

Prodigies 781

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 781: The Ignorant Xia Xiaochong

The attendant soon began to display an extremely enthusiastic attitude.

“Young Master, that’s the younger-generation expert of the Yuntong Clan. He practices the ‘Strange Light Taiyi Art’ and possesses outstanding combat power. He has already attained nineteen consecutive victories in our Silver Pheasant Martial Arena.”

“Young Master, you should be careful. The Azure Lion Clan expert you’re facing an amazing record of twenty-three consecutive victories.”

“Young Master...”

Whenever a new opponent stepped onto the stage, the attendant would warn Lin Xun about them while displaying an increasingly subservient, friendly, and meticulous attitude.

It was because the attendant had been scared by Lin Xun’s performance.

From the moment Lin Xun first stepped into the arena until now, he had fought twenty-seven times and won all twenty-seven matches without a single defeat.

Moreover, Lin Xun had not rested once in between, and every victory was clean, decisive, and one-sided!

It should be known that there was no lack of fierce individuals with plenty of battle experience among Lin Xun’s opponents. However, they were all subdued by him without exception!

“I wonder who that fearsome young master is. Why haven’t I heard of his name before?”

The attendant felt as if he was in a daze due to shock. He couldn’t figure out when such a young heaven pride had appeared in the Fire Spirit Province.

“Dragon Elephant Clan younger-generation first-class expert Rui Zhen has also been defeated! That’s his 28th consecutive win!”

Gasps of surprise and amazement sounded from the audience.

Earlier, only a few cultivators had been watching the matches on the equal-cultivation-stage arena, but more and more attention was quickly drawn to it with each opponent Lin Xun crushed.

By this juncture, the 19th arena had become the focal point of the venue and caused a huge uproar among the crowd.

“Who is he?”

“Where is he from? Could he be a successor from one of the mighty sects?”

“He’s definitely younger than twenty, but he already possesses such terrifying power at the Heaven Ascension stage. He’s absolutely a young heaven pride!”

Various voices arose, amazed by Lin Xun's performance, and they began to guess his origins.

Even the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena higher-ups started to take notice and quickly dispatched people to find out everything about Lin Xun.

The atmosphere was brimming with excitement and buzz. Lin Xun had transformed into a dark horse that had suddenly entered everyone's sights.

Xia Xiaochong was the only unhappy person in the entire place. The more Lin Xun won, the more depressed she grew.

"The sea can't be measured, and it's impossible to have a discussion about ice with a summer insect...doesn't this prove that I'm that 'summer insect'?"

The most infuriating part was that her name was Xia Xiaochong which could be interpreted as 'small summer insect.' Removing a single word would make her a real 'summer insect!'

The place suddenly became quiet as numerous cultivators gasped in shock.

On the 19th arena, Lin Xun had achieved his 29th victory.

Moreover, the young man he had defeated was an extremely famous younger-generation elite in the Flame Capital!

The young man was called Yang Ku. He had already attained an impressive thirty consecutive wins in the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena and was a dazzling genius second only to the human youngster, Cheng Lixue.

Cheng Lixue was the face of the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena and currently held the highest record of thirty-nine consecutive victories.

It was rumored that Cheng Lixue had already caught the eye of one of the Pine Sword Sect, which was part of the famous four sects and three clans, and was about to become a sect disciple!

To a youngster from such a small and remote city, it was akin to a carp leaping through the dragon's gate. It was an event that would completely change his identity and status.

After Yang Ku was defeated, Lin Xun only lacked nine matches to challenge Cheng Lixue's record!

How could anyone not be shocked by this?

Successive victories meant that he had to keep winning in the arena and could not lose or withdraw halfway. Hence, it was known to be an unusually difficult feat.

Currently, Lin Xun had already won thirty times in a row and had even defeated a formidable opponent like Yang Ku. It was easy to imagine how big of a shock this was for the onlookers.

The sudden silence was undoubtedly proof of this.

"Fierce! He's too fierce!"

The attendant tightly clenched his fists as his body trembled with excitement and his face flushed red.

Xia Xiaochong grew increasingly depressed and could not help but complain, "It's such a big arena, is there no one who can match Big Brother Lin Xun?"

Although her voice wasn't loud, it sounded especially loud amidst the silence and caused the crowd's expression to turn strange.

What was this girl implying?

Was she provoking and challenging everyone on the youngster's behalf?

The expressions of several participating experts immediately darkened, thinking that this was a very direct provocation toward them!

For a time, experts began to cast hostile and unfriendly gazes at Lin Xun.

In the arena, Lin Xun was happily counting the rewards he would receive from his thirty consecutive victories only for his body to immediately stiffen at Xia Xiaochong's words as the corners of his mouth began to twitch.

Lin Xun turned around and angrily shouted, "Xia Xiaochong!"

The girl was an expert hate-drawer. A single sentence from her was all it had taken to make him everyone's common enemy!

It must be known that he had participated in the matches to polish his martial arts while hoping to earn some aeth essence on the side. His aim definitely wasn't to create trouble and provoke everyone!

"Ah? Big Brother Lin Xun, did I say anything wrong?"

Xia Xiaochong displayed an innocent expression, appearing to not understand what she had done.

Lin Xun held up his forehead with his hand, nearly vomiting blood from frustration. It was impossible to explain to this airhead!

He jumped off the stage, grabbed Xia Xiaochong by the arm, and began pulling her toward the exit.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun instructed the attendant. "You there, that's all for today. Go collect my reward for me and do it quickly!"

The attendant hurriedly approached and patiently explained, "Young Master, I'm not called 'you there.' This servant's name is Dong Ba."

"Cut the crap and hurry up!"

Lin Xun felt even more annoyed. He originally hoped to win a little more aeth essence, but from the looks of it, it would be best to leave first or he would soon become the 'public enemy.'

"Okay, please wait a while, Young Master." Dong Ba quickly acknowledged and ran off to fulfill the task.

"Friend, won't you fight a few more matches? The situation looks great for you and you're on track to break Cheng Lixue's record. It would be regrettable if you leave at this juncture!"

Several cultivators in the audience could not help but attempt to convince Lin Xun to stay upon seeing that he was about to leave.

“Young Master, you can obtain ten times the reward if you break the record. Moreover, you’ll win an additional one hundred pieces of mid-grade aeth essence! Are you certain you want to give up on that?”

Lin Xun nearly fainted when he heard this. Ten times the reward? A hundred mid-grade aeth essence? He was going to miss out on such a golden opportunity?

“Trying to leave right after provoking us? Are you a man or not?”

Several of the participants that felt Lin Xun was looking down on them were very angry and openly called him out.

“I was wondering how formidable you were since you talked so big, but it turns out that you’re all talk!”

“Stay if you have the balls. I’ll definitely teach you an unforgettable lesson today!”

This only triggered Lin Xun more, causing him to display a peeved expression as he secretly ground his teeth. How dare they, did they really think he was leaving because he was scared?

How laughable!

Although Xia Xiaochong had been overly blunt, Lin Xun did feel that no one could threaten him on the equal-cultivation-stage arena unless another supreme path expert came!

Regretfully, if he did voice his thoughts, it would only draw even more anger and slander instead of convincing the other cultivators.

Although it was the truth, who would believe such a thing without any concrete evidence?

The only way to prove it was to defeat every single one of them. However, that would draw too much attention and create an unnecessary commotion which Lin Xun didn’t want.

In the end, Lin Xun resolved to leave and avoid everyone’s attention for the time being.

“Young Master, will you be coming again tomorrow?”

Before he left, the attendant, Dong Ba, arrived with the reward which substantially improved Lin Xun’s mood.

Lin Xun casually replied, “Depends.”

“Hmph, there’s no point in coming tomorrow. There’s no one in the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena who can match Big Brother Lin Xun, how...”

Xia Xiaochong pursed her lips in a dissatisfied manner.

Lin Xun covered her mouth before she could finish, before hurriedly dragging her away.

Dong Ba loudly reminded them from behind, “Young Master, our boss said that you can have a fifty percent discount if you come tomorrow!”

.....

At the inn.

Lin Xun was finally able to breathe a sigh of relief when he returned. He glared at the main culprit, Xia Xiaochong, and said, "Xiaochong, why do you want me to be beaten up so badly?"

Xia Xiaochong propped up her tiny face with her hands as she sat at the table and unhappily said, "I just don't want to become a summer insect."

"Summer insect?" Lin Xun was taken aback. What kind of silly reason was this?

"You said earlier that you can't have a discussion about ice with a summer insect!"

Xia Xiaochong angrily said, "I'm called Xia Xiaochong, not summer insect (Xiao Chong)!"

Lin Xun was initially stunned but soon burst out in laughter, placing his hands on his hips. Summer insect (Xiao Chong)? Xia Xiaochong? What a perfect match!

"What's so funny?" Xia Xiaochong bristled in anger as her large clear eyes stared daggers at Lin Xun, wishing she could bite him.

Lin Xun could not help but laugh again as he explained, "Uh, I just think that you have a pretty good name."

The girl was as pure as a blank sheet of paper. From a certain viewpoint, she was indeed somewhat similar to a 'summer insect.'

Of course, Lin Xun refrained from speaking about the topic to prevent any further trouble.

"Friend, did you also see Longevity Land's current saint, Yu Lingkong today?"

A carefree voice suddenly sounded from outside as Fang Linhan strode in and looked at Lin Xun.

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 782: Time is Money

Lin Xun was taken aback but soon returned to his senses.

Fang Linhan was probably referring to the Longevity Land's successors, who had appeared today using a Saint Treasure, the Longevity Palace, as their transportation. It was pulled by a nine-headed golden flood-dragon.

However, when Lin Xun had seen the group, he had not known who among them was the current generation saint of Longevity Land.

Yu Lingkong?

What a unique and memorable name.

Lin Xun asked, "Is Yu Lingkong strong?"

Fang Linhan very casually sat beside Lin Xun as his lips curved like a blade. "He's one of the top peerless heaven prides in the South Wonder World. He is famous throughout South Wonder World and is naturally no ordinary individual."

Famous throughout South Wonder World!

Lin Xun was surprised. That was indeed somewhat shocking.

The West Infinity World was said to be composed of several thousand provinces. Each province was essentially a small world of its own.

The South Wonder World was probably also comparable in size.

As such, it was easy to imagine how amazing Longevity Land's current generation saint was if he was famous throughout the entire South Wonder World!

"The Yu Clan was an extremely famous great clan in the ancient era. You can imagine how terrifying its foundations are from how it has survived for countless years until now."

"Yu Lingkong is a direct descendent of the Yu Clan, and his ancestor is a real Saint expert!"

A rare sigh was heard from Fang Linhan before he said, "Yu Lingkong was born with astonishing talent and displayed his incredible potential and foundations after joining Longevity Land."

"He is now not only the saint of Longevity Land, but also one of the top younger-generation heaven prides in the South Wonder World who can stand shoulder to shoulder with our West Infinity World's Unsolved Mystery Sword Alms' current generation saintess, Ji Xingyao!"

Fang Linhan's eyes shone radiantly as he continued, "Someone like him is absolutely a true supreme heaven pride and is akin to a rising sun that can illuminate an entire world. Even in the Ancient Wasteland Domain, there's only a tiny handful of such unrivaled individuals."

Lin Xun raised his eyebrows, feeling somewhat shocked.

Fang Linhan was definitely an incredible younger-generation genius. In spite of this, he was so full of praise for Longevity Land's Yu Lingkong, which showed how much more superior he was in Fang Linhan's eyes.

Fang Linhan changed the topic and said, "Of course, the Ancient Wasteland Domain is too vast, and no one can tell for sure how many more amazing heaven prides there are. However, I'm certain that in the current era, Yu Lingkong definitely deserves one of the spots among the supreme heaven prides.

