

Prodigies 691

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Chapter 691: Starfrost Mercenary Squad

Lin Xun couldn't help smiling.

She looks fierce and aggressive, but she actually only has a tough exterior and is soft inside. But...when did I become a little pretty boy?

Lin Xun stroked his face, but his mood had inexplicably lightened.

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The sky was still dark, but the 7th army camp was already a lively scene of ceaseless clamor.

Teams of elite cultivators from the empire gathered one after another.

Armed with armor and weapons and ready for battle, they assembled on the military grounds. Then, headed by their respective commanders, they boarded various battleships and soared into the sky amid deafening boom and rumbling, quickly disappearing from the army camp.

Lin Xun noticed that among the spectacular display of battleships were large-scale empire battleships, medium-sized Mighty Eagle Battleships, and small-scale Violet Hero Battleships.

They hovered low in the sky like floating islands before whizzing away towards the vast battlefield in the distance.

At the same time, many unofficial cultivators of the army were also gathered in the camp, in groups of three and four, armed with all kinds of weapons and bags and ready to set off.

Compared with a regular army, they were like a team of hunters with a very clear purpose— to hunt and kill the enemies and exchange spoils for money and items they needed.

One only got rich when one was willing to take risks. Those who dared to come to the Blood Kill Battlefield to take risks were all ruthless and extraordinary characters.

Furthermore, ordinary cultivators couldn't possibly survive on the Blood Kill Battlefield.

The supplies stores.

"I would like to know about my missions," Lin Xun directly stated his purpose for coming when he saw Lu Wenting.

"Err..."

Lu Wenting stuttered. Yesterday, he was still wondering what the boy sent by the Blood Kill King planned to do here.

Unexpectedly, early in the morning, Lin Xun took the initiative to ask him about it.

"You... want me to arrange missions for you?" Lu Wenting asked in disbelief.

Lin Xun nodded, sincere and calm.

But Lu Wenting felt a wave of dizziness sweep over him. He was so conflicted about what to do that it couldn't get any worse. Should I arrange missions for the kid?

If something goes wrong, who is going to take responsibility?

But if I ignore him, it would make him feel awkward. That also won't work.

What should I do?

Lu Wenting frowned and struggled for a long time. Finally, he couldn't help but ask, "Then...Young Master Lin, I want to ask you what are you good at?"

Lin Xun thought about it before he answered, "Fighting on the battlefield or casting weapons."

"Cast weapons?" Lu Wenting's eyeballs almost popped out of their sockets. What does this kid mean by that? Could it be that he had heard something? Does he want to go to the armament zone to gain military merit?

In the barracks of the Blood Kill Battlefield, rune masters who were proficient in crafting weapons and repairing damaged weapons were very sought-after.

Every rune master had endless tasks to complete because tragic battles were happening on the battlefield every day.

Of course, the rune masters might be busy and exhausted, but, in the eyes of outsiders, it was a very desirable job. They just had to sit there and could earn endless military merits!

However, the armament zone was the core of an army camp and, under normal circumstances, no one was allowed to interfere with the affairs there.

It was to ensure that the rune masters in the armament zone could concentrate on making and repairing weapons for cultivators in time for battle.

No, I must not allow the kid to go there and create trouble. He has a special identity. If he causes trouble in the armament zone, then it will definitely disrupt the order but he can't be reprimanded and punished. It will be bad if that happens...

Lu Wenting deliberated and directly refused Lin Xun's request to work in the armament zone.

"The armament zone is already full, and all the jobs there have been taken. This..."

"Oh, if that's the case, then help me arrange some missions on the battlefield. I need to earn some military merit." Unexpectedly, Lin Xun didn't seem disappointed and instead looked very calm.

Lu Wenting inwardly breathed a sigh of relief when he saw that Lin Xun was so easygoing.

It was a pity that he didn't know that he had turned down a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

Lin Xun was the youngest rune founder in the empire, and he had successfully created the Shattered Tragedy Spear, a rune armament that caused a sensation in the world.

Furthermore, he also created Zhao Jingxuan's Nine Dragons Cauldron and repaired the empress' Sword of Apocalypse!

If they allowed a rune founder such as Lin Xun to join the armament zone of the 7th army camp, there would be unimaginable benefits.

However, Lu Wenting had no idea about Lin Xun's ability.

In his mind, he believed that Lin Xun was a spoiled rich boy character who was thrown here to be gilded.

If he knew about his mistake, then he would regret his decision his entire life.

Of course, there were benefits of not knowing. At least, he was very glad and happy that Lin Xun was very willing to cooperate with him.

But immediately, he had another headache.

Fight on the battlefield?

What if something happens to him while he is fighting the bastards of the Magi Brute Race?

Even Zhangsun Lie, the top general of the 7th army camp, would be afraid to face the wrath of the Blood Kill King, let alone him!

Lu Wenting's face scrunched up like he was suffering from constipation. He cursed in his mind, "Damn it, this kid is a huge source of trouble. He only arrived at the Blood Kill Battlefield yesterday, but he is already eager to stir trouble before he even understands the situation! Is he just trying to make things difficult for us?"

"What's wrong? Is there a problem?" Lin Xun frowned.

Lu Wenting is so wishy-washy. Could he, someone in charge of military supplies, be unable to even arrange a mission for me?

Lin Xun was on the verge of expressing his dissatisfaction!

Trembling inwardly, Lu Wenting finally gritted his teeth and said, "Young Master Lin, please follow me." He decided to personally bring Lin Xun along to arrange a mission on the battlefield for him.

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There were only nine members in the entire mercenary squad, and the leader was Hu Tong, a veteran who had fought and killed countless times on the Blood Kill Battlefield.

He was also a well-known Cyclic Derivation expert in the 7th army camp!

He had been fighting on the Blood Kill Battlefield for sixteen years.

To survive sixteen years on the cruel battlefield was already an incredible feat.

"Our mission this time is to go to the Tiger Canyon, which is one thousand and three hundred miles from the campground, and kill all the Magi Brute bastards stationed there. Our goal is to take the Meteor Star Steel ores found in the Tiger Canyon."

"After completing this mission, we will earn two second-class military merits and six third-class merits, which are equivalent to 1,600 points."

"This is not a dangerous mission, but the journey is a little long. If we make good use of time, we should be able to return to the campground before dark."

"Is there any objection?"

Hu Tong's voice was rough and sonorous. He had a slim figure and a weather-beaten face, but his eyes were serious and resolute.

He was no doubt a character with a wealth of experience.

"No." The other members of the Starfrost Mercenary Squad shook their heads.

They had absolute confidence and trust in Hu Tong, which was built from their years of going through thick and thin together.

"In that case, let's set off immediately!" Hu Tong waved his hand.

Just as the nine people arrived at the gate of the camp, they ran into Lu Wenting who was already waiting there.

"Lord Lu?" Hu Tong said in surprise.

He immediately stopped and gave a cupped fist salute.

He knew that the old man in charge of the military supplies of the 7th campground was a powerful character despite his inconspicuous appearance.

No one dared to offend him for a very simple reason. Anyone, whether they were part of the official army of the empire or whether they were part of an unofficial cultivator alliance like Hu Tong and the others, had to go through the supplies department to exchange for military merits.

Lu Wenting was precisely the quartermaster of the supplies department!

If he was unhappy, not only would they receive a low number of military merits but they also wouldn't be able to take on any good missions in the future!

Lu Wenting looked very aloof as he asked, "Are you going to the Tiger Canyon?"

"That's correct." Hu Tong nodded. "Lord Lu, is there something?"

"Bring him with you," Lu Wenting said, pointing to Lin Xun. His voice was calm, but there was an air of unquestionable authority.

Clearly, the old man had done something similar in the past. He seemed very experienced with the technique.

Before Hu Tong could respond, a slender and relatively handsome silver-robed man interjected, "No!"

He said with a frown, "Our Starfrost Mercenary Squad never carry out operations with outsiders."

"That's right! The kid is clearly a newcomer! He won't know anything. We don't want to bring such a burden with us!"

Many Starfrost Squad members expressed their opinions one after another.

Lin Xun didn't say a word, but he glanced at Lu Wenting as if saying, Is this the mission you arranged for me?

Lu Wenting motioned Lin Xun to stay calm, then turned to look at Hu Tong and the others. "If you don't agree, then forget it," he said with an emotionless face.

He flicked his sleeve and was about to leave.

Hu Tong quickly stepped forward and pulled Lu Wenting to one side and whispered something to him.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun was surprised to see an acquaintance. "What a coincidence! It turns out that Miss A'bi is here too."

Not far away, the beautiful and savage woman looked startled. She was so distracted by her thoughts that she didn't notice Lin Xun. "Oh, it's you, little pretty boy?"

Lin Xun's face darkened. Why does this woman think I am a little pretty boy?

"A'bi, do you know him?"

The silver-robed man's frown deepened as he studied Lin Xun with undisguised disdain and disgust.

"Yes, we just met." A'bi nodded.

"A'bi, I advise you to ignore those kinds of people in the future. He isn't only just a little pretty boy, but also a spoiled rich brat. He only knows how to use his identity and status to take advantage of other people. People like him are leeches of the empire! So disgusting!"

After learning that A'bi was acquainted with Lin Xun, the silver-robed man didn't hold back his words and became much ruder than before.

Seeing that Lu Wenting was keen to send Lin Xun to join their mission, he subconsciously believed that Lin Xun was a young master from a wealthy family who came here to take their military merits.

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Chapter 692: The Hateful Young Master

As soon as the silver-robed man finished speaking, everyone burst out laughing.

The members of the Starfrost Mercenary Squad were all characters honed through countless battles. The fact that they could survive on the Blood Kill Battlefield to this day was enough proof of their strength. How would they be afraid of a young master of an aristocratic clan?

Of course, they didn't dare to go too far. After all, they still had to rely on Lu Wenting.

Therefore, when they laughed, they didn't continue to fan the flames.

Even so, Lin Xun scrunched his brows. He knew that the other party had misunderstood him, but he still found their words too harsh.

"My matters are none of your business," A'bi snapped before Lin Xun could say a word.

The silver-robed man was taken aback. "A'bi, do you not see that the kid is a leech? How can you be friends with someone like him?"

"Who are you calling a leech?" Lu Wenting turned back around, his face frosty.

"I..." The silver-robed man grumbled, but Hu Tong gave him a hard look and he immediately shut his mouth.

"Hmph!" Lu Wenting snorted coldly and then said to Hu Tong, "Remember what you promised. I don't want anything to go wrong."

Hu Tong nodded solemnly.

The two seemed to have reached some sort of agreement.

"Young Master Lin, everything has been arranged. I wish you a smooth trip and come back with fruitful results!" Lu Wenting said with a smile.

He couldn't be happier that he finally got rid of the trouble.

"Thank you." Lin Xun nodded with a calm and composed state of mind.

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"Set off!"

Following Hu Tong's order, a broken ship roared into the low altitudes of the sky, carrying Lin Xun and the Starfrost Mercenary Squad members, and left the campground.

The ship was dilapidated and shabby, but it was extremely stable as if they were actually traveling on land. Although it wasn't particularly fast, it also wasn't considered slow.

When operating in the Blood Kill Battlefield, the sky was forbidden because there could be unpredictable dangers and risks.

However, there wouldn't be any fatal dangers if they were just hovering at a low altitude.

Lin Xun kept quiet all along because he could sense that, except for A'bi, everyone wasn't happy with him joining their operation.

But there was nothing he could do about it. The reason why he wanted to carry out a mission with them was simply to see how veterans fought on the Blood Kill Battlefield.

