

Prodigies 681

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Chapter 681: Another Secret

Lin Xun coldly watched on, finding Zhao Jingzhen's behavior more and more unusual.

"Speak!"

Yue Xiu's face was devoid of emotion and his smile was gone, replaced by a hint of irritation.

A prince from the lower domain world had suddenly jumped out and prevented him from recruiting a cultivation genius on the supreme path. The prince had overstepped already no matter what reason he had to do so.

If Yue Xiu wasn't taking his feelings into account, he would have slapped him away.

Of course, Zhao Jingzhen sensed Yue Xiu's annoyance so he quickly said bluntly, "Elder, I believe you have heard of Yun Qingbai, is that right?"

Yun Qingbai!

Lin Xun's heart pounded, and an imperceptible cold light flashed in his dark eyes. He knew what Zhao Jingzhen wanted to say.

Yue Xiu's countenance visibly changed. "Yun Qingbai? Isn't he a descendant of the Omega Sword Sect?"

"Yes, Elder Yun Qingbai, the number one swordsman in the Ancient Wasteland Domain." Zhao Jingzhen said mysteriously, "Elder, did you know that Lin Xun is Elder Yun Qingbai's top enemy?"

"What?" Yue Xiu looked a little taken aback.

Yun Qingbai was the most dazzling legendary sword cultivator in the Ancient Wasteland Domain. Ever since he started his cultivation, he had wandered the world without any obstruction. He was almost invincible and had been hailed as the number one sword cultivator below Life Death Stage Kings!

Even Yue Xiu had to admit that Yun Qingbai was indeed a rare genius born with the blessings of heaven and earth. Almost no one could compare with him in terms of aptitude and talent.

But he didn't expect someone such as Yun Qingbai would have a grudge against a teenager from the lower domain world.

He cast a glance at Lin Xun.

Lin Xun calmly faced Yue Xiu's gaze, saying, "This is true."

"What is going on?" Yue Xiu frowned as he stared at Zhao Jingzhen.

All the teachers and students looked baffled. Although they didn't understand the situation, they noticed that Yue Xiu, a Life Death Stage King, thought highly of Yun Qingbai.

“Ten years ago, Elder Yun Qingbai visited the lower domain world.” Zhao Jingzhen quickly and briefly retold the bloody incident that occurred on Mind Cleansing Peak, but he didn’t mention the rights and wrongs.

Si!

Many teachers and students turned pale, shocked that such an incident had happened on the Lin Clan’s Mind Cleansing Peak.

The older generation teachers sighed inwardly as they had heard about the bloody incident before.

“This...” Yue Xiu pondered for a long moment before he swept a strange glance over Lin Xun. “Is this true?”

Lin Xun looked unusually calm under the gaze. “Yes, there is nothing to hide about this incident. Yun Qingbai massacred my Lin Clan, including my parents and close relatives.”

The way that Lin Xun bluntly and calmly admitted it took Zhao Jingzhen aback and made him a little uncomfortable.

“What was the reason for it?” Yue Xiu scrunched his brows.

“Yes, what was the reason? I also want to know.” Lin Xun fixed a look at Zhao Jingzhen in the distance.

“I also don’t know.” Zhao Jingzhen shook his head. “However, Elder Yun Qingbai must have a reason to do so. Otherwise, given his identity and status, why would he murder people for no reason?”

His words were tantamount to absolving Yun Qingbai from all blame!

Lin Xun’s gaze suddenly turned cold. “So, you think Yun Qingbai is right and every one of my Lin Clan...deserved to die?” His ice-cold voice was thick with killing intent.

Zhao Jingzhen’s expression changed subtly, but then he immediately snorted, “I didn’t say that. But there must be a reason for everything. Can you guarantee that your family died unjustly?”

Everyone felt the unprecedented killing intent coming from Lin Xun’s body. He was like a volcano on the verge of erupting.

The atmosphere turned palpably silent and stifling.

But before long, Lin Xun curbed his terrifying aura and stared at Zhao Jingzhen indifferently. “Remember what you said today.”

Zhao Jingzhen’s heart pounded, but he snorted coldly, “I am a prince of the empire, of course, I will take responsibility for what I said!”

Lin Xun didn’t say anything more, and his face restored its usual calmness.

Everyone knew that Zhao Jingzhen had completely infuriated Lin Xun with his words and actions.

“Elder, that is the truth I wanted you to know.” Zhao Jingzhen gave a cupped fist salute as he finished. Then, he shot a glance at Lin Xun, a contemptuous smile on his lips.

Yue Xiu was in deep thought.

Spirit Treasure Holy Land alone brought no pressure on him, but there was also Yun Qingbai that he had to take into consideration.

After all, Yun Qingbai was very dazzling and amazing. Sooner or later, he would become a Life Death Stage King and enjoy a boundless future.

Moreover, he had the support of the Omega Sword Sect, a colossus in the Ancient Wasteland Domain comparable to the Heaven Axis Holy Land.

If the Heaven Axis Holy Land suffered pressure from Spirit Treasure Holy Land, Omega Sword Sect and Yun Qingbai all at once, the price for recruiting Lin Xun would be a little too serious.

Yue Xiu had to consider the consequences.

The teachers and students couldn't help but seethe. How could they fail to see that Yue Xiu, who greatly admired Lin Xun, had changed his attitude?

Lin Xun could lose a rare opportunity to train in an ancient sect of the Ancient Wasteland Domain! All that was the doing of Zhao Jingzhen!

How could the teachers and students not be angry?

On the other hand, Zhao Jingzhen smiled complacently. Despite the countless furious gazes, he remained calm and composed.

He even sighed and gave a cupped fist salute to Lin Xun. "I'm sorry, but as a prince of the empire, I have to state the truth. Otherwise, if the elders of the Heaven Axis Holy Land had to bear the consequences of recruiting you into the sect, who would take responsibility?"

Disgusting!

Many students cursed in their hearts. He is disgusting. I can't believe a prince of the empire is so hypocritical and shameless.

Lin Xun was silent for a moment before he looked at Zhao Jingzhen and said calmly, "You came all the way here to prevent me from joining the Heaven Axis Holy Land, but unfortunately, you made a mistake. Do you think I would care about an opportunity to train in the Heaven Axis Holy Land?"

Although his words were a little grating to Yue Xiu, he knew that Lin Xun would sooner or later be able to train in the Ancient Wasteland Domain given his remarkable foundation and potential!

A genius like Lin Xun wouldn't find it unfortunate that he had failed to join Heaven Axis Holy Land.

Yue Xiu hated Zhao Jingzhen more and more. If he hadn't interfered, how would things have come to this point?

The anger and discontent in his eyes deepened as he looked at Zhao Jingzhen.

Zhao Jingzhen's expression changed. He was proud of his meddling as he thought he had ruined Lin Xun's chance to soar to success. But who would have thought that Lin Xun didn't care about the opportunity at all?

He suddenly felt hollow and depressed. But worst of all, Yue Xiu, an elder of the Heaven Axis Holy Land, seemed to have taken an instant dislike to him...

Yue Xiu drew a deep breath and spoke, "Little friend, if..."

He intended to recruit Lin Xun again. It would be a pity if he gave up on a genius like him because of some pressure.

But before he finished speaking, a burst of clear and pleasant laughter rang in the air. "Fellow cultivator, this matter seems a little complicated. Why don't you decide after thinking it through?" Following the laughter, a slender figure emerged.

He looked simple and unremarkable, but his appearance compelled all the teachers and students, as well as Lin Xun and Zhao Jingzhen to bow respectfully.

"Paying respect to the principal!"

The slender old man was the Principal of Qinglu Academy!

"There's no other choice." Yue Xiu sighed.

"No one can guess whether this is a blessing or a curse. Also, the other people of the Heaven Axis Holy Land would urge you to consider it carefully if they knew about this matter." The Principal spoke indifferently, but he was reminding Yue Xiu that he would suffer many criticisms if he stubbornly went his own way.

The teachers and students were surprised to find that the principal did not want Lin Xun to join Heaven Axis Holy Land.

"Then never mind, we'll talk about it again." Yue Xiu shook his head and left in disappointment.

"Lin Xun, you should return to the Qinglu Academy more often when you have the chance. After all, you are a teacher here. I don't want to see a talent like you leave the academy."

The principal took a deep, long look at Lin Xun before he drifted away. He came suddenly, but he left even quicker.

Zhao Jingzhen stood there, stunned. He couldn't understand the situation, but he found it a little strange.

"It seems that the principal has been watching..." Lin Xun uttered ruminatively.

Zhao Jingzhen quickly snapped out of his stunned state because he sensed gazes of hatred and disgust from the teachers and students.

Regardless of how shrewd he was, he couldn't bear it anymore and quickly left.

However, just as he stepped out of the training hall, a figure blocked his path. “Ninth Prince, you played a very surprising role today. Extraordinary. Very extraordinary.”

“Uncle? You...why did you come?”

Zhao Jingzhen’s expression dramatically changed, losing his composure.

Lin Xun was also surprised to see Zhao Tailai, who seemed to have disappeared in recent days.

“If I didn’t come, Ninth Prince, then you likely would have torn a hole in the sky.” As Zhao Tailai uttered coldly, he signaled with a wave of his hand. “Come here, take the Ninth Prince back to the palace, but take care of him on the way. You will be responsible if anything happens to him!”

Immediately, a group of black-clothed figures rushed out silently, surrounded the Ninth Prince, and escorted him away.

The Ninth Prince resisted and yelled in a panic, “Uncle, what do you mean by this? Who told you to bring the imperial guards here? What’s going on?”

But Zhao Tailai ignored him. Zhao Jingzhen was forced onto a prepared carriage and swiftly taken away.

Everyone was struck dumb in the training hall, unable to turn their heads.

Too many incidents had happened one after another. Influential figures had also appeared one after another. Now, even the Ninth Prince Zhao Jingzhen was taken away...

Anyone not stupid would know there were many secrets and mysteries behind the incident!

Lin Xun stepped forward, looked at Zhao Tailai and asked bluntly, “Can you explain to me what is going on?”

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Chapter 682: The Whole Sequence of Events

“More than ten years ago, Yun Qingbai came to the lower domain alone because he heard about the birth of a baby.”

“The biggest difference between this baby and others was that he was born with an Origin Aeth Artery, a grade one innate talent.”

“You should have guessed that the Origin Aeth Artery is called the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer!”

Zhao Tailai spoke about the past in a calm and gentle voice as the carriage steadily steered out from the Qinglu Academy.

Next to him, Lin Xun intently listened.

“The strive for the great dao is more difficult and more cruel than anything in the world, especially for cultivators. They would do anything to achieve greater things on the path of the great dao.”

“Yun Qingbai is a peerless genius. His talent, potential, intelligence and aptitude are all at the top level of the world. Even in ancient times, it is extremely rare to find someone as amazing as him. He can be said to be a giant among men and overshadows everyone else.”

"But he is slightly inferior to the saints of the ancient times who had inherited the blessings of heaven, as well as spirit bodies and deities."

"This is nothing major, but Yun Qingbai is a person who strives for ultimate perfection. He can't tolerate flaws in himself, so..."

"So, he targeted me," Lin Xun suddenly said aloud.

Zhao Tailai stared at Lin Xun for a moment, only to find that the youth's expression and emotions didn't fluctuate in the slightest.

"Correct," he continued. "Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer is a mysterious and terrifying innate talent even in ancient times. It is incredibly rare, and there are very few records and information about it. However, legends say that the talent would spark envy even in beings such as deities and saints!"

Zhao Tailai had a complicated look on his face. "Yun Qingbai believed that if he obtained the talent, he would make up for his flaw and achieve the most perfect path of all time."

Lin Xun's black eyes were still and cold, and his expression was terrifyingly calm as he spoke, "So, for his own selfishness, he stole another person's talent?"