Lin Xun felt the same. After all, the Astral Imperial Clan's Shaohao who he had seen on Zinuo Mountain Fallen Star Peak, was definitely one of these hidden supreme geniuses.

There were likely many unknown talents besides himself in the current era which showed the incredible resources and foundations of the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

No one could say for sure how many hidden geniuses there were in the world.

But one thing was certain. As the battle of the great age arrived, more and more heaven-defying individuals would appear in the Ancient Wasteland Domain!

Lin Xun could not help but ask, "How does the Unsolved Mystery Sword Alms' saintess Ji Xingyao compare to Yu Lingkong?"

It wasn't because he was overly curious, but because he understood that for him to stand out among the competition and attain the legendary Apex King Stage, there was no way he could avoid numerous opponents like Yu Xingkong and Ji Xingyao!

Fang Linhan contemplated for a while before he answered, "She's extremely mysterious, and no one knows what level her cultivation has currently reached. However, many cultivators, including myself, in the West Infinity World predict that she is definitely no weaker than Yu Lingkong!"

He could not help but reveal a carefree smile as he continued, "Do you know? Most cultivators from the West Infinity World believe that Ji Xongyao possesses the qualifications to be the leader of the West Infinity World's younger generation. This might just be a form of praise, but it undoubtedly proves that she is extremely extraordinary."

Lin Xun nodded as he inwardly sighed. The Ancient Wasteland Domain was an insane place filled with numerous hidden masters and heaven prides. The more he learned about it, the more astonished he felt.

It was no wonder the Ziyao Empire emperor had said that the Ancient Wasteland Domain was the stage of the younger-generation heaven prides. Only the true elites could lead and dominate the current era!

"Right, Yu Lingkong probably appeared in the West Infinity World to pay Ji Xingyao a visit. If this is true, Yu Lingkong and Ji Xingyao will likely appear together at the Dao Lantern Festival in half a year. Looks like the festival is going to be quite exciting..."

Fang Linhan suddenly said as his eyes shone with anticipation.

Lin Xun was taken aback. Soon after, he asked in surprise, "Are you also going to participate in the Dao Lantern Festival?"

Fang Linhan replied with a question of his own, "Aren't you?"

Lin Xun thought about it and shook his head. "I would be happy to experience the Dao Lantern Festival if I could. However, I'm not certain if I'll have the time to participate."

Fang Linhan chuckled and rose to his feet. "There's still a long time to go before the festival. However, don't forget that I'm still waiting for our duel."

After saying this, he turned around and walked to his room.

Lin Xun felt helpless. Why was this guy so fixated on fighting him? What a battle fanatic.

"Who was that? He's so handsome and can probably give Senior Brother Yue Jianming a run for his money." Xia Xiaochong's face was filled with infatuation as tiny stars sparkled in her large eyes.

Earlier, she had been staring at Fang Linhan like a lovestruck girl while he had been conversing with Lin Xun.

Now, she was openly praising Fang Linhan in front of Lin Xun, and even said that he could give Yue Jianming a run for his money. This made Lin Xun feel the impulse to smack her.

What was that supposed to mean?

She had remarked before that he could not compare to Yue Jianming and was now implying that Fang Linhan was just as handsome. Wasn't this insinuating that he wasn't as handsome as Fang Linhan as well?

Lin Xun displayed an unfriendly expression and headed outside the inn with an icy snort.

"Big Brother Lin Xun, where are you going?"

Xia Xiaochong hurriedly caught up to him.

Lin Xun said in a peeved voice, "For a walk!"

"I'll come along."

Xia Xiaochong cheered.

"You're so...thick!"

Lin Xun sighed. He wasn't hiding that he was in a bad mood. Shouldn't she at least try to spare a thought for his feelings? But no, she was completely oblivious and was even celebrating. He was genuinely speechless.

.....

Of course, Lin Xun wasn't actually going out for a stroll. He had won 5220 low-grade aeth essences from achieving twenty-nine consecutive victories in the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena today.

This was equivalent to roughly fifty-two mid-grade aeth essences!

It would be considered a pretty hefty sum for any cultivator.

However, it was far from enough for Lin Xun!

After leaving a large store, he was left with a measly five mid-tier Spirit Accumulation Jades, two mid-grade aeth essences, and twenty low-grade aeth essences...

The five mid-tier Spirit Accumulation Jades would probably be devoured by the God Devourer Insects in mere moments!

This made Lin Xun sigh again. A person wouldn't understand how expensive it was to manage a household until they did it!

It was hard to believe that a group of grain-sized God Devourer Insects was already putting him under such financial pressure. How was he going to survive in the Ancient Wasteland Domain without money?

"Earn money!"

Lin Xun inwardly gritted his teeth and rubbed his palms together. He had decided to return to the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena to 'score big again' tomorrow!

Pressure was a strong push factor. At the very least, Lin Xun currently felt exceptionally motivated.

What would the Ziyao Empire cultivators think if they were told that Lin Xun had fallen to a state where he had to worry about money and be forced to earn it in an arena?

.....

The next morning, Lin Xun set off before daybreak.

He needed to make use of every second he had to earn the dough. Time was money a.k.a. aeth essence. In other words, every second he wasted was a piece of enticing aeth essence!

“Big Brother Lin, something seems to be off about you today.”

Xia Xiaochong was puzzled. She felt that Lin Xun was akin to a starving wolf that was about to go hunting with a scary look in his eyes.

“Is that so?”

Lin Xun was brimming with energy and motivation. However, he sighed and said, “I have no choice, I was forced. Mmm yes, I was forced...”

Upon arriving at the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena, Lin Xun’s eyes were quickly drawn by several new banners with content that would make anyone’s blood boil in excitement.

“A mysterious youngster appears out of nowhere and has achieved twenty-nine successive victories, shocking everyone! He’s a true dark horse!”

“Who is this mysterious youngster? Will he be able to break Cheng Lixue’s record? Friends, for more information, quickly come to the Silver Pheasant Arena. You can’t miss out on this thrilling event!”

“Mysterious youngster? Hahaha, Big Brother Lin Xun, the title they gave you sucks.” Xia Xiaochong was greatly amused and could not help but laugh.

The corners of Lin Xun’s mouth twitched. He never imagined that he would be used as a marketing tactic by the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena.

Lin Xun inwardly cursed, “They used me without asking for my permission. The Silver Pheasant Martial Arena boss is such a crafty person!”

However, for the sake of his great money-making plan, he decided to bear with it for the moment.

A certain idea began to form in his head.

It might not be bad if these s could attract stronger opponents. That would allow him to better polish his martial dao.

After all, opponents who were too weak were just boring.

“Young Master, why are you here so early?”

At the entrance, the attendant called Dong Ba rushed to welcome them with a happy and surprised face, grinning from ear to ear like a blooming sunflower.

Lin Xun instructed in a domineering manner, “Cut the crap and don’t waste any more time. Right, prepare enough aeth essence for me!”

Lin Xun did not wish to waste any more time because time was aeth essence! He walked in as his fighting spirit and blood began to burn in anticipation.

Dong Ba was dumbstruck. "The Young Master seems to have become a different person. I wonder what kind of stimulation he received?"

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 783: Tough as Pine Tree

Boom!

On the same 19th arena, Lin Xun's opponent was sent flying moments after the battle began. His entire body twitched, and he was barely able to get up as he admitted defeat.

In order to make full use of his time, Lin Xun no longer held back like yesterday and used his true power from the start.

The earlier opponent, for example, had been sent flying by the Bi'an Stamp.

"Next."

Lin Xun wasted no time. He had no intention of resting.

Meanwhile, he mentally noted to himself, "Two, twenty, three thousand six hundred."

Two represented two hours.

Twenty represented the number of defeated opponents which could also be interpreted as the number of successive victories.

Three thousand six hundred represented the accumulated amount of low-grade aeth essences.

In other words, Lin Xun had achieved twenty consecutive wins over the past two hours, defeated twenty opponents, and accumulated a reward of three thousand six hundred low-grade aeth essences!

In the audience stands, the cultivators were dumbfounded.

In the beginning, they had been extremely curious about the so-called 'mysterious youngster', wondering what kind of dark horse he was and whether he was as exaggerated as the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena had described.

However, as Lin Xun crushed each opponent with ease, they grew increasingly shocked and shaken.

A single blow!

From the very first battle, every opponent the 'mysterious youngster' faced was unable to withstand a single blow from him!

That overwhelming strength and unstoppable power were almost akin to a god's.

By this juncture, there were no longer any gasps of surprise or other noises to be heard because all of them had been shocked into a dazed and numb state.

Although the duels were astonishing, seeing the same thing being repeated too many times was rather boring. It was always the same defeat in a single move which was not interesting at all.

Despite this, the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena manager was jumping with excitement as if he had picked up a treasure. He successively sent out many subordinates to spread the news to create publicity.

“The mysterious youngster has appeared again. Until now, not a single opponent has managed to last more than a single round against him!”

“Who’s stronger? The mysterious youngster or Cheng Lixue?”

“The answer will be revealed today!”

“Is anyone doubtful? Then come to the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena today, the mysterious youngster seeks but a single defeat!”

Various provocative announcements spread in the Flame Capital and rapidly bombarded cultivators from the many clans.

For a time, a huge commotion was generated as numerous cultivators were drawn to the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena.

Some were curious about the mysterious god-like youngster and wanted to know if he was as exaggerated as described.

Some were clearly unhappy with the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena for making such wild claims. For the sake of publicity, they had even claimed that ‘he only sought a single defeat?’ Wasn’t this essentially a declaration of war with the experts of the Flame Capital?

In any case, the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena had achieved its goal. With so many cultivators flooding in to watch, the entry fees they had to pay meant that the martial arena was going to make a lot of money today!

The Silver Pheasant Martial Arena manager was grinning from ear to ear as he looked at Lin Xun as if he was a money-making treasure.

He was already planning how he could keep Lin Xun around and make him the new face of the arena to draw even more experts.

However, the manager’s mood soon soured and he began to frown as he muttered, “Crap...”

In the arena, after Lin Xun’s 39th consecutive victory, the cultivators in the audience began to clamor for Cheng Lixue to come out and fight Lin Xun.

“Damnit, why hasn’t Cheng Lixue appeared yet? Is he scared? ”

“The opponents are too weak. What’s the point of watching matches like these? Can’t the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena send out someone who can fight?”

“Ugh, I know that it’s not the opponents that are weak but the mysterious youngster who is too strong, deciding every match in a single move is very boring.”

Complaints began to sound out one after another, growing increasingly discontent. There were faint signs that things were spiraling out of control.

The Silver Pheasant Martial Arena manager's expression changed. Although he had advertised that Lin Xun and Cheng Lixue would face off today, how could he possibly make that happen?

It must be known that before Lin Xun's appearance, Cheng Lixue had been the face of the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena!

Cheng Lixue's reputation and fame had allowed them to promote themselves and attract a constant stream of cultivators.

As such, Cheng Lixue's or Lin Xun's defeat was no different from destroying an excellent source of publicity for the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena.

What could he do?

The manager was dumbfounded. He had only cared about publicity and earning money and had failed to anticipate such a disastrous outcome.

In the arena, the impassioned crowd openly displayed their dissatisfaction as they clamored for Cheng Lixue to take the stage.

Lin Xun was also quite unhappy about the situation. He was trying to earn money, but no one would come up and face him due to the commotion.

Everyone was yelling for Cheng Lixue to come and face him which made Lin Xun feel as if this was a waste of time and spirit essence!

Meanwhile, Lin Xun was also curious about Cheng Lixue. From his reputation, he must be a talented individual. Lin Xun was more than happy to face such an opponent.

To be frank, from the first duel until now, he had not had the chance to polish his martial dao. Every opponent fell over too easily which also made him rather bored.