That was very important!

Lin Xun had just arrived and had a lack of understanding about the Blood Kill Battlefield, while Hu Tong and the others were experienced cultivators whom he could learn from.

Along the way, he came to realize that the Starfrost Squad members might seem unruly, but they all performed their respective duties well.

Some were in charge of tracking, some were preparing supplies for battle, and some were analyzing and going over the specific details of the operation.

Hu Tong, on the other hand, watched over everything like a wise and steady commander.

Lin Xun also learned a lot about the Blood Kill Battlefield through their conversations and the information they inadvertently leaked out.

It could be considered a kind of learning.

He understood that he needed experience on the Blood Kill Battlefield. Only when he had that would he be able to survive longer on the Blood Kill Battlefield.

However, he couldn't help frowning about Liu Wen's attitude ever since he joined their squad.

The silver-robed man was called Liu Wen. He possessed a cultivation base of the intermediate Heaven Ascension Stage and was regarded as a remarkable figure of the younger generation.

Moreover, he had spent a long time on the Blood Kill Battlefield, so his strength couldn't be underestimated. The fact that he was much stronger than ordinary cultivators made him extremely conceited and proud.

Although Lin Xun kept silent and kept a low profile, it seemed to only make Liu Wen more arrogant.

Along the way, he shot contemptuous glances at Lin Xun from time to time.

When Lin Xun ignored him, he deliberately provoked him with mocking words such as 'leech' and 'rich spoiled brat.'

Regardless of how good-tempered Lin Xun was, he couldn't help scrunching his brows. Who does he think I am? Someone for him to humiliate?

"Ignore him." A'bi suddenly said aloud, "If you are triggered by him, then he will take advantage of the opportunity."

"A'bi, what are you talking about? Why did I become the bad person instead?" Liu Wen cast an irritated glance at A'bi.

"If you want to prove that you're not a bad person, then keep your mouth shut!" A'bi stared back coldly at Liu Wen, unafraid of him at all.

"Okay, let's all take a step back."

Sensing the tense atmosphere, the other members persuaded them one after another. But their gazes towards Lin Xun became more and more annoyed.

They felt that Lin Xun had ruined their harmonious atmosphere.

"Kid, I don't care who you are but if you want to earn military merits with us, then you better behave yourself!" Liu Wen got up, his eyes filled with disgust and disdain and his voice threatening. He turned around and walked out of the cabin.

"Ahh, I don't understand why the boss agreed to let a pampered young master join us."

"I hope he won't bring us trouble, otherwise, we will be in big trouble."

“Trouble? Hmph, countless descendants of aristocratic families die on the Blood Kill Battlefield every day. If he dares to cause trouble, it won’t end well for him!”

The other members got up one after another and left the cabin. Their words were tinged with hints of repulsion, disgust and threat. There was no doubt that they deliberately said those words for Lin Xun to hear.

Very quickly, only Lin Xun and A'bi were left in the cabin.

Lin Xun might be good-tempered, but his face still darkened when he heard the remarks. Who in the entire Forbidden City would dare to talk to him like that?

“You just came to the 7th army camp and then you joined us all of a sudden. It’s normal that you are being treated coldly. But don’t be angry! They are just complaining and not intentionally targeting you,” A'bi comforted him. She might be fierce and savage. but she still had a sensitive mind like other women.

Lin Xun sighed, “I don’t think so. At least, I’m sure that Liu Wen, if he has the chance, won’t mind giving me a hard time.”

A'bi raised her eyebrows and thought for a while. Then, she shook her head and sighed, “Never mind, let’s not talk about this. Just follow me and nothing will happen to you.”

“Why are you doing this? Are you not worried about other people being annoyed with you for standing up for me?” Lin Xun asked.

A'bi snorted, “I already told you this morning that I have your back. Why would I change my mind all of a sudden? I’m not that kind of person.”

After a pause, she whispered, “Don’t tell others about what happened last night.”

“What happened?” Lin Xun asked in puzzlement, but in truth, he knew that A'bi was afraid that others would know about her crying on her knees last night.

“Have you forgotten?”

“I don’t remember so I have nothing to tell other people, isn’t that right?” Lin Xun winked with a smile.

A'bi stifled a giggle and then gave Lin Xun a hard glare. “I will pull out your tongue if you talk like that again!”

After she finished speaking, she couldn’t help smiling again, finding the little pretty boy quite interesting.

“By the way, don’t call me a little pretty boy again in the future. You can just call me... Lin Twelve.” Lin Xun said after a thought.

“Lin Twelve?”

“Yes.”

“It doesn’t sound good. It’s more natural for me to call you a little pretty boy.”

Lin Xun was at a loss for words. You’re the one changing my name without my consent...do you really have to care whether it is natural or not?

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In another room of the cabin area, Liu Wen was fuming. "Boss, I need an explanation. Why do we have to bring that kid with us? Don't you see that he is just trying to leech off our military merit?" He had brought several other members with him to express their dissatisfaction.

"Liu Wen, watch your words," Hu Tong reprimanded, frowning.

"I know that there's a problem with my attitude, but I just can't stand it. Why should we risk our lives for military merits and then share it with an incompetent pampered rich young master?!"

"Liu Wen!" Hu Tong's face darkened. "Don't talk nonsense. Aren't you just uncomfortable that the kid is close with A'bi?"

The other members glanced at each other. They all knew that Liu Wen had a crush on A'bi and regarded her as his, so he couldn't tolerate other people being close to her.

If the youngster hadn't known A'bi, Liu Wen's attitude towards him might be better, but unfortunately, A'bi seemed to be very close to him.

"Boss! I'm just doing this in consideration for all of us. Why did you mention something irrelevant?" Liu Wen refused to admit it.

"Fine, continue to find excuses, but I can tell you that—" Hu Tong said in a deep voice, "The reason I agreed to let him join us is that Lord Lu promised that the military merits gained in the mission will be doubled if we take Young Master Lin with us!"

What?

All the members gasped out loud. If their military merits from the mission were doubled, wouldn't that mean the points would change from one thousand six hundred points to three thousand and two hundred points?

That was equivalent to completing two similar-level missions!

Why would something so good happen to them?

It dawned on them that Young Master Lin had to have an extraordinary identity since Lu Wenting, who was in charge of military supplies, made such a promise!

Even if Lin Xun was a pampered young master, he was one with an extremely powerful background!

Liu Wen froze for a moment while the corners of his lips twitched imperceptibly.

After a long while, he still grumbled bitterly, "Just because of some military merits, do we have to work with a leech of the empire? Boss, you once said that you look down on that kind of person the most!"

Hu Tong fumed, "Yes, I look down on that kind of people, but if I didn't agree, I would have offended Lu Wenting! If I did that, do you think our lives in the 7th army camp would be the same as before?"

"Lu Wenting could stop us from receiving any missions with one word! At that time, none of us will be able to exchange anything for military merit!"

Hu Tong's words shut all the members up.

Only Liu Wen was still livid and his eyes were filled with indignation. He hated Lin Xun even more. He believed that the cause of all this was the incompetent spoiled rich boy!

Hu Tong took a deep breath and said with unquestionable authority. "Remember, it doesn't matter if we fail the mission. But we must ensure that Young Master Lin returns to the camp safely!"

The members all understood that Young Master Lin had an extremely special identity, but they couldn't help but feel indignant that someone else had such a different life from them.

An incompetent young master was able to receive such good treatment everywhere he went. Even Lu Wenting, who was in charge of military supplies, treated him with utmost courtesy.

As for them, they had to risk their lives to fight to obtain military merits and exchange them for money. How would they not feel upset?

Especially Liu Wen. He gritted his teeth with hatred, almost crushing them.

What does he have?

Is it because he has an extraordinary background that he is treated so well?

Even A'bi stood up for him!

Why?

Is A'bi also treating him differently because of his identity and status?

I hate it!

Liu Wen forcibly suppressed his hatred and anger, worried that his emotions would drive him to slaughter the youngster.

In the next room, Lin Xun was chatting with A'bi, unaware that he had become a hateful, despicable and disgusting rich boy in the eyes of outsiders...

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Chapter 693: Constant Provocation

An hour later.

The ship landed on the ground, and under the leadership of Hu Tong, everyone filed out.

Meanwhile, a tall and burly member of Starfrost Squad swiftly and skilfully hid the ship in a ravine.

The ravine was already filled with many decaying skeletons and rocks so the ship looked very inconspicuous like scrap among them.

"Further ahead is the danger zone, where you will encounter many teams sent by the Magi Brute Race. It's not ideal to travel on a ship there," A'bi explained.

Lin Xun surveyed the surroundings, immediately noticing the dense smog and the dull and oppressive atmosphere. Then a cloying and rancid smell of blood and corpses assaulted his senses.

The mountains were vast, desolate, and lonely. There wasn't a blade of grass in sight, and the gray sky was covered with heavy leaden clouds, smoke and dust. It was an abandoned war-torn place.

Without further delay, Hu Tong led the squad onwards.

Lin Xun noticed that the members of the Starfrost Mercenary Squad had all become vigilant and cautious, like experienced hunters.

Some scouted out ahead, some analyzed the terrain and some studied the route to take. They each performed their duties and cooperated extremely well.

Even Liu Wen, who had always expressed his dissatisfaction with Lin Xun joining them, kept silent and on the alert. Wielding a pair of scarlet blades and gathering qi in his body, he was like an arrow ready to be released at any time.

"Huh?" Lin Xun was surprised to see the weapon in A'bi's hand.

It was an unusually sinister-looking sledgehammer. It was dark gray and was covered densely in flickering runes, releasing an intense fiendish qi.

It was quite a sight to see A'bi, a beautiful woman, effortlessly lifting the giant hammer like it was an embroidery needle.

But that wasn't what caught Lin Xun's attention. As a renowned young rune founder, he could tell straight away that the giant hammer in A'bi's hand was damaged, as indicated by the dull runes. Its power was at least forty percent less than it was in its peak state.

"What's wrong?" A'bi noticed Lin Xun's gaze.

"Why don't you switch to another weapon?" asked Lin Xun.

His question immediately drew a mocking remark. "You are indeed a rich young master. You don't know the sufferings of the common people. Do you think A'bi doesn't want to use another weapon? Do you know that we, unofficial cultivators in the Blood Kill Battlefield, require a lot of military merits to exchange for a good weapon? We can't change weapons just because we want to!"

The one who spoke was Yang Xiong, who was also a member of the Starfrost Mercenary Squad. He had a masculine and strong figure, bronze skin and a deep scar on the tip of his brow, adding a fierce and threatening aura to him.

The others nearby smiled disdainfully. Lin Xun's question made them more and more certain that he was a pampered and spoiled young master who didn't know anything.

Lin Xun ignored them and said to A'bi, "It won't be long before your weapon is completely damaged. If you trust me, then I can repair it for you when we return to the barracks."

"You?" A'bi exclaimed.

The others immediately stopped laughing and donned complicated expressions.

They suddenly realized that even if Young Master Lin didn't understand anything, with his status, he could easily make other people work for him!

For example, Quartermaster Lu Wenting.

A young master like him, who could make even Lu Wenting treat him with utmost courtesy, could help A'bi get a new weapon, let alone repair her old weapon!

"A'bi, do you not understand? Young Master Lin can get the rune masters in the armament zone to help you repair the weapon in your hand," Yang Xiong said sourly.

The others' gazes turned more and more complicated, mixed with envy and helplessness.

They couldn't compare with the youngster.

The great Young Master Lin might be incompetent and useless, but his special identity and status could help him accomplish things that they could never dream of.

