

## Prodigies 701

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### Chapter 701: Unexpected and Joyous Surprise

Crazed shrieks of terror rang out in the canyon, shocking the newer arrivals. It also made them grow increasingly panicked as they desperately began to flee.

Even while disregarding everything else, the mere sight of Lin Xun kicking open a hole in the array and walking into Tiger Canyon had already scared them out of their wits.

Lin Xun walked along the path.

His spirit senses spread outwards, covering the entire area as the Broken Blade killed a dozen more Brute elites as if it had eyes of its own.

There was no lack of Great Magi level experts among them who were considered powerful individuals in the Blood Kill Battlefield. In the face of Lin Xun, however, they were akin to easily slaughtered wild dogs and chickens.

“What?! That little shit is back?” She Zhen’s roar sounded deep inside the canyon. His face was filled with alarm and anger as his eyes bulged from their sockets.

The canyon had descended into chaos. Lin Xun advanced with his blade in hand, leaving a path of carnage behind him. Despite this, his clothes remained clean and pristine, making him resemble a blade immortal descending upon a chaotic battlefield.

“I can’t believe it’s him...” Yan Chixing and Yin Beigu also yelped, unable to believe their eyes.

The youngster had come back!

They could not fathom how the youth could be so courageous. He had already escaped so why did he come back? What gave him the confidence to do so?

“You dare to return? How courageous, it seems that you’re tired of living!” She Zhen roared although he seemed to be putting on a strong front.

What else could he do? He had been gravely injured by Lin Xun’s arrow previously and nearly lost his life. How could he possibly dare to face Lin Xun in his current condition?

“Weren’t you guys trying to track me down? Why aren’t you happy that I’ve voluntarily returned?”

As Lin Xun spoke, the blade in his hands continued to move. Seven or eight Brute elites nearby failed to react in time and were killed in the blink of an eye.

The decisiveness and ruthlessness shocked She Zhen, Yan Chixing, and Yin Beigu, causing their hearts to tremble as their scalps turned numb.

It wasn’t because they were careless and had not taken any preventive measures. No one could have anticipated that the human youngster would have the balls to return because something like this had never happened before.

Unfortunately, it was already too late for regret.

Boom!

Lin Xun did not pause for even a second. He moved with the Hornless Ice Dragon Step and continued to swing the Broken Blade, slaying the enemies with dazzling bursts of starlight.

“Attack together and kill him!”

She Zhen’s roar thundered across the area. He was hoping to alert the Brute Enlightened Spirit experts in the vicinity to come and save them.

Yan Chixing and Yin Beigu were even more direct and fired off SOS signal flares made from beast bones.

Lin Xun laughed. This was what he wanted. It was the only way to force the Brute Enlightened Spirit experts to abandon their chase and return to Tiger Canyon!

Rumble!

The massacre continued. Lin Xun employed the same efficient and ruthless killing method from start to end, not once holding anything back.

His demon-god-like methods absolutely terrified the nearby Brute elites, causing them to flee from Tiger Canyon in a panic.

Lin Xun did not give chase. After all, his goal wasn’t to kill them.

The scene caused She Zhen’s, Yan Chixing’s, and Yin Beigu’s faces to turn increasingly pale, and their hands and feet turned cold as they trembled in fear.

If he was allowed to continue in this manner, they would be dead before help arrived!

“Run!”

She Zhen and the others made a humiliating decision. After all, who cared about dignity in the face of death?

Most importantly, they were injured and had lost the qualifications to fight Lin Xun.

Despite this, the thought of being intimidated and scared off by the human youngster nearly made them vomit blood.

It was too much!

In the distance, Lin Xun noticed She Zhen and the others escaping. Unlike the Brute elites, however, the trio was running toward a cave deep in the canyon.

“Could there be a hidden safe zone inside the cave that made them choose to retreat toward it?”

A thought struck Lin Xun.

He did not pursue them. She Zhen and the others were not different from tigers that had been defanged. It made no difference when he killed them.

Moments later.

Tiger Canyon was a mess. Corpses were strewn everywhere, and the ground had been dyed red. There were at least a hundred Brute elite corpses in the area.

It was a shocking scene that would be considered a small-scale battle even on the Blood Kill Battlefield!

All of this, however, was done by a single person: Lin Xun.

Of course, far more Brute elites had escaped than died. Lin Xun did not stop a single one because he needed as many people as possible to help him spread the news and draw back the Brute experts who had gone in pursuit of Hu Tong and the others.

Lin Xun began to collect the battle spoils.

He worked with seasoned efficiency, and three large bags soon appeared on the ground. They were filled to the brim with battle spoils and could be exchanged for military credit.

However, Lin Xun quickly discovered a problem. The bags were too big, and there were three of them. Since it was impossible to use spatial storage treasures in Blood Kill Battlefield, bringing back these battle spoils to camp was going to be quite a difficult task.

After some thought, Lin Xun tied the three bags together with a rope and began hauling them toward the cave deep inside the canyon.

She Zhen, Yan Chixing, and Yin Beigu were hiding there. Moreover, Lin Xun had not forgotten his true motive for returning to Tiger Canyon—the unknown treasure that was about to appear!

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The cave was extremely deep, dark, and humid. Numerous paths stretched out before him like spiderwebs, reaching deep into the earth like an underground labyrinth.

Upon stepping foot inside, Lin Xun felt an indescribable, bone-piercing murderous intent that was faint yet omnipresent!

It made all of his hair stand on end. He could not help but shiver, alarmed by the terrifying killing intent.

He cautiously advanced while dragging the bags as his enormous spirit power spread outwards, instantly detecting a hint of the hidden trio's lingering auras.

Expression unchanged, he continued forward.

The tunnels were full of twists and turns. Any ordinary person would soon find themselves lost within them.

Moreover, the deeper Lin Xun went, the more terrifying the killing intent grew. It became so dreadful that it made him feel a piercing pain on his skin.

Lin Xun's eyes narrowed slightly. As expected, this was no ordinary place.

Plop!

Not long after, Lin Xun suddenly thrust the Broken Blade at the wall, eliciting a scream. Blood spurted into the air as a shadowy silhouette fell to the ground.

It was a Darkness Brute expert who had been nearly undetectable. However, he could not escape Lin Xun's powerful spirit senses.

This was one of the unique perks of the Little Divine Meditation Art. It bestowed Lin Xun's spirit power with the ability to see through all trickery and grasp the truth.

Boom!

After some time, a bone spear suddenly shot out from one of the tunnels, aiming straight for Lin Xun's throat with unrivaled speed and a fierce aura.

Lin Xun did not turn his head to look as his figure disappeared from the spot in a flash.

Plop!

The spear struck air as a bloody head spiraled into the air, leaving a headless corpse that soon fell to the ground with a thud.

Lin Xun had already disappeared deeper into a tunnel.

The dark and humid underground maze contained a mysterious and unknown killing intent and hid many Brute elites.

However, Lin Xun boldly advanced as if he was walking through a plain. Every ambush and assassination attempt was mercilessly thwarted as if he had already foreseen them.

Oh?

After killing several enemies, Lin Xun suddenly paused as his black eyes began to glow.

Specks of starlight suddenly appeared in the tunnel ahead. It illuminated the dark area, giving off a mysterious sensation of vast flowing beauty.

When he approached, he discovered that the specks of starlight originated from the black stones in the wall.

Crack!

Lin Xun swung the Broken Blade, causing a pebble-sized black ore to fall into his hand. Bright starlight flowed along its surface and it felt faintly metallic. It was heavy in his hand and roughly weighed a thousand catties.

Meteor Star Steel!

It was the special ore produced in Tiger Canyon, a rare and precious resource that was also one of the best materials to craft heaven-grade treasures.

It could also be used as a medium for crafting rune armaments, possessed numerous other uses, and had extremely astonishing value.

A small piece like this could fetch over ten thousand gold coins in the empire!

The walls in the tunnel were covered in Meteor Star Steel ore! They were like shining stars in the night, sprinkling their clear, dream-like light.

“No wonder the Brute Tribes have stationed their elite forces here. The value of the ores alone is more than worth the manpower invested.”

While Lin Xun was lost in thought, his pupils suddenly shrank when he noticed a rare, cryptic undulation rise from the Broken Blade as if it had smelled something delicious. It soon began to absorb the power of the Meteor Star Steel ore in his hand.

Crack!

In the blink of an eye, the pebble-sized ore’s power was completely devoured, turning it to dust.

Meanwhile, light pulsed on the Broken Blade as if it were breathing. A strand of starlight suddenly flickered from it before it fell silent once more.

Surprise rose in Lin Xun’s mind. This was the first time the Broken Blade had voluntarily absorbed power.

Could there be some kind of power in the Meteor Star Steel that could allow the blade to evolve?

Clang!

With a flick of his wrist, the Broken Blade slid into the wall like a knife through tofu.

He immediately sensed a soft cry echo from the Broken Blade as if rejoicing as cryptic undulations spread from it.

The ores in the wall began to tremble as their light swiftly dimmed, indicating that their power was rapidly being absorbed by the Broken Blade.

“I see!”

Lin Xun’s eyes brightened. This was an unexpected and joyous surprise.

“I wonder what will happen to the Broken Blade after it absorbs the Meteor Star Steel ores’ power...”

After some consideration, Lin Xun decided to leave the Broken Blade here and continued down the tunnel with the No-Nonsense Bow in hand.

By this juncture, the bone-piercing murderous intent had become almost corporeal, allowing Lin Xun to realize that he was about to reach his destination!

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### **Chapter 702: Biluo Arrow**

It was not long before a spacious cavern appeared within his sights.

It was as if he had entered an underground world filled with emptiness and darkness.

A corpse as large as a mountain lay a thousand feet from him.

It was the corpse of a mysterious and dreadful savage-beast. The beast was covered in sinister dark silver scales and the single arm that was visible measured several dozen feet in length and was as thick as a boulder.

Its head was as large as a house, making it an alarming sight to any person.

It was a savage-beast that even Lin Xun had never seen before. A single pitch-black arrow was embedded in its head. Compared to the creature, the arrow was almost unnoticeable. It was only two feet long and as thick as a baby's fist, making it appear extremely tiny compared to the giant corpse.

However, it was this very arrow that had pierced the creature's head and killed it!

Lin Xun's pupils shrank. After arriving, he finally realized that the unknown, bone-piercing killing intent originated from the savage-beast's corpse.

How creepy!

The killing intent was far too terrifying and had become almost corporeal. Despite double-checking that the mysterious savage-beast was dead, Lin Xun's heart still thudded wildly, still feeling fatal danger.

"Could the mysterious treasure discovered by the Brute Tribes be that arrow embedded in the savage-beast's head?"

"Oh?"

While in thought, Lin Xun's spirit sense suddenly detected a small movement. He immediately said in an icy voice, "I'm already here, so how long are you three planning on hiding?"

"Hmph, little shit. Do you truly believe we have been backed into a corner and can only be slaughtered by you?" With cold snorts, She Zhen, Yan Chixing, and Yin Beigu walked out from behind the savage-beast's corpse.

They were Brute Enlightened Spirit experts who were bigger in size and looked fiercer than their human counterparts. However, they still appeared very tiny standing next to the giant beast corpse.

"It seems that you guys are rather fearless." Lin Xun's eyes narrowed.

He could sense that there was no longer any trace of fear in the three gravely injured Enlightened Spirit experts. Instead, they appeared very composed. It was obvious that something had changed.

As he spoke, Lin Xun raised the No-Nonsense Bow.

"Hehe, what a joke!"

She Zhen's face was white with rage, "If it weren't for that bow, what right would you have to act all mighty in front of us?"