"Although there are many heaven prides in this world, there are far more average people..."

Lin Xun understood that compared to the huge population of the Ancient Wasteland Domain, the dazzling and powerful heaven prides were akin to a tiny droplet in an ocean. Moreover, they were scattered all over this vast land.

It was unrealistic to hope to encounter formidable opponents in the Flame Capital.

It wasn't because there was no one good among the Flame Capital's younger generation but because Lin Xun was already pretty much invincible in the Heaven Ascension stage. He was more than capable of killing even Cyclic Derivation experts, who were an entire greater cultivation stage higher than himself.

In addition, Lin Xun had chosen the equal-cultivation-stage arena, which meant that only Heaven Ascension experts could be his opponents.

Under such circumstances, it was only natural for Lin Xun to feel the sensation of loneliness at the top, and that it was hard to find a good match. He suddenly began to understand Fang Linhan's strong desire to fight him.

Of course, he wasn't looking down on everyone in the world. It was merely a result of a moment of frustration.

At a desolate corner of the martial arena was a young man in azure clothes wearing a very serene expression. His eyes, however, were filled with desire as he stared at Lin Xun on the 19th arena far away.

"I wish to fight."

The young man was thin and ordinary-looking, but he gave off a tenacious presence akin to a pine tree.

By his side, a robed elder advised in a gentle voice, "You can't. It will be a blow to your reputation if you're defeated. Moreover, it will affect your heart and mind. After all, you have yet to dig out all of your innate potential and are still in the process of growing."

"In contrast, that youngster is full of drive and has grown into his own power, making him appear near unstoppable. He possesses extremely strong combat abilities and stands far above any ordinary genius."

"That's why it isn't appropriate for you to participate in such a duel at this juncture."

He was an elder of the Pine Sword Sect and was called Liao Zhen. He had a discerning eye and was the one who had discovered Cheng Lixue's astonishing potential. Thus, he had made an exception to accept Cheng Lixue as a disciple of the Pine Sword Sect.

"But if I do not fight, my heart will become bound by shackles. Even if I continue to cultivate in the future, it will be difficult to follow my heart and I will not be able to achieve greatness."

Cheng Lixue sighed deeply and said in a determined voice, "In the battle of the great age, we fight to bravely advance in our own paths and strive for a bold and fearless heart. Without such a mindset, how will I aim for the pinnacle?"

"Master, please forgive your disciple for not complying with your will!"

After which, he hesitated no further and strode toward the 19th arena. With each step, his expression grew increasingly determined.

Liao Zhen was first taken aback before his expression soon turned complicated. In the end, he revealed a gratified look and said, "A fledgling eagle will only be able to truly fly in the skies after being tempered by the wind and rain. With such a mindset, his rise is inevitable!"

.....

Cheng Lixue stepped onto the 19th arena, drawing cheers from the crowd as everyone became excited.

The earlier fights were far too boring due to being one-sided affairs. Despite being shocking, there was nothing interesting or entertaining about them.

But things were different now because Cheng Lixue had arrived!

Compared to Lin Xun, Cheng Lixue undoubtedly garnered more attention from the crowd. Nearly everyone knew that he was once a nameless nobody from some remote city.

After entering the Flame Capital, however, he displayed astonishing potential and completely transformed like a carp jumping through the dragon gate, becoming a renowned young genius.

The Silver Pheasant Martial Arena couldn't fabricate such a thing. Cheng Lixue was the real deal who more than lived up to his reputation.

"Ah, a real expert is finally here!"

Xia Xiaochong cheered. She had also been bored out of her mind by the matches and was even feeling lonely for Lin Xun. Cheng Lixue's appearance finally made her heart stir a little in anticipation.

She called out in a clear voice, "That Brother over there, work hard and beat him!"

The corners of Lin Xun's mouth twitched. He realized that his mouth would twitch far more frequently ever since meeting Xia Xiaochong...

His attention soon turned to Cheng Lixue.

He was an ordinary-looking youngster, but he gave off an unbreakable sensation similar to an unshakable rock or a sturdy pine tree.

His aura alone told Lin Xun that Cheng Lixue was definitely a person with a strong mind and will.

Such a person would sooner or later take flight and amaze the world!

"I am Cheng Lixue, please teach me well, Dao Friend."

Cheng Lixue's calm and determined eyes looked at Lin Xun.

"Lin Xun."

Lin Xun's reply was brief and concise. No matter how extraordinary Cheng Lixue was, he posed no threat to Lin Xun or made him feel any substantial pressure.

However, his attitude became much more serious compared to earlier.

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 784: Yazi's Rage

The battle erupted in the arena.

Clang!

Cheng Lixue's thin figure stepped forward with a three-foot-long azure sword in hand as a formidable aura burst forth from his body with intimidating sharpness.

Everyone held their breath in excitement and focused on the battle, afraid to miss any details.

To the cultivators present, this was definitely a match between the peak of the younger generation. After all, Cheng Lixue's formidable strength had already left a deep impression on them.

On the other hand, the dark horse, Lin Xun, was also no ordinary individual.

The duel between these two young experts naturally drew the attention of the entire martial arena.

Chla!

The air was ripped apart by a flash of azure. The attack was quick as lightning and frighteningly fierce. This was Cheng Lixue's sword. It felt as if his entire being had become a drawn sword at this very moment.

Lin Xun's black eyes gleamed brightly. Without hesitation, he drifted forth like a blur of illusory light and clashed against the opponent.

Lin Xun was happy with the strength Cheng Lixue had displayed.

Boom!

The fierce clash made the arena ripple.

Cheng Lixue was very strong. His sword was akin to streaking light, shining radiantly as it slashed through the air. Its fierceness seemed to make the sky change color and had a vague resemblance to the air of an ancient sword immortal.

On the other hand, Lin Xun fought with his bare hands. His presence felt ethereal as he gracefully drifted across the stage while his movements were relaxed and leisurely without any trace of anxiousness.

An uproar swept through the audience as the cultivators loudly applauded and cheered, creating a boisterous scene.

Compared to the boring and meaningless duels from before, this was undoubtedly much more entertaining and wonderful.

"As expected of the person who caught the eye of the Pine Sword Sect. His sword cultivation alone is remarkable among the younger generation!"

"The mysterious youngster isn't bad either. It's rare to see someone face Cheng Lixue bare-handed."

"I wonder who will win."

"It will definitely be Cheng Lixue!"

"I disagree, it could be the mysterious youngster!"

"Stop arguing, it's too early to make such claims. Just continuing watching."

The audience area was buzzing with conversation.

Boom!

Cheng Lixue's aura grew increasingly ferocious. His clothes fluttered around him as the azure sword continued to stream through the air, releasing dazzling sword qi that could split mountains and rivers.

His sword dao made many cultivators gasp in amazement. They were flabbergasted and unable to imagine how such a youngster had achieved such deep and profound mastery of the sword.

In comparison, Lin Xun's aura appeared very ordinary or to be more accurate, casual. Every movement gave off a very natural rhythm. Although didn't do anything special, not once was he suppressed or pushed back by Cheng Lixue at any moment of time.

"One of them is displaying his full offensive might while the other is reserved and controlled. It's impossible to tell who is stronger."

Several older-generation cultivators sighed emotionally. They definitely did not possess such strength back when they were in their youth.

It made them sigh. The new generation was truly overflowing with talent!

"Chop!"

A stern look spread from between Cheng Lixue's brows as his figure began to shine. Astonishing sword qi spurted from the sword in his hand, shaking heaven and earth as killing intent filled the area!

However, no matter how swift or ferocious his sword was, it was always easily neutralized by Lin Xun, who was even able to return each blow with a counterattack of his own.

Bang!

Lin Xun's fist flew through the air like a white cloud emerging from a mountain peak. Although it didn't seem like a serious attack, it caused Cheng Lixue to shudder.

"Strong!"

His expression grew increasingly serious, and his eyes were filled with a blazing light that resembled sword qi fiercely erupting from a sword.

It was exhilarating to face Lin Xun. The feeling of having such a worthy opponent filled him with a fighting spirit he had never experienced before and made his blood boil in excitement.

"This is the best!"

Cheng Lixue's presence grew increasingly ferocious as his sword cried out. His aura roared in excitement and his black hair wildly danced around him as frightening battle intent surged from his body.

"Excellent!"

In the distance, the Pine Sword Sect Elder, Liao Zhen, was overjoyed.

He could tell that Lin Xun was an extremely formidable opponent for Cheng Lixue.

At the same time, fighting such an opponent stimulated Cheng Lixue's potential, allowing him to hone his abilities in battle.

It was like how a piece of jade needed to be processed and refined to gradually bring out its brilliance and shock the world with its gorgeousness!

Liao Zhen clearly believed that Lin Xun was akin to an excellent whetstone that would sharpen Cheng Lixue!

“Cheng Lixue’s aura is growing stronger!”

The cultivators in the audience had also discovered that Cheng Lixue’s aura was steadily climbing amidst the battle, causing their expressions to change as their hearts jumped in astonishment.

This meant that Cheng Lixue possessed extremely frightening potential and talent which allowed him to grow during the battle.

In contrast, Lin Xun remained as carefree as a cloud. He was calm and composed, never displaying anything special from start to end.

“From the looks of it, the mysterious youngster is going to lose...”

Numerous cultivators concluded.

“Ah, is Big Brother Lin Xun going to lose?”

Xia Xiaochong’s eyes widened as she stared at the arena. Originally, she had been happy to see Lin Xun experience some setbacks, hoping that his arrogance would be taken down a notch.

When that moment arrived, however, she suddenly found herself not wanting to see Lin Xun lose. She felt conflicted as she mumbled to herself, “Winning is no good, but neither is losing. I really am too kind...”

If Lin Xun heard what she said, the corners of his mouth would probably twitch again.

However, he couldn’t care less about Xia Xiaochong at the moment because he was fully immersed in refining his martial dao.

Inside his body, his qi was changing to a completely new state.

His blood and qi were boiling!

His power was raging!

A strange power was rippling through his body, surging to his four limbs and skeleton like a wild horse. It made his skin faintly tremble as if it was desperately trying to suppress something.

His breathing began to follow a unique and powerful rhythm resembling a dragon-whale inhaling water or an ox regurgitating.

It was the seventh transformation of the Tribulation Dragon Nine Transformations—Yazi’s Rage!

It wasn’t a battle technique. Instead, it was a secret art that stimulated one’s potential.

The cultivation of this art would allow the user to enter a state of ‘rage’, allowing the user to release double the power in battle!

The Yazi was an ancient beast with a violent and irritable nature, which made it fierce, overbearing, bloodthirsty, and battle-hungry.

It had the body of a tiger, the head of a dragon, a sword in its mouth, and legs akin to heavenly pillars that could shatter mountains, rivers, the sun, and the moon!

In the ancient era, there was a popular saying that the 'Yazi will definitely retaliate'. It meant that if anyone provoked a Yazi, they would definitely be subject to its crazed revenge.

It was easy to imagine how terrible its temper was.

The technique was named 'Yazi's Rage' because it allowed a cultivator to stimulate and squeeze out their potential, causing their combat power to soar during battle!

Rumble~

Lin Xun's blood raged in his body as his potential was stimulated, producing a terrifying rumbling noise.

However, he was suppressing the secret art's activation in order to better study and understand its machinations and essence.

All of this could not be observed from the outside.

What everyone didn't know was that while Cheng Lixue was sharpening himself in battle, Lin Xun was also using Cheng Lixue's attacks to better understand the essence of Yazi's Rage!

"The ancients once said that a man's anger could leave five steps of blood, an emperor's anger could leave a river of blood, and a Yazi's anger could destroy mountains, the land, and the entire world!"