How would they not be frustrated, annoyed and depressed? But it couldn't be helped. That was the reality.

However, they all misunderstood. Lin Xun was a rune founder! Why would he ask someone else to help A'bi repair her weapon?

Wouldn't that be a slap to his face?

Lin Xun didn't try to correct them. He saw no need to explain it to people who were hostile to him. That would be no different from degrading himself.

Before A'bi spoke, Liu Wen suddenly came towards them. "No need, when we get back, I will help A'bi change to a better weapon. Young Master Lin, you don't need to worry!"

After saying that, he stared at Lin Xun coldly, as though silently warning him to leave A'bi alone.

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes and didn't say anything else.

A'bi frowned and said coldly, "Liu Wen, how many times have I told you to not meddle in my affairs?!"

Liu Wen's handsome face suddenly reddened with embarrassment, and anger seethed in his heart. He helped her out of kindness, but was rejected in front of everyone.

However, he didn't lose his temper at A'bi, but he directed all his anger at Lin Xun. He hated Lin Xun more and more.

In his view, the change in A'bi's attitude towards him was all because of the incompetent and despicable young master!

Liu Wen huffed, turned around and left. Before leaving, he shot a cold glare at Lin Xun, as if saying, "Just you wait!"

Lin Xun smiled calmly, but his dark eyes were filled with coldness. He had been repeatedly provoked, so did they think that he was a pushover?

Then...

Let's wait and see!

"Are you angry?" A'bi seemed to sense something.

"Am I angry about someone who is not worthy of my anger? It's not worth it." Lin Xun said casually.

"You are clearly angry. I told you that I have your back. I won't let someone bully you. Don't worry." A'bi patted Lin Xun on the shoulder like an older sister comforting a younger brother and made Lin Xun speechless.

Hu—

A strange and hurried howling rang in the distance, like the cry of a night owl.

Hu Tong suddenly halted his footsteps, murderous intent flashing in his eyes. "I have discovered a team of magi brutes one hundred and thirty-six miles ahead. There are nineteen of them. Twelve brute warriors, six Great Magis and one enlightened spirit!"

"A'bi, take good care of Young Master Lin. Everyone else, come with me and fight. If we kill them all, we can earn four third-class military merits!" he commanded, his voice determined and resounding.

The strange whistle was a signal sent by the spies ahead.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

All the mercenaries launched into action, and an invisible killing intent filled the silent atmosphere.

Their formation was orderly, and their movements were calm and swift.

Even Lin Xun's eyes lit up with admiration. Even though they treated him badly, he couldn't deny that they were elites in battle. Their ruthless fighting instinct could only be forged on a real battlefield.

"Where are you going?" A'bi rolled her eyes when she saw Lin Xun wanted to follow the rest. "Don't tell me you want to fight. Did you not hear what the leader said? Just listen and follow me!"

Lin Xun rubbed his nose helplessly. Do they really plan to protect me all the time?

"What? Do you not appreciate it? I don't even have the chance to kill those magi brute bastards because I have to protect you. I'm not even angry, so you should be happy."

As A'bi was speaking, she grabbed Lin Xun by the arm and followed the team from a distance.

A battle was about to break out.

It would no doubt be very intense. The two sides would clash as soon as they met and a bloody battle would kick off.

Unfortunately, Lin Xun was pulled to the side of the battle and could only watch from afar.

However, he was glad to be able to relax and observe the battle.

He was able to study the battle techniques and tactics of Hu Tong and the other members of the Star Frost Mercenary Squad.

Elites!

Lin Xun came to a conclusion after a few moments.

Hu Tong and the others were no doubt a top elite team with remarkable coordination and sophisticated fighting methods.

Especially Hu Tong. He was a great Cyclic Derivation cultivator who was stronger than both Qin Xuandu and Zuo Baoying.

The only thing that Hu Tong couldn't compete with Qin Xuandu and Zuo Baoying was perhaps in terms of weapons and types of equipment. He was only armed with ordinary weapons, which hindered him from displaying his full power.

That was easy to understand. Qin Xuandu was from a powerful family and had no lack of top treasures and equipment.

But Hu Tong was just the leader of a mercenary squad. He had an ordinary background and limited financial resources, especially on the Blood Kill Battlefield. There was no way he could compete with cultivators from the top clans.

"Boss Hu Tong is an amazing master," Lin Xun marveled. He thought of Third Old Zhu, as he found striking similarities between the two.

The greatest difference between the two was that Third Old Zhu was quiet and reserved while Hu Tong had the qualities that a leader should have.

"Of course our boss is amazing. I have been on the Blood Kill Battlefield for four years, and I almost died seven times during that time. But every time it was Boss Hu Tong who rescued me in the end. The rest of the team have also received help from Boss Hu Tong several times in the past." A'bi's eyes brimmed with deep admiration.

Lin Xun smiled. He had seen that kind of look of admiration many times before, but he had always been the one being admired by others.

Soon, the battle came to an end. Hu Tong and the others were victorious, and only a few members of the squad were slightly injured. They also had a pretty good harvest.

The spoils they obtained could be exchanged for four third-class military merits.

"Our luck is not bad this time."

Yang Xiong, Liu Wen and the others all beamed.

However, someone suddenly asked aloud, "Boss, do we also have to share our harvest with Young Master Lin this time?"

One question instantly ruined the joyous atmosphere. All members of the Starfrost Squad looked at Hu Tong with overcast faces.

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Chapter 694: Changes in the Tiger Canyon

Before Hu Tong could speak, Liu Wen said coldly, "That Young Master Lin is participating in the mission to the Tiger Canyon. How can he have a share of the military merits we picked up along the way?"

"That's right. We already specially asked A'bi to protect him to keep him safe. I will be the first to disagree with him receiving any military merits we received on the way!"

Other members also expressed their discontent one after another.

They all had an instinctive disgust towards freeloaders.

Hu Tong couldn't help frowning. He wasn't the slightest bit afraid of battling enemies on the battlefield, but the current situation was a bit of a headache to him. He was caught in the middle between his comrades who had followed him for many years and a young master with a special status.

"Don't worry, everyone. I refuse to accept an undeserved reward. If I want military merits, then I will earn them by myself." Lin Xun uttered coldly, irritated by the constant disgust and contempt he received on the way.

But now, they were deliberately giving him a hard time over some military merits. Did they think that Lin Xun was there to take advantage of them?

"Young Master Lin, please calm down." Hu Tong's expression changed. He and Lu Wenting had reached an agreement to take care of Lin Xun. How would he dare to anger him?

He signaled at A'bi with a wink, asking her to persuade Lin Xun.

But A'bi snorted, "Boss, it's not that I don't want to help you, but they have gone too far! From the moment that Young Master Lin joined us, he has become one of us. He should have a share of any benefits, that's only fair! But now..."

"Fair?" Liu Wen's face turned livid. He couldn't believe that A'bi was still speaking for Lin Xun at such a time. "He needs our protection every time there is an operation! Is that fair? Is it fair that he gets to enjoy military achievements while we fight with our lives?"

"Yes, if he wants us to be fair, then why don't he join the operations? I don't think he has the guts to do so!"

"Don't count on it. All the pampered young masters are extremely afraid of death. How would he risk his life to fight like we do?"

"Didn't he just say that he refuses to accept an undeserved reward? Even he feels ashamed of claiming military achievements!"

The other members mocked, taking the opportunity to express their long-suppressed dissatisfaction.

"Enough!" Hu Tong thundered, his face as cold as water. Everyone fell silent, but their expressions made it clear that they were still very dissatisfied.

"Boss Hu, don't worry. I don't want to make things difficult for you. I mean what I say. I guarantee that I won't take someone else's military achievements!" Lin Xun's calm voice broke the silence. "Besides, I am

too lazy to pursue what happened earlier. But if something similar happens again in the future, don't blame me for being rude."

Being rude?

Everyone snickered to themselves. A pampered young master dares to threaten us!

Hu Tong sighed. That was all he could do.

The little incident soon ended and the group of people continued onwards.

However, the atmosphere remained tense. Lin Xun didn't utter a single word, and even though A'bi wanted to say something several times, no words would come forth when she saw Lin Xun's unusually calm expression.

She was also a little upset. What is going on today? Can they really not tolerate a youngster? He didn't do anything unacceptable along the way!

.....

Two hours later, the group neared the Tiger Canyon.

It was a desolate mountain range that resembled a tiger lying on the ground and one of the canyons looked like a tiger's mouth. Hence the name the Tiger Canyon.

The fog was particularly thick, creating an oppressive and unsettling atmosphere.

The squad's goal was to slaughter the Magi Brute experts stationed in the Tiger Canyon and take away the rare Meteor Star Steel ore which was unique to the canyon.

"Intel says that there are three Enlightened Spirit experts watching over the area. They possess strength comparable to Cyclic Derivation cultivators. Additionally, an elite team of around fifty people of the Fire Tribe is also distributed around the canyon." Hu Tong drew a deep breath, and his face bore a look of ruthlessness and determination. "Guys, this will be a tough battle. I'll take care of the three Enlightened Spirits and I'll leave the rest to you."

Everyone nodded.

But before they started the operation, Hu Tong said after a little hesitation, "A'bi, your task is to protect Young Master Lin. You must make sure he is safe."

A'bi didn't mind the order, but Liu Wen, Yang Xiong and others all scrunched their brows with contempt and disgust.

In the end, the kid still needed their protection.

However, in the face of enemies, they were in no mood to continue to ridicule and criticize Lin Xun. They quickly followed Hu Tong and cautiously approached the Tiger Canyon.

"You should go too. I know you are itching to fight." Lin Xun glanced at A'bi who was standing beside him.

"No, I have to stay by your side. If anything happens to you, Boss will kill me." A'bi shook her head.

Lin Xun sighed in his heart. He had already come to the decision to leave immediately after the mission was over. He would rather act alone than continue to be mocked and alienated by others.

The two also headed towards the Tiger Canyon, trailing far behind the rest of the squad.

Pu! Pu! Pu!

Following a series of muffled noises, Hu Tong slaughtered the Magi Brute experts guarding the Tiger Canyon without even stirring the wind.

It was a good start.

Hu Tong and the others' spirits were lifted. But they had years of battle experience, so they wouldn't easily let their guards down and continued to advance cautiously.

Inside the Tiger Canyon was a vast stretch of sandy beach and a winding gully formed from a dried-up river.

Additionally, many caves and tunnels had been excavated. They were mining holes created to dig for precious ores such as the Meteor Star Steel.

Contrary to what Hu Tong and the others expected, they snuck into the depths of the Tiger Canyon almost without any obstacles.

They had killed a group of Magi Brute guards along the way, but they were all insignificant characters not worth mentioning.

"Could those Magi Brute bastards have run into the mine to hide because they knew we were coming?" Liu Wen teased.

The others also grinned, and only Hu Tong furrowed his brows. He had a feeling that something was wrong. The enemy's defense was not as strong as reported.

"Hawk, can you detect traces of the enemy nearby?" Hu Tong suddenly asked.

Hawk was a stick-thin young man and the scout in the team. He shook his head and answered, "No."

A bad feeling rose in Hu Tong's heart.

At that moment, a figure appeared at the entrance of a mine in the depths of the canyon. It was a Magi Brute guard. He immediately screamed at the sight of Hu Tong and the others, "Enemy attack! Enemy attack—"

Pu!

An arrow pierced the air and skewered through the throat of the guard, spraying a jet of warm blood. The guard died an instant death.

Yang Xiong put away his bow and arrow, and said with a smile, "Sure enough, as Liu Wen said, those bastards are hiding deep in the mine like cowards."