Zhao Tailai smiled wryly. "That is the danger of fighting for the great dao. Unexpected disasters happen even if one had no enmity with other people. All this is because the talent you were born with was so heaven-defyingly rare."

Lin Xun's face was devoid of emotion. "Elder, you are wrong. The reason isn't that my talent is amazing, but because of Yun Qingbai! For the so-called perfect great dao, he didn't hesitate to target me and ruthlessly massacre my Lin Clan. Even if a bastard like him reached the pinnacle of the great dao, he would still be a despicable person."

After a pause, his eyes flashed a chilling light. "One day, I will make that despicable bastard pay a price that he can't bear!"

He lost control of the anger and hatred in his heart.

Only then did he realize that his birth was the cause of the deaths of his parents and relatives, which deepened his anger for Yun Qingbai even more!

He had no scruples about carrying out such a despicable bloodbath for his own selfishness. A guy like him deserved to be cut by thousands of knives and crushed into ashes.

"Lin Xun..."

Zhao Tailai looked solemn. "You must not let your emotions take over. Yun Qingbai may be despicable and shameless, but he is now the most dazzling figure in the Ancient Wasteland Domain. He has been crowned the number one swordsman and is invincible below the Life Death Stage. Also, he has the support of the Omega Sword Sect..."

Before he finished, Lin Xun interrupted, "Don't worry Elder, I have waited for so many years. I can wait a little longer. Oh, by the way, let's talk about the Ninth Prince."

Lin Xun changed the topic as he didn't want to talk about the bloody incident anymore.

Zhao Tailai knew that despite Lin Xun's calm exterior, the youth was forcibly suppressing some deep-seated hatred and anger in his heart.

"The Ninth Prince..."

A sneer curled the corners of Zhao Tailai's lips before he said, "He is just a poor creature being used by others."

Zhao Tailai went on to explain the reasons.

It turned out that the mother of Ninth Prince Zhao Jingzhen was an imperial concubine of the emperor. She was called Meng Rong and was the daughter of an elder in the Omega Sword Sect.

She was the reason that Yun Qingbai learned about the birth of a baby with the talent of Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer in the Lin Clan.

By the time the emperor learned about this, it was already too late to do anything.

But the emperor was furious and abolished her title of an imperial concubine with the reason that she had secret ties with outsiders and harmed the descendants of loyal ministers of the empire.

However, that was all the emperor could do due to the power of the Omega Sword Sect. In the end, Meng Rong was finally taken away to the Ancient Wasteland Domain by her father, an elder of the Omega Sword Sect.

The Ninth Prince was neglected by the emperor as a result, which led to an accumulation of resentment and hatred. He had always secretly been in touch with his mother Meng Rong, but he was only a prince and couldn't fight against the emperor, so he directed all his hatred all on the Lin Clan instead.

Lin Xun finally understood why Zhao Jingzhen suddenly jumped out and prevented him from joining Heaven Axis Holy Land.

"Do you still remember the attack you faced when you first came to the Forbidden City?" Zhao Tailai suddenly asked.

"Do you mean from the Chi Clan?" Lin Xun frowned.

"Correct."

Zhao Tailai sighed, "There is no great enmity between the Chi Clan and the Lin Clan. They only did that because they were misled by the Ninth Prince."

"Can a little prince command the Chi Clan?" Lin Xun was still a little puzzled.

"If it was just him, of course not. He doesn't have such a great ability, but don't forget that his mother is from the Ancient Wasteland Domain and his grandfather is an elder in Omega Sword Sect."

Zhao Tailai explained patiently, "In these years, many members of the Chi Clan have been sent to train in the Omega Sword Sect, so they had to treat the Ninth Prince well if they wanted favors from his grandfather."

“No wonder...”

Understanding dawned on Lin Xun. If Zhao Tailai hadn't told him everything in person, then he would never imagine that there were so many secrets and mysteries behind everything.

“What is his grandfather called?” asked Lin Xun.

“Don't tell me you want to find him and settle accounts with him.” Zhao Tailai looked taken aback.

Lin Xun said calmly, “If we find him, we can find Meng Rong, the mother of the Ninth Prince.”

Zhao Tailai shuddered inexplicably when he realized that Lin Xun intended to get every culprit that was behind the Lin Clan's tragedy!

If Meng Rong hadn't informed Yun Qingbai, a cultivator in the Ancient Wasteland Domain, about a baby born with the talent of Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer, then how would he know about it?

Zhao Tailai sighed and stated the name of the Omega Sword Sect elder—Meng Haijing!

“Elder, how will you deal with the Ninth Prince?” Lin Xun asked.

Zhao Tailai answered in a relaxed manner, “Either he will be executed or his life will be worse than death.”

His answer surprised Lin Xun.

It wasn't because he was merciful, but because he knew that the execution of a prince, a descendant of the emperor, would shake the entire empire!

It didn't make any sense for the emperor to order the execution of his son to get justice for Lin Xun.

Lin Xun also didn't believe he had such an honor.

“His mother broke the emperor's heart back then, and now, he, like his mother, chose the wrong path and did something the emperor cannot forgive. If he isn't punished, then the empress will not allow it.”

“The empress?”

A mysterious smile curved Zhao Tailai's lips as he looked at Lin Xun. “Yes, the Ninth Prince is not the empress' son, but you are the empress' daughter's only...good friend!”

He deliberately exaggerated the pronunciation of 'good friend,' and his teasing and ambiguous expression made Lin Xun feel dizzy again.

“Based on that, the empress will get justice for you.”

Zhao Tailai took a deep breath before he continued. “Of course, the most fundamental thing is that the Ninth Prince has crossed a line that the emperor cannot tolerate. He can't forgive him even if they are father and son!”

“As I thought, I knew I didn't have such an honor...” Lin Xun rubbed his nose.

Zhao Tailai couldn't help rolling his eyes.

“Go back and make some preparations. In three days, I will pick you up and take you to the Blood Kill Battlefield!” Zhao Tailai stated his true purpose of coming just as they arrived at the Mind Cleansing Peak.

“Is it to pay the bill for the meal at Rotating Stars Hibernating Moon House?” Lin Xun asked.

Zhao Tailai’s expression was unprecedentedly solemn. “No, it’s because you are a student of Blood Kill Camp! Only there will one understand the true meaning of that sentence.”

“What sentence?”

“Violet Glory Flower is undefeated because of blood kill and the empire exists forever because of continued expeditions!”

“Okay!”

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In the afternoon when Lin Xun returned to Mind Cleansing Peak, news spread from the palace that the Ninth Prince Zhao Jingzhen had been deposed from his position and was escorted to a forbidden area in the palace. He was ordered to guard the mausoleum of the imperial family's ancestors until he died!

The news caused a commotion in the capital.

It was the first time that a prince had been deposed in the empire. What great crime did the Ninth Prince commit that angered the emperor to such an extent?

No one knew.

Even the teachers and students of the Qinglu Academy who saw Zhao Jingzhen before he was banished had a hard time linking his banishment with Lin Xun.

After all, no one could believe that the emperor would be angered by the fact that Zhao Jingzhen had targeted Lin Xun.

Only Lin Xun knew the truth.

He couldn’t help from sighing when the news reached him. The Ninth Prince is indeed a poor, pitiful creature as Zhao Tailai said...

Three days later.

Zhao Tailai arrived as promised. Lin Xun bid farewell to everyone on Mind Cleansing Peak and left with Zhao Tailai.

Blood Kill Battlefield.

What kind of place is that?

Lin Xun repeatedly asked himself on the way there.

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Chapter 683: Arriving at Blood Kill Battlefield

“Has everything been settled?” Zhao Tailai asked.

Lin Xun nodded. He only brought two pieces of treasures with him—a bow and a broken blade. Besides that, he also had a travel bag stored with a large number of high-grade aeth crystals, rare medicine and elixirs.

He had nothing else apart from those.

He left all other treasures in Mind Cleansing Peak, including the Nameless Pagoda, the Chaotic Void Ring, and the refining gourd containing a drop of purple blood.

This was because, according to Zhao Tailai, the Blood Kill Battlefield was located in a special place that prohibited the use of storage-type treasures.

Most importantly, the world of Blood Kill Battlefield contained no aeth power!

“The Blood Kill Battlefield is the front line of the war between the empire and the Magi Brute Race. Similarly, it is also the barrier that helped the empire stand for so long. It has been protecting the empire for thousands of years...” Zhao Tailai briefly introduced the place to Lin Xun.

“For thousands of years, most of the elites in the Blood Kill Camp have been sent to guard the Blood Kill Battlefield.”

“Additionally, the most elite army of the empire and many cultivators are stationed there all year round.”

“It is a turbulent, bloody, and dark world full of death. Countless experts of the empire have been buried there in the past thousands of years.”

“The warriors of the empire exchanged their lives and blood for the prosperity and peace of the empire!”

“But...very few people know about this.”

Lin Xun quietly listened. He began to form a vague impression of Blood Kill Battlefield.

“Words can’t describe the ruthlessness of Blood Kill Battlefield. You will understand when you get there.”

“I just want you to remember that surviving is the same as victory! And to survive, you must not put your faith in luck!”

“This is an ongoing war between the empire and the Magi Brute Race. It has been going on for thousands of years. Only by killing can the endless years of hatred be resolved!”

“Many years ago, the founding emperor once said that one’s merciful nature on the Blood Kill Battlefield may cause the empire to lose a piece of territory!”

“Remember, survive!”

Zhao Tailai handed an animal skin manual to Lin Xun. “This contains some information about the Blood Kill Battlefield. Someone will arrange missions for you when you arrive at the campground.”

Lin Xun received the manual and, without flipping through it, he asked, "How long will I be going this time?"

"At least three months and at most half a year," Zhao Tailai stated. "I know you urgently want to go to the Ancient Wasteland Domain. When you return, I will help you find a way to go there."

"Do you still find it strange why you were chosen?" Zhao Tailai suddenly asked.

Lin Xun nodded honestly.

"It's very simple. This is the emperor's arrangement. If you earn outstanding military achievements there, then the empire can justifiably provide full protection for the Lin Clan."

"You will leave for the Ancient Wasteland Domain one day. The Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan will need the protection of the empire if you want it to stand forever. Do you want anything bad to happen to the Lin Clan after you leave?"

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. "That's a good reason."

The corners of Zhao Tailai's lips curled upwards. "You still don't understand. What I mean is that, if one day, Yun Qingbai comes to the empire, you won't need to worry about him harming your Lin Clan!"

Lin Xun trembled inwardly, his gaze shifted to Zhao Tailai.

Zhao Tailai said aloud, "That is the emperor's promise to you!"

"Okay!" Lin Xun took a deep breath, dispelling all doubts in his mind.

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As he stepped off the carriage, an unfamiliar ancient hall came into his view.

The entrance to the hall was hung with a sign—The Great Blood Kill Hall!

In front of the great hall stood an ancient teleportation array.

Lin Xun stepped forward in amazement and studied the teleportation array closely. "Is this from ancient times?"

"Good eyesight!" Zhao Tailai praised, "As expected of the youngest rune founder in the empire."

Lin Xun rolled his eyes. "Everyone knows that only Saints who can control space can set up such teleportation arrays, and there aren't any Saints in the empire. Also, the array is shrouded in an ancient aura. Anyone can tell that it's from ancient times."

"Who said that there are no saints in the empire?" Zhao Tailai asked.

Lin Xun exclaimed, "There is?"

Zhao Tailai shook his head. "I don't know, but you can't deny that there might be." He impatiently motioned his hand as he spoke, "Hurry, we need to reach the Blood Kill Battlefield before the sun sets. It will be troublesome once night falls!"

Lin Xun was silent for a moment before he said, "Elder, I don't want something similar to happen again while I am away."

He was talking about the crisis on Mind Cleansing Peak after he returned from the Spirit Burial Sea.