"This inheritance is terrifying. If cultivated to the extreme, it will allow me to double my combat power!"

"If activated, I will not even need to use the Broken Blade to kill a peak Cyclic Derivation expert!"

"However, this secret art has its disadvantages as well. It decreases the user's vitality and consumes far too much power. It should only be used to break out of desperate situations and cannot be used in a long fight."

Various insights came to his mind, deepening Lin Xun's understanding of Yazi's Rage.

However, this state of martial dao immersion was soon broken, causing Lin Xun to return to his senses.

Opposite him, Cheng Lixue stopped fighting and kept his sword, causing Lin Xun to be taken aback,

The watching cultivators were also stunned and confused. They had been so engrossed in the exciting duel and never imagined that it would suddenly come to a stop.

What's going on?

Everyone's gazes looked toward Cheng Lixue.

"There's no need to continue, I admit defeat."

Cheng Lixue wore a calm expression as his fierce, sword-like aura withdrew like the tide, returning to the unshakable pine-tree-like aura.

His words shocked everyone. No one could believe what was happening.

In the earlier battle, Cheng Lixue clearly had the upper hand while his aura was still steadily climbing. Why did he suddenly admit defeat?

It was puzzling and inconceivable.

"I'm not as good as you for now, but things might be different when the battle of the great age arrives."

Cheng Lixue earnestly gazed at Lin Xun without revealing any emotion. He looked very calm, and there was no trace of any negative emotions someone should have after admitting defeat.

After saying this, he turned around and left, ignoring the crowd's stunned gazes.

It was as if victory and defeat no longer concerned him.

It was because he had gained enlightenment!

In the earlier battle, he had achieved a new breakthrough in his understanding of sword dao, and there was no longer any point in continuing.

However, Cheng Lixue also felt complicated because the battle had made him realize that he was still lacking compared to Lin Xun...

No matter how strong he grew or how much his aura climbed, he could not even shake Lin Xun in the slightest!

Others might not know how terrifying Lin Xun was, but Cheng Lixue was able to strongly experience it as the other youth's opponent.

He was a formidable opponent who would be very difficult to defeat when the battle of the great age arrived.

However, Cheng Lixue was unafraid. He believed in himself and his foundations.

"When the battle of the great age arrives, you and I will properly decide the victor between us..."

Cheng Lixue murmured in his heart as he departed under the puzzled, shocked, and confused gazes of the crowd.

His expression remained as calm as a lake from beginning to end.

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 785: Reneging on the Promised Reward and Threatening

Cheng Lixue left after a puzzling admission of defeat, leaving the cultivators utterly confused and dissatisfied.

It was already pretty crappy for a fierce battle someone was engrossed in to suddenly stop mid-way. To make things worse, Chen Lixue, whom they had all placed their hopes in, had conceded and left!

This was simply unacceptable.

"Damnit, I'm such a blind fool. Why did I keep supporting Cheng Lixue? I never expected that he wouldn't even have the courage to fight till the end."

"Ugh, how disappointing. I never expected that he would be such a person!"

Complaints rang out one after another.

However, the sharper individuals in the crowd knew that even if the battle continued, Cheng Lixue had no hope of winning.

Because although Lin Xun had shown nothing from start to end, there was not even the slightest indication of him being pushed back.

On the other hand, Cheng Lixue had been unable to do anything despite his rising aura, which showed just how much more terrifying Lin Xun was.

As such, choosing to admit defeat and leave was instead a wise decision on Cheng Lixue's part. At the very least, the damage to his reputation wouldn't be as bad.

If he were defeated, there was no doubt that his reputation would hit rock bottom and he would become a loser in everyone's eyes. This would be a very dire consequence.

"What a shame..."

In the arena, Lin Xun was feeling a sensation of helplessness. It had not been easy to meet such a decent opponent. Hence, suddenly having that opponent admit defeat and withdraw inevitably made him feel a little depressed.

It must be known that he had been suppressing his strength in the battle earlier, worried that the opponent would be scared off if he showed too much of his power.

However, it was evident that despite suppressing his power, Cheng Lixue was still able to perceive the gap between them and decisively chose to withdraw.

"Thankfully, I've roughly understood the essence of Yazi's Rage. All that's left is to polish it in real battle."

Lin Xun thought as he walked off the stage.

"Hmph!"

Xia Xiaochong snorted, bewildering Lin Xun. He asked, "Is there a problem with your nose? Should we ask a medical cultivator to have a look?"

"Hmph!"

Xia Xiaochong glared at him with her large clear eyes and angrily said, "Big Brother Lin Xun, you're really stupid. Can't you tell that I'm angry? Cheng Lixue was so disappointing. I was looking so forward to see him defeat you, but who could have anticipated that..."

Lin Xun whacked her on the head before she could finish.

"Come with me."

He didn't wish to stay any longer after defeating Cheng Lixue and planned to collect his reward and leave.

He felt a slight rush thinking about the reward. He had won forty consecutive duels today and was going to receive ten times the reward plus an additional one hundred mid-grade aeth essences. It was a generous haul!

The attendant, Dong Ba, hesitantly asked, "Young Master, are you not continuing?"

They were in a hall in the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena where the rewards were received. When Lin Xun went to collect his reward, however, some complications cropped up.

"Nope, it's meaningless to continue."

Lin Xun was being honest. Although he needed aeth essence, it was too boring without a decent opponent. In addition, it wasn't helping him polish his martial dao.

"Young Master, there might be a problem." Dong Ba had an awkward expression.

"What's the problem?"

Lin Xun raised his eyebrows, realizing that something was wrong, "Could it be that you guys are trying to renege on the payment?"

Dong Ba displayed an increasingly embarrassed and awkward expression, "Young Master, you are currently the most dazzling expert of our Silver Pheasant Martial Arena. Won't it be regretful if you leave like this?"

"Cut the bullshit." Lin Xun's black eyes turned cold, "Tell me, are you guys planning on reneging on the payment if I leave now?"

A tiny wisp of terrifying pressure spread from Lin Xun, causing Dong Ba to tremble as his face paled. Although it was merely a wisp, it made his blood run cold.

"Young Master, calm down. I believe it will be better for me to explain. Dong Ba, you may go, I will take over from here."

A middle-aged man in embroidered robes unhurriedly walked over with his hands behind his back. He was rather fat and had a friendly smile on his face.

After some introductions, Lin Xun found out that the middle-aged man was the manager of the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena. He was also from the Silver Pheasant Clan and was named Dong Hai.

"Young Master, your performance in the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena today has amazed us all. You're undoubtedly a young heaven pride!"

Dong Hai wore a look of admiration as he buttered up to Lin Xun.

But this only made Lin Xun even more irritable. With an expressionless face, he said, "There's no need for pleasantries. I only want to ask if you guys are planning on reneging on the payment."

"Reneging?"

Astonished, Dong Hai said, "Young Master, please do not misunderstand. Our Silver Pheasant Martial Arena will never renege on payment. Moreover, how can the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena operate in the Flame Capital if we allow such a thing to happen?"

Lin Xun's black eyes were ice-cold as he silently looked at Dong Hai before he finally said, "Give it to me straight."

He could tell that Dong Hai was an annoying person. He was deliberately beating around the bush and avoiding the main topic, refusing to give an honest reply.

Under Lin Xun's stare, Dong Hai's smile immediately receded. He knew that continuing with his nonsense would only anger the young man.

"Young Master, of course you may receive your reward, but could you first make a promise to the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena?"

Dong Hai took a deep breath as his expression turned serious.

Lin Xun smiled. However, it was a very cold smile. "The rewards I won from the duels should be mine. Why do I have to make an additional promise to you people?"

Upon seeing Lin Xun's unyielding stance, Dong Hai was angered and displayed a fake smile, "Young man, you may be strong but this world is not as simple as you think. I advise you to obediently cooperate with us."

"What if I don't?" Slivers of iciness surged out from the depths of Lin Xun's black eyes.

"Hehe, you should know the consequences."

Dong Hai seemed to be unafraid, and there was even a trace of amusement in his eyes. "I only wish to tell you that although you were very dazzling today and caused countless cultivators to be awed and shocked, if you disappear tonight, you'll no longer be able to see the sunrise tomorrow. Do you think anyone will actually care if you die?"

Although he spoke casually, the threat was clear.

He paused for a moment as the corners of his lips rose to form a cold smile. He stared at Lin Xun and said, "We have already investigated you and know that you are an 'outsider' like Cheng Lixue. Do you know how many 'outsiders' like you mysteriously disappear every day in the Flame Capital?"

Dong Hai smiled faintly, looking as if he had already won as he lifted his hand to pat Lin Xun's shoulder.

However, he suddenly stiffened a split second later as if he had been frozen, and his expression changed drastically as he tried to open his mouth to scream.

However, he could not make any noise because a hand had firmly gripped his neck.

Lin Xun, who had remained silent throughout the monologue, revealed a slight smile, displaying his white teeth. He looked at Dong Hai's red, panicked, and terrified face and said, "Just say it straight if you want to renege on the payment, why do you have to threaten me?"

Dong Hai's entire body turned cold. He felt as if he was being imprisoned by an invisible force and could not move, which greatly terrified him.

He was a Cyclic Derivation expert! Despite this, he had been subdued by a Heaven Ascension youngster before he could even react.

Lin Xun smiled and asked, "You guys kill those who don't cooperate with you? Is this how your Silver Pheasant Martial Arena operates?"

A murderous impulse had already risen in his heart.

All he had wanted was to earn some aeth essence. Who could have expected that the other party would not only attempt to renege on the payment but also threaten him? It was simply unethical.

Worst of all, Dong Hai had clearly already planned this for a while. Why else would he have investigated Lin Xun?

Dong Hai obviously thought that an 'outsider' like him was easy to bully because he had no backers or power!

Dong Hai's eyes bulged and veins popped out on his forehead as he began to suffocate. However, he was unable to move no matter how much he struggled.

"You'd best not try to shout or I cannot guarantee that I won't kill you," said Lin Xun as he flung Dong Hai.

Thud!

Dong Hai's body was thrown onto the ground. He gasped for breath like a rescued drowning man and looked as if he had just barely escaped death.

"Give me the reward." Lin Xun lowered his gaze, looking down at him from above.

"Of course!" Dong Hai seemed to have become a completely different person and immediately complied. He quickly fished out a storage pouch and passed it to Lin Xun.

He was terrified. After all, he had nearly died moments ago!

Lin Xun received the pouch and inspected its contents. Upon seeing that the sum was correct, he put it away.

He then gazed at Dong Hai and said, "Although the death penalty can be avoided, there will still be punishment for your crimes. Since you dared to threaten me, you will have to pay a little."

Dong Hai's expression drastically changed as he cried out, "What are you going to do? Do you know that you're playing with fire? I'm from the Silver Pheasant Clan...AHHHH!"

He screamed before he could finish as he received a brutal kick. His tendons and bones were destroyed, and his cultivation was crippled.

"You...you crippled my cultivation!?" Dong Hai's expression was filled with resentment. He felt as if he was on the verge of becoming crazy as he trembled uncontrollably.

Lin Xun smiled and said, "The Silver Pheasant Martial Arena will come after me whether I kill you or not. Crippling you is a warning to remind them that they should first weigh the consequences if they want to come after me!"

After which, he kicked Dong Hai unconscious before striding out of the hall. He called to Xia Xiaochong, who was outside, and they began walking out of the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena.

From start to end, Lin Xun's expression was calm as if nothing had happened.

The guards and attendants were completely unaware that their manager had already been crippled of his cultivation and was lying unconscious in the hall.

It was only fifteen minutes later that Dong Ba's shriek sounded from the hall, "Oh no! Someone come quickly!"

The unconscious Dong Hai had finally been discovered, triggering chaos in the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena.