"Be ready to fight!"

Hu Tong drew a deep breath, cold killing intent gleaming in his eyes. The mission had reached its critical stage. As long as they managed to pass this stage, they would be able to return victorious.

Soon, figures emerged one after another in the various mines throughout the depths of the canyon, like rats burrowing out of the ground.

They roared with murderous intent.

However, as soon as they appeared, they suffered head-on attacks from Hu Tong and the others and died on the spot.

This excited Hu Tong and the others and made them bring out all their strength and abilities to completely slaughter the Magi Brute experts.

"It seems like this mission will end soon," A'bi remarked from the entrance of the Tiger Canyon, her lips curled upwards in a relieved smile.

But Lin Xun suddenly narrowed his dark eyes. "It doesn't feel right."

His words took A'bi aback.

A majestic but ice-cold voice boomed out, "You despicable human bastards, how dare you come here to ruin our great plan!"

At the same time, different voices rang one after another, all of them chilling and sinister.

"Everyone, let's hurry and act together. We can't let them inform other people. Today, no one will be allowed to escape here!"

"That's right!"

Voices reverberated throughout the Tiger Canyon, agitating the wind.

At the entrances of the mines, threatening figures appeared one after another, filling the area with a terrifying aura and oppressing the air.

"There are a total of nine Enlightened Spirits!" Hu Tong's face turned grave, and his heart thumped violently.

Liu Wen, Yang Xiong and the others, who were in high spirits, also couldn't stop their faces from blanching.

How come...

Didn't the intel say that there are at most three Enlightened Spirits here? Where did the other six come from?

Worst of all for Hu Tong and the others was that the nine Enlightened Spirit experts were accompanied by groups of elite Magi Brute forces.

In total, there were at least a thousand of them!

"This is bad!"

“Run!”

Hu Tong and the others had fought years of bloody battles. How would they not understand that they were faced with imminent danger? Almost subconsciously, they chose to retreat.

“Hahaha, do you want to escape? It’s too late!”

Following a thunder-like roar, a mysterious totem array suddenly enveloped the entire Tiger Canyon!

A terrifying glow suffused the entire Tiger Canyon as the cryptic blood-colored totem spread, producing a bizarre restriction force.

Boom!

Within seconds, the entire Tiger Canyon seemed to have disappeared under the shrouding of the blood-red totem array!

All escape routes had been cut off even for Lin Xun and A'bi, who were at the entrance of the Tiger Canyon.

Hu Tong and the others were chilled to the core, and their faces became deathly pale as if they had fallen into an ice cave.

How could this be?

Was the intel wrong?

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 695: Moths to the Flame and Heroes Save the Beauty

“It’s a trap!”

A'bi's face paled instantly. A giant array had sealed off the area and nine Enlightened Spirit experts were watching over the formation. Not only that, but there were thousands of elite Magi Brute experts distributed across the area. This...was no doubt a hopeless situation!

Given their strength, they had no chance of turning the situation around!

A'bi's heart sank to the bottom of her chest. How could this be...

“This isn’t a trap. Some kind of change must have taken place here and has attracted many Magi Brute experts to come. We just happened to come at the right time,” Lin Xun remarked nonchalantly.

“Is that right...” His response surprised A'bi. She realized that, even in the face of a hopeless situation, Lin Xun remained so calm and composed.

His calmness couldn’t possibly be an act.

“Are...are you not worried?” A'bi couldn’t believe it.

But before he could respond, a cold and majestic voice boomed out again, “An unofficial team of cultivators from the human empire dares to come to the Tiger Canyon. Do you have a death wish?”

The person who spoke was a middle-aged man. His body was bathed in blood-colored bolts of lightning, and his hair was intertwined with blood-red sparks. His eyes glowed like a pair of blood-red suns.

He held a giant, demonic blood-red sickle in his hand that resembled a crescent moon.

“An enlightened spirit of the Lightning Tribe—She Zhen!” Liu Wen cried out, his countenance dramatically changing.

She Zhen was a notorious ruthless character on the Blood Kill Battlefield. He had earned the nickname Thunder Blood Sickle and possessed the strength of the Enlightened Spirit Stage.

Over the years, at least thousands of cultivators from the empire had died at the hands of She Zhen!

On the enlightened spirit level wanted list issued by the empire camp, She Zhen was ranked 72nd!

He was undoubtedly a terrifying enemy to deal with, but worst of all, there were eight other enlightened spirit experts with him.

The lineup was enough to make them despair.

Not only Liu Wen, but other members of the Starfrost Squad also had cold feet. Regardless of how much combat experience they had, they knew they couldn't change the hopeless situation.

“Haha, I didn't expect someone from such a trashy team to recognize me.” She Zhen put on a fake smile.

He was covered in blood-colored lightning from head to toe, emitting a tyrannical and domineering aura.

Even Hu Tong couldn't help from sighing in his heart, knowing that he had the slimmest hope of turning the situation around.

“Is that guy famous?” Lin Xun asked in surprise.

A'bi stared at him blankly, at a loss for words. She was already very troubled and anxious, but Young Master Lin still had the mood to ask about something like that.

She quickly answered, “That guy is ranked in the top 100 enlightened spirit-level wanted list. He isn't only famous, but also notorious for being ruthless! You won't understand this, so you should first think about how to survive this situation!”

“So, if we kill him, there will be a huge reward?” Lin Xun asked curiously.

“Kill him?”

A'bi almost went crazy. She wished she could open up Lin Xun's head to see what was in his brain. How can he still joke around at such a time?

The ignorant are fearless. Is he really that kind of person?

“Okay, since we're going to die soon anyway, I'll tell you that She Zhen's reward is nineteen second-class military merits, eight thousand high-grade aeth crystals, a set of the highest quality aeth tools and ten bottles of special healing elixir!” A'bi gritted her teeth. “In these years, many experts have tried to hunt and kill him, but they all failed in the end. Who would even dare to think about the reward?”

Lin Xun nodded and said nothing else.

His nonchalant response made A'bi a little speechless. Is this guy...really not afraid?

However, just when she was about to say something, a roar rang like a clap of thunder in the Tiger Canyon.

“Why are we talking so much nonsense with them?! Kill those pesky flies before it’s too late!”

It was an Enlightened Spirit expert of the Fire Tribe. Blazing flames circulated his body like he was a demon from hell.

He was called Yan Chixing, and he was also a ruthless character of the Magi Brute Race.

“Let’s fight with everything we have!” Hu Tong bellowed, ready to fight to the death.

“Hmph, a mantis is trying to block a chariot!” Yan Chixing snorted before his figure flared up like a sea of flames and charged at Hu Tong.

“Kill!”

Even though they were in a desperate situation, they still fought with all their strength. They would rather fight and die than bow their heads. The members of the Starfrost Squad were not pushovers.

Boom!

The battle erupted. Yan Chixing and Hu Tong were immediately locked in a fierce battle.

But Liu Wen, Yang Xiong and the others were stopped by She Zhen alone!

Correct, he alone subdued Liu Wen and the others with his giant sickle.

However, he was in no hurry to end their lives. He said calmly, “Kneel at my feet and I will spare you from death and give you the treatment of prisoners.”

Liu Wen, Yang Xiong and the others reddened with rage, veins almost rupturing on their foreheads. This kind of humiliation tactic was simple and brutal, but it was also the most effective.

Lin Xun wanted to see how they would respond.

It wasn’t that he was cold-blooded, but he had been ridiculed and mocked by them far too many times along the way. He wanted to use the opportunity to see how they would act when they were humiliated.

Who would have thought that A'bi was the first to lose control of her anger?

She gnashed her teeth and cursed, “Bastard, you have gone too far.” She swung the giant sledgehammer and, with a flash, charged at She Zhen.

“That girl is so...” Lin Xun shook his head helplessly.

“Haha, little girl, you have guts! But I won’t let you die immediately, you also must kneel first!” She Zhen exclaimed in surprise. Then, his lips quirk up in a disdainful smile and his palm thrust forward.

Boom!

A blood-red palm stamp crashed down from above, crushing everything in its way.

“Quickly run!” Yang Xiong and the others cried out.

But it was too late. A'bi's reaction in a fit of anger was too fast and too direct. Just like her character—straightforward and blunt.

Bang!

The moment that A'bi swung up the sledgehammer, a rush of pain shot through her body. The force of the giant palm seemed to have shattered her bones. The sledgehammer had long crumbled in her hand.

At that moment, she was like a moth flying into a flame. Even if there was no hope of her surviving, her bravery still moved many people.

“You are just a mantis trying to block a chariot! Kneel!” She Zhen's indifferent voice reverberated through the area as the blood-red palm stamp covered A'bi, blocking all her escape routes.

That was the power of an Enlightened Spirit expert of the Magi Brute Race. They were equivalent to Cyclic Derivation cultivators. It was no surprise that A'bi, who was only at the Heaven Ascension Stage, looked so insignificant and small in front of him.

A'bi's eyes were bloodshot, almost splitting in anger and hatred, and her savage and beautiful face was filled with determination. She showed no intention of backing down.

Even in the face of death, she would never submit!

But...

A strong unwillingness mixed with indescribable bitterness surged up within her heart at the thought that she had failed to avenge her older brother.

That had always been an issue that weighed heavily on his mind.

Unfortunately...she couldn't resolve it...

She sighed in her heart.

Time seemed to be passing very slowly. She even noticed that many Magi Brute experts in the distance were donning mocking and cruel smiles.

She saw Hu Tong, who was locked in a fierce battle with Yan Chixing, looking at her anxiously.

She also saw the worried and helpless faces of Yang Xiong and the others...

And Liu Wen...

He...

How can he do that?!

Then, her blood ran cold. She saw a scene that chilled her...

Everything seemed to have vanished from her sight except for the blood-red hand growing larger and larger as it neared her.

Do you want me to kneel?

Impossible!

A'bi's eyes were wide like a berserk beast. It was as though she was prepared for the worst!

Pu!

But at that critical moment, a hole was blasted into the constantly growing palm before it exploded in front of her eyes.

At the same time, she felt her body lighten and she disappeared from the spot.

I've been rescued?

She muttered in a daze, but when she saw the person who saved her, she couldn't believe her eyes.

"What...it's you?"

Unexpectedly, the person was the little pretty boy!

Not only A'bi was in disbelief. The Starfrost Squad members as well as the Magi Brute experts were all staring wide-eyed at Lin Xun.

Almost no one could believe that someone, under those circumstances, could defeat She Zhen's palm strike.

Not to mention the fact that he was a teenager at the Heaven Ascension Stage!

The atmosphere seemed to have stilled and everyone seemed to be paralyzed with disbelief.

Especially Yang Xiong, Liu Wen and the others. Their eyeballs almost popped out of their sockets. They would never imagine the pampered and useless young master whom they regarded as a leech of the empire would rescue A'bi at this critical moment!

It was like a dream!

How could it be possible?

"It's my turn to have your back."

Lin Xun ignored the gazes of shocked disbelief and set A'bi down and patted her on the shoulder.

A'bi's expression could only be described as stupefied.

She never thought that it wasn't her comrades who saved her, but instead the little pretty boy whom she protected along the way...

"What a scene! A little boy is pretending to be a hero to save the beauty in front of me! Hahaha! But I don't care whether you are a hero or a beauty. Everyone has to kneel in front of me today and choose life and death!" She Zhen remarked indifferently.

He was surprised that a youngster could deflect his blow, but he didn't think any more than that.

"I've killed many like you before. I don't mind adding another to that list." Lin Xun's dark, unfathomable eyes swept over him.