Yan Chixing's and Yin Beigu's also wore resentful expressions. It was humiliating for mighty mighty Enlightened Spirit experts of the Brute Tribes like themselves to be forced into such a corner by a human Heaven Ascension youngster.

"You guys talk too much!"

Lin Xun frowned as killing intent flashed in his heart. The other party was too composed, which made him feel that something was off. He needed to finish this as soon as possible.

The instant killing intent flashed in his heart, however, an unexpected event occurred.

“Kill!”

The faint and omnipresent killing intent in the vast underground world seemed to smell blood and immediately became berserk as it gathered into a giant wave that rumbled toward Lin Xun.

Lin Xun’s spirit was immediately struck by a power he had never felt before

The killing intent seemed to have invaded from the far past, bringing with it a vast, savage, and terrifying pressure that made his face pale.

Without any delay, Lin Xun immediately circulated the Little Divine Meditation Art. His aura rumbled around him as a full moon guarded by numerous stars rose in his mind-sea.

It withstood the wave of assaulting killing intent and stabilized his spirit. Having practiced the art for several years, Lin Xun was aware of its magical and immeasurable powers that could swiftly heal even spirit injuries.

Rumble~

However, the surrounding killing intent grew increasingly intense as it crazily surged toward him from all directions.

“Kill!”

“Kill!”

“Kill!”

He could clearly see endless killing intent rush out from the giant savage-beast’s corpse and slam into his spirit and mind.

The pressure instantly multiplied!

“To think that even a corpse has forced me to circulate the Little Divine Mediation Art to defend my spirit. If it were alive, it would likely be capable of killing me in an instant...”

Lin Xun was horrified.

The killing intent was too endless and terrifying like the sea!

However, the Little Divine Meditation Art displayed its magical power, firmly stabilizing Lin Xun’s spirit such that the assaulting waves were unable to shake him.

“Hahaha, little shit, how are you feeling? No matter how powerful you are, the moment you trigger the killing intent here, you will have to face ultimate disaster! I bet you never expected this, right?” She Zhen’s sinister laughter rang out across the area, filled with elation.

“Look, his face has become pale, and his entire body is trembling. He’s clearly on the verge of collapsing.” Yan Chixing and Yin Beigu also laughed loudly, their resentful expressions now splashed with glee.

They had been hiding here to witness this very scene!

When the Brute experts first discovered this place, a commotion had occurred because anyone who displayed even a sliver of killing intent here would instantly receive a terrifying backlash!

Even the Enlightened Spirit experts found it difficult to withstand the assault.

If not for that, they would have long taken away the savage-beast corpse and the arrow stuck in it!

“How hateful. If not for that bow, I would have personally cut him to pieces long ago. We would never have needed to go to such great lengths just to deal with him.”

She Zhen gnashed his teeth, wishing he could rush forward and kill Lin Xun with his own hands.

Rumble!

Terrifying killing intent suddenly surged nearby, causing She Zhen’s expression to abruptly change. He had subconsciously displayed a sliver of killing intent which in turn triggered the monstrous killing intent in the area.

Fortunately, he reacted immediately and abandoned his murderous impulse, narrowly avoiding the disaster.

“Careful!” Yan Chixing and Yin Beigu shivered in fear as they glared at She Zhen.

She Zhen felt awkward and embarrassed.

“So they escaped here because they wanted to use this killing intent against me...no wonder they were acting so fearless...”

In the distance, understanding finally dawned upon Lin Xun.

He suddenly began approaching the savage-beast’s corpse.

The scene made She Zhen’s and the others’ pupils shrink as they were unable to believe their eyes. The killing intent was so terrifying and oppressive that even experts like them did not dare to face it directly.

However, the kid was voluntarily approaching its source!

Did he feel he wasn’t dying fast enough?

Lin Xun paid no attention to them. His eyes were fixed on the black arrow embedded in the corpse’s head as a strange light gleamed deep in his eyes.

Only he could sense that something seemed to have triggered the No-Nonsense Bow, causing it to vibrate erratically as a mysterious aura awakened within it.

Lin Xun was soon able to get a clear view.



The savage-beast that was covered in scales had a body that resembled a lion's or tiger's, and the head of a dragon. Its limbs were akin to giant metal pillars and its enormous body was covered in dried blood.

A simple black arrow was embedded in the creature's head, and the arrow's fletching glimmered a faint dark red.

A mysterious aura was surging out of the black arrow and resonating with the No-Nonsense Bow.

In that moment, Lin Xun was certain that even without the Little Divine Meditation Art, the killing intent in the area would no longer be able to threaten him in the slightest.

In the distance, She Zhen's expression changed as he shrieked, "How can this be? Is he already that powerful?"

According to their estimate, even a Life Death Stage King would have to be very cautious and use their full power in order to approach the savage-beast's corpse.

However, they were currently witnessing a Heaven Ascension youngster approach it step by step! Moreover, there was no longer any trace of the miserably struggling state he had displayed at the beginning. Instead, he brimmed with calm confidence.

"Impossible!"

Yan Chixing and Yin Beigu also cried out in panic. They were gravely injured, and their only hope had been to use the killing intent here to destroy Lin Xun.

However, the situation had already developed beyond their expectations!

When Lin Xun was about a hundred feet from the savage-beast, he suddenly stood still and softly said, "Arrow come!"

Swoosh!

Under She Zhen's and the others' horrified gazes, the black arrow stuck in the savage-beast's head suddenly pulled itself out and flew into Lin Xun's hand.

It was a simple arrow that was as thick as a baby's arm. Its fletching was tinged with specks of dark red, and its pitch-black tip gleamed with icy light.

A terrifying pressure spread from the arrow, creating explosion-like ripples around it.

Boom!

Meanwhile, the mysterious giant savage-beast's corpse began to collapse, turning into dust that drifted onto the ground.

"This..."

She Zhen and the others were frozen like statues, completely dumbstruck.

How is this possible?

They had originally believed that the black arrow was an unbelievably powerful ancient treasure, and they needed to wait some time for its savage qi to calm down before they could subdue and retrieve it.

This was why so many experts had been sent to Tiger Canyon.

Who could have imagined that Lin Xun's arrival would ruin all of their plans? He had easily retrieved it by simply calling for it!

"No!" She Zhen and the others released angry roars, unable to accept the outcome. To them, it was no different from having someone else harvest the fruit they had painstakingly nurtured.

"Biluo..."

Lin Xun mumbled. He had identified the unique word from the ancient era that had been branded onto the black arrow.

The arrow was called Biluo!

"Little shit, leave behind the treasure! Otherwise, you'll be chased by our Brute experts no matter where you run!"

She Zhen and the others roared. They had guarded this place for many days to eventually retrieve this treasure. How could they possibly bear the thought of Lin Xun arriving later than them and taking it?

"Everyone, it's time to end this game."

Lin Xun raised his head and looked at them as an invisible wave of killing intent unfurled from the black arrow.

Pop pop pop!

Before She Zhen, Yan Chixing, or Yin Beigu could react, their bodies exploded. They were torn to pieces by the bone-piercing killing intent and turned into a bloody mist without leaving a single bone behind.

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#### **Chapter 703: Close Call**

The 7th army camp.

Lu Wenting's face was white with rage. Flames nearly spouted from his eyes as he roared, "Where is he? God damnit! Didn't I tell you guys to protect Young Master Lin no matter what? Instead, you guys are the ones who escaped and returned! Do you think I don't dare to kill any of you?"

His voice boomed like thunder, nearly flipping over the roof and causing the guards outside to tremble in fear. This was the first time they had seen Lu Wenting so enraged.

In the room, Hu Tong and the others bowed their heads in shame.

"Hu Tong, you stay behind. Everyone else, scram!"

Lu Wenting knew that anger wasn't going to solve anything. The most important thing to do was to quickly understand the situation and try to find a solution.

When A'bi, Yang Xiong, and the rest left, Hu Tong took a deep breath and began recounting the events of their journey to Tiger Canyon.

Gasp!

Lu Wenting could not help but gasp upon hearing that Lin Xun gravely injured several Enlightened Spirit experts in succession with a bow and awed everyone with his might.

His expression changed again, growing worried when he heard that Lin Xun had decided to stay behind to keep the Brute experts busy and buy time for Hu Tong and the others to escape.

“No wonder you guys managed to reach the camp despite your heavy injuries...”

Lu Wenting glanced at Hu Tong. He had noticed from the beginning that Hu Tong and the others were gravely injured when they returned. Their bodies had been covered in blood, and it was a miracle that they had returned to the camp alive.

After hearing the recount, Lu Wenting realized that Hu Tong and the others had only managed to survive because Lin Xun had been stalling the enemies!

With a deep breath, Hu Tong gritted his teeth and knelt on the ground. “I owe my life to Young Master Lin and returned to seek help from Lord Lu. Please dispatch experts to save Young Master Lin. If he dies on the battlefield, I will live my entire life in guilt and shame!”

“Cut the useless crap. If something happens to Young Master Lin, even General Zhangsun will be implicated, let alone nobodies like me and you!”

Lu Wenting icily snorted and hurriedly left.

He was extremely anxious and knew that they could not waste a single second more. If something did happen to Lin Xun, they would never be able to explain themselves to the Blood Kill King...

“Even General Zhangsun will be implicated?”

Hu Tong’s heart jumped wildly. Only now did he realize that Young Master Lin’s origins were more terrifying than he had imagined.

Moments later, a thunderous roar boomed from the 7th army camp’s general tent, “Lu Wenting, how did you create such a big mess on the first day the kid arrived!? Have you become retarded while being the quartermaster? Who told you to send the kid to the battlefield? Ehhh?”

Countless empire cultivators in the area stopped what they were doing as their hearts shivered. What was going on with General Zhangsun? What had made him so furious?

“Ready a battleship and follow me to Tiger Canyon! I’ll bury whoever dares to delay a single second!”

Soon after, Zhangsun Lie’s mighty figure rose into the sky with an earth-shaking roar, scattering the clouds as he dashed off like a trail of smoke.

The entire camp was in a flurry as numerous empire cultivators were mobilized. They boarded the large-scale empire battleship which soon rushed out of the camp to catch up with Zhangsun Lie.

Numerous cultivators were stupefied by this scene. What kind of bigshot was General Zhangsun rushing to save?

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The underground cavern in Tiger Canyon.

“Biluo Arrow...”

When Lin Xun attempted to scan the black arrow with his senses, his spirit immediately shuddered as it was assaulted by explosive, piercing pain.

Meanwhile, a terrifying scene appeared in his head.

Deep in the vast outer space, a divine black arrow flashed past, destroying a star with a loud rumble and turning it into dust.

The instantaneous destructive power made Lin Xun’s hands and feet turn cold and his scalp turn numb.

Destroying stars?

Only Saints could possess such almighty power, right?

Before Lin Xun could react, another astonishing scene emerged. Deep in outer space, a titanic savage-beast carrying a bronze palace on its back appeared.

The beast crossed the endless expanse of outer space, zipping past stars as chaos qi spread from the bronze palace on its back, making it impossible to look inside.

Indescribable shock rose within him. It felt like a legendary tale from the ancient era and was unbelievable, to say the least.

Since the beginning of time, who had dared to ascend above the skies into the magnificent and endless outer space?

And yet, a savage-beast carrying a bronze palace was traveling through the endless primal chaos of outer space to some unknown destination!

Rumble!

The divine black arrow appeared again, seemingly intent to destroy the bronze palace on the beast’s back.

In the end, however, it was struck by a mysterious Ruyi Scepter that had appeared out of nowhere. The collision produced a blast of terrifying divine light that destroyed several nearby stars!

It was at this moment that the scene disappeared.