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 786: I've Kept You Two Waiting

Back at the inn.

A loud crashing noise sounded as magnificent gorgeously glowing aeth essence poured out, bathing the room in an enchanting glow.

It was the reward Lin Xun had received from the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena today.

To break it down, winning the first thirty-nine consecutive matches had earned him 7072 low-grade aeth essences.

His victory over Cheng Lixue in the fortieth match awarded him with ten times the usual reward and an additional one hundred mid-grade aeth essences. Together, they added up to 179 pieces of mid-grade aeth essences and twenty low-grade aeth essences!

It was a sizable fortune, but Lin Xun didn't feel happy when he converted them to mid-grade Spirit Accumulation Jades.

At most, he could purchase seventeen pieces of mid-grade Spirit Accumulation Jades.

Given the nine God Devourer Insects' appetite, Lin Xun suspected that it would only sustain them for a few days...

Crack. Crack.

Xia Xiaochong was at the table happily cracking sunflower seeds and eating them.

These white sunflower seeds glittered like gems and were the fruit of a certain strain of 'spirit sunflower' planted by a horticulturist. When paired with some seasonings and fried, they became crisp and delicious. The kernels gave off a rich fragrance and contained wisps of aeth power. It was a very popular snack among the Ancient Wasteland Domain cultivators.

"Big Brother Lin Xun, are you still going tomorrow?"

Xia Xiaochong crunched on her sunflower seeds as she looked at him with her large, clear eyes. She appeared very carefree and soon filled the table with piles of sunflower seed shells.

Lin Xun replied, "I'll visit a different place tomorrow. We can no longer go to the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena."

The Flame Capital was a huge city, and there were more than a hundred martial arenas spread out among its different districts.

The largest of them all was undoubtedly the Flame Capital Martial Arena.

It was jointly owned by the four sects and three clans and was undoubtedly the number one martial arena in the Fire Spirit Province. In fact, it far surpassed all the other martial arenas in scale and influence.

Fang Linhan of the Eight Extreme Blade Temple, for example, had arrived at the Flame Capital Martial Arena a month ago to challenge the talented geniuses of the Fire Spirit Province.

He had achieved a dazzling battle record and had remained undefeated until now. As such, he became one of the most talked about individuals in the Flame Capital.

The commotion Lin Xun caused in the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena was almost nothing in comparison.

It wasn't that Lin Xun was inferior to Fang Linhan. It was simply because the Flame Capital Martial Arena's influence was too great. The duels that occurred within it would receive attention from the entire Fire Spirit Province.

The Silver Pheasant Martial Arena was clearly inferior in comparison. Although it was still a little famous, its fame was limited to the Flame Capital.

In fact, there were several dozen martial arenas in the Flame Capital comparable in scale to the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena!

Due to the reward incident, Lin Xun had formed a grudge with the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena and naturally couldn't go there anymore.

Therefore, he had to turn to another martial arena to continue polishing his martial dao and earn aeth essence.

The simple-minded Xia Xiaochong naturally didn't give any thought to the reason behind the change and cheered, "Great, I was getting tired of the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena because there was no one good there."

She was obviously still hoping for someone to beat Lin Xun and take him down a notch!

"Heh."

Lin Xun merely chuckled without getting triggered. He had already developed a certain level of resistance to Xia Xiaochong's bluntness.

.....

In the evening, Fang Linhan's silhouette emerged from the setting sun on the horizon as he returned to the inn and knocked on Lin Xun's door.

"Have you heard? A mysterious youngster appeared at the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena and won forty consecutive duels. Moreover, he made Cheng Lixue voluntarily admit defeat in the middle of a fight."

Fang Linhan crossed his arms as he leaned against the doorframe, giving off a lazy vibe. He didn't enter the room, but chatted from his position as if they were neighbors.

"Hmm." Lin Xun nodded.

Xia Xiaochong, on the other hand, had already completely forgotten about her sunflower seeds. She propped up her small face with her hands and stared at Fang Linhan, displaying an infatuated appearance.

Her expression was fully genuine as she fearlessly and directly looked at him without bothering to hide anything.

Lin Xun couldn't be bothered with the silly girl. He was wondering why Fang Linhan had suddenly come to talk about this matter.

"I've recently had difficulty meeting satisfactory opponents. I plan to go to the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena tomorrow to have a look and see if the mysterious youngster is as formidable as rumored."

Fang Linhan asked, "Do you want to come along?"

"Yes!"

Xia Xiaochong suddenly blurted out, giving Lin Xun a jump scare. His face soon darkened. Did this blockhead already forget what he had told her earlier?

They were going to a different place tomorrow!

However, Xia Xiaochong had long forgotten Lin Xun's existence. The only thing left on her face was a look of infatuation.

In her eyes, the sight of Fang Linhan leaning against the doorframe was simply unrivaled and was the very embodiment of carefree relaxation. His devilish and wild face was partially covered in shadow due to the light from the setting sun, creating a mix of brightness and obscurity that was so handsome that it would make anyone's heart shatter...

Lin Xun could see a glistening strand of saliva dripping from Xia Xiaochong's pink lips...

"This is?" Fang Linhan was taken aback.

"A sick, love-struck idiot. It's getting late, let's talk again next time," Lin Xun replied irately as he slammed the door shut, leaving Fang Linhan outside.

He then glared at Xia Xiaochong and said, "Are you not shameless enough already? How can a young lady like you drool as you stare at a man? Don't you feel even the slightest iota of shame?"

"Huh?" I was only looking and didn't have any other intentions. Is there something wrong with that?" Xia Xiaochong wiped away the saliva and displayed an unconcerned look.

Lin Xun's expression turned stormy. This girl...is hopeless!

"Friend, will you be coming tomorrow?" Fang Linhan's voice sounded behind the door.

"No, I'm busy!" Lin Xun rejected without any hesitation.

Fang Linhan said from outside, "To be honest, if you're willing to have a duel with me, I don't really care about going to the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena,"

"I'm really not free." Lin Xun had a headache. Xia Xiaochong was already bad enough as it is, why couldn't Fang Linhan just leave him alone?

Why do you have to keep pestering me for a mere fight?

Fang Linhan's cheerful laughter sounded from outside, "Then I'll wait till you're free."

Lin Xun was speechless. Was there no end to this?

Xia Xiaowei foolishly smiled to herself as she muttered, "I can imagine how charming his smile is from just the sound of his laughter..."

The corners of Lin Xun's lips ultimately couldn't help but twitch again.

.....

The Flame Capital grew increasingly lively as night fell. Lanterns illuminated the city streets, bathing them in a beautiful dream-like atmosphere filled with an endless stream of activity and laughter.

Xia Xiaochong had already fallen asleep. She was unattractively sprawled on the bed like an octopus, a rare peacefulness on her innocent and pretty face.

Lin Xun was greeted by this scene when he awoke from his meditation. He could not help but inwardly remark that it would be great if she could always be this quiet...

He got up and helped tuck Xia Xiaochong in before he silently sat in front of the table like a meditating old monk.

Outside the window, the busy streets were buzzing with the sounds of activity under the dark night sky.

In contrast, the room was silent and dim. The only light was from a single lamp which cast a dusky flickering shadow of Lin Xun's silently seated figure.

Time flowed unnoticed, and it soon reached the wee hours of the morning.

There was no longer any noise from outside the window. The streets had become cold and empty and lanterns had been extinguished, leaving only the crescent moon hanging in the sky, sprinkling its soft silver light onto the land.

Dark clouds soon arrived and obscured the crescent moon, causing the Flame Capital to be enveloped in darkness.

At this moment, Lin Xun opened his eyes. A strand of icy light surged out from his pupils like a flash of lightning tearing through the darkness.

Swoosh!

In the next instant, he disappeared from the room.

.....

Outside the inn, the darkness of the night covered the sky like a curtain. Thick, dark clouds hung in the sky, a sign that it was probably about to rain.

Two shadows stood under the eaves nearby. They had concealed their auras, making it almost impossible to detect them without close inspection.

They were communicating via mind transmission.

"When will we act?"

"Let's wait a little longer."

"It's just a Heaven Ascension kid, is there a need to be so cautious? He wouldn't be able to stop us even if he was a Cyclic Derivation expert!"

"He's not the only one in the inn. Fang Linhan from the Eight Extremes Blade Temple is also staying there. There will likely be an unnecessary misunderstanding if he's alerted."

"Fang Linhan? Hmph, he's a young man from the Mystery Water Province who has recently been making waves in the Flame Capital. He looks down on the younger-generation experts of the Fire Spirit Province and is too arrogant. We should use this opportunity to assassinate him as well."

"We're here to kill that youngster, not Fang Linhan. Do not do anything unnecessary. Although Fang Linhan is arrogant, he is currently too famous. If he dies out of the blue, then it'll only attract unneeded attention. As for the mysterious youngster...he's merely an outsider with no faction or backing. No one will care if he dies."

They were concealed in their cloaks and communicated via mind transmission as if they were ghosts from the underworld. It was a hair-raising sight to behold amidst the oozing darkness of the night.

However, they were unaware of an even stranger figure soundlessly approaching them from the opposite street.

"I've kept you two waiting."

Lin Xun's voice suddenly rang out amidst the silence, causing the two black-clothed individuals to tense up and nearly jump in fear.

Only then did they realize that the target was somehow standing three feet from them without them noticing!

It was as if he had appeared out of thin air. The two individuals' scalps turned numb from alarm and fear. They were nearly unable to believe their eyes.

One of the black-clothed individuals asked, "When did you...arrive?"

It was simply terrifying that the target had appeared without them realizing it.

"Hmm, I just got here."

Lin Xun offhandedly answered. His black, abyss-like eyes seemed to glow as he observed them with some interest. "By the way, do you guys have any aeth essence?"

The bizarre question left the two individuals stunned and uncomfortable, feeling as if a predator was sizing them up.

Crap!

The two black-clothed individuals' hearts shivered in fear. The Heaven Ascension youngster's sudden appearance freaked them out and made them smell danger.

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 787: Chaofeng Eye

"Young man, what do you mean by that?"

One of the black-clothed men forcibly composed himself and asked, "Why are you asking if we have aeth essence for no reason?"

Lin Xun let out a carefree chuckle before saying, "Stop pretending. There's no need to continue acting at this juncture."

Lin Xun smiled radiantly under the night sky. However, it only made the two men in black feel increasingly unnerved.

It was a very strange situation for them. They were ruthless Cyclic Derivation experts whose hands were stained in blood and had quite a reputation in the underground society of the Flame Capital.

However, a Heaven Ascension youngster was making them feel uneasy. It made them realize that something was very wrong with the target this time!

"Let me guess, you're either from the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena or assassins hired by them, and your goal is to kill me, right?"

Lin Xun strolled toward them.

The sight of him approaching after uncovering their purpose filled the two black-clothed men with alarm, anger, and a strong sensation of dread.

Something is very wrong!

Why is he so fearless?

Swish!

Almost instantly, the two black-clothed individuals simultaneously choose to...flee!

Moreover, they were extremely quick and headed in two different directions.

Lin Xun knew that they were trying to sound him out. Although it seemed like they were escaping, they were actually waiting to see how he would react.

If it was dangerous, they would leave.

But if they sensed that he was bluffing, they would immediately turn around to kill him!

They were admittedly extremely cautious and ruthless individuals with rich battle experience and were far from average.

However, they had overlooked one thing. Lin Xun had been waiting the whole night and ultimately chose to reveal himself instead of retreating. How could this possibly be an attempt to scare them off?

Whoosh!

At almost the exact instant the two black-clothed men moved, Lin Xun also moved but even faster. He activated the Hornless Ice Dragon Step and darted toward one of them.

Rumble!

The black-clothed man suddenly felt a chill and instinctively raised his head to find a dazzling, giant, ancient stamp descending from the sky as it ripped apart the darkness.

