek Lin Clan will no longer go against you. I only hope that, out of respect for the ancestors of the Lin Clan, you can forgive the innocent clansmen."

Lin Xun nodded. "Of course."

Lin Xixi forced a smile, standing up tremblingly. "It may be a blessing for the Lin Clan to have someone like you in charge."

"I will persuade your third grandfather to submit. I just hope...that there will be no more unnecessary killings tonight. No matter what, we are a family, aren't we?"

He hobbled away.

"I only promised to spare the innocent clansmen, but I didn't promise to spare the traitors!" stated Lin Xun calmly.

Lin Xixi froze in the distance, remaining silent for a long moment. Then, he suddenly let out a sigh that was almost like a sorrowful sob.

"Karma!"

The voice echoed in the night, adding to the endless desolateness.

All members of the West Creek Lin Clan turn ashen-faced.

They all knew that, from tonight onwards, their fate would be controlled by the terrifying demon-like youngster before them.

Had it ended?

No!

At least for Lin Xun, the good show had just begun!

The Prodigies War

Chapter 658: Stirred all Sides

After half a year, Lin Xun, who was thought to be dead by many powerful clans in the Forbidden City, returned and launched an operation to settle many accounts.

That night seemed extraordinarily long.

That night, Lin Xun single-handedly slaughtered the higher-ups of the three collateral branches of the Lin Family: West Creek, Cloud Weight and Flying Peak. When the great Cyclic Derivation cultivator Lin Xixi was defeated, the operation was fully kicked off.

Late at night on Mind Cleansing Peak.

Lin Zhong, Xiaoke, Third Old Zhu and Lin Huaiyuan quickly went into action, mobilizing all their people to take over the properties and forces controlled by the three collateral branches.

It was similar to the handing over of powers. With Lin Xun acting as a deterrent, the operation went smoothly and orderly. They didn't run into any obstacles at all.

All the clansmen from the West Creek, Cloud Weight and Flying Peak Lin Clans panicked, grieved, and bitterly but passively accepted all the changes. No one dared to resist or not cooperate.

They had surrendered, and that was the price they had to pay for surrendering. Maybe they couldn't fully understand or accept it for the time being, but it was already happening and they couldn't change anything.

From tonight, the Lin Clan that had separated due to a bloody incident over ten years ago would be unified.

In the future, the so-called West Creek, Cloud Weight, Flying Peak and North Light Lin Clans would no longer exist. They would all join the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan!

.....

In the early morning of the same night, the Chi Clan.

A clear and pleasant wind chime awakened Chi Cangmei from her meditation in the hot spring.

Her slender and sharp brows furrowed. Very few people dared to disturb her, so something major had to have happened that night.

After a thought, she rose from the hot spring, her movements swift and natural. She was naked at the moment, but she didn't mind that her snowy white skin, ample chest and slender and straight legs were exposed. Beads of water slid down her body.

That was her usual place of meditation, where she always spent alone, so she was used to it.

"What happened?"

When the maid came in, Chi Cangmei was already wrapped in a bathrobe and sitting down by the hot spring. Her black hair was draped over her body, and she looked very relaxed.

"Miss, news just came that a fierce battle happened at the West Creek Lin Clan. It was said that the higher-ups of the West Creek, Cloud Weight and Flying Peak were all gathered there, and almost all of them were killed in the fierce battle."

"What?" Chi Cangmei went stiff.

In the past, she had never paid attention to the three collateral branches of the Lin Clan. After all, they were inferior to even a lower aristocratic clan.

It was only after Lin Xun made a name for himself in the Forbidden City that she started to pay attention to the Lin Family.

"Who did it?" she asked in bewilderment.

From what she knew, after Lin Xun was believed to have died in the Spirit Burial Sea in the past six months, the three branches of the Lin Family became more and more fearless knowing that they had the backing of the Zuo and Qin Clans.

Based on that, the tragic incident seemed very unusual.

"According to sources, it was Lin Xun's doing," the maid answered quickly.

"Lin Xun?" Chi Cangmei sprang up. The relaxed expression faded from her face and her eyes widened in surprise. "Is this true?"