Lin Xun was drenched in cold sweat as his heart shivered in fear. How much power would one need to achieve such destruction?

Who exactly had used that mysterious Ruyi Scepter?

Was the bronze palace destroyed in the end?

Lin Xun did not know the answers to any of these questions. The only thing he knew was that the unstoppable and almighty divine black arrow that had traveled through outer space was currently in his hand.

It was called 'Biluo'!

However, compared to the divine black arrow he had seen, the Biluo Arrow looked much plainer and gave off a sensation that it was in a deep slumber.

"No-Nonsense Bow, Biluo Arrow, there must be some relation between the two. Otherwise, they would not have resonated with each other..."

Lin Xun fell into thought.

The No-Nonsense Bow was made from white bones, and its bowstring was red as blood. On the other hand, the Biluo arrow was pitch-black like the night with only some traces of faint red in its fletching, making it appear simple and unremarkable.

One was white and one was black, but both were also dyed in specks of red. It did seem strange and mysterious.

When he first obtained the No-Nonsense Bow a long time ago, Lin Xun had been curious about whether there were arrows that came in a set with it that could display an even greater power.

The Biluo Arrow's appearance had finally confirmed Lin Xun's suspicions. In fact, he was already itching to test out what kind of power would be produced when he used the No-Nonsense Bow with the Biluo Arrow.

In the end, Lin Xun resisted the temptation. If his estimations were correct, numerous Brute experts were already rushing to Tiger Canyon and he could not stay much longer.

Lin Xun returned from the route he came from. On the way, he pulled out the Broken Blade that he had stuck into the wall previously.

By this juncture, the blade had nearly absorbed all of the Meteor Star Steel power in the vicinity.

However, Lin Xun was somewhat disappointed. Although some changes had clearly occurred to the Broken Blade, all he could tell so far was that it had become a little 'cleaner' and gave off slightly purer starlight.

One thing worth noticing was that some faint mysterious runes had appeared on the surface of the blade. However, they were extremely blurry and incomplete, making it almost impossible to make out without close inspection.

When Lin Xun tried to identify the mysterious runes with his spirit senses, he found himself unable to do so because they were far too blurry and cryptic. There was nothing he could do.

"When the Broken Blade absorbs enough power, things might be different..."

Lin Xun fell deep in thought.

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When Lin Xun dragged out his three full sacks of battle spoils to the entrance of the cave, his eyes immediately narrowed.

He could sense numerous powerful presences rushing toward Tiger Canyon from all directions. They clearly made no effort to hide, making them easy to detect.

Swish!

Lin Xun activated the Hornless Ice Dragon Step. He turned into a shadow and disappeared from the spot as he rushed out of Tiger Canyon.

“Quickly!”

“That human youngster is so ballsy. I can’t believe he dared to come back. I won’t let him off this time!”

“Abominable! We were this close to killing those empire cultivators, but have no choice but to rush back because of this. If I see that human youngster, I’ll skin him alive!”

Curses rang out at the entrance of the canyon as figure after figure soon dashed into the Brute Blood Magi Array.

The two Enlightened Spirit experts, Jin Wu and Feng Kun, were amongst them. The two were also accompanied by several experts who gave off similarly powerful auras.

These were evidently the powerhouses who had been sent to reinforce Tiger Canyon!

When they walked into the canyon, they found the place was a mess with blood and corpses everywhere. The dreadful scene triggered them, causing them to furiously curse and swear.

None of them noticed that an almost invisible silhouette had flashed through the Brute Blood Magi Array when they stepped into the canyon.

The silhouette naturally belonged to Lin Xun.

“What a close call! I would have been stuck on the other side if I was a step slower.” Lin Xun secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

Before he could continue his escape, however, his expression suddenly changed slightly. He immediately hid in the shadow of a nearby hill and fully circulated the ‘Suanni Qi’, causing his presence and the sacks to disappear as if they had evaporated into thin air.

Swoosh!

At nearly the same moment, a shadow appeared. A thin suntanned elder had appeared at Lin Xun’s previous position like a phantom.

“It’s him!”

Lin Xun’s pupils shrank. He had identified the person.

When he arrived at Blood Kill Battlefield yesterday, he was about to kill the ‘shadow man’ who possessed the Darkness Brute Royal Bloodline but was stopped by a terrifying presence at the last moment.

It was the same terrifying presence he was now sensing, and it originated from the elder who had suddenly appeared out of nowhere!

“A Half-Step Life Death Stage King...it seems that the Brute Tribes have become serious. It’s a pity that the Biluo Arrow they painstakingly tried to obtain has already fallen into my hands...”

Lin Xun tried his best to keep calm. He knew that the danger had yet to pass.

“Eh?”

The thin elder stood there with a suspicious expression as he looked about as if he had sensed something.

In the end, he shook his head and walked into Tiger Canyon.

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#### **Chapter 704: Ultima Saint Weapon**

The thin elder’s departure was a heart-thumping moment.

However, Lin Xun soon discovered that he could no longer leave because squad after squad of Brute elites was flooding toward Tiger Canyon...

I’m in trouble!

Lin Xun inwardly cursed.

He was using Suanni Qi to conceal his presence. Although he would not be discovered by the enemies, any movement he made would immediately reveal his presence.

Huu~

After briefly contemplating, Lin Xun gritted his teeth and decided to stay and act according to how things developed.

Meanwhile, he took out a high-grade aeth crystal and began to absorb it to replenish the energy he had used in the earlier fight.

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In Tiger Canyon, after the initial shock and anger, the atmosphere became stiflingly silent.

The Half-Step King elder called Man Jiu was currently discussing their next move with Feng Kun, Jin Wu, and the other Enlightened Spirit experts.

One of the Enlightened Spirit experts angrily cursed, “That blasted little human shit. Who could have anticipated that he would return and attack us? What a ballsy dog!”

The others also had incomparably ugly expressions. They had already discovered that the mysterious arrow in the cave had disappeared, and it was obviously the work of that human youngster!

“Abominable! Since when has our Brute race suffered such a huge disgrace in Blood Kill Battlefield? Even She Zhen, Yan Chixing, and Yin Beigu were killed. If word of this spreads, it will cause great turmoil!”

“The most pressing matter, for now, is to capture that little shit!”

“Right, he only has Heaven Ascension cultivation, but that terrifying white bone bow of his has caused us to suffer heavy losses. Worst of all, he stole the supreme treasure!”

“According to one of the old monsters from the Ancient Brute Tribe, that divine arrow is very likely an Ultima Saint Weapon left by a Saint-King from the ancient era! Its terrifying power can kill even an almighty Brute King expert. If it falls into the hands of the human empire cultivators, it will be an absolute disaster for us!”

The Brute experts spoke out one after another. They hated Lin Xun and were frustrated and angered to the max, making them unable to tolerate his continued existence.

Man Jiu, who had been silent since the beginning, suddenly asked, “What does that youngster look like?”

“He’s a teenager with Heaven Ascension Cultivation, and looks...” Jin Wu described Lin Xun’s appearance.

“It’s him!” Chilling light shot from Man Jiu’s eyes.

The others looked at each other in surprise and confusion. “Does Elder Man Jiu know him?”

Man Jiu was a Half-Step Brute King of the Darkness Brute Tribe. He possessed frightening strength that was second only to a true Brute King!

It was unexpected that someone like him would know a human youngster.

After a long silence, Man Jiu finally divulged the truth, “Yesterday, he nearly killed the Young Master of my tribe. My Young Master has judged that he...has likely attained the legendary supreme path.”

What!?

Everyone gasped.

The supreme path! It was known as the ultimate apex even in the ancient era, and those who attained it would be like a king who could crush everyone else at the same cultivation stage!

There were far too many unbelievable and incredible tales about this path.

No one could have imagined that such a heaven-defying monster would be born in the Ziyao Empire!

Something like this had never happened before in the past.

It must be known that the experts present had already been shocked speechless when they heard the Darkness Tribe Young Master had nearly been killed by Lin Xun.

The Darkness Tribe Young Master was called Ying Qiao and was known as an overlord-like existence among the Brute Tribes' younger generation. Many bigwigs from the nine tribes highly regarded him and believed that he had high hopes to become a Brute Emperor once he managed to attain the supreme path!



However, such a dazzling person had nearly been killed by the human youngster. How could anyone not feel astonished by this?

“Reporting!”

While the experts were in shock, a scout arrived to report. “We’ve searched the area within a hundred-mile radius, but have found no traces of the enemy. Even traces of his presence can’t be found.”

The Brute scouts mostly consisted of Darkness Brute Tribe members. They were natural-born assassins and specialized in chasing and searching.

Despite this, even these Darkness Brute scouts had failed to find any traces of the human youngster. This made everyone’s expressions grow increasingly ugly.

“It’s impossible for someone to disappear for no reason!” Man Jiu frowned.

“He must have used some kind of secret art to conceal his presence, or has already escaped, or...is still hiding somewhere nearby!”

He spoke without any hesitation. Moreover, as a Half-Step King of the Darkness Brute Tribe, his words were undoubtedly very convincing.

Man Jiu commanded, “Search! Find him even if you have to overturn every rock and pebble in Tiger Canyon!”

“Elder, you believe that he still hasn’t escaped and is instead hiding nearby?”

The others realized that the elder might be onto something.

“I’ve inspected the traces of battle here and have concluded that based on the time, it is impossible for him to have escaped. Moreover, since he didn’t leave any traces within a hundred-mile radius, he must be hiding nearby!”

Icy light swirled in Man Jiu’s eyes. He appeared to be extremely confident.

Everyone immediately grew excited as unconcealable killing intent and hatred flowed out on their faces. Today had been infuriating for them.

A human youngster had humiliated them by making them suffer heavy losses and stealing the treasure they had been aiming for. How could they possibly take this lying down?

“Search!”

“Flatten that mountain!”

“That mine over there as well, destroy it!”

Commands rang out across the area as squad after squad of Brute elites swarmed into action. They proceeded with extreme violence as if intending to dig the entire place up.

Lin Xun, who had been observing everything, frowned, realizing that it would no longer be possible to hide.

“You guys, search that area!”

One of the Brute experts ordered as he led a group of guards over. However, before they could begin, blade starlight suddenly appeared out of nowhere.

Plop plop plop!

Seven or eight bloody heads were thrown into the air.

A Brute expert in the distance saw everything that had happened. His eyes immediately bulged in anger as he shrieked, “Here! The enemy is hiding here!”

In an instant, shouts rang out all around as the Enlightened Spirit experts murderously rushed over.

“It’s indeed that little shit!”

“Hahaha, I’m going to personally crush him this time!”

They saw Lin Xun flying away at full speed like prey that had been discovered by the hunter, causing them to shake with excitement.

“Chase!”

“Stop him!”

Brute elites swarmed over from every direction like a giant net closing in on Lin Xun to trap him.

Swish!

Lin Xun pushed the Hornless Ice Dragon Step to the limit, causing his aura to instantly jump to a new peak. He seemed to transform into a streak of illusory light as he became inconceivably quick.

Every foe in his path was instantly sliced to ribbons by the Broken Blade as if they were paper.

It was as if he had become a cone that was drilling a bloody path through the enemy forces at full speed.

Flee!

Lin Xun had abandoned even the three full bags of battle spoils as he frantically fled.

He had no choice. There wasn’t just a large group of Enlightened Spirit experts, but also a far more terrifying Half-Step King existence!

No matter how confident Lin Xun was in his strength, he wasn’t arrogant enough to think that he could fight a Half-Step King expert.

“How laughable. I only let you escape previously because my Young Master instructed me not to pursue you. If I let you escape again today, I will be too ashamed to call myself a member of the Darkness Brute Tribe!”