"Don't worry, if anything happens to Mind Cleansing Peak, I will personally smash the doors of the Zuo and Qin clans," Zhao Tailai reassured in the most domineering tone.

Lin Xun was taken aback at first, but then he couldn't help laughing.

Buzz!

Without further hesitation, Lin Xun, wielding a bow and blade and carrying a bag, stepped into the teleportation array and vanished amidst cryptic rumbling.

"Kid, do well, otherwise it will be difficult to pay back for the meal in the Rotating Stars Hibernating Moon House..." Zhao Tailai murmured before he left in a hurry.

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In the imperial palace.

A man in white was sat up straight in front of a desk, wielding his writing brush. He had an indescribably majestic and handsome appearance.

The white-clothed man asked without turning around, "Has he left?"

Zhao Tailai walked across the hall and nodded. "He just left. He should be able to reach the campground before sunset."

The man in white nodded and lifted the sheet of paper. "What do you think of these words?"

Zhao Tailai looked over and saw a line of large calligraphy writing on the violet glory flower pattern paper.

Young phoenixes sing clearer and louder than old phoenixes!

The strokes were powerful but elegant, like dragons piercing through the back of the paper and they looked like they were about to take flight from the paper.

"What good writing!"

Zhao Tailai's eyes lit up. Given his ability, he could tell that the calligraphy painting was imbued with the imperial dao of the man in white!

Thud!

The man in white took out a big purple-gold jade imperial seal and stamped it on the corner of the painting before he handed it to Zhao Tailai. "Send it to the Mind Cleansing Peak Lin Clan later."

Zhao Tailai said emotionally, "The kid won't need to worry anymore."

The man in white smiled. "It seems that he couldn't fully believe in the promise that the empire made to him before. It's normal. After all, he didn't grow up in the empire. Lu Boya must have never told him matters about the empire."

When Zhao Tailai was about to leave, he couldn't help asking, "Older Brother, I still don't understand why you insist on sending him to the Blood Kill Battlefield."

The man in white leaned back in his chair and gazed out of the window at the azure sky, his eyes as unfathomable as the ocean. "For thousands of years, the Magi Brute Race has destroyed and ruined the territory of our empire. Countless heroes of the empire have died on the battlefield. They have sacrificed so much for today's peace and prosperity."

After a pause, he continued, "I want to change this! So I asked Lin Xun to go to the Blood Kill Battlefield!"

Zhao Tailai exclaimed in surprise, "Are you saying that Lin Xun has the ability to change the situation?"

The man in white shook his head. "There is a glimmer of hope, but some hope is better than no hope."

When Zhao Tailai left the palace, his emotions were still churning like the choppy sea. He was still thinking over the same question.

Is he overestimating Lin Xun?

The situation hasn't changed in thousands of years, can he...change it?

Zhao Tailai couldn't find an answer.

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The Mind Cleansing Peak.

"Young phoenixes sing clearer and louder than old phoenixes!"

When the calligraphy painting arrived from the imperial palace, Spirit Vulture smiled while Lin Zhong was so excited that he lost his composure.

He recognized the handwriting because he had also received a calligraphy painting in the past. It was written with only two words: White Casanova!

"From now on, there will be no more worries on Mind Cleansing Peak," Spirit Vulture sighed softly.

Xiaoke, Third Old Zhu, Scarlet Eagle King, Lin Huaiyuan and others were overwhelmed with emotions. The Lin Clan was able to reach such a status all because of Lin Xun!

"Xiaoke, remember to take care of Xia Zhi," Spirit Vulture urged.

Xiaoke nodded with a smile, "Don't worry, Xia Zhi is Lin Xun's most beloved. Lin Xun is a little upset that he couldn't say goodbye to Xia Zhi in person before he left."

Everyone fell silent.

The mysterious and amazing little girl Xia Zhi was still in deep slumber. No one knew when she would wake up.

Toady was still in closed-door cultivation in the Nameless Pagoda.

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Bang!

As Lin Xun's feet touched the ground, a wave of smoke and dust suddenly whirled in the air, bringing a pungent waft of blood and rotting corpses.

With the Broken Blade strung across his back, the No-Nonsense Bow hanging from his belt, and a bag in his hand, Lin Xun came to an unfamiliar world.

He raised his eyes and surveyed the surroundings. The sky and the earth were dreary, the fields were vast but barren, and the undulating mountains were desolate with not a blade of grass to be found.

Decaying and crushed bones were buried in the dust and gravel, and the air reeked of blood and decaying corpses.

The world was dark, bleak, and full of depressing gray colors.

Hu—

Lin Xun exhaled a mouthful of turbid air. Immediately, he realized that no life force existed in the world. It was filled with nothing but the stench of blood and the aura of death.

Most importantly, there was no aeth power!

“Blood Kill Battlefield...Let’s see how cruel and bloody you are!”

With a flash, a Hornless Ice Dragon seemed to be swiftly diving down the cliffs, speeding in the opposite direction of the setting sun.

“In the opposite direction of the setting sun, where the sun rises, is the campground of our empire”

That was the first note in the animal skin manual that Zhao Tailai gave him.

The second note—

“The sky is prohibited. If you fly, you will be targeted by everyone!”

So, Lin Xun chose to travel on foot.

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Chapter 684: Lump in the Chest

The world was gloomy and desolate. Dust and sand blanketed the barren land and decaying remains were littered across the area.

There was not a single blade of grass in sight. It was a vast expanse of grayness with a cloying smell of blood assaulting the senses from time to time.

Lin Xun's movements were as leisurely and relaxed as drifting clouds. He seemed to have integrated with the world.

He was like a spider patrolling his own territory. His steps oozed with precision and skill.

It was a fighting stance. Beneath his seemingly leisurely and calm exterior, he was hyper-vigilant of his surroundings and ready to strike at any time.

"Everywhere beyond the campground is a battlefield, and constant vigilance and cautiousness are needed for survival!"

That was the third note in the manual.

"The undulating mountains and the crisscrossing valleys create a complex and changeable terrain. If I can't fly in the air, I need to watch out for ambushes and sneak attacks."

"There is no aeth power in this world. To maintain peak physical strength, I need to make use of any spare time to replenish my aeth power."

"The smell of blood and rotting corpses linger for a long time in this area, which suggests that more than one bloody battle has broken out here."

"....."

As Lin Xun navigated the area, he observed the surroundings, trying to understand the Blood Kill Battlefield, which was full of horror in its own way.

He held a high-grade aeth crystal in his hand, constantly replenishing the aeth power he had consumed on his journey. Even if the consumption wasn't much, he knew that once a fierce battle broke out, a slight loss of physical strength might lead to the worst outcome.

That was a fighting instinct he had gained from Blood Kill Camp

A slash of blood red suddenly split the dark sky in front of him, which was as dazzling as a ray of light in the night.

Lin Xun cautiously walked forward, and before long, he saw an area strewn with corpses.

Blood seeped out from the corpses, soaking the earth. There were cultivators in imperial military uniforms, and there were also the grotesque corpses of the Magi Brute Race.

The smell of smoke still lingered in the air, indicating that a battle had just ended.

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. He noticed that most of the empire cultivator corpses were mutilated and with many signs of being dissected.

Some had their hearts dug out, some had their heads severed off, some had their eyes removed, and some had their bodies split in half. Their organs had been taken away, leaving only their skin and bones.

There was even a corpse that had its tendon and bones plucked out, leaving only a puddle of flesh and blood!

The savage, bloody scene made Lin Xun nauseous.

In the end, he silently turned around and continued onwards.

“The empire cultivators lost this battle and different parts of their corpses were taken away as trophies!” Lin Xun concluded.

The animal skin manual once explained that military achievements on the Blood Kill Battlefield reeked of blood and were demonstrated by the number of savage trophies!

Not only the Magi Brute Race, but the empire cultivators would also take a part of a Magi Brute expert when they won a battle.

It was a show of military achievement!

Rumble!

Before long, a crack split the sky ahead and strips of light flickered and danced like auroras in the sky. It was a spectacular and beautiful sight

But Lin Xun was chilled to the core.

Void rift!

Under the seemingly magnificent beauty was a danger that could terrify even Life Death Stage Kings. Anyone swept into it would have no chance of surviving.

“Bloody, gloomy, chaotic, violent...”

Even though Lin Xun had a heart of steel, he still felt uneasy.

Everywhere in the Blood Kill Battlefield was a doomsday-like scene. The stench of blood and rotting corpses filled the air, and no life force could be seen.

A soft groan of pain came along with the wind, almost imperceptible, but it couldn't avoid the detection of Lin Xun's remarkable spirit sensing power.

Instantly, Lin Xun vanished from the spot.

Thousands of feet away, a figure was crawling forward in front of a low mound.

It was a heavily wounded woman. Her body was dripping with blood, her legs had been crushed by some kind of blunt weapon, and her flesh and skin were mangled. She could only drag herself along the ground with her hands.

She left a long trail of blood across the dusty ground.

Lin Xun watched silently for a while, and then, without a single word, he caught up to her.

It seemed that the woman sensed Lin Xun's presence as she turned around with great difficulty, revealing a contorted, dirty and blood-stained face.

Her eyes were hollowed and bloody; her eyeballs had been gouged out.

Lin Xun remained calm as always. He could tell that the woman had been very beautiful before. Her facial features were very defined, and although her skin was marred by dust and blood, it still had a luminous quality.

But now, her legs were mangled, her eyes were dug out, and her body was covered with dust and blood stains. Crawling across the ground, she looked so helpless and in pain. She was on the verge of death.

Lin Xun noticed that the woman was writing something on the ground with her trembling blood-stained fingers. He couldn't help but move forward to look closer.

Boom!

The woman's body exploded!

A terrifying destructive force mixed with fragments of flesh and blood gushed out from the blast, sweeping over Lin Xun.

Lin Xun sighed as though he had predicted the scene. He vanished with a flash, evading the current of destructive air.

"It's been so many years since I've seen such a young one. Haha, maybe there are no other people in the human race empire anymore."

"It was such an obvious bait, but he couldn't tell at all. How disappointing! Hurry up and kill him to get it over and done with."

"I want his eyes."

"I want his heart."

"His skin isn't bad, I'll take it."

A group of figures raced out of a pile of rotting corpses and bones.

There were both male and female, and they looked not much different from human beings except that they all had a mysterious brute totem rune engraved in different positions of their bodies.

One looked as strong as a mountain, with an earthy yellow totem rune covering their thick arm.

One was enveloped in mist and had water dripping from their body. Their eyes were also as blue as the sapphire sea.

One had a silvery-white body with fine bolts of lightning flashing around their long strands of hair, like the child of the god of lightning.

They were no doubt experts from the Magi Brute Race!

The Magi Brute Race was divided into nine tribes: gold, wood, water, fire, earth, lightning, light, darkness, and ancient tribes.

When Lin Xun was training in Blood Kill Camp, he had dissected the bodies of different Magi Brute Races, so he had a good understanding of them.

From one glance, he could tell that of the eight Magi Brute experts that appeared, five were Brute Warriors—experts equivalent to Spirit Sea Stage cultivators.

The other three were Great Magis, experts equivalent to Heaven Ascension cultivators.

Brute Slaves, Brute Soldiers, Brute Warriors, Great Magis and Enlightened Spirits were the cultivation stages of the Magi Brute Race, which corresponded to the five great cultivation states of the human race: True Martial, Spirit Dipper, Spirit Sea, Heaven Ascension and Cyclic Derivation.

As soon as they appeared, they surrounded Lin Xun and blocked all escape routes, wearing savage and mocking expressions.

The baleful aura and bloody smell emitting from their bodies indicated that they were not ordinary characters.

However...

Lin Xun completely dismissed them. He was still standing in the same spot, staring at the place of the explosion. Where the woman was, he could vaguely make out the blood-written sentence on the ground.