She seemed to have lost her composure, and her voice was cold and interrogative.

"The report came from our Chi Clan's spies, but I can't judge whether it is true or not," the maid answered in a trembling voice.

"Why would a dead person suddenly appear? And he killed all the high-level figures of the three collateral branches of the Lin Clan by himself! How fierce and ruthless..." Chi Cangmei was evidently shaken by the news.

However, after careful thought, the style and behavior were indeed very similar to Lin Xun's. He was just as wild, savage, and unscrupulous. He dared to force even the Marquis of Rising Sky to kneel in public.

"Could he really be back?" Her heart suddenly felt a little heavy.

When she heard the news of Lin Xun's death, she felt a weight lifted off her and was able to relax. Imaginably, Lin Xun had brought tremendous pressure to her in the past.

Unexpectedly, such a fierce and ruthless character hadn't died!

The clear and melodious wind chime rang again and again, and maids rushed to report back to her one after another.

"Miss, it's reported that the guard at the city gate, Hu Jiuyi, saw Lin Xun return to the Forbidden City."

"Miss, it's been confirmed that at dusk, Lin Xun invaded the West Creek Lin Clan and slaughtered all the high-level members of the three Lin Clan branches!"

"Miss, there is new news! It has been confirmed that Lin Xun has defeated the great cultivator Lin Xixi. The three collateral branches of the Lin Clan have officially surrendered to the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan!"

Chi Cangmei was a little skeptical at first when the news came, but that changed after more and more news came.

Now, she was completely struck dumb.

She couldn't imagine how it was possible for a person who had long been believed to be dead to come back alive. Not only that, but on the first day of his return, he raised his slaughter knife and launched a killing spree on the three collateral branches of the Lin Family!

The fact that chilled her the most was that Lin Xun single-handedly defeated all the high-level figures in the Lin Clan, many of whom were Heaven Ascension cultivators.

Did that mean that Lin Xun, who was still at the Spirit Sea Stage half a year ago, had now stepped into the ranks of the Heaven Ascension Stage and his strength surpassed those of the older generation?

When Chi Cangmei learned that even Lin Xixi, a great Cyclic Derivation cultivator, lost to Lin Xun, her pupils constricted and she almost went crazy.

A dead person turned out to be alive, and his strength had soared to such a terrifying level that he could defeat a Cyclic Derivation cultivator.

It was too shocking!

After a long moment, she muttered, "If it's him, then another unpredictable storm is going to be set off in the Forbidden City..."

She knew very well about the amount of suppression that the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan had suffered in the past six months. Their situation had been very unstable during that time with internal troubles and outside aggression.

Everyone in the Forbidden City thought that the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan was doomed and that they would soon be removed and replaced by other clans!

Who would have thought that the youngster who once shook the Forbidden City and caught everyone's attention, the master of Mind Cleansing Peak who earned the dazzling title of rune founder, would return alive?

The Forbidden City was going to become turbulent again!

.....

That night, almost all the major clans in the Forbidden City were alarmed one after another, awakened from their deep sleep by the urgent news.

The entire Forbidden City was stirred as more and more news and evidence gathered in their hands.

"That guy...is still alive..."

That was the most unbelievable piece of news to everyone.

"It has to be him. Only someone as fierce and tyrannical as he is would dare to storm the Lin Clan alone and launch a killing spree!" someone analyzed.

"Impossible! Half a year ago, he was only at the Spirit Sea Stage. Even if he is alive now, he can't possibly kill and defeat so many Heaven Ascension cultivators! The most absurd news is that he defeated even Lin Xixi, a Cyclic Derivation expert! This is nonsense! No one would believe this nonsense!"

Many people were in disbelief. In their view, Lin Xun might be remarkable, but he was only at the Spirit Sea Stage and posed no threat to them at all half a year ago. He only became famous because of his status as a young rune founder.

But now, there was news that the youngster had wiped out great Heaven Ascension cultivators and that even a Cyclic Derivation cultivator was no match for him.

"The news has to be true, but his retaliation operation tonight may not be the result of him alone. He has to have the backing of someone powerful!"