As his cold and stern voice sounded, Man Jiu seemed to transform into dark clouds that oppressively rumbled through the air as he headed straight for Lin Xun.

So fast!

Man Jiu wasn't just a Half-Step King; he was also a Darkness Tribe member who possessed unrivaled speed and assassination ability.

The moment he moved, Lin Xun felt as if a target had been placed on his back, causing his hair to stand on end as an unprecedented feeling of danger enveloped him.

Beng!

Lin Xun instinctively switched out his blade for the bow and fired an arrow without even looking back.

"Oh?"

Man Jiu's pupils abruptly shrank. He had been caught off guard and was nearly shot in the throat! The arrow had cut the skin on his neck, leaving a short string of blood in the air.

"No wonder he could kill Shi Zhen, Yan Chixing, and the others. That bow is incredible!" Man Jiu's expression remained indifferent as his killing intent intensified.

He was a Half-Step King!

Despite this, he had almost been killed by a human youngster while off guard. This angered him while also lighting a desire within him to obtain the bow.

The Dark Brutes were natural-born assassins. If he possessed such a bow, Man Jiu was confident that he could threaten even true Brute Kings!

"The bow must be mine!"

Man Jiu's eyes locked onto Lin Xun. He took a deep breath and decided to use his trump card to swiftly suppress Lin Xun and prevent potential complications.

Rumble!

Black mist-like flames rose around him, shooting straight into the sky. He seemed to transform into a demon as a terrifying pressure instantly enveloped the area within a hundred miles like a storm.

A wisp of ash-gray flame jumped at his fingertips. Although it seemed weak, it gave off an extremely dangerous aura of destruction.

It was like the flames of hell. A single wisp could incinerate mountains and rivers!

Before Man Jiu could attack, however, he suddenly stiffened as his heart produced an unrestrainable palpitation.

This...

Man Jiu immediately saw Lin Xun suddenly come to stop, turn around, and pull back the white bone bow.

Unlike before, there was a simple black arrow between his fingertips, its blood-red tip aimed at Man Jiu.

Man Jiu's scalp immediately turned numb. He felt as if the god of death was looking straight at him, causing his spirit to tremble uncontrollably in fear.

Was this the Ultima Saint Weapon that the little shit had stolen?

### The Prodigies War

#### **Chapter 705: Power of the Arrow**

When Lin Xun nocked the Biluo Arrow onto the No-Nonsense Bow and pulled back, all of the energy in his body frantically rushed toward the bow and arrow like water being sucked in by a whale.

Lin Xun felt as if he was instantly sucked dry.

Although his cultivation at the Heaven Ascension stage, his strength and power were so overwhelming that even Cyclic Derivation experts would pale in comparison.

Despite this, merely drawing the bow had sucked him dry, a situation that downright terrified him.

However, the arrow was already nocked, so how could he stop now?

Lin Xun gritted his teeth and desperately tried to hold on. Just as he was about to collapse, he was finally able to pull the No-Nonsense Bow fully back!

Beng!

When the Biluo Arrow was released, a faint howling sound that almost resembled the sound of the dao rang out as a terrifying image of the milky way and everything else disintegrating appeared.

Around the bow, the astonishing scene of a mighty sun falling as a golden crow cried blood appeared.

The nearby ground, space, rocks...instantly disintegrated, turning into a maelstrom of berserk and chaotic energy that seemed intent on dragging everything into the void to be completely destroyed.

The scene was far too terrifying.

A single arrow seemed to have taken over the entire space!

.....

Shit!

Man Jiu's scalp nearly exploded in alarm as he instinctively turned and ran. He frantically fled like a shadow, crossing tens of thousands of feet in a flash. It was a display of unbelievable speed.

If a Brute King was watching, even he would be amazed at the unrivaled speed of the Darkness Brute Tribe.

There was no doubt that Man Jiu had thrown everything he had into escaping.

Despite being a Half-Step King expert and an elder that had come close to danger and death countless times over the years, this was the first time Man Jiu felt such fatal danger.

It was too terrifying!

It made his spirit and heart shiver uncontrollably. He could not believe that such terrifying power could exist in this world.

Man Jiu had never experienced such fear and terror even when facing a true King expert.

Run!

Just moments ago, he had been filled with desire toward the No-Nonsense Bow and had been determined to obtain it. Now, however, he wanted nothing but to run as far away as possible!

“That bow and arrow are simply terrifying. Could they have originally been a set?”

“He must be killed. He absolutely cannot be allowed to live!”

“That bow and arrow especially must not fall into the hands of the empire cultivators!”

Various thoughts rapidly swirled in Man Jiu’s head.

However, he suddenly felt something was wrong. The scenery before his eyes began to darken as he heard a terrifying explosion.

Boom!

Something seemed to have exploded, filling his vision with blood-colored light.

His many years of fighting experience allowed Man Jiu to immediately realize that it was a body being blown apart.

However...

Why does it feel so wrong?

Indescribable pain suddenly surged into his mind. Man Jiu finally realized that everything he sensed had happened to him.

His body had been blown apart!

A feeling of indescribable sorrow suddenly filled him.

How did this happen? Why has death come so unexpectedly?

It was an outcome that Man Jiu never anticipated!

From start to end, he had not been able to react, sense, or even feel anything even until death suddenly arrived!

“Is this the power of an Ultima Saint Weapon...” With his last bit of consciousness, Man Jiu finally saw the arrow.

It was black as the night, simple, and unremarkable. It disappeared a split second later, making it appear all the more mysterious and inconceivable...

.....

Everything had happened far too quickly.

In the distance, the Enlightened Spirit experts were still menacingly rushing toward Lin Xun, their expressions filled with excitement and murder.

Meanwhile, squad after squad of Brute elites was swiftly closing in like a giant net, confident that they had finally caught their prey.

However, when Lin Xun shot the Biluo Arrow, time seemed to come to a standstill as everyone was overwhelmed by a terrifying dao rumbling.

Next, they were forced to witness a scene that they would never forget until their deaths—

An arrow shot through the air, instantly closing in on Half-Step King Man Jiu and killing him!

It was merely a single arrow!

Feng Kun, Jin Wu, the other Enlightened Spirit experts, and the nearby Brute elites were dumbstruck as their minds went blank.

That was Man Jiu!

He was a dreadful existence who was a step into the Brute King stage and was considered an apex expert in the Brute Tribes.

However, even he could not block the arrow!

His body was instantly blown apart, dyeing the air red. It was such a miserable death that it would make anyone feel hopeless.

“How can this be...”

“What a terrifying arrow!”

“No!”

A long time passed before the silent and stifling atmosphere was replaced by a thunderous uproar. Every Brute expert’s face was filled with horror, confusion, grief, and disbelief.

The Enlightened Spirit experts were no exception. Their expression fluctuated indeterminately as their hearts and bodies trembled uncontrollably.

That was a Half-Step King!

He was also a pinnacle existence among the Darkness Brute Tribe’s older generation, but he had been slaughtered just like that?

It was an overly shocking scene that would traumatize anyone.

After all, who could have imagined that the killer would be a mere Heaven Ascension human youngster wielding a single bow and arrow?

Fear rapidly flooded the area, causing everyone’s gazes to become deeply afraid when they looked at Lin Xun.

This was a youngster who had single-handedly awed and intimidated the experts in Tiger Canyon with a white bone bow and successfully saved a group of empire cultivators.

The same youngster had suddenly returned to Tiger Canyon and killed many Brute experts, leaving the place a bloody mess.

Now, he had even killed Half-Step King Man Jiu while everyone was watching!

Under these circumstances, who could remain calm or unafraid?

In the Brute experts' hearts, Lin Xun had become a young demon god who would make anyone's heart shiver in terror.

"Everyone, don't panic!"

A loud shout suddenly rang out. It was Feng Kun. He had noticed that their fighting spirit and morale were rapidly falling which was anything but good.

"That arrow earlier must have drained all of his power. He must be on his last legs and should be on the verge of collapsing!"

Feng Kun's voice thundered across the canyon, "See, he doesn't even have the strength to escape now!"

Numerous Brute experts immediately returned to their senses. Sure enough, they realized that the youngster was still standing there with a pale face. At closer inspection, even his hands were shaking a little.

If he still had enough energy, why would he miss such an excellent chance to flee?

After realizing this, the fear in Enlightened Spirit experts' hearts diminished substantially as they murderously glared at Lin Xun.

He can't be allowed to live!

If they didn't take advantage of this opportunity to kill him, it was likely that a Brute King would have to be dispatched to Blood Kill Battlefield just to capture or kill him in the future.

Most importantly, the bow and arrow were far too irrational and terrifying. It would be a disaster for the Brute Tribes if they did not seize these items from the human side.

The atmosphere had already changed!

Lin Xun sensed this as well. He had already anticipated that although his attack might be able to intimidate the enemies, once they paid a little attention, they would discover that his tank was nearly empty.

This was why Lin Xun had remained there and not chosen to escape.

There was nothing else he could do. All of his energy had been sucked dry by the arrow, and he no longer possessed the ability to escape.

It could be said that his situation had already deteriorated to the worst possible state.

Despite this, Lin Xun remained calm and collected on the surface. In response to the suspicious and murderous gazes directed at him, his lips parted slightly as he spat out two words, "Arrow come!"

His tone was calm, but gave off an unquestionable authority. A black flash suddenly arrived from far away and hovered above Lin Xun's hand.

It was the Biluo Arrow. It was still as black as the eternal night and its tip glowed a faint dark red. It looked no different than before.

However, the pressure spreading from the arrow caused ripples to form in the air.

Everyone's expressions immediately changed.

The Enlightened Spirit experts' pupils shrank as wariness and bewilderment were revealed in their eyes.

Did he still have the strength to fight again?

The place fell silent again because the Brute experts had been intimidated by the new development. Everyone had witnessed the Biluo Arrow's power that even a Half-Step King had failed to escape from. Who would dare to be the first to confirm their suspicions?

The power of the arrow vividly manifested itself at this moment!

Despite their fears, none of the Brute experts retreated. They were clearly waiting to confirm if Lin Xun was indeed on his last legs.

"Are the Brutes cowards? Does no one have the courage to even step forward and fight?"

Lin Xun laughed. Although it wasn't loud, the noise made the Brute expert's faces immediately turn ugly.

"Hmph! If you still have the strength to fight again, why are you just standing there?" Feng Kun icily snorted.

"Or perhaps you're trying to put on a strong front and can't hold on for much longer?"

Lin Xun casually replied, "Why talk so much? Come and try me if you dare."

Feng Kun's eyes narrowed before he suddenly commanded the nearby Brute guards, "Go and kill him. There's no need to be nervous because he's merely putting on a tough act."

The Brute guards' expressions changed as they inwardly cursed. They had already lost their courage and had no desire to test Lin Xun because the consequences were too horrible to imagine.

However, they could not go against their commands either and could only steel themselves and grit their teeth before charging at Lin Xun.

Plop plop plop!

However, before they could approach, small black specks suddenly flew out from Lin Xun's fingertips and disappeared into the Brute guards' bodies.

The guards screamed in agony and crashed to the ground. It was clear that they no longer had any life force and even their spirits had disappeared.

God Devourer Insects!

The bizarre ancient era insects he had sealed in his mind-sea were finally able to show their usefulness.



Hss!

Gasps sounded all around as the Brute experts panicked again. The result undoubtedly showed that the youngster wasn't putting up a strong front, but did have the strength to continue fighting!

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 706: Talent Transformation**

The God Devourer Insects' deadliness made the Brute experts hesitant and afraid to approach again.

As a result, the situation fell into a deadlock for a time.