“I am bait, you are a fish, why are you not running?!”

The words weren’t a cry for help, but her last words before death. It was like the frustrated roar of a comrade, filled with anger and worry.

Her concern for Lin Xun made him tremble like a certain place of his heart had been struck. It felt incredibly heavy with indescribable hatred.

He thought of the woman’s festering legs, her bloody hollowed eye sockets, and the long trail of blood as she dragged her mangled body along the ground...

“As I thought, it’s the child’s first time on a battlefield. He’s scared out of his wits! Hahaha—” the Magi Brute experts snickered.

But they didn’t lower their guards and maintained pressure on the encircled enemy. They had the combat experience of veterans.

“I wanted to save you...but I didn’t expect...them to be much crueler than I thought...” Lin Xun murmured.

He took a deep breath and turned around, his black eyes filled with coldness and indifference. “You all deserve to die.”

“Attack!” The leader Magi Brute expert smirked ruthlessly and signaled with a wave of his hand.

They launched into action.

Boom!

A giant bone hammer whizzed down from the sky, smashing the surrounding space and aiming for Lin Xun’s head.

Pu!

Without even glancing at it, Lin Xun brought the Broken Blade up in an upward slash, and the giant hammer exploded and a bloody head hurled into the air.

A Great Magi had been killed in a split second. Even at death, the ruthless smile was still frozen on his face.

He didn't have time to react. He didn't even feel panic or fear. He was killed on the spot! The blade slashed across the air with incredible speed!

Pu!

As Lin Xun stepped forward, splendid starry light flowed around the Broken Blade.

A massacre was kicked off.

It wasn't until after the second Great Magi was slaughtered that the others' faces became skewed with shock and anger.

They screamed in a panic.

How could they not see how fast Lin Xun's attacks were and how terrifying his strength was? Every slash of his blade severed a head!

Kill the chicken to warn the monkey!

The third Great Magi retreated decisively. He had fought hundreds of bloody battles and had years of experience on the battlefield. Of course, he quickly realized that the fish that took the bait this time was actually a savage shark.

Bang!

Lin Xun drew the No-Nonsense Bow and silently fired an aeth arrow. The fleeing Great Magi expert thousands of feet away collapsed to the ground.

Meanwhile, the other five Spirit Sea level equivalent Brute Warriors were trembling with blanched faces.

Chi!

Lin Xun didn't waste time talking to them. The Broken Blade again swept up a river of silvery stars and slashed off head after head in the most direct and cleanest way, ending the battle within seconds.

However, Lin Xun's heart still felt heavy, like there was a lump in his chest.

"This is the Blood Kill Battlefield!"

After a moment, he inhaled deeply, casting away all the distracting thoughts. He quickly picked up the spoils and left the battlefield.

The setting sun painted the sky as red as blood.

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Chapter 685: Darkness Brute Shadow

Lin Xun continued onwards, but his bag had become much bulkier.

It was loaded with spoils, including the teeth of the Gold Tribe, the eyes of the Water Tribe, the skin of the Fire Tribe, and the arms of the Earth Tribe.

Those parts of their bodies were special because they contained their respective brute totem rune.

To Magic Brute Race experts, the totem rune was their core source of powers, equivalent to the cultivation origin of human cultivators.

Those parts determined the level of military merit.

.....

One hour later.

Lin Xun ran into an ambush from another gang of Magi Brute Race experts.

It was a little group of Brute Soldiers, so they were no threat to him at all.

Rather than saying that he was ambushed, it might be better to say that he charged over to them on purpose.

The massacre ended in seconds, leaving pools of blood and corpses on the ground. Lin Xun's bag was again filled with badges of military achievement.

In the next few hours, Lin Xun either consecutively initiated the attacks or consecutively ran into groups of enemies.

But none of the battles could be considered fierce and tough. He hadn't encountered anyone who could threaten him. He swept everyone easily like a storm and not a single Magi Brute Race expert survived.

His piles of spoils stacked higher and higher like little hills, but Lin Xun's heart weighed heavier and heavier.

He realized that something was wrong.

He was on the way to the campground of the empire, but he saw only signs of the enemies. The only cultivators of the empire he saw were the corpses on the ground.

The empire's situation didn't look too good on the Blood Kill Battlefield.

"The old fox said that the Blood Kill Battlefield is the strongest line of defense of the empire. If this line of defense is under threat..."

Lin Xun shook his head, dispelling the negative thoughts.

He didn't understand the full situation yet so he shouldn't speculate, but what he saw and felt along the way suggested that the empire cultivators' situation wasn't particularly good on this ruthless and bloody battlefield.

He had self-awareness. He knew that, with his strength, it was impossible to change the situation at once.

The only thing he could do was to kill as many enemies as possible, complete his mission to the best he could, and...

Survive!

.....

The sky grew darker and darker while the world became duller and more oppressive.

The strong wind swept across the barren land, whipping up the blanket of dust on the ground and producing wailing-like noises.

The smell of blood and corpses lingered in the air for a long time.

He suddenly halted his footsteps, and then, with a flash, hid in a shallow ravine.

Not far away was an almost imperceptible shadow leaning against the rocks. It had no scent and no aura like the shadow of the rock. It was very unusual.

Lin Xun's eyes narrowed, and his body was stretched tight like a bow, silently mobilizing all the qi in his body.

Swoosh!

Without hesitation, he drew the No-Nonsense Bow and fired an arrow with lightning speed. It tore the sky as it silently shot towards the shadow in the distance.

Bang!

The rock shattered in an explosion, and a bottomless pit was blasted into the ground, but the shadow had already vanished bizarrely without a trace.

Lin Xun's eyes glinted coldly. He quickly activated the No-Nonsense Bow and fired a rain of arrows across different areas.

Instantly, ear-splitting explosions boomed out from all directions. Boulders and rocks crumbled to smithereens, holes ripped through the ground, and the air split with cracks.

If other cultivators were around, then they would look perplexed, thinking that Lin Xun was shooting randomly, because there wasn't a trace of the enemy around.

However, Lin Xun noticed a shadow flickering around in his field of vision with ghost-like speed. Even the No-Nonsense Bow failed to lock on the target.

Lin Xun's expression turned a little grave.

The No-Nonsense Bow had the two remarkable abilities of detecting the surroundings and maintaining absolute calmness. Its origin was incredibly mysterious, and it had never failed before in the past.

It was no exaggeration to say that even peerless saints such as Niu Tuntian couldn't evade its detection.

But the shadow did!

Lin Xun's countenance changed. His opponent might look discomposd, but they managed to evade many of his shots.

He realized that he had encountered a tricky opponent.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Lin Xun's expression became calmer and calmer, but his dark eyes were chillingly-cold. The bow body constructed from bones and skull was constantly bent as the bright red bowstring was fully stretched back as it shot out silent and illusory arrows one after another.

Pu!

Finally, pushed to its limit, the opponent was struck by an arrow, and a jet of blood sprayed into the air.

At the same time, a figure emerged. It was a man shrouded in gray shadows, with ash brown eyes, and a pretty and fair face.

His shoulder had been stained with blood, suggesting that the arrow had cut across that area.

The man chuckled. "Haha, not bad, judging by the life force circulating you, you are only in your teens. Yet, you have already reached the Heaven Ascension Stage. That alone isn't amazing, but you were able to force me to appear with just a bow. Now, that's impressive."

He narrowed his ash-brown eyes slightly, asking ruminatively, "When did a person like you appear in the empire? Why haven't I heard about you before?"

"That's not important. What's important is that you know that I will send you to death today," Lin Xun stated calmly as he put away the No-Nonsense Bow.

He knew that it would be difficult to kill the opponent with a bow and arrows alone. Furthermore, the No-Nonsense Bow consumed huge amounts of aeth power.

Putting his hands behind his back, the man calmly analyzed, "Ridiculous! You have already exhausted your energy from the attacks just now. What else can you do?"

He was like a shadow, making it difficult for people to capture his movements.

Chi!

As he was speaking, an almost illusionary gray sword took shape, slashing downwards at Lin Xun's throat with amazing speed.

Swoosh!

Lin Xun vanished, letting the flying sword slash a huge, bottomless crack into the ground.

The opponent cunningly launched a sneak attack as he was talking.

"Interesting, little boy, you actually have good adaptability power and can detect danger in advance. You surprised me."

The gray shadow man had disappeared, hidden in the dark, but his aura lingered everywhere in the nearby area. It was no doubt an attempt to confuse Lin Xun.

“Surprised? It’s because you don’t know much.” Lin Xun’s expression was unchanged. Wielding the Broken Blade, his tremendous spirit power spread outwards from him like a storm.

A perfectly round moon shone brilliantly in his mind-sea, surrounded by thousands of stars, sharpening his sensing powers and allowing him to detect the finest details of everything in the world.

Chi!

Suddenly, the flying sword sped out again, aiming for the back of Lin Xun’s neck.

It was a flying sword cast from gray bones. It had a simple and understated design, and its muted color was close to transparent. Its speed was unbelievably fast, and its tip was terrifyingly sharp like it could pierce anything.

Clang!

Just as it was inches from Lin Xun, who was still standing motionlessly, the Broken Blade, as though it had eyes, struck the flying sword with utmost precision. An ear-splitting crash noise pierced the air.

The shockwaves of the collision were enough to collapse the surrounding space, blast hundreds of holes into the ground, and kick up smoke and dust.

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Chapter 686: Chase and Run

Chi!

Once the attack failed, the flying gray sword faded and vanished into the air.

“I’m surprised. Your senses are better than I had thought, but I can’t let you survive today!” The shadow man’s voice echoed through the area, bringing a wave of chilling murderous intent. Aware of Lin Xun’s extraordinary power, he was determined to kill him.

“Die!” Lin Xun didn’t waste time talking to him. As soon as he captured a wisp of the enemy’s aura, he sped up his pace using the Hornless Ice Dragon Step.

Boom!

The Broken Blade soared into the sky, filling the sky with a bright starry brilliance. The blade's body glowed as bright as the sun, illuminating the universe.

The gray shadow was forced to appear. He activated the flying sword once again from afar in an attempt to kill Lin Xun. The unrivaled sharp sword crisscrossed across the sky.

Rumble—

The area quaked and rumbled. Lin Xun tightened his grip around the Broken Blade. His spirit power rapidly spread across the area, and his lightning-like black eyes were locked on the target. He didn’t hold back his strength any more.

The gray shadow man possessed ruthless and superb combat techniques and power. His flying sword art was top-class, and his killing aura was unrivaled.

He was no doubt a top expert of the Darkness Tribe of the Magi Brute Race. He had an innate aptitude for assassination. When that was coupled with his unpredictable movements and mysterious sword skills, he was akin to an undetectable shadow.

Among the nine subraces of the Magi Brute Races, the Darkness Brute Tribe was the most mysterious. There were relatively few of them, but each of them was like the king of darkness.

In the past thousands of years, hundreds of top figures of the empire had died at the hands of Darkness Tribe assassins.

It was even rumored that a Life Death Stage King had almost lost their life under the sneak attack of Darkness Tribe assassins.

Back when Lin Xun was training in Blood Kill Camp, Chief Instructor Xu Sanqi had once mentioned that the strongest among the nine brute tribes were the Lightning Tribe and Light Tribe.

But the most troublesome and terrifying had to be the Darkness Tribe.

The experts of the Darkness Tribe were born assassins who lived in the shadows and could take a person's life without them noticing.

Pu!

A few seconds later, the flying gray sword scraped Lin Xun's shoulder and sprayed blood into the air.

This flying sword art was undoubtedly peculiar and terrifying. Lin Xun had almost been severely injured from that blow.

However, at the same time, the Broken Blade brushed past his opponent and took a chunk of his ear. It was inches away from slicing the neck.

Blood gushed everywhere.