Many major clans believed that only such an explanation made sense. They couldn't accept the fact that Lin Xun had single-handedly subdued the three branches of the Lin Clan and forced a Cyclic Derivation expert to bow his head.

"No matter what, that kid has indeed come back alive..."

That night, countless influential figures were alarmed. Many spies were dispatched from the Forbidden City in the middle of the night to inquire about the situation in the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan. They were determined to find the truth.

Everything started because...Lin Xun had returned!

Half a year ago, the youngster rose strongly in the Forbidden City and created one miracle after another like a heaven-defying monster. His name spread all over the world and was engraved in the minds of countless powerful figures.

Some people gloated about his so-called death, while some sighed emotionally.

However, no one thought that he was still alive!

The Zuo Clan.

As one of the seven high clans in the Forbidden City, the Zuo Clan was also alarmed that night. The residence was brightly lit as they immediately held an emergency meeting.

The Qin Clan.

The situation was similar to that in the Zuo Clan. Influential figures were alerted from various places and gathered together to discuss countermeasures.

In the past six months, the three collateral branches of the Lin Clan had frequently tried to suppress Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan, but everyone in the city knew that they only dared to do so because they had the backing of the Zuo and Qin Clans!

Now, Lin Xun had returned and raised his slaughter knife at the three collateral branches. How could the Zuo Clan and the Qin Clan be able to sit still and do nothing?

The news alarmed even the imperial palace in the Forbidden City, but very few people knew about it.

"Another storm is about to set off in the Forbidden City!"

That night, everyone shared the same thought about Lin Xun's return. It signified that an unpredictable storm would break out.

This was because the youngster had too many extraordinary things about him. He might be only in his teens, but his influence was so great that it could stir the entire Forbidden City!

The Prodigies War

Chapter 659: The Influence of One Person

Dawn broke, and the light of the sun illuminated the world. A new day had come.

In the Forbidden City, many common people, lower-class citizens and low-level cultivators started their ordinary and mediocre life as always.

Meanwhile, the major forces and clans in the Forbidden City had erupted.

The news from yesterday, after a night of brewing and fermentation, finally exploded and swept the city like a volcano.

Now, everyone knew that the higher-ups of the three collateral branches of the Lin Clan had been slaughtered and the three branches had surrendered to the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan!

Even the slowest cultivator would realize that a storm was coming and something huge was about to happen in the city!

There was only one reason for that...

The young rune founder who once shook the Forbidden City had returned!

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"After half a year of silence, the wind returns. His success or failure depends on the present! Haha, those tyrants in the Forbidden City most likely never imagined that the kid would return to the Forbidden City in such an overbearing way." In Stone Cauldron Alms, Fortune God Shi let out a long sigh as he sipped his tea.

He said to his daughter beside him, "It's a pity that your elder brother and younger brother have gone to the Ancient Wasteland Domain; otherwise, they would be so excited by that kid's return"

The Fortune God of the Ziyao Empire was rarely in such a good mood. His chubby face was beaming with joy.

"Father, has Lin Xun really come back?" Shi Shi asked curiously. Without any makeup, she was still as beautiful and elegant as jade. She was the daughter of Fortune God Shi.

In Stone Cauldron Alms, only Fortune God Shi called her Little Second. Everyone else called her Second Miss.

"The news is definitely true. it can't be fake. Besides, who else except that kid would have the guts to intrude on the Lin Clan residence at night and launch a blood bath?" Fortune God Shi tapped his fingers against the back of the chair, sighing, "I just can't believe he can already defeat Lin Xixi, a Cyclic Derivation expert. It has only been half a year since I last saw him. If it's true then..."

He seemed to be at a loss for words. After a long moment of pondering, he said in a serious tone, "The Lin Clan has earned its place among the high clans in the Forbidden City!"

Even a powerful figure like Fortune God Shi was astonished by Lin Xun's changes. He was a boy in his teens who had reached the rune founder level and made his reputation spread all over the world and made all major clans respect him somewhat. Now, his strength had become so terrifying that he could suppress and kill a Heaven Ascension expert by himself, as well as defeat a Cyclic Derivation expert!

He was undoubtedly terrifying.