"Little ant, how dare you speak so loudly when you are about to die!" She Zhen found Lin Xun's confidence absurd.

With a flick of his sleeve, blood-red lightning roamed forward in a tyrannical manner, aiming directly for Lin Xun.

The Prodigies War

Chapter 696: The Bow Frightens the World

Bang!

When She Zhen launched an attack, Lin Xun also fired an arrow without hesitation.

The series of movements, from bending the bow to pulling back the string to releasing it, seemed to be completed with unbelievable speed.

But, what no one noticed was that, before Lin Xun fired the arrow, all the Heaven Ascension power within his body was mobilized to its limit!

In other words, he had gathered all his strength without reservation into that arrow.

Boom!

Instantly, the wailing of ghosts and gods and the howling of wind and thunder shook the world. Then, a mysterious pattern spread across the bow body that was constructed from numerous bones and skeletons.

In the pattern, great suns were sinking and golden crows were being pierced one after another, staining the sky with blood before plunging into the blue sea.

Behind Lin Xun, an imposing figure took shape, adopting the same stance as him. It drew the bow and fired an arrow like an ancient archery god descending upon the world.

Rumble!

The power from the arrow instantly crushed the blood-colored lightning launched by She Zhen, reducing it into a shower of light.

"This is bad!" She Zhen was so shocked that his eyeballs almost rolled out of their sockets, and his soul almost left his body. How would he have thought that something so terrifying would happen?

At that dangerous critical moment, he roared with all his strength while blood-red lightning rumbled all over his body, flickering like a waterfall. He activated his cultivation base to its peak.

At the same time, a beast bone shield emerged in front of him to block the attack. It was his self-defense treasure, which he only brought out in a situation of life and death.

However, the battle had only just begun yet he already had to bring it out! Suddenly, panic rose within him.

How can a teenager at the Heaven Ascension Stage be so strong?

But that deadly dangerous aura is unmistakable!

Boom!

The incoming attack was so fast that She Zhen didn't have the time to think before the bone shield exploded in front of him. At the same time, a terrifying force blasted his body like lightning.

He screamed out in agony. His right arm and half of his body ruptured, splattering blood and flesh everywhere. The other half of his body was propelled across the air before slamming to the ground.

Bang!

Rising smoke and dust whirled in the air, while a hole was smashed into the ground. She Zhen couldn't help coughing up blood like he was on the brink of death.

Everything seemed to have happened very slowly, but in fact, it had ended in the blink of an eye!

Many people couldn't react in time. All they saw was She Zhen being pierced by an arrow and coughing up blood on the ground.

Too shocking!

The astonishing event had happened so unexpectedly that an eerie silence fell upon the scene.

Everyone's eyes snapped wide with horror and their pupils shrank.

She Zhen was an Enlightened Spirit expert notorious for being ruthless on the Blood Kill Battlefield and was ranked 72nd on the wanted list!

He had killed countless cultivators from the empire over the years. Even the mention of his name sent many people's faces pale.

But he had now been critically wounded by an arrow! If he hadn't evaded in time, he would have lost his life!

The battle had just begun!

Who would believe it?

Moreover, his opponent was a human teenager with the strength of only the Heaven Ascension Stage...

The other Enlightened Spirit experts froze on the battlefield, their expressions dramatically changing.

She Zhen was considered one of the strongest among them, yet he was blasted in half by an arrow!

So terrifying!

If even the Enlightened Spirit experts were so horrified, the other Magi Brute elites imaginably were petrified like statues.

But A'bi, Yang Xiong and the others were equally as stunned and dumbfounded.

She Zhen was defeated by a young master who they thought was incompetent and useless!

He was the youngster whom they despised and who needed their protection along the way!

He...

No words could describe their emotions at that moment. Everyone's expressions were morphing indefinitely.

Especially Liu Wen. He almost jumped up like he saw a ghost and shouted, "How is that possible...how is that possible..."

But he was unaware that he had completely lost his composure.

Even Yan Chixing and Hu Tong, who were fighting in the distance, seemed to have lost their souls for a brief moment.

Bang!

Meanwhile, Lin Xun fired another arrow.

The wind and thunder raged again and the wailing and howling of ghosts and gods resounded again, stirring the nine heavens.

Behind Lin Xun, the same mighty and majestic figure again made the same motion. It drew the bow and fired an arrow, producing the same spectacular scene as before. The great sun sank below the horizon and golden crows stained the sapphire sea with their blood.

Yan Chixing was scared out of his wits!

He didn't believe it before, thinking it was an illusion, but when the arrow locked onto him, he finally understood She Zhen's feelings.

It was a feeling of being stared at by death. The feeling of imminent danger made his blood run cold.

Subconsciously, he gave up on Hu Tong and bolted like a frightened hare.

Boom!

But he still underestimated the terror of the arrow. Instantly, the area below his abdomen was blasted to smithereens, leaving only half of his body and a mist of blood in the air.

That bloody and domineering scene shocked the audience once again.

It's true!

Everyone finally believed what they saw, because not only She Zhen but Yan Chixing had also been severely wounded by the arrows and almost died a tragic death.

Lin Xun had done this alone!

During the few seconds that he was on the battlefield, he fired two arrows and severely wounded two Enlightened Spirit experts!

None of the Magi Brute experts on the battlefield could keep their composure anymore. They repeatedly erupted into uproars like raging storms.

All of them looked aghast at the young figure wielding a giant skeleton bow in the distance, panic rising.

Who the hell is that guy?

When did such a heaven-defying character appear in the empire?

“The little pretty boy turns out to be so strong! I thought he knew nothing. It turns out that we have been deceived all this time!” A’bi bit her plump lips, her beautiful face skewed with complicated emotions. There was astonishment and disbelief, but also embarrassment and joy.

Yang Xiong and the others were also astonished and ashamed in their hearts. They thought about their attitude towards Lin Xun along the way, realizing that they were the true clowns.

The youngster isn’t a useless young master, but instead a dragon-like existence. While we were stupid ants repeatedly challenging the majesty of the dragon...

They were so ashamed and embarrassed that they wished they could dig a hole and bury their heads.

However, no matter what, Lin Xun’s appearance brought a ray of hope to them. Previously, they were filled with despair and prepared to die, but now, they felt they had come back from death’s door.

“Boss Hu Tong, please come here,” Lin Xun said aloud.

He stood tall, his moon-white robe fluttering around his handsome figure, and his elegant and sharp face filled with detached indifference.

The white skeleton body of the No-Nonsense Bow and the blood-red bowstring emitted a baleful aura that perfectly matched the demon god youngster!

Undoubtedly, Lin Xun had become the focus of attention with the power of his two arrows.

Hu Tong was also shocked beyond words, but he also knew that their situation wasn’t entirely ideal. As a top figure with rich combat experience, when he heard Lin Xun’s words, he acted without hesitation.

He knew that Young Master Lin was their only hope of escaping the situation. But he still felt indescribable emotions.

There was disbelief, guilt, as well as excitement and joy. It was as though an inconspicuous leech that needed their protection had suddenly transformed into a majestic dragon and soared to the ninth heaven!

No one stopped Hu Tong.

All eyes were fixed on Lin Xun. She Zhen and Yan Chixing, although rescued, had sustained heavy injuries and could no longer fight.

However, besides the two were still seven other Enlightened Spirit experts and thousands of Magi Brute elites!

Most importantly, a large-scale totem array had long enveloped the Tiger Canyon area!

In other words, Lin Xun and the others still weren't too optimistic about their situation.

"I didn't expect there to be a fierce character like you in the younger generation of the empire." An old man covered in a mighty blue glow spoke aloud. It was Ju Xun from the Wood Tribe.

As he was speaking, the remaining six Enlightened Spirit experts cautiously approached and surrounded Lin Xun with cold and hostile expressions.

They were caught off guard before and failed to help She Zhen and Yan Chixing, which filled them with shame, anger and fear.

They no longer dared to treat Lin Xun as a mere teenager of the Heaven Ascension Stage. Their faces became as solemn as if they were facing a formidable enemy.

However, they still couldn't imagine how the teenager could be so heaven-defyingly strong. Could it be...because of the bow in his hand?

While they studied and observed Lin Xun, they sensed the mysteriousness and extraordinariness of the No-Nonsense Bow.

That was normal. After all, She Zhen and Yan Chixing were not ordinary experts in the Enlightened Spirit Stage. They had long made a name for themselves with incredible achievements that they were proud of. How would it not be shocking that both were critically wounded by an arrow?

At least, no one had heard of anything similar happening before.

Therefore, they subconsciously believed that the key was the bow in the youngster's hand!

Moreover, they indeed detected an obscure and dangerous aura from the huge bow that set their blood leaping!

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Chapter 697: Teasing

Even under the terrifying pressure of seven Enlightened Spirit experts, Lin Xun maintained his calm and composure like he was unaware of the tense situation.

"You must know about your current situation, so I will give you two choices."

"Leave peacefully or—"

"Fight!"

Lin Xun's voice filled with superiority reverberated through the area.

"Are you telling us to choose?"

Ju Xun, an Enlightened Spirit expert of the Wood Tribe, laughed angrily, "Little guy, do you think you can do whatever you want because you have that bow?"

Other Enlightened Spirit experts' faces also darkened. Lin Xun's words were like an order. How could they not be annoyed?

"What? You don't agree?"

Lin Xun coldly ran his eyes over them. "If I didn't have to take care of my comrades today, then you wouldn't even have a chance to choose!"

His words made Ju Xun's and the others' faces turn darker and darker. As experts in the Enlightened Spirit Stage, when had they ever been ridiculed on the Blood Kill Battlefield?

On the other hand, Hu Tong and the others donned complicated expressions. They had regarded Lin Xun as a burden that they needed to take care of and treated him with contempt and disdain.

But now, their lives were in Lin Xun's hands and whether or not they could survive depended on him. They had become his burden instead.

"I have a feeling that the two arrows just now have already consumed most of your strength. You are just trying to scare us off, isn't that right?" an Enlightened Spirit expert of the Water Tribe remarked. His body was mysteriously covered in mist as though it was condensed from water.

Bang!

Before he finished, Lin Xun drew the No-Nonsense Bow and aimed at his target.

Terrifying visions once again appeared amidst familiar raging wind and thunder and howling of gods and demons.

Who would have thought that Lin Xun, who was negotiating terms, would suddenly launch an attack?

The Water Tribe expert shrieked in horror. He had witnessed the miserable end of She Zhen and Yan Chixing with his own eyes!

He dodged without hesitation.

But no arrow had been fired. Lin Xun sneered, "You just said I am scaring you guys, so why did you dodge?"

The Water Tribe expert flushed with embarrassment and anger, knowing that he had been fooled! How dare the kid tease me?!

He turned livid at the thought that everyone saw him dodge frantically.

"You have gone too far! I don't believe you can shoot a third arrow!" he thundered as he summoned a ten-foot-tall millstone shimmering like water. It crushed the surrounding space with its terrifying power as it took shape.

The millstone could instantly crush everything to dust, even the strongest body.

His anger didn't cloud his mind. He chose his strongest weapon and cultivation art to deal with Lin Xun.

But it also showed that he was extremely wary of Lin Xun.

Bang!

The corners of Lin Xun's lips curled up as he pulled the bowstring back.

Everyone fixed their eyes on the mysterious white bone bow body, feeling its indescribably terrifying aura erupting like a tsunami and erasing the void to nothingness!

All that was because the speed of its arrow was too fast and its power was too terrifying!

Boom!

The millstone crumbled like paper.

At the same time, the Water Tribe expert screamed strangely and dodged to one side, looking more discomposd than before.