It was the Bi'an Stamp!

Compared to before, the Bi'an Stamp felt far more realistic and life-like as if a real divine beast had appeared. Every grain of the stamp was clearly visible as it angrily glared and sent out a pulse of torrential pressure!

The black-clothed man's heart trembled as he was viciously slammed into the ground before he could react. His bones loudly cracked and snapped as blood poured out of his orifices.

Rumble!

The black-clothed man's body convulsed inside the large crater that had been formed, unable to get up.

He was horrified. He was a mighty Advanced Cyclic Derivation expert. Who could have anticipated that he would be struck down by a single attack?

Damnit!

His body began to glow as he struggled with everything he had to get up. Just as he was about to succeed, however, a foot stomped on his back and shattered his spine, causing him to scream as his vision turned blurry.

The power was too terrifying! He could not believe that it belonged to a Heaven Ascension youngster.

His entire body turned cold, and he was scared out of his wits. He knew that the operation had gone horribly wrong, and they had encountered an unbeatable monster.

"Stay there!"

Lin Xun kicked the black-clothed man again, nearly breaking his head. His eyes immediately rolled over, and he fainted.

In the other direction, the black-clothed man's partner was fleeing while planning to immediately turn back to attack the moment he sensed that the youngster wasn't giving chase.

However, his soul nearly left his body in fear when he turned his head and saw his partner being smashed into the ground by a single blow.

Rumble!

Desperation immediately filled him as he frantically attempted to escape, now genuinely terrified.

He knew how strong his partner was. Hence, the thought of him being struck down by a single attack was frightening to even think about.

Shit!

Where the hell did this little monster come from?

"It's a perfect night for murder. It will be very regretful if you miss out on this chance, my friend."

A voice suddenly sounded at the black-clothed man's ear, causing his body to stiffen in fear. How had he caught up even with such a head start?

The black-clothed man cried out in a panic, "Young friend, we were only trying to fulfill a task we were entrusted with and are not from the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena. Please show mercy and spare my life."

However, his actions were the opposite of his words. As he spoke, he suddenly sent out a blinding flash of blood-light straight at Lin Xun's throat!

Omm!

Blood-light shot through the air, emitting an eerie soul-seizing noise.

Lin Xun raised his eyebrow. Not wishing to come into contact with the attack, he executed the Baxia Imprisonment and Bi'an Stamp.

The blood-light was swiftly imprisoned, causing it to be locked in place before being smashed to smithereens by the terrifying Bi'an Stamp.

At the same time, Lin Xun dashed forward with the Hornless Ice Dragon Step and punched.

The black-clothed man was sent flying with a loud thump. He crashed into the ground head-first ten feet away, causing his head to bleed and his teeth to be chipped.

He was utterly terrified. Was this really a Heaven Ascension youngster? How could he possess such dreadful power? Even the top supreme heaven prides of this era couldn't possibly be stronger than this, right?

His partner had been subdued in a single strike and now he had also been taken down with one attack as well. It was an outcome that shattered their understanding of the world and made their hands and feet turn cold.

Lin Xun picked him up and went back to the first black-clothed man before starting to loot them.

Moments later, Lin Xun's face had become somewhat ugly. These two old Cyclic Derivation experts didn't have a single piece of aeth essence! All they had were some random aeth materials.

Weren't they just far too poor?

Lin Xun had already expected something like this would happen after he crippled the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena manager today.

It was why he had specially waited during the night. However, he never expected that these two opponents would be dirt poor!

This left Lin Xun very unhappy. His gaze turned unfriendly as he said, "I do not need to know the reason. I only want to confirm if you guys were sent by the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena."

.....

A few moments later, Lin Xun left the street carrying two corpses and disappeared into the darkness of the night.

Swish!

A tall and slim figure gracefully appeared right after Lin Xun left. He stood there surveying the battlefield for a while before turning to look in the direction Lin Xun had departed in.

"In such a short span of time, two Cyclic Derivation experts died at your hands. You're stronger than I expected!"

His eyes shone brightly, and his blade-like lips pursed a little as his heart burned with unprecedented battle intent.

It was the Eight Extremes Blade Temple's successor, Fang Linhan.

"Just wait, you and I will definitely have a fight whether you want to or not!"

.....

A quarter of an hour later.

A fire suddenly broke out at the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena. Light from the fire soared into the sky, scattering the darkness of the night, and causing a huge commotion.

The fire was so ferocious that it took more than half the night to finally extinguish it. By that juncture, the entire martial arena had already suffered severe damage.

By then, Lin Xun had already returned to the inn.

The fire that burned down the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena was obviously his handiwork.

As the saying went, it was only polite to return the favor. He has previously crippled Dong Hai as a warning, but the other party clearly wouldn't take that lying down and had sent two assassins in revenge tonight.

In such a situation, how could Lin Xun possibly show tolerance?

The fire was his lesson to the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena.

If they still refused to stop, Lin Xun's next move would be even more vicious.

.....

The next morning, Lin Xun woke up from his meditation and walked outside with Xia Xiaochong as if nothing had happened the night before.

The plan for the day was to purchase some mid-grade Spirit Accumulation Jades and find another martial arena to hone his martial dao and earn more aeth essence.

I've fully learned the essence of Yazi's Rage. The next step is to learn the eighth transformation of the Tribulation Dragon Nine Transformations—Chaofeng Eye.

Lin Xun thought to himself as he walked through the busy street.

Last night, he had used the power of Yazi's Rage against the two black-clothed Cyclic Derivation experts. It had instantly doubled his battle power, allowing him to suppress them with ease.

Without Yazi's Rage, he would have to resort to the Broken Blade or No-Nonsense Bow to achieve a similar result.

While trying to comprehend the eighth transformation last night, Lin Xun was surprised to discover that Chaofeng Eye wasn't a martial inheritance, but instead a unique art with searching and surveying capabilities!

It was similar to the art of Fengshui, but it could see through illusions and discover hidden 'treasure troves!'

What was a treasure trove?

It was a place where aeth veins converged!

At the same time, hidden locations which contained incredible aeth treasures, special wonders, great opportunities, and other similar things were also considered treasure troves.

Some examples included precious ore veins and mysterious aeth sources.

In fact, even the common-place aeth essences and Spirit Accumulation Jades had been dug out from aeth veins.

In simple terms, Chaofeng Eye was a unique technique that specialized in searching for veins.

There was, however, one troublesome problem. To practice and comprehend the secrets of the technique required heading deep into old forests in the mountains. Only in such places could Lin Xun directly feel and sense the essence of Chaofeng Eye and achieve the goal of discovering aeth veins.

"It seems that I'll have to work on the Nine Heavenshaking Destructions Art first..."

In the Flame Capital, Lin Xun had no choice but to temporarily put aside learning the next transformation of the Tribulation Dragon Nine Transformations.

"Big news, big news! The Silver Pheasant Martial Arena suddenly caught fire last night and was almost burned to the ground. Even the storehouse burned down. Allegedly, it was an act of revenge from an enemy of the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena!"

On the streets, members of the Windspeaker Clan were spreading the news, causing a flurry of excitement among the pedestrians.

The Windspeaker Clan was known to be the most well-informed clan in the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

They had pointed ears, sunken eyes, light green skin, and a pair of beautiful wings growing from their backs. They were also known to be extremely resilient and tenacious.

They possessed incredible observation abilities, amazing insight, and specialized in gathering and collecting information. They had a natural love for discovering various secrets and spreading the hottest news.

There was a cheeky saying in the Ancient Wasteland Domain that the Windspeaker Clan experts would always be present whenever something big happened. They always wanted the big scoop and would run there faster than anyone!

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 788: Ji Xingyao's Strength

This was the unique Windspeaker Clan. If there was anything you wanted to know, finding them was never a wrong choice.

Likewise, if there was any news to spread, the Windspeaker Clan could easily be trusted with the task. After all, their big mouths were famous in the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

Of course, the Windspeaker Clan was only responsible for collecting information and spreading news. The authenticity was something they didn't bother to check.

At times, the false rumors they spread would draw curses from many cultivators who would scold them for spreading misinformation and confusing the public.

Most of the time, however, the news they spread was reliable.

"Strange, wasn't there an amazing match in the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena just yesterday? I heard a mysterious youngster suddenly appeared out of nowhere, defeated Cheng Lixue, and broke his record, creating a huge sensation. How did the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena suddenly catch fire last night?"

Many cultivators were astonished by the news.

"Heh heh, the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena's competitors might be behind this incident. After all, those in the same business are also rivals. With how many martial arenas there are in the Flame Capital, conflict and competition are unavoidable."

Someone gave a possible explanation as he gloated over their misfortune.

Lin Xun's expression remained unchanged as he listened to the chatter although he did feel a little strange inside. Who could have expected the other martial arenas would end up taking the blame for his crime?

However, it was good news for him. At the very least, the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena would not publicize the truth behind this 'shameful affair' no matter how much they hated him.

If they did, it would be no different from slapping themselves in the face and they would only be disgracing themselves.

"Ha, the heavens work in mysterious ways. The Silver Pheasant Martial Arena coincidentally had a fire when we decided not to go there today."

Xia Xiaochong let out a half-snort-half-giggle. The simple young lady was completely unaware that the fire was actually the handiwork of the person beside her.

"It is indeed providential." Lin Xun let out a thought-provoking chuckle as he placed his hands on the back of his head and leisurely strolled through the busy street.

.....

Thousand Crane Martial Arena.

With his experience from the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena, Lin Xun quickly completed the participating procedures and proceeded to the dueling stage.

Polishing and refining his martial dao was vastly different from killing enemies. It required facing an opponent who could at least put up a decent fight and consisted of drawing out the true essence of one's martial dao through battle.

This was also commonly known as 'technique feeding.'

In some ancient sects, there were even special teaching elders who would duel with the disciples to guide them and instruct them on the finer details of certain techniques, allowing them to master the essence of the techniques in the shortest possible time.

Obviously, this was unattainable for Lin Xun.

Although there were many martial arenas in the Flame Capital and no shortage of first-class experts, there were far too few who could hope to match Lin Xun.

In his desperation, Lin Xun could only suppress his strength in order to polish his martial dao.

Moreover, after learning a lesson from the Silver Pheasant Martial Arena incident, he kept a low profile this time and would rest after winning each match.

After winning twenty matches, he would then collect the reward and leave for another martial arena to repeat the process.

Sure enough, he received significantly less attention and wasn't given a hard time when he collected his rewards.

Lin Xun spent the next few days at the many martial arenas of the Flame Capital.

He didn't encounter any opponents that could pressure him, but he did get experience a variety of combat techniques.

He was also treated to the eye-opening experience of witnessing various specialized fighting styles from experts of different clans. It was a genuinely beneficial experience.

For example, Magma Clan experts would turn into magma in battle, sending out waves of fire that could cover the sky and land and incinerate even space itself. It was an extremely violent and domineering style.

Then there were the Dream Weaver Clan experts who excelled in spirit attacks. Their secret arts could weave realistic illusion attacks, mixing illusion and reality to catch the opponent off-guard.

There were also the Heavenly Vine Clan experts who were the most difficult to deal with. They possessed peerless regenerative ability and could even recreate themselves from a single drop of blood!

In other words, as long as there was a single drop of blood left, a Heavenly Vine Clan expert would be able to regenerate his entire body if given the chance!

Besides them, there was also the Azure Flower-Monster Clan which specialized in poisons, the Mist Shadow Clan which specialized in stealth and concealment, the Yunmeng Clan which was born with the ability to control wild beasts.....and many others.

The duels against them widened Lin Xun's horizons, allowing him to learn many things.