"Father, is he that impressive?" Shi Shi couldn't understand Fortune God Shi's emotional sigh. Given her father's current status, he seemed to be praising the teenager too much.

"Little Second, you were never interested in worldly affairs and had always focussed solely on meditation, so you rarely have contact with the outside world. Understandably, you don't know what that little guy is capable of. But when you find out more about him, your perspective will change." Fortune God Shi said with a smile, "At first, I thought, if possible, I would marry you to that kid..."

Shi Shi snorted before he finished. "If I want a husband, I will find one myself. No matter how great you say he is, I won't marry him if I don't like him."

In the eyes of outsiders, Shi Shi had many things to be proud of. Her appearance, education and family background were all top-notch. Even in the Forbidden City, very few people could compare with her.

"Hahaha, that's good. I wanted to betroth you to him before, but not anymore," laughed Fortune God Shi.

His words made Shi Shi a little curious. "Why?"

"That boy's transformed too quickly," Fortune God Shi sighed, complex emotions swirling in his eyes. "People like him are peerless heaven prides that outshine everyone else. Even in ancient times, they are considered outstanding geniuses. However, that kind of person will be accompanied by many great catastrophes. His cultivation path is destined to be different from the rest of the world. I don't know if it is a blessing or a disaster to betroth you to him, so it's better for you to not marry him."

"Then..." Shi Shi was a little stumped for words. "Father, are you saying that I am not good enough for him?"

Fortune God Shi smiled. "Did you know who Lin Xun went to the Spirit Burial Sea with half a year ago?"

He answered before Shi Shi could. "It's Princess Jingxuan! How do you think you are compared to Princess Jingxuan?"

A quiver of surprise shot through Shi Shi. Regardless of how ignorant she was, she knew that Zhao Jingxuan was the only direct descendant of the emperor and empress. She held a transcendent status in the empire and was like the child of heaven.

Additionally, Zhao Jingxuan was rumored to be extremely talented and had a beautiful personality and an unrivaled appearance. She was remarkable in every respect. Moreover, she had been training in an ancient sect in the Ancient Wasteland Domain since she was a child.

It was no exaggeration to call such a woman the pride of heaven.

Even Shi Shi didn't dare to say that she could be compared with Zhao Jingxuan. She felt nothing but heartfelt awe and admiration for her and would never dare to compare herself to her.

"Father, don't tell me you mean Lin Xun and Princess Jingxuan..." Shi Shi's beautiful eyes widened.

Fortune God Shi simply smiled.

After a while, he said, "Then do you know where the news of Lin Xun's death first came from?"

"Where?"

"The imperial palace!"

Shi Shi frowned in bewilderment, realizing that there was some meaning behind that.

"I suspect that there are two different factions in the palace. One side wants to protect him, while the other wants to destroy him. It's...very complicated!" Fortune God Shi said ruminatively as an unfathomable gleam flashed in his eyes. "However, now that Lin Xun has come back alive and has completely transformed from before, the imperial palace will no doubt make some sort of movement. I'm curious to see what sort of stance the imperial family will take in the face of the present Lin Xun!"

"Father, why do I feel that you think too highly of Lin Xun?" Shi Shi sulked.

"Haha, you don't understand. Lin Xun has already won the respect of the empire as a young rune founder and now, he has basically transformed into a powerful golden dragon." Fortune God Shi said calmly, "Simply speaking, if the Forbidden City is a pond, that kid is a great dragon lying dormant in it. He will soar and ascend to heaven one day because the pond is too small for people like him..."

Shi Shi looked flabbergasted.

Is Lin Xun really that strong?

"It's too early to say this now. Since that kid has returned, our Stone Cauldron Alms should do something for him." Fortune God sprang up, hands behind his back and gaze as unfathomable as the ocean. "In this world, it's easy to gild the lily, but it's difficult to give out charcoal in snowy weather. Fortunately, our Stone Cauldron Alms has secretly done a lot for Mind Cleansing Peak in the past six months. At least we can have a clear conscience towards the kid!"

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Qinglu Academy, Rune Department.

Early in the morning, Class 9C was already all stirred up.

"Did you hear that Little Instructor Lin is alive?!" Fatty Liu Hui danced with excitement.