This was power!

Lin Xun had single-handedly attacked Tiger Canyon twice, creating rivers of blood and inflicting heavy casualties on the Brute experts stationed there.

Today, he had even killed a Half-Step King with a single arrow.

Due to these circumstances, despite suspecting that Lin Xun was in a vulnerable state and was only putting on a strong front, no one dared to be the first to test their suspicions.

Lin Xun was deeply anxious because he knew that he was indeed completely spent.

Eh?

While Lin Xun was desperately absorbing energy from a high-grade aeth crystal, a mysterious and peculiar heat flow suddenly emerged from his four heart acupuncture points and spread to his entire body.

In an instant, his originally depleted reserves recovered somewhat as if rain was nourishing a dried-up body, causing him to feel a surge of energy.

This is...

The power of my Origin Aeth Artery!

Lin Xun's heart violently shuddered. He could clearly sense the Origin Aeth Artery glowing as mysterious hot energy flowed from it as if it had awakened.

Such a thing had never happened before.

Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer...

Only blossomed in the face of adversity!

"Could pushing myself to the limit be the secret to awakening its power?" A sliver of comprehension dawned upon Lin Xun.

The Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer was an extremely rare first-class talent even in the ancient era, and there were barely any rumors or records about it.

Because it was far too rare!

There was no doubt that the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer possessed unimaginable secrets. Otherwise, why would a peerless individual like Yun Qingbai from the Omega Sword Sect have coveted and eventually stolen the Origin Aeth Artery from Lin Xun when he was a baby?

At the present, Yun Qingbai had already stepped onto the legendary perfect dao path by borrowing the powers of the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer and was known as the number one sword cultivator among his generation in the Ancient Wastelands Domain. Moreover, he was also said to be invincible under the Life Death King Stage!

From this, it was easy to see how terrifying the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer was.

As for Lin Xun, he was still in the process of learning about the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer and was still unable to wield the powers of the talent he had been born with.

This was why he had been surprised and elated when he noticed the unusual activity of his Origin Aeth Artery.

Regardless of what it was, the fact was that his exhausted body was recovering at an astonishing speed due to it!

Unfortunately, he was hard-pressed for time!

Lin Xun sorely wished he could sit down and try to better understand the peculiar change that was occurring. However, he had no choice but to resist the urge to do so because he was surrounded by the enemy and a battle might erupt at any moment.

Swish!

A streak of light suddenly broke the deadlock. Something gleamed icily as it flowed across the air and stabbed at Lin Xun's throat.

It was a white bone flying sword!

"You're asking for death!"

Icy light blossomed in Lin Xun's eyes as he suddenly pulled back the No-Nonsense Bow. The terrifying pressure that pulsed from the bow instantly pulverized the white bone flying sword, turning it into specks of light that faded into the sky.

Beng!

At the same time, an aeth arrow shot toward one of the experts at an inconceivable speed.

The target was an Enlightened Spirit expert who had finally run out of patience earlier and sent out the flying sword to gauge Lin Xun's state.

However, he never imagined that Lin Xun's counterattack would be so ferocious and domineering!

"Blast it!"

He cursed in anger as he hurriedly dodged to the side. Unfortunately, he was a split second too slow and the arrow blew apart his arm, sending blood and flesh flying as he roared in pain like a wild animal.

Everyone was shaken. This time, an Enlightened Spirit expert was injured. It was a result that made the Brute experts' expressions change again.

Was he actually not bluffing?

Meanwhile, Lin Xun inwardly sighed. The little energy he recovered had been consumed after shooting the arrow.

The only silver lining was that his Origin Aeth Artery was still producing a mysterious hot flow that continuously replenished his power.

"I refuse to believe that he can't be beaten! We'll attack together. Regardless of the cost, we will destroy him today!"

After a brief struggle, Feng Kun released an angry roar. He decided that they had to kill Lin Xun no matter the sacrifices.

The atmosphere immediately grew increasingly tense.

Although it might have seemed slow, barely any time had passed since the beginning of the deadlock. Only Lin Xun could understand the danger and urgency he had experienced within these brief few moments.

Upon seeing that the enemy had finally cast aside their wariness and hesitation, Lin Xun inwardly sighed. He could only grit his teeth and steel himself for battle.

Although the power provided by the Origin Aeth Artery could not immediately return him to peak condition, the continuous recovery gave Lin Xun enough strength to fight.

However...it was going to be a very tough battle!

Rumble~

Before the battle could erupt, however, a deafening rumble suddenly sounded from afar.

A pitch-black ship that spanned over ten thousand feet in length appeared from the horizon, smashing through the clouds like a floating continent as it rapidly approached.

Lin Xun breathed a sigh of relief. "They're finally here, looks like I didn't save you guys in vain..."

An uproar erupted on the Brute side.

"It's the human empire's large-scale battleship!"

"My god, the empire's cultivator army is coming..."

Everyone's expressions changed. That was the Ziyao Empire's large-scale battleship. Whenever one of them was dispatched, a giant battle would surely follow.

As Brutes who had warred against the empire for several thousand years, they were well aware that the appearance of a large-scale battleship meant that at least one of the bigshots from the empire had also been dispatched!

“Damnit!”

Feng Kun’s, Jin Wu’s, and the other Enlightened Spirit experts’ expressions sank. Never in their wildest dreams would they have imagined that the reinforcements from the empire would arrive at this moment. Moreover, the scale of the reinforcements also far exceeded their expectation.

“We’ll fight them!”

Feng Kun refused to back down. If they didn’t kill Lin Xun and seize the bow and arrow, there would be unimaginably dire consequences in the future.

However, almost immediately after he said this, an icy snort sounded from the sky, “Fight? I do want to see what you guys have to fight with!”

The powerful and domineering voice boomed across the sky, followed by a horrifying pressure that caused the Brute experts to stiffen and feel as if they were suddenly transported to an ice cave.

A Life Death Stage King!

Even Feng Kun’s, Jin Wu’s, and the other top experts’ hearts turned cold as their eyes bulged from their sockets in horror. They knew that it was already over.

Feng Kun furiously roared, “Scatter!”

There was actually no need for him to speak. When everyone realized that a Life Death Stage King and a large-scale battleship were approaching, they immediately lost their will to fight and fled in a panic.

Lin Xun relaxed as exhaustion swiftly washed over his body.

The battle had been filled with danger, and a single misstep would have likely ended in his death. Fortunately, it was all over now.

“I didn’t think that you’d still be alive, kid. What a tenacious little fellow!”

Suddenly, a figure descended from the sky and appeared in front of Lin Xun. His mighty figure walked with the dignity of a dragon, and his hair and beard were ink-black. Each time he blinked, a terrifying and domineering pressure would spread.

It was the 7th Army Camp Top General, Zhangsun Lie!

However, Lin Xun was surprised that Zhangsun Lie did not go after the fleeing Brute experts.

Instead, he was glaring at Lin Xun with a livid expression.

“Remember this well. You’d better not cause me any more trouble on Blood Kill Battlefield in the future. I might have managed to save you this time, but the next time you’re in trouble, no one will help you collect your remains, let alone save you!”

Without any regard for Lin Xun’s feelings, Zhangsun Lie immediately unleashed a barrage of scolding. After which, he turned around and left without caring if Lin Xun had listened to any of it.

Lin Xun was stunned. This general had quite a temper...

“Young Master Lin, it’s great that you’re still alive!”

In the distance, Lu Wenting rushed over while sweating profusely. After confirming that Lin Xun hadn’t lost any limbs, he breathed a heavy sigh of relief.

Soon after, he resentfully said, “Young Master Lin, don’t ever take such risks next time. If something happens to you, I won’t be able to explain to the General.”

Lin Xun acknowledged and smiled faintly, “I didn’t expect that there would be so many powerful Brute experts in Tiger Canyon. It was truly strange. However, you’re also to blame because you were the one who arranged this mission for me.”

Lu Wenting immediately became awkward and embarrassedly said, “It’s very common for such unexpected developments to occur in the Blood Kill Battlefield.”

“Regardless, I’ve still troubled Lord Lu.” Lin Xun cupped his hands together.

Lu Wenting sighed and said, “Ugh, I will be happy as long as Young Master doesn’t risk his life like today in the future.”

Lin Xun chuckled and did not comment.

In the distance, the battleship landed and the empire cultivators swiftly emerged. When they arrived, they were immediately overwhelmed by shock.

They had seen countless Brute expert corpses along the way. Some had been blown apart while others were still mostly intact and there was blood everywhere, creating a grisly scene.

Tiger Canyon was also a mess. Mountains had been reduced to rubble, the ground was cracked, and there were craters and bodies everywhere. The place was also covered in marks left by arrows and dao qi.

They nearly did not dare to believe that a single youngster had caused all of this destruction and carnage!

“My god! That’s the blood of a Half-Step King expert! Could a Half-Step King expert have coughed blood here?”

A veteran Cyclic Derivation expert suddenly cried out in astonishment when he discovered Man Jiu’s remains.

His words immediately caused a great commotion. Everyone’s gazes changed when they looked at Lin Xun again, now filled with respect and disbelief.

“So many battle spoils!”

It was not long before even the three large sacks left behind by Lin Xun at the canyon’s entrance were discovered. The bloody battle spoils within them made the empire cultivators’ eyes bulge in shock.

This youngster...is way too savage...

By this time, Lin Xun had already boarded the battleship.

There was no longer anything that interested him here. Moreover, he urgently needed to recover and did not wish to waste any more time in Tiger Canyon.

As for the battle spoils...

With Quartermaster Lu Wenting around, no one would dare to even think about stealing it.

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 707: Blood Wanted List**

The 7th army camp.

After Lin Xun returned, he went straight to his room and locked himself away to begin closed-door cultivation.

The battle had utterly exhausted him, and he sorely needed to meditate and recover. More importantly, he wanted to use this opportunity to try and study and unravel the secrets of his Origin Aeth Artery!

While Lin was in closed-door cultivation, a great commotion erupted in the world outside.

When Top General Zhangsun Lie personally set off from the camp with a battleship, it had drawn much attention. Everyone was speculating about who could have made Zhangsun Lie personally take action.

Upon the battleship's return, Lin Xun instantly became the focus of the entire camp.

Unfortunately, he had rushed into closed-door cultivation the moment he returned, leaving the cultivators in the camp with no way to find out what had happened.

However, when they saw full sack after sack being transported out of the battleship, the entire camp nearly exploded with excitement.

The cultivators in the camp were dumbstruck when they discovered that all of this military credit was singlehandedly earned by Lin Xun.

A Heaven Ascension youngster had killed so many enemies in Blood Kill Battlefield?

Someone could not help but curse out loud, "F\*ck, most of these are Great Magi level military credit, and there's even Enlightened Spirit level military credit! My goodness, were they all killed by him?"

The other cultivators looked at each other in shock and disbelief.

Great Magi!

It was an existence comparable to Heaven Ascension experts. Most empire cultivators would have trouble dealing with such an enemy.

That was why it was all the more astonishing that more than half of the military credit in the sacks were parts from Great Magis who had been killed.

Enlightened Spirit experts were even more incredible and were considered true powerhouses among the Brute Tribes! Usually, the empire's top Cyclic Derivation experts would have to be dispatched to slay such existences.

And yet, at least five of such Enlightened Spirit experts had been killed and turned into Lin Xun's military credit!

It was unbelievable, to say the least.

Even the veteran soldiers who had fought in Kill Blood Battlefield for many years could not remain calm. Such a thing had almost never happened before.

Hu Tong, A'bi, and the others were also in the crowd and naturally witnessed everything.

They breathed sighs of relief and relaxed upon knowing that Lin Xun had been rescued.