It also made Lin Xun sigh in amazement. The Ancient Wasteland Domain was indeed a vast land with more than ten thousand clans. Every clan had its own unique talents which allowed them to survive amidst the cruel competition until the present.

.....

In the inn, Fang Linhan grinned and asked, "Brother Lin, are you really not going to play with me?"

For the past few days, he would come to pester Lin Xun the moment he returned from the Flame Capital Martial Arena. His stubbornness in insisting on a duel gave Lin Xun a headache.

Fang Linhan seemed to know that Lin Xun would never agree so easily and suddenly changed the topic, "By the way, there was some shocking news today. It said that an earth-shaking duel occurred at the Fallen Star Peak deep in the Ziniu Mountain. Old Monster Withered Vine was nearly killed and fled with heavy injuries."

At this point, a strange light appeared in his eyes, "Do you know who did it?"

Lin Xun was taken aback, "Who?"

Fang Linhan's expression grew increasingly strange, tinged with an indescribable look that seemed to be a mix between admiration and yearning.

After a long time, he answered, "The Unsolved Mystery Sword Alms saintess, Ji Xingyao."

Lin Xun's heart shook. "Her?"

He was unable to remain composed. The Unsolved Mystery Sword Alms was known as the number one sect in the West Infinity World. As such, it was easy to imagine how extraordinary the current saintess Ji Xingyao was.

In fact, she was already beginning to become a leading figure of the West Infinity World's younger generation.

However, Lin Xun never imagined that despite also being from the younger generation, she was already capable of defeating a Half-Step King expert!

He had personally witnessed the might of Old Monster Withered Vine and knew that he was a powerhouse even among Half-Step King stage.

In spite of this, he nearly perished in a duel with Ji Xingyao and was ultimately forced to flee!

Lin Xun could not help but ask, "What level has her cultivation reached?"

Fang Linhan sighed and said, "I only know that a year ago, she was rumored to have defeated a Cyclic Derivation stage true disciple of the Unsolved Mystery Sword Alms with only Heaven Ascension stage cultivation, shocking the entire sect."

"That Cyclic Derivation stage true disciple wasn't an ordinary individual either. He's named Ying Yunchong, hails from the Yinglong clan, possesses superb talent, and is quite famous in the West Infinity World. Despite this, Ji Xingyao defeated him while at an entire greater cultivation stage lower. You can imagine how terrifying her foundations are."

Lin Xun's expression could not help but change. He deeply understood just how strong of a foundation was required because he himself was someone who possessed the capability to kill an opponent who was an entire greater cultivation stage higher.

"I never thought that there would be such a person in this world..."

Lin Xun inwardly sighed, "The South Wonder World Longevity Land's saint, Yu Lingkong, is likely no weaker than Ji Xingyao as well."

Fang Linhan added, "However, I heard that although Ji Xingyao's strong foundations played a part in being able to defeat Old Monster Withered Vine, the main reason for her victory was an inherited damaged Saint treasure she used."

"I see."

Lin Xun immediately relaxed.

It wouldn't be too shocking if she had relied on a similar treasure to win, like how he had been able to kill Half-Step King experts with the No-Nonsense Bow and the Biluo Arrow.

Of course, it still gave Lin Xun a wake-up call and made him realize that he wasn't the only person with such trump cards in the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

Other supreme heaven prides like Ji Xingyao and Yu Lingkong were likely also in possession of equally powerful hidden weapons.

Lin Xun asked, "Why would someone like Ji Xingyao suddenly appear in the Fire Spirit Province? Could she also be here for the opportunity on Fallen Star Peak?"

Fang Linhan shrugged and said, "How would I know? I'm not from the Windspeaker Clan. But I do know that despite defeating Old Monster Withered Vine, Ji Xingyao ultimately returned empty-handed."

He paused for a moment before he continued, "Moreover, a big change occurred on Fallen Star Peak. The entire peak suddenly disappeared without a trace as if it was transported away by someone. It is extremely bizarre."

Lin Xun was stunned but soon realized that it was probably related to Shao Hao, who was hibernating in the Constellation Egg!

At the thought of Shao Hao, Lin Xun had an unexplainable feeling that when Shao Hao of the Astral Imperial Clan emerged in the world, he would be no less dazzling than the other supreme heaven prides like Ji Xingyao and Yu Lingkong!

.....

"There's only one day left until the appointed time. If your master doesn't come, I will be leaving."

Early in the morning, Lin Xun left the inn with Xia Xiaochong as usual and headed to the martial arenas in the city.

Xia Xiaochong confidently replied, "Relax, my master absolutely abhors missing an appointment. She will never do so."

"That's good."

Lin Xun nodded. Over the past few days, he had almost visited every martial arena in the city besides the Flame Capital Martial Arena.

At present, there was only a small handful of martial arenas left where he had yet to leave his mark.

Regretfully, Lin Xun had yet to meet an opponent who could pressure him.

Lin Xun did not intend to stay any longer than necessary in the Flame Capital. One of the main reasons why he had come to the Ancient Wasteland Domain was to visit the East Victory World to learn more about the Omega Sword Sect successor, Yun Qingbai, and make preparations for his revenge!

Due to this, he had little interest in staying in the Fire Spirit Province which was a long distance from the East Victory World.

Pine Smoke Martial Arena.

Lin Xun and Xia Xiaochong walked inside.

"Eh!"

Just as their figures disappeared, a young man on the other side of the street suddenly gasped in surprise, "It's him!"

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 789: Greed

When the rather handsome man recognized Lin Xun, a dark look emerged between his eyebrows as a strange mix between anger and fear surged in his heart.

It was none other than the Spirit Pearl Sect successor, Mo Feng.

During their clan training at Ziniu Mountain, Lin Xun made fun of their group because they had refused to apologize, causing them to nearly vomit blood from anger and frustration.

In the end, they relented because Yue Jianming had acknowledged Lin Xun. How could they possibly dare to take revenge under such circumstances?

Mo Feng never expected that he would run into Lin Xun again in the Flame Capital.

The old man next to him asked, "You recognize him?"

He wore a blue robe, his hair was coiled in a bun, and his skin glowed like an infant's, making him resemble an immortal from legend.

His name was Han Yanque. He was an Advanced Cyclic Derivation Stage elder from the Spirit Pearl Sect and Mo Feng's mentor.

"Yes." Mo Feng nodded.

After some thought, he bitterly said, "Master, in the Grand Sect Competition several days ago, it was his disturbance during the training that caused our Spirit Pearl Sect to be ranked last."

Shame flooded Mo Feng's heart as he said, "Frankly speaking, we were the ones who made a mistake and unintentionally offended him, which resulted in the later incident."

"So it was because of his interference. That makes sense."

There was a strange look in Han Yanque's expression and something indescribable in his voice.

It stunned Mo Feng. He had originally thought that Han Yanque would either reprimand him or be angered and did not expect such a response instead.

The most shocking part was that Han Yanque then patted his shoulder and comforted him in a gentle voice, "It isn't a shame to lose to him. His combat capability is extremely savage, and it is quite fortunate that he left you guys alive."

Mo Feng was at a loss. What was going on? Since when was his stern master so easy to talk to?

In fact, he could not even recall a single time his master had consoled him before!

Mo Feng fought back his tears. His master had been nothing but stern with him for so many years and had never consoled him like this before.

Han Yanque was also feeling rather complicated at the moment.

He had seen Lin Xun's overwhelming might at the bottom of the Fallen Star Peak and personally witnessed how almost no one had dared to stop him as he bulldozed his way up the peak!

The most inconceivable part was that even Old Monster Withered Vine had failed to kill the youngster as he had managed to escape using what appeared to be Saint treasure ship!

Under such circumstances, it was naturally understandable that his disciple had been made fun of by Lin Xun. Han Yanque knew that Mo Feng was in no way the youngster's match.

"Eh?"

Han Yanque suddenly recalled that the ship in the youngster's possession was an amazing and unfathomable artifact suspected to be a legendary Saint treasure. In fact, it had even avoided the suppression of Fallen Star Peak's ancient saint array!

Unrestrainable greed surged in Han Yanque's heart and he immediately instructed, "Stay here and keep a close watch on that youngster. I have urgent business and need to first return to the sect."

He had to go back to discuss with the Spirit Pearl Sect higher-ups if they could make use of this opportunity to obtain a Saint treasure for the sect. It would be no less than acquiring a peerless blessing!

Saint treasures possessed terrifying and overwhelming power. If they were to attain such a divine artifact, it would definitely allow the Spirit Pearl Sect to rise above the others from the four sects and three clans and become the true hegemon of the Fire Spirit Province!

"I must hurry, there's no time to lose!"

The more he thought about the more his greed grew, almost making him give in to the temptation to take action right there and then.

However, he ultimately restrained himself. He knew that something like this required careful planning to ensure no one found out.

After all, although that youngster was only at the Heaven Ascension stage, he had managed to escape Old Monster Withered Vine. If they failed to capture him in one go, it would be impossible to predict what would happen next.

"Master, what are you planning?"

Mo Feng wasn't stupid. As one of the Spirit Pearl Sect's most outstanding younger-generation members, his talent and intelligence were far above the average cultivator.

Hence, he immediately realized that his master's decision was somehow related to Lin Xun!

"These are matters you do not need to know. You only need to keep a close watch on him and keep track of his movements at all times. Remember, do not alert him!"

Han Yanque sternly instructed before hurriedly leaving.

Mo Feng's heart thumped loudly as a bad feeling rose in his heart. It seemed that his master was returning to the sect to ask for reinforcements to deal with that youngster.

With a deep breath, he forcibly suppressed his emotions, steeled himself, and walked toward the Pine Smoke Martial Arena.

.....

Pine Smoke Martial Arena.

In the rest area, a graceful young lady who gave off an unapproachable aura was quietly seated in a corner. She wore a black dress, and a snow-white mask covered the upper half of her face, revealing only her full red lips and sharp chin.

She sat there, appearing cold and mysterious, her clear, gem-like eyes as tranquil as a lake.

"Miss, there's no point in hiding here. The elders of the sect are waiting anxiously for your return." By her side, an old woman in green sighed softly, feeling somewhat helpless.

The young lady indifferently replied, "I have said long ago that I will not see anyone before the battle of the great age arrives. Since they refuse to listen, then they can worry their heads off for all I care."

Her voice was as crisp and cold as snow, and tinkled like the sounds of nature. Although she spoke casually, there was an authority in her voice that did not allow anyone to disobey.

It also gave her an intimidating aura. In addition, although she was just sitting there, she gave off a sensation of solitude that could not be desecrated.

The old woman felt increasingly helpless. However, she was extremely doting toward the girl and ultimately stopped trying to persuade her after a few more tries.

"I'm angry."

The girl suddenly straightened her posture as anger flashed in her bright star-like eyes, "I was so close to uncovering the expert inside the Fallen Star Peak ancient saint array, but he ended up escaping!"

She pursed her lips as a bone-chilling aura spread from her, "This is the first time I've failed since I began my cultivation journey. If I find out who the culprit is, I'll definitely give him a good beating."

The old woman seemed to become somewhat nervous as she hurriedly said, "Miss, Fallen Star Peak has already disappeared. Since the affair is over, you shouldn't waste any more time over it."

The girl huffed in acknowledgment and rose to her feet.

In that moment, she became akin to a lotus emerging from the water, and her graceful figure was completely revealed. Her legs were long and slim. Her waist was so slender anyone would feel the impulse to grab it, and her black dress could not hide the beautiful contours of her perfect body.

Her face was half-covered by the mask, but her almost translucent glowing skin, raised nose, and full red lips told everyone that she was a breathtaking beauty.

She had a presence that was cold as snow, serene, and transcendent. It was an extremely unique and attention-grabbing aura that made people feel ashamed of themselves in comparison and not dare to show even the slightest disrespect toward her.