"Is that true?" His words captured the attention of all the students.

"It's true. My grandfather and some big shots in the clan were informed last night. I overheard the report," Liu Hui said cryptically.

"That's correct. I've also heard that after Little Instructor Lin returned yesterday, he immediately stormed the collateral branches of the Lin Clan."

Fan Zhiqiu, Yang Jingyao and other students spoke one after another.

All of a sudden, a commotion broke out in the class. They had been upset ever since they learned about Lin Xun's death. Now that they heard Little Instructor Lin had come back, they were so excited that they planned to skip class and head to Mind Cleansing Peak to check whether the news was true.

"Quiet!"

Chief Instructor Shen Tuo suddenly appeared at the door. "Focus on your lesson. If you really care about your Little Instructor Lin, don't go off and create trouble for him now!"

After saying that, he hurried away.

The students in the classroom glanced at each other blankly before they burst into cheers and beamed with joy. Shen Tuo's words had proved that Little Instructor Lin had indeed come back!

Shen Tuo couldn't help shaking his head when he heard the cheers from outside the classroom of Class 9C.

Then, he smiled. When he received the news last night, he was so excited that the excitement still hadn't faded until now.

Lin Xun is back!

For Shen Tuo, it was undoubtedly incredibly good news. In his view, the death of a young rune founder who could craft rune armament like Lin Xun was a tremendous loss to the empire.

Fortunately, Lin Xun is a lucky fellow and he came back alive!

"Teacher, Yu Beidou, the chief rune grandmaster of the Rune Master Association, and Cheng Jing, the advanced rune master of the Divine Workshop, have each brought a group of leading figures in the rune world, to pay a visit!"

Feng Qingyou came running from a distance. The beautiful girl who once had the title of Genius Maiden in the art of runes had an unusual expression on her face.

Lin Xun's return was a huge shock to her.

"Quick, quickly invite them in!" Elated, Shen Tuo skipped away with Feng Qingyou.

He knew that Yu Beidou, Cheng Jing and the others came because of Lin Xun's return.

After all, Lin Xun was a rune founder and his return had a huge impact and significance on the influential figures in the rune world.

The Prodigies War

Chapter 660: Kill Whoever Dares to Obstruct

In addition to Stone Cauldron Alms and the Qinglu Academy, the Ning Clan, the East Sea Ye Clan, the Never Falling Geezer Gong Clan and other clans were greatly shaken that day.

That day, Mind Cleansing Peak was also buzzing with activity.

In the half a year before Lin Xun's return, except for Stone Cauldron Alms, the Qinglu Academy, the Ye Clan, the Ning Clan and the Gong Clan, almost no other clans wanted to set foot onto Mind Cleansing Peak.

After all, Lin Xun was believed to be dead. Once the tree toppled, the monkeys scattered. There was no other person worthy of attention on Mind Cleansing Peak anymore.

During that period, Mind Cleansing Peak was in a state of isolation. They seemed to be surrounded by enemies, especially since the collateral branches of the Lin Clan began to suppress them with the support of the Zuo Clan and the Qin Clan.

Under such circumstances, how would the other great clans not gloat over their misfortune? Why would they want to be linked with Mind Cleansing Peak in any way?

Even Stone Cauldron Alms, the Qinglu Academy, the Ning Clan and the Ye Clan were only helping Mind Cleansing Peak in secret.

The reason for that was simple. They only cared about Lin Xun. If Lin Xun was dead, then who would care whether Mind Cleansing Peak was in trouble or not?

It wasn't that they were selfishly concerned about gaining advantages for themselves, but that Mind Cleansing Peak was different from other forces in that it only grew stronger because of Lin Xun's influence.

Lin Xun could be considered the soul of Mind Cleansing Peak. His good and bad were directly related to the life and death of Mind Cleansing Peak!

The reality was cruel. It was naive to think that a clan could depend on others for help.

However, Mind Cleansing Peak was no longer desolated as it had been for the past six months. It was buzzing with activity.

Early in the morning, different clans successively sent representatives to visit Mind Cleansing Peak.

Some were former business partners of the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan, while some came purely to confirm the news about Lin Xun's return.