They already realized that Lin Xun's identity was special. Why else would Top General Zhangsun have so anxiously rushed to save him?

If Lin Xun died, they definitely won't be let off!

Fortunately, Lin Xun survived.

However, the sight of sacks filled with military credit being transported out of the battleship utterly shocked Hu Tong and others.

Previously, many of them had viewed Lin Xun as a pampered, ignorant, and incompetent leech who was only greedy for military credit. They had felt nothing but disgust and disdain toward him.

Who could have imagined that they would ultimately be saved by this 'leech'?

In addition, the military credit he had earned by himself was more than enough to shame any Cyclic Derivation expert in the 7th army camp!

"We only realized his greatness when it was too late." Hu Tong sighed deeply.

"What? There's also the remains of a Half-Step King?"

Some empire cultivators who had participated in the mission exited the battleship and dropped a bomb on everyone, causing another uproar as everyone's eyes nearly dropped from their sockets.

Someone skeptically said, "It can't be. He's a Heaven Ascension youngster. How could he have killed an expert that is an entire greater cultivation stage higher? That's more ludicrous than those legendary tales!"

"Yeah, could it have been Top General Zhangsun Lei who killed the Half-Step King?"

Someone else tried to make sense of things

The cultivators who had returned from the operation merely displayed disdainful expressions. They could not be bothered to explain.

To be frank, they were still in a dazed state and could not fathom how Lin Xun had achieved such a feat. It was just too shocking and unbelievable.

The only thing they were completely certain of, was that a Half-Step King had died in the battle of Tiger Canyon and his bloody remains had been collected.

.....

On this day, the 7th army camp was abuzz with excitement until deep in the night. Everyone, both the empire cultivator army and the unaffiliated cultivator forces, was talking about a single person— Lin Xun!

The youngster, who had arrived at the 7th army camp yesterday night, had leaped to fame in a single day through his bloody battle accomplishments.

In fact, numerous cultivators had tried to pay a visit to Lin Xun's quarters that same day. Unfortunately, it was already heavily guarded, and no one was allowed to approach.

This was naturally Lu Wenting's handiwork. He did not wish for anything to happen to Lin Xun again and immediately ordered a squad of elites to guard his quarters upon returning.

It was a special treatment that only Lin Xun could enjoy in the 7th army camp.

.....

Lin Xun was in closed-door cultivation and was naturally unaware of everything that was happening in the outside world.

Crack crack!

In his silent room, the only noise that would occasionally be heard was the sound of high-grade aeth crystals shattering.

Three days soon passed.

"General, Lin Xun's military contribution from the Tiger Canyon battle has been calculated."

Lu Wenting had an odd look on his face.

Zhangsun Lei raised his head from his files and asked, "What's the total?"

Lu Wenting swallowed with some difficulty, took a deep breath, and said, "A first-tier military credit and seventy-two second-tier military credits."

Zhangsun Lei's pupils shrank. He slammed the table and cursed, "Nonsense! First-tier military credit? Did you give some 'special attention' to him?"

The so-called 'special attention' referred to showing favoritism and bending the rules. Lu Wenting naturally knew this and hurriedly said, "General, Lord Blood Kill King instructed to treat him like everyone else. How could I possibly dare to misreport his military credit?"

After a pause, he continued, "The first-tier military credit comes from Young Master Lin's kill of a Half-Step King expert!"

"Has it been confirmed that he was the killer?"

Zhangsun Lei raised an eyebrow. He had also heard of this matter but was skeptical that Lin Xun had done it.



After all, even a Life Death Stage King like him had never heard of any Heaven Ascension cultivator who had managed to kill a Half-Step King.

Such a feat had never been accomplished before in the empire's several-thousand-year-long history. It was simply unprecedented!

"We've confirmed it. Our scouts have confirmed from the Brute side that the dead Half-Step King is called Man Jiu and was one of the top older-generation experts of the Darkness Brute Tribe who has been serving the Darkness Tribe royal clan descendent, Ying Qiao."

Lu Wenting hurriedly explained, "According to the information we gathered from the Brute side, Man Jiu died at Young Master Lin's hands, moreover..."

At this point, he became somewhat hesitant.

"Moreover what?" Zhangsun Lei frowned in dissatisfaction.

Lu Wenting steeled himself and said, "Moreover, from the reports we've gathered, Man Jiu was killed by a single arrow from Lin Xun..."

Zhangsun Lei slapped the table again and berated, "Your mom's arse! Killing a Half-Step King who is also adept in the art of assassination with a single arrow? You're bullshitting me!"

Lu Wenting smiled bitterly, "I knew you wouldn't believe it, General, but it's true. There are many witnesses from the Brute Tribes."

Zhangsun Lei immediately fell silent. After a long time, he massaged his temples and muttered, "Where did that old Blood Kill King bastard pick up such a heaven-defying little monster? Killing a Half-Step King with a single arrow? What a freak...it looks like the Blood Kill King intends to train the kid through the Blood Kill Battlefield..."

Lu Wenting knew that the general had begun to reevaluate Lin Xun's capabilities, which might be a good thing.

Lu Wenting said, "General, there's still one other matter."

"Speak."

"The Brute Tribes have sent out a new 'Blood Wanted List'. There are no changes to the names but..."

"But what?"

"Young Master Lin's name has also appeared on it."

"Oh?"

Upon hearing this, icy light blossomed in Zhangsun Lie's eyes. "What's his rank?"

"49th!"

Zhangsun Lei slammed his hands onto the table, shattering it to pieces.

Unconcealable killing intent surged on his face. "What a high rank. The Brute Tribes are trying to make Lin Xun a public target!"

Lu Wenting thought the same.

The Brute Tribes' Blood Wanted List was basically the same as the empire's 'Bounty List.' The only difference was that the names listed on the Blood Wanted List all belonged to the empire cultivators!

Every individual was a must-kill for the Brute Tribes, and the higher they ranked, the greater the threat toward the Brute Tribes.

Normally speaking, the top hundred ranks on the Blood Wanted List would only consist of the top Cyclic Derivation experts among the empire cultivators!

Despite arriving in Blood Kill Battlefield a few days ago and only being at the Heaven Ascension stage, Lin Xun had become ranked 49th on the Blood Wanted List. It was obvious that the Brute Tribes now viewed him as a must-kill enemy!

It was no wonder that Zhangsun Lei was angered. Once his ranking was made public, Lin Xun would receive unimaginable 'attention' in Blood Kill Battlefield!

Lu Wenting smiled bitterly and said, "That's not even the most absurd part. Young Master Lin's bounty is as high as the 10th place person..."

Zhangsun Lei asked, "Who's the current 10th place?"

Lu Wenting swiftly replied, "A Half-Step King expert from the 2nd army camp, Qin Wenzhong!"

"They've gone too far!"

Zhangsun Lei furiously cursed, "How can the 49th rank have the same bounty as a peak Half-Step King expert? They must be sick in the head!"

"It might be because Man Jiu was killed by a single arrow from Young Master Lin. In addition, he absolutely terrorized those Brute trash, making them feel endangered and threatened. That might be why they made such an unscrupulous arrangement."

Lu Wenting gave his analysis.

Zhangsun Lei asked, "Where is he now?"

"He's in closed-door cultivation."

Zhangsun Lei commanded without hesitation, "Give the order that he is forbidden from stepping out of the camp for the time being!"

Lu Wenting knew that this was to protect Lin Xun.

After all, Lin Xun was drawing too much attention, and his name was now on the Blood Wanted List. If he appeared on the battlefield, the enemies would definitely target him endlessly!

However...

Lu Wenting sighed. He was uncertain if Lin Xun would comply...

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 708: Inadvertent Cultivation Advancement**

The room was pitch-black.

Lin Xun was seated on the ground beside a thick layer of high-grade aeth crystal dust.

He had been meditating for five days. Gleaming white aeth channels gave off a dreamy and sacred glow around his chest area.

Amidst the sacred glow, the image of a grand abyss surged forth.

The grand abyss was akin to the void, empty and endless.

Lin Xun felt and probed it with his senses. Amidst the process, he seemed to hear an ancient, vast, and cryptic dao sound drift out from deep within the abyss.

His aura noiselessly circulated, and his mind was clear, focused, and empty of stray thoughts, reaching a state of concentration where he even forgot himself.

Surges of mysterious heat flows spread from the area around his four heart acupuncture points and filled his limbs and skeleton. It nourished his flesh and blood while bringing out his latent potential.

In his Heaven Ascension Cave, divine light gushed forth, making it seem as if the light was rising through the air like steam. Three white-jade-like treasure lights flew out from a simple dao platform and circled around it, making it grow increasingly sacred and magnificent.

Lin Xun was oblivious to all of these happenings.

.....

On the seventh day of cultivation.

A rustling noise sounded from Lin Xun's body like a silkworm breaking out of its cocoon.

Lin Xun's long hair fell from his head as new hair grew out at an inconceivable speed. The thick, pitch-black hair seemed to sparkle like crystals and reached all the way down to his waist like a black waterfall.

Next, Lin Xun's skin began to crack and fall off inch by inch as a new layer of skin replaced it. The new skin gleamed, making him look like the most perfect jade statue, and overflowed with dao light.

Despite its seemingly soft and glowing appearance, it hid an extremely terrifying power.

Subsequently, a divine halo floated out around Lin Xun, sprinkling light around him which made him look akin to a celestial being that was about to ascend.

It was as if he had been reborn anew and had cast aside his mortal shell!

.....

On the tenth day.

The external changes finally stopped. His presence grew increasingly transcendent and ethereal as an indescribable dao ripple spread around him.

Thunder seemed to boom in his body as his internal organs, Heaven Ascension Cave, channels, and bones resonated at a unique rhythm. His aura roared like a raging sea or a crumbling mountain as the rumbling in his body continued at a constant peak.

Dong!

Dong!

Dong!

Even the beat of his heart sounded like thunder booming in the heavens, brimming with strong and powerful vitality.

The guards stationed outside Lin Xun's room violently shuddered, feeling as if their spirits were being viciously blasted by dao sound. It felt so unbearable that they nearly coughed blood several times.

It was caused by a mere wisp of aura that had leaked out from Lin Xun's cultivation!

.....

On the thirteenth day.

The internal changes also stopped, and everything became calm.

Swoosh!

At this moment, Lin Xun opened his eyes. Gorgeous lightning seemed to flash in the room, tearing apart the darkness!

Upon closer inspection, Lin Xun's black eyes looked akin to deep abysses. Divine light surged within them as they gave off an overwhelming and oppressive aura that seemed capable of devouring a person's soul!

"I didn't expect this, I truly didn't expect...that I would inadvertently advance to the next cultivation stage...the world is indeed filled with unpredictable randomness..."

A strange smile rose from the corners of Lin Xun's lips as the divine light in his eyes withdrew, becoming deep and clear like an ancient well.

He had advanced!

Even Lin Xun himself never expected that he would inadvertently achieve a cultivation breakthrough and reach the advanced Heaven Ascension stage.

It was rather inconceivable.

Previously, he had prepared ample high-grade aeth crystals to attempt a cultivation breakthrough. However, the transformation he underwent during his closed-door cultivation session had allowed him to achieve his breakthrough in advance. Moreover, he had not wasted any high-grade aeth crystals to do so!

“It’s probably related to my Origin Aeth Artery...”

Lin Xun fell into deep thought. Previously, he had been trying to learn more about his Origin Aeth Artery in order to gain control over the secrets it held.

However, he had not discovered anything and had only sensed a vast, ancient, and cryptic dao sound.

It was only now that Lin Xun realized that he had learned nothing. Although, at the very least, he had somehow reached the advanced Heaven Ascension stage.