"Did you actually wound me?!" the gray shadow man exclaimed in surprise and anger.

Following a long roar, his figure grew more and more ethereal and mysterious, like an imperceptible shadow wandering between the sky and earth.

Boom!

Lin Xun's eyes became calmer and more chilling, and his body was enveloped in a divine azure glow, flowing with Dao Ripple. He was now resorting to the Sacred Combat Art.

His opponent's movements were mysterious and undetectable, but he suddenly sped up and flickered in the void like an illusory Hornless Ice Dragon.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The two clashed and the Broken Blade and the flying sword collided, sending a blast of frightening destructive power engulfing the area. The blade light and sword qi tore countless cracks into the void.

Lin Xun's opponent was very strong!

As a Great Magi, he was equivalent to Lin Xun in terms of cultivation stage, but he was the most formidable enemy Lin Xun had faced in the same cultivation stage ever since returning from the Spirit Burial Sea.

During the battle, Lin Xun even thought, for a moment, that his opponent had also stepped foot onto the absolute apex path like himself. This surprised him.

An assassin from the Darkness Tribe actually possessed such amazing combat abilities and strength despite being only at the Great Magi Stage. He had to have a remarkable identity within the tribe.

Lin Xun had once defeated six Cyclic Derivation cultivators by himself, but his opponent was able to match his strength even though he was only at the same cultivation stage as him. How would he be just an ordinary Magi Brute Race expert?

"Die!" Murderous intent rushed up in Lin Xun's heart. He was also determined to kill his enemy to eliminate future troubles.

If he allowed him to live, then he would no doubt bring many unexpected dangers and trouble to the cultivators of the empire.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

It was no doubt a very fierce and intense battle. The two continued to exchange blows, matching each other's strength and quaking the world.

Both were experts in combat. Their attacks were simple, direct and uncomplicated, but filled with a deep understanding and the essence of fighting.

It was a battle between masters. If other cultivators were swept into the battle, then they would likely be killed within seconds.

Slash!

A moment later, Lin Xun leapt up and brought the Broken Blade up in a swift slash like a divine rainbow streaking across the sky.

Boom!

Although the shadow man managed to avoid the blow, the frightening shock waves sent him swaying side to side. His pretty and fair face flushed.

"Could he have already embarked on the legendary path?"

A grave look crossed the shadow man's face, but his ash-brown eyes blazed with fierce fighting intent. The strength of his opponent made him quiver with excitement.

"Die!"

Lin Xun didn't care. The Broken Blade erupted with tremendous power like a mountain toppling over, sending a shudder through the earth and stirring the wind and clouds.

Pu!

Instantly, the shadow man was wounded once again. The Broken Blade took off a chunk of his hair while the sharp blade qi split the skin on his black, leaving a bone-deep scar.

Once wounded, he retreated thousands of feet along the ground like a gliding wisp of gray smoke, laughing in excitement. "Finally, I have met my match. If I can kill you, then I can knock down the great door to the strongest path and become a king of the Great Magi stage!"

"Sorry, you won't have a chance!" Lin Xun didn't waver in the slightest and followed up with another blow. The Broken Blade erupted in a blaze of light, glowing as bright as an icy moon. Its terrifying destructive power locked on the opponent's vital parts.

"Haha, you can't kill me. If we, Darkness Brutes, want to escape, then no one in the world can stop us!"

The shadow man wildly fled like a stream of light, tearing through space and smashing the rocks and mountains in its way.

Lin Xun activated the Hornless Ice Dragon Step to its peak and frantically tried to catch up!

Rumble!

Their speed had reached an astonishing level. When an explosive noise pierced the air, they were already thousands of feet away!

Even Lin Xun had to admit that the opponent was very difficult to kill, more difficult than Niu Tuntian and Meng Lianqing.

Furthermore, his strength, fighting experience and cultivation arts were all top-class!

However, that only made Lin Xun more determined to kill him. If he allowed an enemy of the empire to rise, it would sooner or later lead to a catastrophe!

Without hesitation, Lin Xun swapped his sword for a bow. Taking a deep breath, he mobilized his strength to its peak. His spirit, energy and qi were all bubbling like they were inside a grand cauldron.

His black eyes were deep and unfathomable like a revolving abyss capable of swallowing the sun and moon. He seemed to have transformed into another person as if a divine being had descended upon the earth.

Buzz!

The bright red bowstring of the No-Nonsense Bow was pulled back and the rough and sinister skull body of the bow was bent. Instantly, the furious roar of fiendish gods and the rumbling of wind and thunder filled the air.

Swoosh!

But when the aeth arrow was released, everything stilled and became silent. The arrow flashed and vanished from the air.

The gray shadow man felt his heart throb as he was fleeing and his blood ran cold, as though an extreme danger was rapidly approaching him.

As he let out a bizarre cry, a beast-skin flag emerged from his back, marked with cryptic Magi Brute totems and writings in blood red.

Bang!

The flag glowed brightly as the blood writing circulated, blocking the arrow for a moment before it gave way and had a hole pierced through it.

The shadow man screamed in terror and exhausted all his strength to escape, but it was too late. It was an arrow shot by an absolute apex king of the Heaven Ascension Stage!

His back was pierced with a hole as huge as a rice bowl. His face contorted from the pain, and he almost collapsed to the ground.

“The blood pattern flag is a top treasure of the clan, so why couldn’t it stop that arrow? Could the bow also be a great secret treasure?” The shadow man’s face blanched with horror. He could no longer remain calm.

However, he possessed superb combat experience. While he was running for his life, a pair of wings had emerged and spread out from his back.

The wings were gray like the wings of a bat. With a light flap, the gray shadow man seemed to have teleported across thousands of feet. His speed had doubled that of before.

It was the Darkness Shadow Feather! It wasn’t a treasure, but a supreme secret art of the Darkness Tribe that was activated with the burning of one’s own blood and qi.

At such a desperate time, the gray shadow man had no choice but to damage his own body to escape.

“How troublesome...”

Lin Xun sped up from behind him, face distorted with murderous intent.

Bang!

Soon, he was shrouded in a glistening glow and his imposing aura soared, piercing the sky. He resembled an archery god of ancient times. He stretched his slender body, bent the bow, and fired the second arrow!

Pu!

The Darkness Shadow Feather exploded into sparks. Unfortunately, it was still a little too late as he was unable to kill the shadow man. It only blasted off a part of his opponent’s arm.

Even so, he was horrified and furious. It was the first time that he had felt so defeated ever since he started cultivating.

He couldn’t believe that such a teenager existed in the empire. He had never heard of someone so terrifying.

Run!

He gritted his teeth, realizing that he could die today.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun couldn't help knitting his brows together. Given his current strength, he could blast even great Cyclic Derivation cultivators to smithereens.

But the gray shadow man was able to survive his repeated attacks. It wasn't a fluke, but a sign of true strength.

I must kill him!

Lin Xun took a deep breath, restoring calmness to his eyes, and fired the third arrow.

The shadow man was chilled to the bone and goosebumps rose all over his skin. The teenager was as frightening as a demon god to him.

He did everything he could to escape, but unfortunately, the aeth arrow still pierced straight through his chest. A jet of warm scarlet blood sprayed into the air!

"Ah—" He couldn't help screaming. The arrow almost took his life, and a wave of despair swept over him like he was standing before death.

Boom!

However, he refused to admit defeat. Instantly, his blood and qi soared in strength like they were being burned and his aura became much stronger than before. He bolted into a full-speed dash and his figure suddenly vanished.

He had activated some kind of terrifying secret art!

Lin Xun was at a loss for words. He only wanted to curse. This was the first time he had encountered such a difficult opponent, which even more proved that the shadow man wasn't an ordinary character.

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Chapter 687: Greedy search

The gray shadow man was indeed abnormally strong and seemed to have far more than nine lives. He also had mastered many mysterious secret arts and possessed extremely fierce strength beyond his cultivation level.

It was difficult for Lin Xun to kill such a person on the spot. He imagined that the shadow man had a high status within the Magi Brute Race.

If Lin Xun allowed such a person to remain on the Blood Kill Battlefield, then it could bring unpredictable dangers to the empire campground.

The shadow man was a born assassin!

Lin Xun was determined to go all out. Even if he knew that the exhaustion of strength on the Blood Kill Battlefield could put him in a detrimental situation, he didn't hesitate.

Bang!

Another aeth arrow shot out from him like a divine rainbow from beyond the sky locking on a soul. It looked ethereal and unfathomable as it instantly exploded half of the opponent's body, blood spurting everywhere.

The gray shadow man screamed, everything darkening before him. He almost lost consciousness.

Ever since he started cultivating, he had never been hunted down in such a way, nor suffered such a distressing and dangerous situation.

He trembled with anger and fear, almost going berserk. Only then did he realize the terror of the so-called absolute apex path.

He was about to touch upon that realm, so he underestimated the power of Lin Xun.

Shua!

Lin Xun's figure flashed as he frantically charged forward at full speed. His opponent was about to collapse, unable to hold on any longer. It was the best time to act and kill him once and for all.

However, Lin Xun halted halfway, peering suspiciously into the distance.

"Damn it!"

He couldn't help but curse out loud. Then, without further hesitation, he retreated and fled in the opposite direction at a speed that was triple to what it was before!

Boom!

Just as Lin Xun left, a wave of an incredibly terrifying aura descended upon the area, as if a ruler had arrived. The world paled, and a fierce gust of wind swept the area.

"Young Lord!" Following the astonished cry, a dark and slender old man surrounded in billowing dark qi appeared.

When he saw the tragically exploded body of the gray shadow man, his face turned livid and his eyes shot forth frightening beams of light.

"Young Master, please endure a little longer. I'm going to kill that bastard first!"

Instantly, he located Lin Xun, who had fled far away, with his terrifying spirit-sensing powers.

The gray shadow man roared just as the old man was ready to get revenge, "Don't go!"

"Young Lord, we will miss the opportunity!" the old man cried anxiously.

The gray shadow man roared again, his face deathly pale, "I told you, don't go!"

He opened his mouth to swallow a pill and his body was again surging with blood and qi. Within the blink of an eye, his mangled body was restored.

But his face was still pale to the point of transparent and his breathing was incredibly weak as though he would die at any time.

“That kid is my prey! No one is allowed to touch him except me!” he said through gritted teeth, eyes glinting malevolently.

He felt the greatest shame and humiliation today. He was still seething from the loss.

More importantly, it was the first time he witnessed the legendary strongest supreme path ever since he started cultivating. It dawned on him that, if he wanted to step onto that path, the most effective and quickest way was to kill the human teenager!

That was the reason he stopped the old man.

“Young Master, who was it that was able to wound you just now?”

The old man knew that they had missed the best opportunity to kill the enemy, but he was still very surprised and puzzled by the fact that someone on the Blood Kill Battlefield could defeat his young lord.

It was too unbelievable!

He knew what impressive talent and power his young lord had as the prince of the Darkness Tribe. He was worthy of being called the strongest of the darkness brute younger generation.

Even the Darkness Brute King had once said that the young lord would have a great role to play when the battle of the great age came!

But now, the young lord had lost. In fact, he had lost in such a tragic way that he was in danger of dying. How could the old man not be shocked?

If the matter spread back to the Darkness Tribe, it would no doubt cause an earthquake within the tribe!

Even the other eight tribes would be shocked to learn about it!

The Darkness Tribe was the most detached and mysterious among the nine brute tribes, but their talented prince had almost been killed. How would they not be shocked?

The old man broke out in cold sweat at the thought of the consequences if he had come any later. His face twisted with anger, hating the fact that he couldn't immediately kill the enemy.

“You know that the purpose of my training in the Blood Kill Battlefield in the past few years is nothing more than to embark on the true supreme path.” The gray shadow man inhaled deeply. “And today...I saw it! I have experienced the power of the supreme path. The power is more amazing than I thought. He is invincible, like the king of his cultivation stage.”