He believed that Lin Xun couldn't fire a third arrow, but the cruel reality poured over him like a bucket of cold water.

However, it was a little late to evade. With a boom, his chest exploded with a huge hole.

His tragic scream ended abruptly like his life!

Everyone was chilled to the bone like they had fallen into an ice cave. An Enlightened Spirit expert was killed on the spot without even the chance to dodge.

The unbelievable and bloody scene left the other Enlightened Spirit experts aghast. Seconds ago, they were eager to take action, but now, Lin Xun's arrow, like a slap in the face, made them aware of his terror.

"We were all wrong..." Hu Tong sighed with a complex expression.

Everyone else's expression morphed indefinitely.

"Now, who else wants to try?"

Lin Xun scanned the audience with his dark eyes, exuding an imposing bearing. Many Magi Brute experts shuddered inwardly and avoided direct eye contact.

"What if we attack together? Do you think you can save your comrades all by yourself?"

Ju Xun's face was ice-cold and as he spoke, he swept a glance over Hu Tong and A'bi.

Indeed, the final outcome was unpredictable if all the Magi Brute experts attacked together.

But what was certain was that bloodshed and sacrifice were inevitable!

"So, does that mean you choose the second option?" Lin Xun asked calmly, but his brows furrowed with murderous intent. "I'm also curious to see how many of you can survive today!"

His voice and killing intent soared into the air!

It was the most direct threat, but also the most effective. Given the power he had demonstrated with the three arrows, no one dared to dismiss him anymore.

Ju Xun's and other Enlightened Spirit experts' expressions morphed again. They were a little hesitant to act.

They were unwilling to let Lin Xun and the others leave, but they also didn't want to see their side suffer.

"If I were to guess, there must be some amazing treasure in the mine of the Tiger Canyon that attracted you all here?" Lin Xun grinned.

His speculation shocked and angered Ju Xun and the others.

Hu Tong and the others had long had their suspicions. After all, according to the intel, there were at most three Enlightened Spirit experts and no more than fifty Magi Brute elites stationed in the Tiger Canyon.

But there strangely turned out to be nine Enlightened Spirit experts and thousands of Magi Brute elites.

Realization finally dawned on Hu Tong and the others that the Magi Brute experts had gathered in the Tiger Canyon for some kind of treasure!

That explanation also made a lot of sense.

"Don't worry, I'm not interested in the treasures here, but I'm curious to know whether or not you will have a chance to get the treasure if you died in battle here today." Lin Xun's expression was calm and leisurely, but his eyes were chilling and threatening.

He lifted the No-Nonsense Bow, ready to act.

An Enlightened Spirit expert of the Gold Tribe roared sullenly, "Little bastard! Don't be so arrogant. We all know that you have limited strength. No matter how great you are, how many of us can you kill?"

Lin Xun's arrogance made him itching to tear him to pieces.

"Old bastard, do you want to try too?" Lin Xun aimed the bow at him and made his face blanch.

"Fine, let them leave." Ju Xun suddenly sighed, his face clouded over.

The other Enlightened Spirit experts looked at each other in dismay, but they kept silent in the end. They came from different tribes, so it was impossible for them to join forces and work together to get rid of Lin Xun.

Additionally, Lin Xun had demonstrated astonishing strength. Although they were infuriated, they weren't ready to risk their lives to fight.

After all, who would want to die?

Hu Tong's and the others' faces lit up. They almost couldn't believe their ears.

Their situation had been reversed!

However, they felt they had gone through an emotional rollercoaster and just returned from death's door. That kind of torturous feeling was enough to make ordinary cultivators break down.

Fortunately, the dawn of hope had finally come!

Bang!

However, to their surprise, Lin Xun drew the No-Nonsense Bow once again and fired an arrow.

The target was in a nearby shadow.

Ju Xun's and the others' eyes bulged wide open, as though they never thought that Lin Xun would notice something.

Boom!

At the same time, a destructive rumble boomed in the shadows, followed by a gray figure of almost nothingness darting out, screaming.

It was an Enlightened Spirit expert of the Darkness Tribe, but his skin was torn and crushed, and his body was dripping with blood.

"You...how did you know?" he shrieked with anger and fear.

Lin Xun uttered coldly, "What's so hard about that?"

Hu Tong and the others gasped out loud and broke out in a cold sweat. Only then did they realize that the Darkness Tribe expert hiding in the shadows would have struck them from behind if they had left just now!

They realized that Lin Xun was more incredible than they had thought to be able to perceive the presence of the Darkness Tribe expert.

"Leave!" Ju Xun said aloud.

He and other Enlightened Spirit experts had become ashen-faced, as though they completely admitted defeat and didn't want to fight anymore.

Bang!

Lin Xun responded to them by drawing his bow once again.

"You..."

Ju Xun and the others panicked. Isn't the little bastard going to leave? Does he want to fight to the death with us?

"Haha, don't worry. I am just scaring you guys." Lin Xun chuckled, relaxing his grip on the bowstring.

Ju Xun and the others were so enraged that they almost lost control of their urge to kill. The kid is so hateful. He deliberately teased us!

Lin Xun had already drifted away, leading Hu Tong and the others to the entrance of the Tiger Canyon in the distance.

“Should we do something?” As Ju Xun and the others watched them leave from afar, their faces grew sullen with murderous intent flashing in their eyes.

They couldn’t accept it!

The kid effortlessly killed one of their comrades with just an arrow. He also severely wounded She Zhen and Yan Chixing. It would be the greatest shame to them if they allowed him to leave unscathed with everyone. They would become a laughingstock and never be able to hold their heads up!

One of the Enlightened Spirit experts remarked quietly, “That bow is an incredible treasure...”

His words only made the rest more bitter.

“Everyone, don’t forget about the Brute Blood Magi Array that we jointly set up! Let’s see if they can get out of that...” Ju Xun’s eyes flashed coldly.

The others’ eyes lit up.

They could tell that Ju Xun was implying that if the empire cultivators failed to get out of the array then they should...take advantage of this great opportunity to act!

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Chapter 698: No-Nonsense Awakening

Brute Blood Magi Array!

It was a large-scale array personally refined by a brute rune master of the Ancient Tribe and integrated the power of thirty-six totems of the ancient inheritance of the Magi Brute Race. It used the blood of the Brute God as a source of power. Once it was set up, it could isolate everything inside from the outside world.

It was no doubt a terrifying restriction formation.

Ju Xun and the others wouldn’t have set up such a large-scale formation if they didn’t need to dig out the mysterious treasure in the depths of the Tiger Canyon mine.

“We already gave them a chance to leave, but if they are trapped in the array...Haha, they only have themselves to blame,” Ju Xun remarked sinisterly.

The other Enlightened Spirit experts smirked. Of course, they would be more than happy to see Lin Xun and the others trapped to death without needing to lift their fingers because they were extremely afraid of the No-Nonsense Bow.

“What about the bow...” someone asked.

Everyone’s eyes glinted. Ju Xun said decisively. “Whoever snatches it get it!”

His words made the Magi Brute experts even more impatient.

However, the scene they expected didn’t happen.

Boom!

Just as Lin Xun and the others reached the large array at the entrance of the Tiger Canyon, with an ear-splitting rumble, Lin Xun blasted a giant hole into the Brute Blood Magi Array that they had absolute confidence in!

Ju Xun and the others were so shocked that their eyeballs almost popped out, and the corners of their lips twitched rapidly. They almost bit their tongues.

“How is that possible?” someone roared in fury.

“This is an array personally arranged by a brute rune master of the Ancient Brute Tribe. Not even a Brute King can break it! How...how...how can a teenager at the Heaven Ascension Stage achieve that?”

Everyone’s jaw dropped and they almost thought their eyes were mistaken.

The nearby magi brute elites stood aghast at the sight. That’s a Brute Blood Magi Array. How can he blast a hole into it with just a palm strike?

“Everyone, farewell!”

Lin Xun turned his head and saluted at the entrance of the Tiger Canyon before he led Hu Tong and the others away.

Although the power system between the art of runes and the Brute Blood Magi Array was poles apart, their nature was similar. In the eyes of Lin Xun, a rune founder, the Brute Blood Magi Array was full of flaws.

“Argh!” Ju Xun and the others flew into a rage, their veins popping. They forcibly suppressed their emotions, otherwise, they would have stormed up to Lin Xun and torn him apart.

It was torturous to watch their enemies escape unscathed!

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Even after leaving the Tiger Canyon, Hu Tong and the others still felt as though they were dreaming.

Their gazes changed completely when they looked at Lin Xun. Their previous contempt and disdain had been replaced by awe and astonishment.

They couldn’t imagine how someone whom they regarded as a pampered young master would transform into another person in the blink of an eye.

They shuddered again at the thought of Lin Xun deterring the army of enemies in the Tiger Canyon with just a single bow. His power and ability were unrivaled.

Unquestionably, their previous understanding of Lin Xun was completely wrong. Even if he was a rich young master, he was one who possessed extraordinary heaven-defying strength!

“Little...” A’bi had already held back from speaking several times, but when she finally gathered the courage to ask, she shut her mouth right away.

She couldn’t call Lin Xun a little pretty boy as she did before.

Lin Xun just smiled and didn’t say anything.

He was no longer as relaxed as when he faced the thousands of enemies in the Tiger Canyon. Instead, a deep frown creased his brows, and he looked a little tense as he led the team without stopping.

"If my guess is correct, those guys won't accept defeat so easily. They will come after us soon," Lin Xun suddenly explained.

Hu Tong and the others were taken aback at first and then a shiver ran down their spines.

"That's right. They had suffered such a huge loss, how would they endure it silently? Also, they gathered so many people in the Tiger Canyon to find some unknown treasure. They would be worried about us leaking the news to other people." Hu Tong calmly analyzed, "If my guess is correct, since they mobilized so many forces to the Tiger Canyon, there have to be more supporting forces behind them! To silence us, they will dispatch people to hunt us down."

Hu Tong had years of battle experience on the Blood Kill Battlefield. Even Lin Xun couldn't compare with him. His calm analysis demonstrated his meticulous and cautious mind.

The others' expressions changed.

They were far away from the campground. If the Magi Brute experts targeted them, the consequences would be serious.

Hu Tong sighed, "It's going to be troublesome. There is no safe place within thousands of miles of the Tiger Canyon. If we can't get out of here, we..."

Everyone knew what he wanted to say before he finished.

The happy mood faded, replaced by a heavy and tense atmosphere once again.

"What should we do?" They were tangled on what to do.

Although the Starfrost Mercenary Squad had been through countless battles on the Blood Kill Battlefield, many were considered small-scale and paled in comparison to the dangerous and tough battle waiting for them.

They wondered whether only the official army of the empire could compete with the army of Magi Brute experts.

After a moment of silence, Lin Xun said something that stunned everyone, "You guys should go first. I will deal with them."

"No! We have to leave together!" Hu Tong said without hesitation.

Along the way, they had already treated Lin Xun very badly yet Lin Xun still stepped forward to reverse the tide and saved them from death's door. How could he let Lin Xun again risk his life?

Another stated, "Yes, we might not be as strong as you, but we have never backed down from battle!"

Lin Xun had already earned their respect with his iron-like strength, and, out of guilt, they couldn't let Lin Xun take risks alone.

Only Liu Wen didn't say anything. Or perhaps, he had been silent ever since they left the Tiger Canyon.

The reason was simple: Lin Xun's astonishing strength had such a huge blow to him that he still couldn't accept it.

Lin Xun swept his gaze over everyone's faces one by one, feeling relieved that he was able to change their opinion of him. I didn't waste my efforts in saving them.