“Origin Aeth Artery...Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer...”

With a deep breath, Lin Xun resolved to discover all of its secrets one day. Such a peerless talent was basically a treasure trove. It would be a terrible waste if he didn’t make full use of it.

Next, Lin Xun began to feel the changes in his body.

“My physical ability has ascended to the next level. With such abundant life force, I should be able to regrow severed limbs and even grave injuries should recover with sufficient time...”

“With the increase in my cultivation power, I should be able to kill someone like She Zhen even without the No-Nonsense Bow...”

“It’s a pity that my spirit power is still stuck at the Moon Phase stage. I wonder when I’ll be able to cultivate the third greater cultivation stage, Sun Illumination...”

“Not bad, not bad, my dao comprehension has also improved. My Water Dao Ripple has reached the perfect stage and only lacks an opportunity to ascend to the Dao Meaning level.”

Lin Xun was elated as sensed the changes in his power. In the inhospitable and dangerous Blood Kill Battlefield, the more strength a cultivator possessed the greater their chances of survival.

.....

Not long after, Lin Xun pushed open the doors and exited, immediately drawing many respectful and wary gazes.

They belonged to the guards who had been stationed outside Lin Xun’s room. Despite being seasoned veterans and fierce fighters of the Blood Kill Battlefield, they were acting very respectfully in front of Lin Xun.

The guard leader respectfully said, “Young Master Lin, Lord Lu instructed us to tell you to head to the storehouse when you’re out.”

“I’ve troubled you guys.” Lin Xun cupped his hands together. He knew that the guards had been helping guard his quarters for the past few days.

Only after Lin Xun departed did the guards breathe sighs of relief.

The Heaven Ascension youngster was now famous in the Blood Kill Battlefield. In a single night, he had become a new rising star known by both allies and enemies.

Killing a Half-Step King with a single arrow...

Singlehandedly slaying numerous powerful Brute experts in Tiger Canyon and accumulating a tremendous amount of military credits...

Becoming the only person with Heaven Ascension cultivation on the enemy's Blood Wanted List...

All of this was astonishing, to say the least!

Half a month had passed since then, but Lin Xun was still a hot topic among the empire's eight camps.

The storehouse.

"Kid, you're in big trouble now!"

Lu Wenting sighed when he saw Lin Xun. "The general has ordered that you have to stay in the camp and are forbidden from leaving."

Lin Xun raised a brow. "What's going on?"

Lu Wenting began recounting everything that had happened over the past few days, such as the Blood Wanted List and the ripples caused by the battle of Tiger Canyon.

In the end, Lu Wenting said, "Currently, the top Brute experts have declared that they will kill you to avenge Half-Step King Man Jiu. The situation doesn't bode you well at all."

Lin Xun could not help but frown. "It's just a Blood Wanted List, why must we be so nervous? If they want to kill me, I say bring it on. It just so happens that I've been stressing over how I can earn more military credits."

Lu Wenting was greatly alarmed. "You can't! Young Master Lin, do you still not understand the severity of the situation? The moment you appear on the battlefield, you will likely draw the attention of Half-Step Kings!"

Lin Xun offhandedly replied, "So what? It's not like I haven't killed one before."

Lu Wenting was speechless. It was true that the top Darkness Tribe Half-Step King expert, Man Jiu, had been killed by Lin Xun.

However, if Lin Xun were allowed to leave camp and head to the battlefield, there would be far too much unpredictable danger.

Lu Wenting did not wish to have such a traumatic experience again.

Likewise, he was very certain that General Zhangsun Lei wouldn't agree either.

"Young Master Lin, can you...can you not make things difficult for this old man?" Lu Wenting was on the verge of tears as he begged Lin Xun.

His coaxing ultimately succeeded and Lin Xun gave in. However, he also made it clear that they should allow him back on the battlefield when there was a chance.

This made Lu Wenting inwardly breathe a sigh of relief. He had been afraid that Lin Xun wouldn't cooperate.

Lin Xun suddenly said, "Since I have to stay in camp, I can't sit around and do nothing. I'll head to the military workshop to have a look."

"What?"

Lu Wenting stiffened as the joy that had just appeared immediately vanished. His expression fluctuated indeterminately.

Why can't you just behave yourself? Must you go and mess up the military workshop?!

Lu Wenting had a headache.

"Is that forbidden as well?" Lin Xun frowned.

"Of course not!"

Lu Wenting gritted his teeth and agreed. He quickly tried to figure out what kind of duty he could arrange for Lin Xun to make him behave himself and not disturb order in the workshop.

On that same day, everyone was shocked to find out that Lin Xun was going to the military workshop to work as an assistant to the rune masters.

Everyone found it ridiculous. Why had a heaven pride who could kill a Half-Step King suddenly become a rune master assistant?

Wasn't this a waste of talent? It made no sense at all!

Many cultivators felt that it must be some kind of mistake. Even the rune masters working at the military workshop were rendered speechless by the news.

What the hell was Lu Wenting trying to do?

Regardless, when Lin Xun appeared at the military workshop, the unbelievable news was finally proven to be true!

All the cultivators from the 7th camp were stupefied.

So it was real!

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 709: Underestimated**

"Let this kid become my assistant? Hehe, impossible!"

When Lin Xun reported to the military workshop he was immediately met with objection.

The speaker was Grandmaster Ying. He was highly respected in the 7th camp, and his words held enormous weight. The rune masters in the military workshop viewed him as their leader.

Meanwhile, he was also the person in charge of the workshop.

Grandmaster Ying was currently seated behind a stack of documents, his eyes slightly narrowed as he expressionlessly read the document in his hand. He did not even raise his head or pay any attention to Lin Xun, who was standing in front of him.

A group of rune masters was watching nearby with their arms crossed. They observed Lin Xun with amused expressions as if ridiculing him.

Outside the workshop, the cultivators that had arrived after hearing the news were astonished. Grandmaster Ying was being far too disrespectful. He had rejected the assignment without any trace of tact.

Young Master Lin was a young heaven pride who had killed a Half-Step King with a single arrow. No one could have imagined that he would meet such strong resistance from Grandmaster Ying.

However, it was understandable when they thought about it. Grandmaster Ying was a highly experienced rune grandmaster who had worked in the 7th camp for many years. Over the years, he had helped repair countless weapons and equipment for the cultivators and was extremely respected and strongly supported by everyone.

Given Grandmaster Yin's status, it was true that he didn't need to give face to Lin Xun.

The atmosphere was very stiff for a time.

Lu Wenting, who had brought Lin Xun here to report, felt very awkward. He never expected that Grandmaster Ying's rejection would be so direct and blunt which made him wish he could hide his face.

Lu Wenting faked a cough and said, "Grandmaster Ying, it's just an assistant position. I guarantee that Young Master Lin will be up to the task given his capability and will not be a hindrance to your regular operations."

"Hmph!" Grandmaster Ying icily snorted, not bothering to raise his head this time either.

Being rudely rejected with so many people watching made Lu Wenting's face burn a little as he became a little angry.

On the other hand, Lin Xun appeared to be completely unaffected. He stood there with his hands behind his back as he looked around with some interest. It was as if none of this was related to him.

However, the atmosphere remained heavy and stifling.

More and more cultivators arrived outside the workshop. They were curious about why a heaven pride like Lin Xun would take on a job at the workshop. What was more ridiculous was that it entailed being Grandmaster Ying's assistant. The entire affair was just ludicrous and baffling.

However, when they saw Lin Xun encounter firm rejection the moment he arrived, the cultivators could not help but laugh.

In the 7th camp, only a highly respected veteran like Grandmaster Ying would dare to act so fearlessly.

It was a display of confidence in his ability and importance. It was either his way or the highway.

"Ying Xingkong!"

Lu Wenting called him directly by the name in anger, "This matter is of utmost importance and has been personally approved by General Zhangsun. Aren't you being a little too willful?"



Grandmaster Ying slowly raised his head. Expressionlessly, he stared straight at Lu Wenting and said, "I'm being willful? Aren't you the one kicking up a big fuss for no reason by allowing a hairless brat to be my assistant?"

"What do you mean by kicking up a fuss?" Lu Wenting was infuriated and felt the old man was being difficult and pigheaded.

Grandmaster Ying calmly said, "Fine, no more nonsense. If you want me to agree to him being an assistant, then I'll leave the workshop!"

The other rune masters paled in alarm. Losing Grandmaster Ying was akin to losing the workshop losing its soul!

"You can't!" They tried to advise him otherwise.

Even the cultivators outside began to panic somewhat. If Grandmaster Ying left, who would help them repair their weapons and equipment?

By this juncture, even Lu Wenting became hesitant as his expression fluctuated indeterminately. To be frank, he was originally against Lin Xun taking a job at the workshop.

However, he had already agreed, but was now being turned down by Grandmaster Ying. This made him frustrated and embarrassed.

It was also partly why he had fought so hard for Lin Xun earlier. However, the firm stance Grandmaster Ying displayed made Lu Wenting think about giving up.

It wouldn't be worth it at all if they lost Grandmaster Ying because of Lin Xun.

Lu Wenting asked Lin Xun, "How about...we find another job for you?"

However, Lin Xun chuckled and said, "No, if I can't even get the job of a rune master assistant, I'll be too ashamed to face anyone when I return to the empire."

He was the youngster rune grandmaster in the empire who had even crafted a rune armament. If anyone were to find out that he had been rejected for the position of a mere rune master assistant, he would become the biggest joke of the century.

However, his words sounded especially arrogant and piercing to the others, causing several rune masters to coldly snort.

"Heh, do you think you can do whatever you want just because you killed a Half-Step King? Do you even understand what runes are?"

"Young man, you might have astonishing combat ability and amazing talent, but it doesn't mean that you'll be able to perform at his job. Please watch your words!"

"Hurry up and leave if you refuse to take this seriously."

Several cultivators outside the workshop could not help but speak up as well, "Young Master Lin, it's okay if it doesn't work out. You excel in battle, and this job might not be suitable for you."

As for Grandmaster Ying, he could not even be bothered with Lin Xun and instead turned back to the documents in his hand, displaying a leisurely appearance.

Lin Xun felt that this was strangely absurd. What would the rune masters of the Forbidden City think if they witnessed this?

If he just left like this, it would become an unerasable black spot in his career.

"A'bi, pass me your weapon." Lin Xun glanced outside and beckoned at A'bi.

"Eh?"

A'bi was somewhat stunned, unsure of what Lin Xun was trying to do. However, since she wanted to support him as a friend, she walked forward and handed her broadsword to him.

Lin Xun was also stunned for a moment before he recalled that the heavy hammer A'bi originally possessed had been destroyed in the battle at Tiger Canyon.

"Okay then, I'll help you reforge this broadsword."

Lin Xun picked up the broadsword and observed it for a moment before settling on a decision.

"What, you...you're going to reforge that sword?" one of the rune masters blurted out, thinking he had misheard.

The others were stunned as well. Reforge a weapon? That was an extremely difficult task for rune masters.

After all, the weapon was already complete, and its rune arrays were fully stable. The amount of effort it would take to reforge it was even greater than crafting a new weapon.

This was common knowledge to all rune masters.

Hence why the rune masters were so astonished by Lin Xun's words and nearly thought that he had gone crazy.

"Young Master Lin, this...how can such matters be forced? I know that it's hard to accept but...ugh, come on, let's just leave it at this."

Lu Wenting was also alarmed and hurriedly tried to stop Lin Xun. He believed that Lin Xun was merely acting out in anger, but if he were to follow through, it would definitely hurt his reputation and make him a laughingstock.

A rune master icily chuckled. "Heh heh, trying to act capable without the ability to back it up? Young people are so rash and easily triggered."