As he reached the end of his sentence, his eyes sparkled. “Only by killing him would I have the opportunity to reach the pinnacle!”

His opponent was an absolute apex king of the Heaven Ascension Stage in the human race!

The old man inwardly gasped, shocked. He had never heard of such a strong human cultivator in the empire.

Why did someone like him suddenly appear today?

Suddenly, a strong gush of regret rose in the old man's heart. If he had known about the teenager's strength earlier, then he would have taken immediate action and killed him!

If they allowed someone like him to rise, then he would no doubt bring great trouble to the Magi Brute Race!

"Man Jiu, I need you to do something."

The gray shadow man suddenly said aloud, "Go and help me collect information about him. The more detailed the better. I need to know everything about him!"

The old man called Man Jiu asked, "Young Lord, what does he look like? How old is he? Does he have any specific characteristics?"

The gray shadow man thought for a moment before he described Lin Xun's appearance in detail and remarked, "It should be easy to find him because he is no more than twenty years old! He is still a teenager! And I believe he has just arrived at the Blood Kill Battlefield."

A teenager!

A teenager has set foot onto the supreme path of the Heaven Ascension Stage?

Man Jiu's heart trembled for a moment, and his face paled a little. A young boy who has stepped into the realm of the king has to be terrifyingly strong!

The gray shadow man warned, staring at Man Jiu with unquestionable authority, "Remember, you are only in charge of gathering information. If you dare to do anything to him and ruin my plan, I won't forgive you!"

He knew well about Man Jiu's ability. He was halfway into the realm of the Brute King and could be considered a quasi-king. If he had taken action, then he would be able to kill the teenager.

But he didn't want that!

"I understand." Man Jiu bowed and obeyed the order even if he disagreed.

The gray shadow man had to have a distinguished status within the Darkness Tribe for a quasi-king to obey him.

"The opportunity is here...this time, I must seize it!" murmured the gray shadow man, eyes flashing a resolute glint.

.....

Hundreds of miles away.

Lin Xun's face was overcast, and his heart was filled with strong bitterness. He only wanted to curse.

He was only one step away from killing the gray shadow man, but a terrifying figure appeared and ruined his chance.

“That terrifying aura was only slightly weaker than that of a true Life Death Stage King. Such a person likely has already stepped one foot into the King Stage...” Lin Xun narrowed his eyes vigilantly. The fact that Life Death Stage Kings existed on the Blood Kill Battlefield made it even more dangerous.

However, Lin Xun also knew that people of that level wouldn’t be dispatched so easily. Even if they were dispatched, then they would only target and deal with people of the same level as them.

“It’s getting dark...” Lin Xun didn’t dare to think too much and quickly sped towards a place where the sun had set.

When night fell, the Blood Kill Battlefield would be hundreds of times more terrifying than in the daytime, with many unpredictable killings and dangers lurking in every corner. Both the enemy army and the cultivators of the empire would rarely take action at night.

Zhao Tailai had also repeatedly reminded him of that.

Swoosh!

Lin Xun sped onwards like a flash of light. From time to time, crackling and booming noises sounded from his hands. It was the sound of high-grade aeth crystals being shattered and absorbed.

The fierce battle had consumed huge amounts of his strength, so he had to quickly restore it.

That moment showed the harsh environment of the Blood Kill Battlefield. Aeth power didn’t exist so one’s energy had to be replenished with aeth crystals and elixirs.

Lin Xun possessed an unparalleled cultivation base, which provided him with tremendous energy to fight for long periods, but at the same time, he also had to consume huge amounts of high-grade crystals to restore his strength.

Lin Xun estimated that the batch of high-grade aeth crystals he brought with him would only be enough to last him seven days at most. If he encountered another fierce battle, then he would use up even more crystals.

The only thing that reassured him was that he could exchange military merits for supplies from the empire campground.

Among them were aeth crystals and medicinal pills.

Along the way, the traces of enemies he encountered gradually lessened, suggesting that the empire campground wasn’t far away.

Even so, he still went through a dozen battles on the way, but they were all against spies or outpost troops of the Magi Brute Race. He didn’t encounter another powerful character, and so he easily forged his way through and unexpectedly gained a lot of spoils.

Night finally fell, and an oppressive silence suddenly filled the space between heaven and earth.

The wind stilled, and the smell of rotting corpses and blood in the air seemed to have frozen. The air was terrifyingly palpable, sending a chill down the spine.

Lin Xun suddenly spun around. With his powerful spirit sensing power, he noticed many undetectable horrors in the vast barren world.

“As expected, the Blood Kill Battlefield is the most dangerous in the dark of the night...” Lin Xun also shivered. Without further hesitation, he continued onwards in large strides.

Ahead was a thousand-foot-tall watchtower. The lights were still lit on it, looking particularly eye-catching in the darkness.

Further ahead he saw rows of lights coiling around the mountaintop like fire dragons, lighting up the night sky.

A violet glory flower flag was waving on the watchtower, illuminated by the bright lights. Every flower seemed to be soaked in blood, blooming in the night.

It was the empire campground!

It was the strongest line of defense of the empire and was made up of many elite troops and cultivators of the empire.

They were stationed there to defend the empire's territory. They fought and lived there forever.

When he saw the lights, the flag, and the group of buildings glowing like fire dragons, he thought of that sentence again——

“Violet Glory Flower is undefeated because of blood kill and the empire exists forever because of continued expeditions!”

.....

“Who are you?!”

A roar rang from the watchtower thousands of feet away while a beam of light shined on Lin Xun's figure.

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes slightly and immediately found that guards were densely distributed around the watchtower. They were all in tough armor and emitted strong and fierce auras.

A guard poked his head out of the watchtower and asked loudly, “Huh, it's a kid? Who brought you here? Where's your lord? Why did you arrive at the campground after dark?”

But soon, his eyes were drawn to the huge loaded luggage on Lin Xun's back.

“Boss, that bag seems to be full of...” someone whispered.

“Heavens, I smell the blood of the Magi Brute Race. I can even tell that there are the teeth of Gold Tribe bastards, the chests of Fire Tribe bastards and the arms of Earth Tribe bastards!”

Whispering broke out from the watchtower.

Almost at the same time, Lin Xun sensed gazes scanning over him without any restraint. In particular, their eyes glinted with greed when they noticed the luggage on his back.

The commander of the guards stated aloud, "Little guy, put down your bag. We need to inspect it first, otherwise, we can't let you into the campground."

A cold light flashed in Lin Xun's eyes, and an imperceptible murderous intent crossed his face.

The empire army campground was said to be well-defended and impenetrable, but the soldiers should only be wary of Magi Brute experts and not cultivators from the empire like him.

Lin Xun also had never heard that his personal belongings needed to be inspected when entering the campground.

The commander and the nearby guards were clearly making things difficult for him on purpose. Moreover, the glint of greed in their eyes suggested that they had bad intentions.

Lin Xun had fought many battles ever since he entered the Blood Kill Battlefield. He thought he could take a good rest when he arrived at the campground and never expected to face such a situation.

His mood suddenly turned bad.

He wasn't afraid of killing the enemies, but he disliked being involved in conflict with cultivators of the same campground.

He stood there motionlessly, which irritated the guard commander.

He's a teenager and he's alone, yet he dared to disobey my order.

His face darkened and he spat out, "Little guy, why are you not obeying the order? What are you planning? Night has already descended and you are the only one who arrived late. This is very unusual."

As he was speaking, he signaled with a wave of his hand, "Someone, go and bring him here. I suspect that the kid is a spy sent by the Magi Brute Race. We must check carefully before letting him through!"

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Chapter 688: Calculate Military Merit

The guards stationed at the campground were all veterans with years of battle experience. From one glance, they could tell that Lin Xun was a newbie.

He might even be a cultivator who worked for a certain clan or sect.

After all, his face was too unfamiliar, and it was the first time he was seen coming to the 7th campground.

In their eyes, Lin Xun was a lamb to be slaughtered.

When they heard the order from the commander, a dozen of them raced forward and stared at Lin Xun with murderous intent.

Lin Xun frowned. The beast skin manual did not explain how he should deal with such situations.

Fortunately, he had spent a good amount of time in Blood Kill Camp. He stood motionlessly in the same spot and the murderous look on his face was replaced by an indifferent and calm expression.

“Come on, let’s check if the kid is a spy!” A burly man rolled up his sleeve and was the first to rush forward.

He had an extremely sharp sense of smell, so he had already noticed that there were many good things in Lin Xun’s luggage.

Bang!

But, just as he was one foot away from Lin Xun, he felt a tremendous pressure bearing down on him like a mountain. Then, he sank to his knees with a thud.

The guards behind him staggered, and their expressions dramatically changed like they were drunk. It turned out that a wave of invisible mountainous force was oppressing them.

Immediately, they all fell to their knees, faces flushed. Crackling noises sounded incessantly from their knees.

“Are you not going to check my things? Why did you all suddenly kneel? Are you welcoming me?” Lin Xun asked in surprise.

Everyone was silent.

The other guards stationed near the watchtower gasped, realizing the strange situation.

Their comrades were all ruthless characters who had seen their share of dangers since no ordinary person could survive the Blood Kill Battlefield. But now, none of them could get near the kid and instead fell to their knees!

Unbelievable!

“Ridiculous!” roared a guard kneeling on the ground. He tried to force himself up, only to be pressed back down onto his knees and his bones almost crushed against the ground.

Lin Xun had already set foot to become an absolute apex king. He had honed his powers and strength through countless bloody battles. Even Heaven Ascension experts wouldn’t stand a chance against him, let alone the guards who only had Spirit Sea Stage strength!

Kacha!

The guards twitched and trembled on the ground as if a mountain was crushing their bodies. Their faces were deathly pale, their foreheads were beaded with cold sweat and their bones and muscles were constantly crackling. They seemed to be on the verge of collapsing.

The pressure was getting greater and greater!

If this continued, their flesh would rupture and their organs would be crushed.

Horror flooded them. They finally realized that the lamb was a wolf in sheep’s clothing!

The commander cried out in the watchtower, “Friend! Let’s talk first!”

He couldn’t help but inhale sharply. That kid can oppress the guards with just his aura alone.

He rushed down from the watchtower.

“Aren’t you guys the ones who didn’t want to talk?” Lin Xun swept a cold glance over the commander.

The guard commander felt as if an invisible blade was pressing against his throat. The deadly and dangerous aura emitting from Lin Xun made him break out in cold sweat as though he had fallen into an ice cave.

He was scared out of his wits. Anyone who could stand on the Blood Kill Battlefield had to have a strong sense of danger. The guard commander realized that the teenager who came alone under the cover of night was no doubt a terrifying and fierce character.

“Lord, we apologize for offending you! Please forgive us!” The guard commander bowed respectfully, his heart thumping with indescribable nervousness.

Lin Xun quelled the oppressive pressure and said, “It is my first time here. I don’t understand the rules or anything so if I offended you just now, I hope you won’t mind.”

The guard commander heaved a sigh of relief, wiped away the beads of cold sweat on his face, and put on a smile, “We were too ignorant and offended you. We are already very glad that you forgive us.”

“Yes, yes, yes.” The guards staggered up from the ground. There was an obvious tinge of fear in their eyes when they looked at Lin Xun.

The guards near the watchtower looked at each other in dismay, realizing that they had encountered a difficult situation, so they dared not speak any nonsense.

Lin Xun had built a commanding image. Both in the Blood Kill Camp and the military camp, one had to display their strength to subdue the experienced characters.

Lin Xun also didn’t want to make a big fuss. With a thud, he tossed the huge luggage to the ground and dusted his hands. “I told you guys that I don’t know the rules. Since you guys want to check my belongings, go ahead. I was only rude and unwilling before because of your attitude.”