"Miss, what are you doing?" The old woman was taken aback.

The girl casually replied, "I'll of course be going to have some fun in the arena."

"You want to duel with the cultivators here?"

The old woman was dumbstruck and speechless. She was all too aware of how terrifying the girl's foundations were.

Let alone this tiny martial arena or the Fire Spirit Province, even in the entire West Infinity World, only a handful of younger-generation experts were qualified to be her opponent!

Despite this, she wanted to spar against other cultivators in this barely first-class martial arena. It was a situation where you wouldn't know whether to laugh or cry.

"I'm only going to play a little. Otherwise, I will feel far too depressed. I have to release a little once in a while," said the girl casually as she drifted away. Her departing figure seemed to give off a sensation of loneliness and transcendence.

The old woman mumbled, "Fine then, if playing a little will allow you to vent away your depression, you might have a change of heart and return to the sect"

.....

Boom!

In the arena, Lin Xun defeated opponent after opponent. He had reached his nineteenth consecutive victory, and he won calmly from start to end.

Yes, calm!

From the beginning, he suppressed his strength and focused on tempering his martial dao, no longer caring about victory or defeat.

There was no excitement, only the desire to temper his martial dao.

While waiting for the twentieth match, Lin Xun rested while calculating how many mid-grade Spirit Accumulation Jades he could purchase with the aeth essence he had earned over the past few days.

Hmm?

He suddenly sensed something and raised his head to look at the other side of the arena where a young lady wearing a silver-white mask was approaching.

The tall girl wore a black dress, had a waist akin to a silk bundle, shoulders that looked as if they had been meticulously carved, and a pair of clear eyes that were serene as the stars in the sky.

She arrived in the arena and tied her long black hair into a ponytail with a strip of azure cloth, revealing her fair and slender neck. Although her movements weren't fast, there was a certain rhythm, beauty, and relaxed confidence to them that was pleasing to watch.

"Is that my opponent for the twentieth match?" Lin Xun's intuition was extremely sharp, and he could immediately tell that the girl wearing a black dress was going to be a pretty good opponent.

It finally made Lin Xun feel a sliver of interest and anticipation as if he was meeting a worthy opponent in chess or a kindred soul he could drink with.

He had found it regretful that he had not encountered a proper opponent for the past few days, but the appearance of this girl would undoubtedly change that!

Lin Xun inwardly muttered, "I hope you won't disappoint."

"Eh?"

The black-dress girl stepped onto the stage, giving off a transcendent and valiant aura.

She had also noticed Lin Xun. She wasn't impressed at first, but she soon sensed that he wasn't an ordinary individual.

His aura felt ordinary, yet it gave off a sensation of completeness and seemed to be on the verge of returning to the origin. It was rare to find such a person among the younger generation and he could be considered a heaven pride.

This surprised the black-dress girl. She had originally intended to have a little catharsis by having some fun in the arena and never imagined that she would meet a pretty decent opponent instead.

"I hope you'll be good enough..."

The corners of her lips raised to form a barely noticeable smile.

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 790: Dueling the Girl in a Black Dress

Neither Lin Xun nor the black-dress girl was aware that the other party had the exact same thoughts.

The battle soon began.

To Lin Xun's surprise, his opponent confidently stood there as if waiting for him to attack first.

"What an arrogant person." Lin Xun inwardly grinned.

Meanwhile, the black-dress girl frowned. He seems to be rather fearless. Is he waiting for me to attack?

But is he so certain he can block my attack?

"How arrogant..."

The corners of her lips curled in interest. It was the first time she had met such an opponent.

Her opponents had always treated her as a formidable foe and were exceedingly cautious. None of them had acted as arrogantly as the fellow opposite her.

As a result, a strange scene appeared on the stage. The bell to signify the start of the battle had already sounded, but the man and woman remained standing in place, facing each other without any movement.

Some of the watching cultivators were clearly unhappy with this. Why aren't they fighting yet? The young people these days are getting more and more unbecoming!

"Big Brother Lin Xun, go and beat her. Don't act all gentlemanly just because she's a woman!"

Xia Xiaochong's clear voice rang out from below the stage, "My master said that isn't being gentlemanly, but an insult to a woman's dignity. A true woman doesn't need such consideration!"

In the arena, veins popped on Lin Xun's forehead while a stunned look appeared on the black-dress girl's half-covered face.

"Big Sis, go and attack. Big Brother Lin Xun wishes someone could defeat him!"

Xia Xiaochong shouted again, completely unafraid of causing chaos.

"Shut your trap!"

Lin Xun was triggered. What does she mean by wishing someone can defeat me? Why would anyone speak that way? What if others misunderstood?

The black-dress girl was angered. That lass must be using some kind of sarcasm to say no one can defeat her 'Big Brother Lin Xun!'

The black-dress girl coldly said, "Friend, if you don't make your move, don't blame me for being rude."

Her voice was as clear as spring water and as pleasant as the sound of nature. There was also a hint of cold loneliness within it.

She was indeed slightly dumbfounded and had secretly decided to make this youngster suffer a little. Let's see if he still dares to be so arrogant later.

"The ruder, the better."

Lin Xun naturally wanted the other party to go all out. After all, it had not been easy to finally encounter such a decent opponent.

"You..."

The girl secretly ground her teeth. She glared at Lin Xun and said, "Good, you'd better not cry and beg for mercy later!"

Her aura suddenly became cold and intimidating as a powerful pressure spread from her body.

Lin Xun's eyes brightened at the change. She's definitely an apex-level expert among her peers!

It made him increasingly happy and filled with anticipation. He grinned and said, "Cry and beg for mercy? Heh heh, I should be saying that to you instead."

In the rest area, the old woman displayed an odd look that was a mix between amusement and pity. What a bold youngster, I can't believe he dares to say something like that to the Young Miss...

The black-dress girl's aura grew increasingly cold as her clear eyes glowed with a terrifying light. She was clearly angered now.

"Ignorant fool!"

With an icy snort, she finally made the first move. She slapped her hands together, causing mist to descend and envelope the entire stage.

"I've covered the stage in 'Godly Concealment Mist,' so you'll have to get past me first before you can admit defeat!"

Since she was intent on teaching Lin Xun a lesson, she had used this secret art to stop him from admitting defeat mid-way.

However, it only made Lin Xun more elated, "That will be best. I was worrying about what I should do if you panicked and tried to escape."

Although he was being honest, his words were no different from an open provocation to the black-dress girl.

She originally had no intentions of hurting him, After all, someone like her bullying a nobody like him was far too disgraceful.

However, she had already cast aside such thoughts. Her one and only desire was to give him a vicious beating!

Rumble!

Without any hesitation, the black-dress girl stepped forward and lightly flicked her wrist. Sacred light ferociously surged forth like a divine sword, shattering even space itself.

The attack immediately ignited Lin Xun's fighting spirit. An intimidating light shone from his eyes as he raised his hand and thrust.

The thrust rumbled loudly as if a god or demon was shouting and was accompanied by terrifying sheets of light.

The black-dress girl's heart rippled. She knew that she had encountered an extremely formidable opponent and was surprised that there was still someone like this in the Heaven Ascension stage.

Crack!

Her beautiful figure strolled through the mist as her finger gently traced the air. The lights within the mist instantly shattered, effortlessly neutralizing Lin Xun's attack.

Lin Xun's black eyes became deep as the abyss while he was inwardly alarmed. This woman was indeed a powerful expert.

He stopped suppressing his strength, and qi began to roar around his body. An azure radiance spread from him as he dashed forward using the Hornless Ice Dragon Step.

It was an astonishing transformation. He had been quite ordinary a split second ago, but now felt like a demon god. It was a completely different presence.

Rumble!

He unleashed his fist-force, shaking the world around him and causing space to crumble, making it feel as if an unrivaled power was sweeping through the cosmos.

The girl's expression changed as the anger in her heart vanished. She realized that this opponent was far stronger than she had expected.

When did such a genius appear in the Fire Spirit Province?

Although various thoughts were flitting through her mind, it didn't slow her down at all. Her figure floated like a lotus as sword phantasms appeared around her. The almost corporeal swords shone brightly as they pulsed with sharp sword will that made the weather change.

Twaang~~

The swords shot forth like rain as they wove and danced through the air. They filled the arena with dreadful killing intent, seemingly capable of destroying Yin and Yang and extinguishing the five elements.

Lin Xun's fist-force was easily pulverized to dust and scattered into the wind.

The entire stage violently shook and rippled.

Lin Xun's expression finally changed. Only a few breaths had passed since the start of the battle, but the power and technique shown by the black-dress girl had already surprised him several times and greatly exceeded his expectations.

She was undoubtedly the strongest person from the same generation he had ever encountered and made him feel an aggressively suffocating pressure.

It should be known that he had already attained the supreme path of the Heaven Ascension stage and was akin to an invincible king who could look down upon everyone else at the same cultivation stage.

Despite this, the black-dress girl was capable of matching him blow for blow. Wouldn't this mean that she had also attained the supreme path?

Rumble!

A great battle erupted in the arena as blinding light exploded everywhere. One side resembled a demon god while the other resembled a heavenly immortal.

Light rained down as dao thundered, causing space to collapse. It was a horrifying scene to behold.

The stage shook violently as the defensive array around it operated at maximum output, barely able to contain the destructive power within.

In the audience, countless cultivators were alarmed by the disturbance and quickly turned to look only to be shocked and stupefied by what they saw.

It was simply astonishing. It was a duel that made the world tremble and caused the weather to change, producing power that could ripple across the nine heavens.

Compared to this, the duels in the other arenas immediately became unremarkable like fireflies that could never match up to the brilliance of the sun and moon!

Soon after, the other fighters stopped their matches and also turned their attention to the earth-shaking duel.

The higher-ups of the Pine Smoke Martial Arena were also alerted and quickly appeared.

The duel was incomparable. Every strike from the man and woman released power that could burn down mountains and evaporate the sea. Such peerless might deeply shocked several older-generation cultivators and made them feel ashamed in comparison.

Needless to say, it was an unprecedented clash between the true apex. It was a fight of the likes that had never occurred before in the Flame Capital!

Lin Xun and the black-dress girl had become the focal point of the entire arena, causing everyone in the entire Pine Smoke Martial Arena to fall into a dazed state.

No one could imagine how such an insane duel had suddenly occurred today. No one knew who the man and woman were and why they were so unrivaled.

The only thing they knew was that the duel would shake the entire world regardless of who won!

.....

In the audience area, the old woman in green had a grave expression. Horrifying light seemed to shoot from her eyes as she closely observed the two duelists.

By this juncture, she no longer felt any pity for Lin Xun. She realized that she had been mistaken earlier and had sorely underestimated the young man.

"When did someone like this appear in the Fire Spirit Province? I can't believe he's able to exchange blows with the Young Miss. I wonder which sect he is from?"

The old woman's heart rose and fell in her chest. She was the only person who knew how big of an impact would result if word of this spread. In fact, the entire West Infinity World would probably be in an uproar.

"It is fortunate that the Young Miss' identity hasn't been uncovered. So the Young Miss won't be affected no matter how huge of a splash this causes..."

The old woman took a deep breath and turned her focus to Lin Xun. She was very curious about who he was.

.....

Xia Xiaochong was also dumbfounded. It was a long while later before she finally managed to mumble, "Will Big Brother Lin Xun lose this time?"

.....

Rumble!

In the arena, Lin Xun moved and fought like a true master of his art. Although he was only a youngster, he gave off a mighty presence that was unshakable and strong like a king.

The black-dress girl felt greatly pressured, but did not panic as she calmly matched each blow.

Her eyes grew brighter and brighter as a mysterious sacred light began to flow around her. She had decided to bring out everything she had.

Because she knew that she had somehow encountered a truly strong opponent this time!