However, he had already made up his mind and wouldn't change it.

Lin Xun drew a deep breath and insisted, "I've already decided. It's easier to act alone. All you guys have to do is quickly return to the camp." He wouldn't change his mind no matter how Hu Tong dissuaded him.

In the end, they had to agree.

"By the way, when you get back to the campground, please tell Lord Lu that I will return when I have collected enough military merits." Lin Xun swiftly drifted away with a flash.

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"We owe Young Master Lin our lives!"

As Hu Tong watched Lin Xun depart, he inhaled deeply and said, "His kindness is worth repaying with our lives."

The others nodded solemnly. They knew that the Starfrost Mercenary Squad would have been wiped out if not for Lin Xun.

Only Liu Wen seemed to have a different opinion. He had been silent along the way but as he watched Lin Xun leave, he finally couldn't help snorting, "Did you say I owe him my life? I didn't ask him to save me!"

It suddenly fell silent while Hu Tong's face darkened. He shot a cold glare at Liu Wen. "Are you still not convinced?"

Liu Wen said stubbornly, "I admit that he is indeed very powerful, but I can't change my opinion of him based on that fact alone!"

Hu Tong retracted his gaze and said nothing else, but he had already decided in his mind that he would dismiss Liu Wen when they returned to the camp.

Such an ungrateful, prejudiced and narrow-minded person who didn't recognize other people's good intentions would sooner or later become trouble!

"Liu Wen, hurry up and apologize to the boss. What you said just now was so wrong. If not for Young Master Lin, none of us would have survived!"

Yang Xiong stepped forward and persuaded, "Also, Young Master Lin is helping us fight for a chance to escape. How can we disregard his great kindness?"

"If you want to apologize, you can do it! I, Liu Wen, will not suck up to that bastard Young Master Lin!" Liu Wen snorted coldly.

“You...”

Yang Xiong flushed with anger while the other members scrunched their brows, annoyed with Liu Wen’s behavior.

“Hmph, you are acting tough now, but who turned pale and almost knelt at She Zhen’s feet when we were in the Tiger Canyon?” A’bi snorted coldly.

Just when She Zhen was about to kill her, she saw Liu Wen’s face turn deathly pale and he was about to kneel to beg for mercy.

She didn’t want to bring up such a shameful scene, but Liu Wen had gone too far and she couldn’t help but explode with anger.

Hu Tong and the others looked at Liu Wen differently.

Kneel and surrender to She Zhen?

That was tantamount to betraying the empire and bowing to the enemy!

“Nonsense! You...stop spouting nonsense!” Liu Wen gnashed his teeth and raged.

“Enough! Before we return to the camp, let’s not mention these matters again!” Hu Tong thundered, startling everyone.

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Meanwhile, Lin Xun continued forward. Before long, he came to a stop on a barren mountain, surveying the surroundings.

Just as he steadied his body, his face blanched and his brows wrinkled with exhaustion.

“That was close, I almost lost my life...”

He sat down on the ground, gripping a high-grade aeth crystal in each hand, inhaled deeply and started to refine them with all his remaining strength.

He might have looked imposing and threatening in the Tiger Canyon and he had stunned everyone with the bow, but only he knew how much strength each arrow consumed.

Otherwise, it couldn’t possibly generate such terrifying power!

If Ju Xun and the others refused to back down, then Lin Xun could at most fire two more arrows before he collapsed from exhaustion.

However, even the astonishing power of the No-Nonsense Bow coupled with Lin Xun’s current strength wasn’t enough to kill a veteran Enlightened Spirit expert.

He succeeded because of another reason!

“At that time, the No-Nonsense Bow felt like it had awakened and produced unprecedented visions and power. This was the reason why its power was much stronger than usual...”

“Could this be related to the mysterious treasure in the depths of the Tiger Canyon?” Lin Xun pondered as he restored his strength.

The Prodigies War

Chapter 699: Comedy

Lin Xun carefully recalled the scene from back then.

Back then, when he pulled the No-Nonsense Bow’s bowstring, he had sensed a different aura from before.

The bow seemed to have awoken from a deep sleep and released an angry demon-god-like roar. The peculiar noise had rippled across the land like wind and thunder.

In addition, the magnificent scene of a great sun dropping into the deep blue and Golden Crow blood spraying onto the blue sea had appeared around the bow.

Wait!

Lin Xun suddenly realized that he had overlooked something.

When he pulled the bowstring, a proud and mighty silhouette akin to an ancient bow god had also appeared and was pulling a bow to shoot like him!

“Back then...a peculiar resonance seemed to have occurred. Although it was intermittent and almost non-existent, when I concentrated on trying to sense it, it felt like it originated from the cave deep within Tiger Canyon...”

Lin Xun’s black eyes gleamed with intelligence.

“It looks like there is indeed an unknown treasure in Tiger Canyon. Although it might have no relation to the No-Nonsense Bow, it definitely possesses some kind of special power that induced a change to the No-Nonsense Bow...”

Previously, Lin Xun had decided to cover their retreat alone and distract any potential Brute pursuit parties in hopes of helping Hu Tong and the others avoid disaster.

More importantly, however, he wanted to return to Tiger Canyon!

This was of course related to the mysterious change in the No-Nonsense Bow.

“Even disregarding the No-Nonsense Bow, a treasure that could draw so many Enlightened Spirit experts is definitely not ordinary!”

Lin Xun realized that there were many unimaginable secrets hidden in the cruel and barren Blood Kill Battlefield.

Take the Tiger Canyon for example. Who could have imagined that besides producing the rare Meteor Star Steel Ore, some kind of mysterious treasure would also appear within it?

“Although there’s no aeth power or life energy here, could there be numerous unknown secrets hidden underneath the harsh environment of these abandoned ruins?”

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Approximately fifteen minutes later.

Whoosh!

A black shadow zipped across the ground, flickering through the air like a dazzling flash of gold.

“Oh?”

The figure suddenly paused, noticing Lin Xun seated on a barren peak in the distance.

He was easy to spot because he had not bothered to hide.

“You...didn’t escape?”

The figure was astonished. He gave off a golden glow, and even his hair had a metallic golden sheen. His skin looked as if it had been cast from molten gold, and a sharp, fierce, and terrifying aura pulsed from him.

He was one of the Enlightened Spirit experts that had surrounded Lin Xun in Tiger Canyon, Jin Wu from the Gold Brute Tribe.

“I knew you guys wouldn’t give up so I waited here.”

Lin Xun rose to his feet. The fatigue between his brows had already disappeared, replaced by a proud and cold look.

He stood on the peak with his hands behind his back, his clothes fluttering around him as his black eyes seemed to look down upon everything with disdain while giving off a transcendental aura.

“Oh? Why do I feel that you had no choice but to stop because you couldn’t take it anymore?” Jin Wu’s eyelids twitched. He looked around with a bewildered expression on his face as if trying to find something.

Lin Xun sneered, “Don’t worry, I’m the only one here within a hundred-mile radius. What’s more, why would I need help to deal with you old bastards?”

Old bastard!

Jin Wu’s expression darkened at the derogatory term as his eyes bulged in anger.

This little shit is quite the fearless one!

However, his heart shivered when he recalled the mighty feats Lin Xun had shown in Tiger Canyon, and he became extremely wary.

“Little shit, you’re too arrogant. Don’t think that you can look down on everyone because you have a powerful bow. I’m not afraid to tell you that many powerful Brute experts have already been notified and are coming here. Not just you, even those companions of yours won’t be able to survive today!”

Jin Wu sinisterly said, “Of course, I might be able to suggest a way for you to survive, but it’ll depend on your cooperation.”

“Oh?” Lin Xun raised an eyebrow. “How should I cooperate?”

“Simple, hand over your bow and I’ll leave immediately without making things difficult for you.” Jin Wu did not hide his desire for the No-Nonsense Bow.

“Hehe.” Lin Xun chuckled.

“Why are you laughing? Do you think it’s funny that I’ve given you a chance?”

Jin Wu’s expression grew increasingly stormy as he sternly shouted, “It’s fine if you don’t agree. However, you will no longer have any chance to survive today!”

Beng!

Lin Xun merely raised the No-Nonsense Bow, pulled the bowstring, and aimed at Jin Wu. “A mere old bastard dares to threaten me?”

Jin Wu’s expression drastically changed in an instant. He didn’t care about how Lin Xun was insulting him this time, and quickly dodged to the side in alarm before hurriedly retreating backward.

The bow was too terrifying. It had seriously injured She Zhen, Yan Chixing, and one more Enlightened Spirit Expert while also killing a Water Brute Enlightened Spirit expert.

Due to this, Jin Wu was very fearful and wary. He was not confident in blocking an arrow from Lin Xun and thus retreated without any hesitation.

“Hehe.”

Lin Xun chuckled again. It sounded extremely ear-piercing and caused Jin Wu’s face to turn green with anger. He wished he could skin Lin Xun alive.

Infuriating!

How dare a Heaven Ascension youngster rely on a bow to act so arrogantly in front of an Enlightened Spirit expert like him? This was a clear insult to his dignity, and the youngster deserved death for such a grave sin!

“Little shit, just wait and see!”

Jin Wu roared in frustration before he turned around and fled. Lin Xun was completely taken aback and speechless.

“Looks like these old fogeys have been scared silly. That’s good...”

Lin Xun toyed with the No-Nonsense Bow as a playful smile appeared on his lips.

The truth was that even if he used the No-Nonsense Bow earlier, it could not display the same might it had in Tiger Canyon.

The reason was simple. It lacked the power from its awakening and resonance!

This made Lin Xun increasingly determined to return to Tiger Canyon.

Swoosh!

Lin Xun unhurriedly headed in the direction that Jin Wu had escaped in like a seasoned hunter.

He had not intended to kill Jin Wu immediately but instead sought to buy time in order to regain more of his strength.

As he gave chase, he absorbed energy from a higher-grade aeth crystal in his hand. Although he could not fully consume it, it would sufficiently replenish his stamina.

“There’s still 3900 high-grade aeth crystals left. It should be enough to tide me over for a tough battle...”

Lin Xun silently calculated.

He had brought a large number of high-grade aeth crystals to Blood Kill Battlefield. In addition, he had exchanged all of his army credit for more high-grade aeth crystals before he left the camp this morning.

Hence, he was not worried about aeth crystals for the moment.

“You dare to chase me!”

In the distance, Jin Wu looked back and discovered Lin Xun following far away. His scalp turned numb as he was nearly unable to believe his eyes.

“Why wouldn’t I dare to?”

Lin Xun displayed a wide grin that was brimming with impudence and ridicule.

“You’re courting death!”

Jin Wu’s lungs nearly exploded from anger. He was a mighty Enlightened Spirit Expert and an influential figure in the Gold Brute Tribe. He had fought in Blood Kill Battlefield for many years and killed countless empire experts, creating quite a fearsome reputation for himself.

However, he was currently being chased like a rabbit by a Heaven Ascension youngster. If anyone saw this, he would lose all face!

If not for fear of the No-Nonsense Bow, he would have long turned back to kill Lin Xun.

“You’re right. I am courting death. So why are you running? Stand there if you dare and taste one of my arrows.”

Lin Xun shouted back. He was genuinely on the verge of bursting into laughter. Jin Wu was being far too cowardly and did not even have the courage to face him for even a moment.

If Jin Wu stood his ground, he would immediately discover that the No-Nonsense Bow no longer possessed the same deadly and terrifying power.

However, this was exactly what Lin Xun wanted.

“Little shit, don’t use the bow if you dare to!”