The guard commander and the others all looked at each other awkwardly. They told him it was an inspection, but in truth, they were just being greedy and coveted the things in his bag.

Lin Xun’s polite attitude made the commander more and more certain that he wasn’t an ordinary character. He pondered for a moment and said, “Okay, the rules have to be followed. Let’s quickly inspect the bag and let the lord into the campground.”

The nearby guards obeyed.

The so-called inspection was only for show. Everyone could tell that Lin Xun couldn’t possibly be a spy of the Magi Brute Race.

But since Lin Xun insisted, they had to cooperate.

However, when they opened the bag that was stuffed like a hill, a burst of audible gasps filled the area.

Bloody spoils were everywhere!

There were too many!

Most of them were spoils from Brute Warriors, but there were also spoils from Great Magi experts!

“Heavens! There are around nineteen Great Magi-level badges of military merit and over one hundred Brute Soldier level badges of merit!” The guard commander gasped, the fear in his eyes deepening when he looked at Lin Xun. That teenager is too ruthless!

The fact that he had accumulated so many bloody badges of merit by himself proved how abnormal his strength was.

“Hey! That severed hand seems pretty unusual.”

Suddenly, a figure rushed out from the campground. It was a gray-robed old man with a white beard, hair and even brows.

As he neared the spoils, his eyes were fixed on the severed hand. “Where did you get that severed hand?” he exclaimed in surprise.

“Who are you?” Lin Xun frowned.

The guard commander quickly introduced him to Lin Xun, “My lord, this is Lord Lu Wenting, the quartermaster of our 7th army camp. He is in charge of the barracks’ supplies.”

Lin Xun nodded and asked, “Is there something wrong with the severed hand?”

Lu Wenting didn’t care about Lin Xun’s cold attitude. He shook his head and answered, “There’s no problem, it’s just that...the severed hand is from an expert of the Darkness Tribe imperial family.”

Si!

Gasps rang out and all the nearby guards were dumbfounded. A severed hand of the Darkness Tribe imperial family?

Heavens!

Did the young lord kill an imperial family member of the Darkness Tribe?

They knew that the Darkness Tribe imperial family members were regarded as top assassins, equivalent to the peerless geniuses of the human cultivators.

They were skilled in assassination techniques and escaping arts like the king of the shadows. Even great Cyclic Derivation cultivators would struggle to capture them.

And now, a severed hand of the Darkness Tribe imperial family had appeared in front of them, which meant...

All eyes shifted to Lin Xun simultaneously.

But Lin Xun looked taken aback. “So that guy is a descendant of the Darkness Tribe imperial family. No wonder he was so difficult to kill...”

His face became overcast at the thought of the shadow man. It’s a pity. I was so close to killing that guy!

After getting confirmation from Lin Xun, the guard commander and the others became speechless. It's true...

"Little friend, you must be eager to exchange your military merits. Please come with me." Lu Wenting seemed to attach great importance to the severed hand. Without asking about Lin Xun's background, he guided him into the army camp.

"All right." Lin Xun nodded and followed Lu Wenting into the barracks.

Watching them disappear into the distance, the guards let out a long sigh, still shuddering at the thought that they almost angered an unfathomable monster!

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The barracks were brightly lit. Many buildings were densely but orderly built along the mountainside.

Night had fallen, but the barracks was still very lively. Cultivators from the empire could be seen everywhere, and all of them had a powerful and unique iron-willed aura.

It was forged from years of fighting, which ordinary cultivators would never possess.

Army Camp Store.

Lu Wenting quickly arranged for two of his subordinates to help Lin Xun count the spoils, while he picked up and examined the severed hand closer.

After a moment, he raised his head with a strange expression. "There is no doubt that this is a severed hand of a descendant of the Darkness Tribe imperial family. The hand is marked with the shadow sword totem which is unique to the Darkness Tribe imperial family. It can't be forged but..."

As though Lin Xun knew what Lu Wenting was going to ask, he interrupted, "He's not dead."

Lu Wenting sighed in disappointment, "That's right, how would such a peerless character be killed so easily?"

Lin Xun did not explain what happened. Although he was confident that he could kill him, his opponent had been rescued in the end. No matter how he explained, no one would believe it.

However, Lu Wenting confirmed Lin Xun's speculation. The gray shadow man was indeed a special character with an extraordinary background!

"Lord, everything has been counted. There are a total of nineteen Great Magi-level badges of military merit and 216 warrior-level military merits. They can all be added up as one second-class merit and two third-class merits," the two subordinates stated respectfully.

They couldn't help but survey Lin Xun with a glance of awe, as though they didn't expect a teenager to achieve such a feat!

"No, this severed hand must be added to his achievements."

Lu Wenting then said decisively, "I'll consider it as two second-class merits! Oh, by the way, little friend, what's your name and which military camp are you from?"

He looked at Lin Xun apologetically. He had been so focused on the severed hand that he had forgotten to ask about the youth's background.

The Prodigies War

Chapter 689: A Haze of Puzzlement Over the Campground

Lin Xun didn't mind because he could tell that Lu Wenting had no malice.

"This is my identification."

Lin Xun handed over a specially made bronze nameplate with the number thirty-nine engraved on the front and the number twelve on the back.

"Lin Twelve, from the 39th Campground of Blood Kill Camp?" Lu Wenting swiped his hand across the plate.

Understanding dawned on him. "No wonder you were able to kill so many enemies. It turns out that you were a student of Blood Kill Camp. What class were you in? Who was your chief instructor?"

"I trained in Blood Kill Camp four years ago and the chief instructor then was Xu Sanqi," Lin Xun directly answered.

"Four years ago?" Lu Wenting's eyes widened with amazement. "Don't tell me that four years ago...you were only at the True Martial Stage."

Lin Xun nodded.

In just four years, he broke through the True Martial Stage, the Spirit Dipper Stage and the Spirit Sea Stage, and reached the ranks of the Heaven Ascension Stage!

That...is too unbelievable!

Lu Wenting trembled inwardly. Only after a long while did he sigh emotionally, "The younger generation will surpass us one day. By the way, which army camp are you from?"

"I just arrived at the Blood Kill Battlefield today," Lin Xun explained.

"What?" Lu Wenting cried out. his expression completely changed as if he heard the most unbelievable thing. "Did you just say...you just arrived at the Blood Kill Battlefield today?"

Lin Xun knitted his brows together, sensing that something was wrong.

"This is my letter of recommendation." Lin Xun brought out a confidential letter from Zhao Tailai and handed it over.

Lu Wenting went stiff when he read the letter, and his expression turned more and more strange. There was puzzlement, shock, and suspicion. It was as though he had encountered a huge problem.

After a long moment, he drew a deep breath and said to Lin Xun, "It's late. Why don't I arrange for someone to set up your place first and we can talk about other matters tomorrow?"

Lin Xun nodded.

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A moment later, in front of a row of stone buildings on the mountainside.

“Lord Lin, most of the houses here are vacant. You can choose any one as your residence.”

After the attendant arranged by Lu Wenting brought Lin Xun here, he quickly left after a brief introduction while Lin Xun stood in a daze.

He wanted to ask about the camp, but the attendant was very tight-lipped.

Lin Xun took a deep breath and didn't think about it anymore. He randomly chose a stone house and pushed open the door.

The house had clearly never been inhabited as shown by the thick layer of dust over the tables, beds and other furniture.

After a little cleaning and dusting, Lin Xun lay down on the bed. The many puzzlements he had in his mind distracted him from training.

The 7th campground?

It seems that isn't the only empire campground in the Blood Kill Battlefield.

Also, Lu Wenting had a strange look on his face when I mentioned that it was my first day on the Blood Kill Battlefield. His behavior was too abnormal. There must be some reason for this.

Lin Xun suddenly sprang up and went outside.

He was desperate to find someone to ask more about the camp, and he already had someone in mind—

The guard commander stationed at the watchtower.

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Blood Blade Tavern.

Lin Xun was a little surprised that the guard commander called Old Huang had brought him to the tavern because he never thought that such a place would exist in the army camp.

The tavern was very lively and noisy, packed with groups of cultivators drinking and chatting.

“Lord, isn't this place good for talking? Many cultivators from our camp will come here to drink and vent as soon as they return from the battlefield. Otherwise, the constant depressing fighting and deaths on the battlefield would drive them to break down,” Old Huang said melancholically.

He ordered a jug of wine and sat opposite Lin Xun. The wine was a strong spirit specially brewed for cultivators, tasting as strong and sharp as a knife.

A jug of wine cost thirty points. To put it into context, the two second-class military merits that Lin Xun received today only earned him one thousand points in total.

In other words, one second-class military merit could earn him five hundred points.

The points could be used to exchange for all sorts of goods, including paying for the bill in the tavern.

"I want to ask you something," Lin Xun said after a little deliberation.

Old Huang quickly urged, "I can't say I will know but if I can help you, I promise to tell you everything I know."

Lin Xun bluntly asked the question he was most concerned about, "This is my first day at the Blood Kill Battlefield. What do you think a newcomer like me should know first?"

Pu!

Old Huang sprayed out a mouthful of wine, coughing to the point of tears. But he didn't care and stared at Lin Xun with a look of astonishment, "Lord, you are not joking, right?"

Is he kidding?!

Old Huang was considered a veteran who had seen mountains of corpses and seas of blood countless times on the Blood Kill Battlefield, but he had never seen a newcomer like Lin Xun!

Could a newcomer sever an arm of a descendant of the Darkness Tribe imperial family?

Could a newcomer cross the battlefield alone and safely arrive at the campground?

The most frightening thing was that the newcomer had brought a mountain of bloody badges of military merits with him in his luggage!

Lin Xun absently tapped his fingers on the table as he said with a half-smile, "Do you think I'm joking?"

Old Huang quickly shook his head, but he was still strangely looking at Lin Xun with unconcealable shock. He had the exact same expression that Lu Wenting had earlier.

Lin Xun chuckled. Old Huang's reaction reassured him that he found the right person to ask.

Through their chatting and with Lin Xun intentionally guiding the conversation, he quickly obtained a lot of information from Old Huang.

It turned out that the Blood Kill Battlefield was like a war zone isolated from the world.

The empire had eight camps stationed here, and each one was guarded by an army of elite cultivators from the empire and watched over by a Life Death Stage King.

Additionally, many squads of cultivators would venture to the camp to earn military merits to exchange for items and money.

Most teams consisted of experts from major clans and sects, and they often fought and hunted enemies on the battlefield in groups.

Of course, some ruthless characters preferred to act and fight alone.

Most importantly, the Blood Kill Battlefield only opened a passageway to the empire once every three years!

Only during that time would the cultivators in the Blood Kill Battlefield have the opportunity to communicate with the empire, ask for reinforcements, or replenish military supplies.

However, there was still half a year before the passageway to the empire would be opened, yet Lin Xun had arrived today!

"I see." It finally dawned on Lin Xun why Lu Wenting and Old Huang were so shocked and why Zhao Tailai had to give him special treatment.

"Every time the passageway is opened, a giant teleportation formation has to be set up and a tremendous number of high-grade aeth crystals is required. Given the financial resources of the empire, the giant teleportation formation can only be activated once every three years." Old Huang sighed emotionally, but his gaze turned more and more strange when he looked at Lin Xun.

If this kid arrived at the Blood Kill Battlefield today, doesn't that mean the empire opened the passageway just for him?

Unbelievable!

"I came using a teleportation array set up by the Saints from ancient times. It can only teleport one person," Lin Xun explained.

But even so, Old Huang realized that Lin Xun had a special identity. Otherwise, how would the empire make an exception and send him to the Blood Kill Battlefield alone?

"So does that mean you haven't heard anything about the empire in the past two and a half years?" asked Lin Xun.