Clans that had secretly been coveting Mind Cleansing Peak and the wealth of the Lin Clan in the past six months started to feel uneasy and brought over all sorts of valuable gifts as an apology. They were worried that Lin Xun would raise his slaughter knife again and aim it at them.

However, how would the Lin Clan care about them at such a time?

Lin Zhong announced that the Lin Clan had affairs to deal with and refused to see any guests. They coldly turned away the representatives of the major forces.

That only made the clans more certain about one thing.

"Lin Xun must have come back. Otherwise, how would the Lin Clan be so stubborn?"

The forces that had offended Mind Cleansing Peak in the past six months started to panic.

While those on neutral terms with the Mind Cleansing Peak were secretly glad that they hadn't done anything in the past six months. Otherwise, things would have been difficult for them.

"I wonder how the Zuo Clan and the Qin Clan will react." Many clans were most concerned about the same thing.

After all, they all knew about the unresolvable enmity between Mind Cleansing Peak and the two high clans.

More than ten years ago, the Zuo Clan and the Qin Clan had taken a huge chunk of the Lin Clan's wealth and properties during a bloody tragedy.

Even now, the Zuo and Qin Clans maintained a very clear stance. They supported the collateral branches of the Lin Clan to fight for the power of Mind Cleansing Peak.

Undoubtedly, they wanted to completely swallow Mind Cleansing Peak.

However, everything changed after Lin Xun's return. His bloody massacre forced the collateral branches of the Lin Clan to surrender and join the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan.

Under such circumstances, what would the Zuo Clan and the Qin Clan do?

That was everyone's focus of attention.

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The Great Mind Cleansing Hall in Mind Cleansing Peak.

Lin Xun was sitting on the main seat with a calm and indifferent expression.

He had stayed up all night to deal with affairs related to the three collateral branches.

"Young Master, our forces have taken over the West Creek, Cloud Weight and Flying Peak Lin Clans. We are still at the initial stage, and it will take some time for us to fully integrate."

"In addition, we are still counting up the properties under their control. We are short of manpower so we can only take over step by step."

"We haven't encountered any obstacles so far. After what happened last night, it looks like the three branches have completely given up their will to resist. As for whether there are still some traitors unwilling to surrender, we will need to investigate further to know," Lin Zhong summarized everything for Lin Xun.

His face was filled with unconcealable joy, and he couldn't help but feel awe and admiration when he looked at Lin Xun.

In the past, he had always taken care of and supported Lin Xun as a junior.

But now, it was completely different. Lin Xun had fully demonstrated his power and might in the massacre last night.

Even he was astounded to learn that Lin Xun had defeated Lin Xixi.

After the initial shock, his mentality started to change.

He knew that the young master was already a great cultivator who could truly shoulder everything. His intelligence and skills were already superior and outstanding to his former master.

His young master had truly become the head of the Lin Clan! He was on an equal footing with any big shot in the Forbidden City!

"Uncle Zhong, sorry to trouble you for the time being. I have another request. Spare none of the clansmen who betrayed the clan back then! No matter who the traitor is, no matter how they beg for mercy, there is no room for negotiation!" Lin Xun's black eyes glinted. Even if he sat there casually, he exuded an indescribable majesty.

Shuddering inwardly, Lin Zhong nodded. "Young Master, what do you plan to do with Lin Tianlong, Lin Nianshan and Lin Pingdu?"

The three were the leaders of the three collateral branches, but also the greatest traitors. More than ten years ago, they colluded with the Zuo and Qin Clans to split the Lin CLan's wealth and properties.

"Imprison them in the Lin Clan's ancestral land as guardians. They will be confined there for the rest of their lives to atone for their betrayal," Lin Xun answered indifferently. "I want all the clansmen to always

remember that those three are being punished for their betrayal, and they are the sinners of the Lin Clan. They must repent for the rest of their lives for the shame and damage they brought to the Lin Clan!"

Lin Zhong trembled inwardly, realizing that the punishment was worse than death to them!

"Of course, the innocent members of the three families should be treated equally and given the same treatment as the North Light Lin Clan. Also, those who performed well should be rewarded."