Jin Wu was clearly enraged. It was undoubtedly comical for a bigshot like him to say such childish taunts.

Lin Xun yelled, “Old bastard, stand still if you dare to!”

“Don’t use the bow if you dare to!”

“Stand still if you dare to!”

The old and young experts continued to shout and threaten each other, turning what should have been a life-or-death chase into a comedy.

Anyone who saw this would be dumbstruck and sigh at the absurdity of these supposedly ruthless and battle-hardened individuals...

Jin Wu soon realized that something seemed to be amiss. He felt embarrassed to death. Why was someone of his status childishly bickering with a little human shit? If word of this spread, he would not know where to hide his face.

Jin Wu almost wanted to slap himself for acting so silly. What was up with him today? He had completely played into the hands of that little shit and allowed himself to become upset and agitated.

It was at this moment that a deep voice sounded from the distance, “Jin Wu, why have you returned? And why does your expression look so terrible?”

Jin Wu raised his head. A tall and mighty middle-aged man with bulging boulder-like muscles was puzzledly looking at him.

Earth Brute Tribe Enlightened Spirit expert, Feng Kun!

Jin Wu was elated. Feng Kun was known as the terrible ‘Mountain Moving Butcher’ and was more terrifying than even the ‘Thunder Blood Sickie’ Shi Zhen!

“Little shit, you’re finished! No one from heaven or hell can save you now! Hahahaha...”

Jin Wu could not help but laugh loudly, releasing all the frustration and anger he had accumulated on the way here.

When he turned his head, however, his smile immediately turned rigid as he abruptly stopped laughing, “Wait a second...where’s that little shit? When did he disappear?”

Meanwhile, the towering, oppressive, mountain-like Feng Shen displayed a baffled expression and could not help but ask, “Jin Wu, why did you stop laughing?”

The corners of Jin Wu’s twitched violently and his face turned green with anger as veins bulged on his forehead like worms.

Laugh? I’d only laugh if your mom was here instead!

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Chapter 700: Return to Tiger Canyon

Jin Wu nearly coughed blood.

It was already shameful enough that he had been pursued by a Heaven Ascension youngster, but he had now also made a fool of himself in front of Feng Kun. He wished he could bury his head in the ground.

“What exactly is going on?”

Feng Kun frowned. His figure was akin to a mountain, and his muscles gleamed as if they were solid rock, making his presence feel extremely oppressive.

Jin Wu took a deep breath and began to recount his encounter with Lin Xun. Of course, he did not mention the part where he had fled out of fear.

Despite this, Feng Kun could roughly guess what had happened. His expression immediately turned weird, and he could not help but laugh in the end.

Jin Wu's face burned with embarrassment as he roared, "What are you laughing at? You haven't witnessed that little shit's bow. When you do, I guarantee that you won't be able to laugh! Shi Zhen was strong, right? But he was still gravely injured by a single arrow from that kid and nearly died. In fact, he's still recovering in Tiger Canyon."

Feng Kun's expression turned serious. "From what you've told me, the kid is purely relying on that mysterious bone bow?"

Jin Wu gritted his teeth. "If not for that bow, how could we have suffered so miserably and even be forced to seek assistance?"

"To think that a single bone bow could bestow such heaven-defying power to a Heaven Ascension youngster, allowing him to gravely injure even Shi Zhen and the others. Looks like that bone bow must have an incredible origin."

Feng Kun's eyes glimmered with desire. "Tell me where the kid appeared and how to get there. I'll go kill him!"

He was clearly interested in the No-Nonsense Bow and wanted to kill Lin Xun to obtain it.

Jin Wu was conflicted. He dearly wished for Feng Kun to kill Lin Xun, but was also unwilling to see Feng Kun obtain the bone bow.

"He was nearby just moments ago and shouldn't have gotten far." Jin Wu ultimately decided to work together with Feng Kun, unwilling to see the bow fall into his hands.

"Lead the way, we'll move together."

Feng Kun glanced at him. "I want to remind you that our Nine Brute Tribes have dispatched numerous powerful experts this time. It's not just me; there are many other guys with similar strength around Tiger Canyon who are searching for those humans. If you don't obediently cooperate, the bow will very likely be taken by someone else."

Jin Wu's heart shivered as he replied, "Don't worry, I only wish for that kid to be chopped into a million pieces and naturally will not be negligent."

"Let's move then. According to one of the old guys from the Ancient Brute Tribe, the treasure in Tiger Canyon should emerge within three days. We should kill that youngster as soon as possible and rush back before the treasure appears."

A murderous look rose between Feng Kun's brows.

Jin Wu cast aside his hesitation and began searching for any trace of Lin Xun along the path he had come from.

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“It should emerge within three days, right?”

Not long after Feng Kun and Jin Wu left, wisps of illusory, dream-like smoke emerged from some rocks ten thousand feet from their original location.

The smoke was able to blend in with the surroundings and was difficult to detect without careful inspection.

Lin Xun gradually emerged from the smoke.

It was ‘Suanni Qi’!

The fifth transformation of the Tribulation Dragon Nine Transformations!

Suanni was a divine beast from the ancient era. It could breathe smoke that could cover an entire realm and conceal a domain. The smoke was formless and invisible, making it difficult for even cultivators to discover.

The ‘Suanni Qi’ inheritance was miraculous concealment art that could hide someone from even the heavens itself.

When activated, the user and their aura would vanish completely and perfectly blend into their surroundings. Even ghosts and spirits would be hard-pressed to discover their presence!

Lin Xun had only managed to gain a little proficiency in the ‘Suanni Qi’ and was at most able to conceal himself and his aura. Moreover, he would immediately be revealed the moment he moved.

If he were to achieve full mastery of the ‘Suanni Qi’, he would not only be able to conceal himself, but also mountains, rivers, and even an entire world, making them impossible for people to detect!

“It’s like Hu Tong predicted. To stop the secret in Tiger Canyon from being leaked, the Brute Tribes have dispatched numerous power experts to pursue the empire cultivators...”

After thinking for a moment, Lin Xun finally ascertained Tiger Canyon’s location and swiftly headed toward it.

He had promised Hu Tong and the others that he would help them buy enough time to escape to the empire camp.

To achieve this, he needed to keep all the pursuers busy.

Since there were too many enemies, Lin Xun would never be able to hunt them down one by one.

However, it wasn’t impossible to realize his goal. He could always stir up a huge commotion in Tiger Canyon!

The treasure in Tiger Canyon was occupying all of the Brute experts' attention. If some chaos were to happen there, the enemies that were searching for Hu Tong and the others would definitely abandon their tasks and head back to reinforce Tiger Canyon.

This would be equivalent to giving Hu Tong and the others more time and opportunity to return to camp!

.....

In Tiger Canyon, She Zhen's complexion was still a little pale as he sneered, "More than a dozen Enlightened Spirit experts have been sent out and each of them is no weaker than me, It will be a joke if that little shit survives!"

The mighty and fearsome 'Thunder Blood Sickle' currently had a waxy complexion and looked to be in bad shape.

He had lost an arm to an arrow previously and nearly lost his life. Even now, the serious injuries he sustained had yet to heal.

Beside him, Yan Chixing was gritting his teeth in agony with a similarly ashen complexion. He was worse off than She Zhen as everything below his abdomen had been destroyed by an arrow, leaving only the top half of his body intact.

Even if he managed to recover, the graveness of his injuries made it such that his strength would not fully recover in a short span of time.

At another corner, the Darkness Brute Enlightened Spirit expert resentfully said, "Don't worry, our camp has dispatched our top forces this time that will be able to sweep away even the top Cyclic Derivation experts from the human empire, let alone a mere Heaven Ascension trash."

He was called Yin Beigu and was in the worst condition among them. His entire body was wrapped in bandages, and there was not a single patch of intact skin on him. It was as if his entire body had been shattered, and his bones, tendons, and flesh smashed. It was hard to believe that he was still alive.

"It's a huge disgrace!" She Zhen was also still resentful.

He was an Enlightened Spirit expert who had fought in Blood Kill Battlefield for many years. However, he had been gravely injured by a Heaven Ascension human youngster today. When word of this spread, he would become a laughing stock in the Brute Tribes.

Yan Chixing and Yin Beigu tried to console him, "He will not survive. No need to get so worked up."

Boom!

An explosion suddenly sounded from the entrance of Tiger Canyon along with several screams. The noise was so loud that it could even be heard deep inside the canyon.

"What happened?" She Zhen rose to his feet. Despite his heavy injuries, he still gave off a terrifying pressure.

Yan Chixing and Yin Beigu had bewildered and uncertain looks. Who would dare to trespass into Tiger Canyon at this juncture?

"Oh no! The powerful experts have all gone to pursue the human cultivators, and there are none left in the canyon!" Yan Chixing's expression changed drastically at the realization.

"It's fine, Tiger Canyon is covered in the Brute Blood Magi Array. Even a human Life Death Stage King would be unable to immediately break in." Yin Beigu appeared very calm in comparison.

She Zhen and Yan Chixing relaxed upon hearing this, however, they also recalled a certain scene.

When the Heaven Ascension youngster left, he had slapped open a hole in the Brute Blood Magi Array...

It can't be him!

The two of them did not believe that Lin Xun would return after fleeing.

At the entrance of Tiger Canyon.

Lin Xun stepped through the dust and boldly advanced as numerous Brute elites charged at him.

The Broken Blade in his hand hacked and slashed, sending heads rolling and blood splattering.

In the distance, a Brute elite suddenly shook with alarm and fear when he identified Lin Xun.

Didn't that damned human youngster escape? Why is he back?

Before he could shout to warn the others, a flash of blade light severed his head, sending it spinning into the air.

"Human trash? How dare you come alone to Tiger Canyon? You must be tired of living!"

Numerous Brute elites had been recently dispatched to Tiger Canyon as reinforcements. Hence, they did not recognize Lin Xun nor knew about the terrible damage he had caused previously.

They murderously and menacingly glared at him. There was no lack of Great Magi experts among them.

Lin Xun was unfazed. He said nothing as he walked forward with the Broken Blade, leaving a silver starry river in his wake.

Rumble!

With furious earth-shaking roars, a dozen Brute elites ferociously charged at him together, creating a terrifying sight of imminent violence and brutality.

Plop plop plop...

However, Lin Xun was quicker. His blade moved like lightning, instantly slaying a dozen elites. Severed limbs were sent flying in the air as blood splattered across the earth, dyeing it red.

The other Brute elites were overwhelmed by terror. Was this a human or a demon? Despite being alone, the youngster easily cut through all of them like a knife through butter. It was terrifying, to say the least.

Lin Xun had originally been very cautious when he arrived at Tiger Canyon. However, after some scouting, he was surprised to discover that there were no powerful experts present, only several squads of Brute elites. Although they were numerous in number, they were no threat to him.

From this, Lin Xun surmised that the powerful experts were all busy tracking down Hu Tong and the others. Moreover, the enemy clearly did not expect that he would return.

“Oh no! A peak expert is attacking us!”

“Quick, quickly hide in the Brute Blood Magi Array!”

After witnessing the bloody scenes, the remaining Brute elites scurried back into the Brute Blood Magi Array.

“Little shit, just wait and see. You’re dead when our experts return!”

One of the Brute elites shouted, evidently no longer afraid. He was confident that Lin Xun could not enter the Brute Blood Magi Array.

However, the following scene stupefied all of them/

Lin Xun walked forward, kicked open a hole in the array, and strolled in...

This...

Everyone was dumbstruck.

Several Brute elites stationed inside finally identified Lin Xun, causing them to shriek in fear—

“My god, that demon youngster is back!”