Old Huang nodded. "Yes, that should be right. Unless something terrible happens, otherwise the Blood Kill Battlefield and the empire will only communicate once every three years."

"Two and a half years ago..."

Lin Xun quickly went through his thoughts.

At that time, I had just entered the Forbidden City and I had just been verified as a rune master. Then, I participated in the empress' 300th birthday banquet...

Does that mean that no one in the Blood Kill Battlefield knows about what I have done in the past two and a half years?

Thinking of that, the corners of his lips curled upwards. That's good, the less they know about me, the safer my situation...

Suddenly, Lin Xun couldn't help asking, "Old Huang, have you heard about the master of Mind Cleansing Peak?"

"The master of Mind Cleansing Peak? What is that?"

Lin Xun chuckled out loud.

Old Huang became more and more puzzled. The youngster before him was too strange and full of mystery. Regardless, he was certain that the youngster had a remarkable background. Otherwise, how could he be sent to the Blood Kill Battlefield alone?

Not anyone would receive that kind of treatment!

.....

“General, I have something urgent to report.”

Lu Wenting took a deep breath, trying to calm himself down. Then he knocked on the closed door in front of him.

“Come in.”

The door opened silently. The space was small, but it was extremely clean and tidy.

A mighty and imposing middle-aged man was hunched over a desk. He had a jet-black beard and hair, thick eyebrows, fierce eyes, and a serious face.

He exuded a majestic bearing even when he was sitting down.

He was the person in charge of the 7th army camp—Top General Zhangsun Lie! A fierce and domineering Life Death Stage King!

“General, a strange youngster came to the army camp today...” Lu Wenting stated before the general asked and reported everything about Lin Xun. He especially pointed out that Lin Xun had arrived at the Blood Kill Battlefield today.

Zhangsun Lie didn’t care much at first, even when he learned that Lin Xun severed the arm of a prince of the Darkness Tribe. He only raised his eyebrows slightly.

But when he heard that Lin Xun had arrived today, he straightened his back and sat up. It was as if a mountain peak was pulled up from the ground and towered into the sky, creating an oppressive atmosphere.

“By himself?” Zhangsun Lie asked, his eyes overflowing with a strange brilliance.

Lu Wenting handed over the letter. “This is a letter of recommendation from Lord Blood Kill King himself. General, please take a look at it.”

Zhangsun Lie narrowed his eyes at first, but then his jet-black brows scrunched up together.

There was only one sentence in the confidential letter. “Treat him fairly. No special care is required.”

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 690: Little Pretty Boy, Are You New Here?

Zhangsun Lie stared at the words on the letter for a long while before he finally couldn’t hold back from asking, “Wenting, what do you think the Blood Kill King means by this?”

Lu Wenting felt his head spin for a while, and then he hesitatingly answered, "Based on the situation, it seems the youngster has an extraordinary background. This is why he was sent to the Blood Kill Battlefield by himself..."

Zhangsun Lie interrupted, "I asked you what the Blood Kill King means!"

Lu Wenting's face scrunched up, looking stressed. "General, please don't make things difficult for me. The Blood Kill King is as unfathomable as the ocean. I can't possibly fathom what's on his mind."

Zhangsun Lie's frown deepened. He slammed the desk and muttered, "Damn it, he said to not give him special treatment, but who would dare to do that?! The old bastard Blood Kill King is so irritating! He ended the letter with one sentence and gave me a huge headache!"

Old bastard...

Lu Wenting's eyes widened. Only the General would dare call him an old bastard.

He smiled bitterly in his heart.

"General, in my opinion, the kid must have something special about him since the Blood Kill King sent him to the Blood Kill Battlefield alone. Since the Blood Kill King has told us to treat him fairly, then we should just do as we're told."

Lu Wenting chose his words carefully, "Of course, but even if we don't give the kid any special treatment, we still need to keep him safe when necessary. Otherwise, it will be difficult for us to explain to him in the future."

Zhangsun Lie rubbed his temple and sighed, "That's all we can do. That old bastard left the Blood Kill Battlefield a few years ago, but now he just tossed a little kid here for us to take care of and made things difficult for us. This is so ridiculous!"

As he fumed, he thought of something, "Have you asked the kid why he wanted to come to the Blood Kill Battlefield?"

Lu Wenting shook his head, saying helplessly, "I was so shocked that my mind went blank. How would I have thought about asking that? How about I ask him in detail tomorrow?"

Zhangsun Lie thought for a moment, then waved his hand dismissively. "Forget it, don't ask him. As long as he doesn't cause any great trouble in the Blood Kill Battlefield, I can just turn a blind eye. Every day I am busy thinking about how to defeat the kings of the Magi Brute Race. I don't have time for that kid."

Lu Wenting nodded. Indeed, it would be difficult for the top general in charge of the entire army camp to have the energy to pay attention to a youngster.

"Of course, you have to keep an eye on him. He can have an accident, he can die, but not on my territory!" added Zhangsun Lie.

His words might seem harsh, but Lu Wenting knew that Zhangsun Lie was concerned about Lin Xun's safety because of the confidential letter from the Blood Kill King.

Lu Wenting couldn't help muttering, "The kid is quite a headache. There are eight other camps on the Blood Kill Battlefield. Why did he come to our camp...It would be great if we could send him to other army camps. Then we won't need to be so troubled and stressed..."

"Huh?" Zhangsun Lie's eyes lit up like a torch. "Send him away? That works! But let's observe for a while longer. As long as the little youngster doesn't cause any trouble, I can tolerate him."

Lu Wenting smiled understandingly. "General, you're right. It's good if he doesn't cause any trouble but if he does, we can just pass the trouble to the generals of other camps."

"Who told you to speak?" Zhangsun Lie shot a glare at him, but in the end, he couldn't help from laughing.

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Lin Xun was still unaware that his sudden arrival had caused a headache to both the top general and the quartermaster.

He was still chatting with Old Huang.

Even though it was late at night, the Blood Blade Tavern was much busier and more lively than before. Many fierce cultivators from the empire had gathered in the tavern, drinking and chatting with each other.

Old Huang's face and nose were flushed from drinking too much, and his vision started to blur. Lin Xun had ordered three jars of wine, but most of them were now in Old Huang's stomach.

"Lord, did you know that I have fought on the Blood Kill Battlefield for five years? Five years! My comrades changed one after another. There are some familiar faces and some unfamiliar...now, even I am starting to forget whom I am supposed to remember."

"Other people say that I am really tough and that it is a miracle that I haven't died after five years, but only I know that I am afraid of death. So every time I fight, I do everything I can to not die. This is why I am still alive..."

"But living like this is so painful! My first thought when I wake up every day is how to survive today! Who the hell would care about the future?"

"Ahh, it can't be helped. This is the Blood Kill Camp! Death happens all the time, and one day, I...I...also will..." Old Huang's voice faded as he hit his head on the table and lay there in a drunken sleep.

Lin Xun sat, drinking alone, his expression incredibly calm. He thought of the sentence that Zhao Tailai had repeatedly told him.

"Remember, survive!"

Zhao Tailai wore the most serious expression he had ever seen at the time.

"Survive..." Lin Xun murmured, looking at Old Huang and the empire cultivators drinking to their heart's content in the tavern.

After a moment of silence, he gulped down the jar of wine in one go.

Old Huang was a powerful and fierce Heaven Ascension Stage cultivator, but in his drunken state, he looked so helpless and in pain.

It made Lin Xun realize that life in the Blood Kill Battlefield was far more cruel and terrifying than he imagined.

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Deep in the night.

Just when Lin Xun returned to his residence and was about to open the door, he heard a sorrowful cry.

In the distance, a figure was kneeling in front of a stone house, muttering to herself in a restrained wailing voice, as if she was afraid of disturbing other people.

“Big Brother, I will avenge you. If I don’t kill all the bastards of the Magi Brute Race, then I will never leave the Blood Kill Battlefield in my life!”

It was a woman with short hair and a healthy and fit figure, but her fierce eyes were red and filled with heart-wrenching sadness.

“What are you looking at? I’m going to gouge your eyes out if you look again!” The woman stormed up when she sensed Lin Xun’s gaze and her demeanor completely changed, becoming fierce and threatening.

Lin Xun didn’t get angry, but just said, “Please accept my condolences for your loss.” Then he opened the door and walked into his residence.

The woman stood still in the darkness, clearly taken aback. Then, she snorted, turned around and left.

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The next morning.

Before dawn, Lin Xun woke up from his meditation.

“I used up forty-nine high-grade aeth crystals in one training session. If it continues like this, even if there is an opportunity to break through, there’s nothing I can do about it.”

He frowned.

Beside him was a pile of sparkling crystal-like powder. It was the remains of the aeth crystal he had used up in one night of training.

In the past, he wouldn’t mind the huge consumption.

But in the Blood Kill Battlefield, where aeth power was limited, he had no choice but to put more attention on how to earn and conserve aeth crystals.

The most troublesome thing for him was that he had reached the perfect intermediate Heaven Ascension Stage and was only one step away from breaking through into the upper Heaven Ascension Stage.

However, he knew that one step would be more difficult than ascending the sky with a limited amount of high-grade aeth crystals.

“Never mind, I should use this period to hone my cultivation of arts and spirit power. I can think about my breakthrough after I earn enough aeth crystals in the future.” He drew a deep breath and made a decision

In terms of his spirit cultivation, he had already reached the Moon Phases Stage, the second stage of the Little Divine Meditation Art, but there was still a long way to go before breaking through to the next level.

Since he lacked spirit power, it might be a good idea to concentrate on cultivating spirit power.

In terms of his cultivation arts practice, he still hadn’t fully mastered some secret techniques.

For example, he had only mastered four transformations of the Tribulation Dragon Nine Transformations—the Hornless Ice Dragon Step, Bixi Collision, Bi’an Stamp and the Baxia Imprisonment.

He had yet to comprehend or grasp the other five transformations.

Additionally, although he had fully mastered Star-Gather, Moon Catch and Burning Sun of the Heavenly Yuan Blade Art, he knew that those were only the first half of the secret blade art.

In other words, there were more powerful moves in the second part of the Heavenly Yuan Blade Art!

Unfortunately, he only obtained the first part of the blade art in the Omega Secret Realm, and he had no idea when he would get his hands on the second part.

Just like the Heavenly Yuan Art, he also had only comprehended the first part of the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture, which recorded the cultivation methods of the five great cultivation stages from the True Martial Stage to the Cyclic Derivation Stage.

He speculated that the next part of the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture had to contain the supreme cultivation methods of the Life Death King Stage!

Unfortunately, he was also missing the second part of the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture.

“When the Dao Ripple of Water breakthroughs to become the Dao Meaning of Water, I can enter the Omega Secret Realm again. I hope I can obtain the second part of both the Heavenly Yuan Blade Art and the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture then...” he muttered.

He could only hope because the Omega Secret Realm was too mysterious. He was now an absolute apex king of the Heaven Ascension Stage. He was no longer a child who knew nothing like before.

But the more he found out more about the Omega Secret Realm, the more he realized its mysteriousness.

At least, he had never heard that a treasure in the world could possess such a mysterious and remarkable purpose as the Omega Secret Realm. It could be called a heaven-defying existence!

As he pushed open the door, he saw the strong and savage-looking woman he met last night coming his way from afar coincidentally.

He gave her an acknowledging nod out of politeness and was about to leave when the woman came over and blocked his path.

She was tanned with sharp features and a chiseled jawline. She exuded a fierce and savage beauty.

Her narrowed eyes glowed strangely as she stared at Lin Xun. Then, she suddenly stretched out her slender finger and tilted up Lin Xun's chin. "Little pretty boy, you must be new here! Well, my name is A'bi, I have your back from now on. If you have any troubles, feel free to use my name." She turned around and strode away, her steps swift but strong. Her short, chestnut hair fluttering in the morning breeze added a unique charm to her.