Lin Xun smiled and said, "To be blunt, even if a rune grandmaster wanted to be my assistant, I would have to first consider his capabilities and qualifications. However, it's clear that you guys don't believe me. Since that's the case, just watch and see whether I'm boasting or whether you guys have failed to recognize my capability!"

Although his tone was calm and nonchalant, it was akin to a boulder crashing into a lake and creating a huge splash.

Arrogant!

Too arrogant!

Grandmaster Ying was the only rune grandmaster present and Lin Xun was now claiming that even he might not possess the qualifications to be Lin Xun's assistant. It made him seem overly arrogant.

Even Grandmaster Ying's expression darkened, unable to maintain his composure any longer. He threw aside the document in his hand and frostily glared at Lin Xun. "Little fellow, runes are completely different from martial arts. What you've said is equivalent to a provocation!"

"Lin Xun, please don't be rash!" Lu Wenting panicked. If Grandmaster Ying was angered, even General Zhangsun won't be able to placate him.

This was one of the perks of a rune grandmaster. Due to their highly sought-after abilities, even Life Death Stage Kings had to be respectful toward them.

Moreover, rune grandmasters were the most scarce profession in Blood Kill Battlefield, causing their status here to be even higher than normal. They were a group that should never be offended.

Lin Xun merely chuckled. He did not bother to explain and instead walked toward a nearby cauldron. There was also a workbench beside it littered with rune brushes, rune ink, and various materials.

It was a workstation belonging to one of the rune masters that was currently vacant. Without asking for permission, Lin Xun began to work.

"You..." The rune masters had ugly expressions. They had already been respectful enough, but he refused to back down and instead stubbornly persisted, causing them to grow somewhat angry.

This was basically a complete lack of tact.

"Don't stop him. I want to see what kind of silly game you're trying to play. Even a rune grandmaster isn't qualified to be your assistant? Hehe, that's the most ridiculous joke I've heard this year."

Grandmaster Ying sneered. He clearly believed that Lin Xun was biting off more than he could chew and could not wait to see him make a fool of himself in front of everyone.

"Ugh!" Lu Wenting inwardly sighed. It was over and the resulting mess would be a pain to clean up. General Zhangsun was probably going to be furious again...

Why was this kid such a troublemaker? Did he have to cause a mess everywhere?

Lu Wenting had a headache.

The other onlookers looked at each other. Was Young Master Lin intending to put on a tough act until the end?

Wasn't he afraid of becoming a laughingstock?

Lin Xun paid them no attention. He stood before the workbench in thought for a while before deciding on a plan and began to work.

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 710: The Air of a Founder**

Eh?

When Lin Xun began working, the originally angry and sneering rune masters were suddenly taken aback.

They had suddenly noticed Lin Xun's technique. It was practiced and skillful, flowing naturally like drifting clouds and running water.

In fact, there was an indescribable sensation of beauty in his technique that naturally drew their attention.

"This..."

The rune masters glanced at each other in bewilderment before they quickly turned their focus back to Lin Xun.

He didn't display any complex or advanced techniques. After all, it was merely reforging a heaven-grade low-tier broadsword, which wasn't much of a challenge at all for someone like him.

His movements were deft, and his ten fingers were as nimble as butterflies dancing among the flowers while steady confidence spread from between his brows.

The broadsword was first cast into the cauldron to be melted down before its rune arrays were recarved. The entire process was smooth, relaxed, and impeccably done at every step.

By this juncture, it wasn't just the rune masters. The watching cultivators were also wide-eyed as their attention was firmly drawn in by Lin Xun's movements.

Although they didn't know much about runes, they could tell that Lin Xun's technique had a unique rhythm that no ordinary rune master could match!

"Could he also be a rune master?"

Numerous people were shaken. They subconsciously believed that since someone as young as Lin Xun was already so talented in cultivation, he could not possibly be a rune master as well.

That was why there had been such a huge commotion when it was announced that Lin Xun was suddenly going to be Grandmaster Ying's assistant. Thus, many people had become curious about this deployment.

But now, Lin Xun's technique seemed to prove that he wasn't just an ordinary Heaven Ascension heaven pride!

"Eh!"

Lu Wenting was currently fretting over how he could clean up this mess, but he could not help from being stunned when he noticed the amazed and astonished expressions of the crowd nearby.

What is going on?

Lu Wenting immediately raised his head to look and saw Lin Xun drawing rune arrays on the newly reforged broadsword with a rune brush.

The youth stood there with flawless posture as complicated and mysterious runes seemed to flow from the brush tip like water from a spring.

Merely watching felt pleasing and gave rise to an indescribable feeling of shock and amazement. Such unique grace and style were something that could only belong to a founder!

"This..."

Lu Wenting was also dumbstruck, unable to form any coherent thoughts.

Previously, he had been extremely against Lin Xun taking a job at the military workshop and was worried that the youth would cause problems there and disturb their regular operations.

Who could have imagined that when everyone was pessimistic about the youth's chances, he would use his actions to give them a vicious slap to the face?

How could such mastery and ability be possessed by someone who knew nothing about runes? Even a rune grandmaster would be unable to do it with such ease!

Grandmaster Ying currently had his head lowered as he flipped through a book. Lin Xun's pigheadedness had angered him and made him scoff. He was already planning what to say the moment Lin Xun failed and how he would immediately chase him off!

It wasn't that he hated Lin Xun in particular, but he did not wish to see an ignorant youngster make a mess in an important place like the workshop.

A rune master swallowed with some difficulty and said in a low voice, "Master Ying, you...you should quickly come and take a look..."

"Oh, has he finally realized his mistake? What a smart lad. Heh heh, time to see what kind of expression he's making..."

As he spoke, Grandmaster Ying raised his head and looked at Lin Xun from afar.

A single glance left him stunned before his expression changed drastically. "This..."

The same rune master said with some difficulty, "Master Ying, have you realized as well? Something seems to be off."

It wasn't just somewhat off; there was definitely something wrong!

Grandmaster Ying seemed to have lost his composure. Eyes filled with shock, he swiftly stood up and muttered, "This technique...this technique..."

He was so shocked that he could not even speak properly.

This scene immediately drew the attention of the nearby rune masters and cultivators, causing them to glance at each other in bewilderment and surprise.

If even Grandmaster Ying had such a reaction, could it be...

After seemingly holding back for a long time, Grandmaster Ying finally uttered with much difficulty, "It's the mastery of a founder!"

The sentence seemed to drain all of his energy, causing his face to pale as his body began to shake unsteadily.

Had he just openly rejected a rune founder?

The thought of this made Grandmaster Ying's heart shudder, wishing he could slap his past self. He deeply regretted everything he had done.

If he had been a little more courteous and patiently tried to ask for more information, could he have stopped this from happening?

Grandmaster Ying's eyes turned vacant as if he had lost his soul.

There was an ironclad rule in the world of rune masters: a founder cannot be humiliated!

Because such existences were far too superior and majestic, like the godly dragons that ruled the skies. They were existences who had reached an unimaginable peak in the world of runes. How could any rune master slander such an existence?

If news of this were to spread, then all the rune masters in the empire would spurn and turn hostile toward him!

Clang!

A clear clang laced with killing intent rang out, rousing everyone from their various thoughts as their gazes converged on Lin Xun's hands.

A broadsword hovered in the air. Its body was pitch-black like ink and gleamed with a cold, blinding light.

Although it was merely floating there, a faint killing intent spread from it, causing several cultivators to feel a piercing pain in their eyes as a chill ran up their skin.

Everyone was shocked. The broadsword had previously been a heaven-grade low-tier weapon and wasn't very valuable.

However, after being swiftly reforged by Lin Xun, the sword seemed to have been reborn anew and looked completely different from before!

One of the rune masters involuntarily blurted out, "Heaven-grade peak-tier!"

The entire place fell silent. Going from a Heaven-grade low-tier to a Heaven-grade peak-tier was no simple or ordinary power-up!

Moreover, the process had been completed so quickly. Everyone was at a loss for words. This was no different from turning rock to gold!

Was the youngster really a rune founder?

Amidst the silence, Grandmaster Ying suddenly took a deep breath, walked forward, and bowed in shame and fear. "The lowly Ying Xingkong has offended Founder Lin earlier, please punish me for my transgressions!"

The place immediately became even quieter as everyone began to look at Lin Xun in a completely different light.

A founder! He was a rune founder!

The fact that such a young person had already stepped into the realm of the founder was honestly far too astonishing.

"We greet Founder Lin!" The nearby rune masters also hurriedly paid their respects. They also had ashamed and uneasy expressions.

They were feeling regretful and ashamed of how they had repeatedly criticized and rebuked Lin Xun earlier.

The watching cultivators were dumbstruck. They had originally come as busybodies, so who could have anticipated that such a huge twist would occur? The youngster who had killed a Half-Step King was also a rune founder!

The outcome was something they would never have imagined.

"We've found a treasure! Damn, we've somehow stumbled upon a treasure!" Lu Wenting was practically shouting inside as he trembled in excitement.

If there was a rune founder in the 7th camp's workshop, the benefits would be immeasurable!

When Lu Wenting recalled how he had been against Lin Xun going to the workshop, he wished he could give his past self a huge slap. He had been such a blind fool!

"I said that I would help reforge a weapon. Come and have a look, is this sword satisfactory?"

Lin Xun offered the broadsword to A'bi with a slight smile.

"Ah?"

A'bi returned to her senses and looked at the reborn broadsword in her hands. She was immediately smitten by it as indescribable elation surged within her.

The other cultivators looked at her in envy.

What a lucky lass!

.....

From that day, Lin Xun began to work at the workshop. His days were busy and fulfilling.

Ever since his identity as a rune founder was revealed, numerous cultivators would visit him every day.

Some wished to befriend Lin Xun while others desired his help to craft something for them.

As a result, the workshop grew increasingly busy. Every morning, numerous cultivators would already be lined up, hoping to obtain a chance for Lin Xun to personally craft something for them.

In the beginning, Lin Xun accepted every request, but he soon realized that it was too much for him. There were too many cultivators and he couldn't manage them all.

In the end, he set a rule that he would only accept three requests a day. Moreover, he would only take on requests that the other rune masters were unable to solve.

This made Lin Xun's life much easier.

During the day, he would head to the workshop to receive requests. At night, he would temper his cultivation, study martial arts, and occasionally drink, chat, and hear news from the battlefield from his friends and acquaintances.

It was worth mentioning that when General Zhangsun Lie heard that Lin Xun was also a rune founder, he was so astonished that he shattered a table.

Subsequently, his expression turned stormy as he cursed the Blood Kill King for hiding such important information.

Next, he could not help but grin and laugh. His laughter rumbled across the camp like a crashing wave, surprising and confusing the cultivators who nearly thought that he had fallen into qi deviation...

One night.

A banquet had just ended in front of Lin Xun's quarters. The guard leader stationed here, Old Huang, was drunk again and was mumbling things he didn't even understand in a drunken stupor.

A'bi's face was flushed red due to the alcohol. She demanded to have a drinking contest with Lin Xun before ultimately falling asleep in his arms.

Lu Wenting was humming a song about how generals would die after a hundred battles and heroes would fall within three years. It was rather depressing.

In the end, everyone dispersed because they still had many things to do the next day. In the Blood Kill Battlefield, the killing wouldn't end until the enemies were all dead. As empire cultivators, their daily tasks were mainly related to killing enemies.

"Liu Wen didn't return before night fell. He probably won't return anymore." Before departing, Hu Tong left these words behind. His tone wasn't sad but calm.

Lin Xun was taken aback before he silently drank the wine in his cup.