Lin Xun murmured, "I don't want to see internal strife within the Lin Clan anymore. No matter what method we use, we must unite everyone and not allow them to continue to do things their own way."

Lin Zhong nodded solemnly. "Mister Spirit Vulture made many plans and strategies before he went into closed-door cultivation. I believe we can resolve the internal trouble in our Lin Clan soon. We will rise and fall together and be bound together for good or ill. There will no longer be a distinction between what's ours and what's theirs, and there won't be any more signs of disintegration."

The corners of Lin Xun's lips curled upwards in a relieved smile. Spirit Vulture's wisdom and strategy had amazed him again.

With that arrangement, Lin Xun felt completely relieved.

"By the way, don't forget about the villagers of Feiyun Village."

Lin Xun suddenly said, "If our Lin Family wants to rise in the future, we must take in more talents and build our strength. The villagers of Feiyun Village are our most reliable candidates. We must not treat them badly."

Lin Zhong said with a smile, "Young Master, don't worry."

Lin Huaiyuan suddenly rushed in with some of the latest news.

He seemed to have recovered from the pain of losing his younger brother as his face was alight with unconcealable joy.

No wonder he was delighted, Lin Xun had only returned for a day, but the situation on Mind Cleansing Peak had changed tremendously.

Those powerful clans in the city came to visit them one after another, and some even came to apologize in person for making things difficult for Mind Cleansing Peak.

Even now, representatives of the major clans continued to gather outside the entrance of Mind Cleansing Peak.

Compared to its deserted and desolate state in the past, Mind Cleansing Peak seemed to have swept away its bad luck and regained a different ambience.

How would Lin Huaiyuan not be happy? The more prosperous and powerful Mind Cleansing Peak, the higher his status. In the future, he would enjoy all sorts of treatment and respect that he had never expected to receive.

It was much better than bowing his head to other people and being forced to give up the power of Mind Cleansing Peak.

However...

He felt a chill and indescribable awe in his heart when he looked at Lin Xun who was sitting on the main seat.

He knew very clearly about the bloody massacre that had happened in the three branches of the Lin Clan last night.

He had almost collapsed to the ground when he learned that almost all the higher-ups of the three branches were slaughtered and that even Lin Xixi was defeated.

His North Light Lin Clan was much less affected in comparison.

Fortunately, he had made the right decision to kneel in front of Lin Xun to ask for forgiveness back then and showed his determination with his actions.

However, after experiencing all those incidents, he no longer dared to treat Lin Xun as he did before. As he faced Lin Xun, he felt like a subject standing in front of the emperor, compelled to feel awe and admiration.

That was the might and power Lin Xun had forged.

Lin Xun might still be a junior based on the clan's hierarchy, but he held the position of head of the Lin Clan and was in charge of Mind Cleansing Peak! Even if Lin Huaiyuan was his elder, he had to acknowledge allegiance!

Lin Xun didn't utter a word and only nodded in response to Lin Huaiyuan's report.

My nephew's imposing bearing is getting stronger and stronger. Lin Huaiyuan couldn't help but sigh.

"That's right, there is one more thing that we need Patriarch's advice with." Lin Huaiyuan suddenly remembered something. "Of the properties controlled by the three collateral branches, some have already been occupied by the Zuo and Qin Clans. What do you think of this, Patriarch?"

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. "From last night to now, what sort of reaction had the Zuo Clan and the Qin Clan shown?"

Lin Huaiyuan and Lin Zhong shook their heads at the same time. They didn't know whether the two high clans were too full of confidence or that they were unafraid of anything because the two high clans strangely hadn't reacted to the earth-shaking changes.

Lin Xun smiled faintly, his black eyes growing colder. "It seems like they are planning to wait and see what happens, but unfortunately, I, Lin Xun, will not back down this time!"

"Uncle Zhong, please ask Third Old Zhu to bring some people together to reclaim the properties that the two clans had occupied. If anyone dared to cause obstruction, just kill them!" An order was issued casually but it was filled with murderous intent.

Lin Huaiyuan and Lin Zhong shuddered. He is going to directly tear the faces of the Zuo and Qin Clans, two high clans of the Forbidden City!