

## Prodigies 811

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### Chapter 811: Qiuniu Heart

Lin Xun felt a burning sensation as his internal injuries recovered at an astonishing speed.

It was the miraculous effect of the Golden Essence Jade Liquid he had swallowed earlier.

The Golden Essence Jade Liquid was indeed worthy of being called one of the Eight Treasures of Heaven and Earth. In a few brief moments, it had substantially healed Lin Xun's wounds and replenished some of his energy.

Lin Xun put away the Grand Universe Ark and began to scour the battlefield.

He soon found a dark silver ring only to be disappointed after scanning it with his spirit sense.

It was Gou Gui's storage ring and contained a few high-grade aeth essence fragments, a dozen rare tonics, and some high-grade materials.

Additionally, there were three jade strips containing three secret arts, the Black Nightmare Incineration Sutra, the Ruyi Azure Light Art, and the Little Formless Tribulation Neutralization Art.

To ordinary cultivators, these three secret arts were absolutely first-rate inheritances that recorded the secrets of cultivating the five greater cultivation realms and how to forge the dao to become a King expert. It would be impossible to measure their value.

For Lin Xun, however, who had stepped foot on the supreme path, the first two secret arts were of little value since they clashed with his path.

Only the Little Formless Tribulation Neutralization Art made his heart stir.

It was a secret art that could be considered a 'King Stage Inheritance.' It contained some details about the Nine Longevity Tribulations and secrets on how to overcome the tribulations and attain immortality.

Although it wasn't suitable for Lin Xun at this juncture, it would become useful for him when he one day reached the King Stage and began his journey to search for the path of immortality.

However, this small haul alone was still rather disappointing.

Gou Gui was an apex expert who had already started his search for the immortal path. Hence, Lin Xun could not help but be a little speechless at how poor he was.

After a lot more searching, Lin Xun finally found a giant black dog leg which made him feel slightly better.

After all, it was the meat of a King Stage existence. Lin Xun wondered what it would taste like after being barbecued...

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Before leaving, Lin Xun glanced at the nameless mountain in the distance with a strange look in his eyes.

In the previous battle, he had clearly seen golden lightning descend from the sky to help him at critical moments.

In the end, Lin Xun silently bowed and cupped his fists together before turning around to leave.

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Not long after, a woman appeared atop the peak of the nameless mountain. She wore golden gauzy clothes and was enveloped by a grand halo of light, making her resemble a magnificent goddess.

A young boy stood beside the woman. He had delicate features and a pair of brightly shining eyes.

"Mother, why did you help that bastard!"

The little boy was very angry. He ground his teeth and said, "That bastard stole my Golden Essence Jade Liquid and hit my behind. He's shameless and despicable!"

The woman peered in the direction Lin Xun had left. After a long time, she replied, "Child, do you remember who our clan's enemy is?"

The little boy instinctively answered, "The Golden Crow Clan!"

"Correct." The woman nodded, "That's why you must remember that youngster."

The little boy was taken aback. "Is he a descendant of the Golden Crow Clan?"

The woman shook her head as a strange arc formed from the corners of her lips. "No, he is like us. The day will come when he will go to war with the Golden Crow Clan."

"Does he also have a grudge against the Golden Crow Clan?"

"There may be no grudge now, but it is impossible to say in the future."

"Why is that, Mother?"

"Because the bow in his possession has killed more than one Golden Crow Clan Saint expert in the ancient era, while that arrow he used is one of the 'nine divine arrows' of the Great Yi Tribe and has also been dyed with the blood of many Golden Crow Clan experts."

The woman indifferently said, "It is karma from long ago. Although there might be no enmity between the youngster and the Golden Crow Clan now, he is destined to sooner or later be entangled in their karma the moment he came into possession of that bow and arrow."

"Mother, I do not understand."

"Lin'er, you are still young and will understand in time. However, as a descendant of the Single-Horned Golden-Eyed Clan, you must never forget that your father was killed by the Golden Crow Clan."

The little boy nodded as a determined look emerged on his face. "I understand!"

However, he inwardly said, "When I grow up, I'll give that bastard a good beating. He's the first person who dared to beat my behind and such humiliation absolutely cannot be tolerated!"

The little boy would eventually be known as 'Emperor Tai Lin,' whose divine might became famous even across the universe and was worshipped by countless cultivators.

No one would know that Emperor Tai Lin was once spanked when he was young, an event he would never forget and viewed as the only stain in his entire life...

Of course, this would only happen in the future.

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Lord Gou Gui is dead!

An incense stick of time later, Gou Xuxing and the others appeared in the vicinity of the battlefield. When it was determined that Gou Gui was dead, they were utterly dumbstruck as if they had been struck by lightning.

After a long time, Gou Xuxing instructed with an ashen expression, "Send the news back to the clan."

He knew that he could not hide this. The death of a King expert was a heavy blow to the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan, which had factions all over the Ancient Wasteland Domain and was no less than a bolt from the blue.

No matter how much he stood out among the younger generation or how reluctant he was, Gou Xuxing simply did not have the balls to hide such terrible news.

Two Half-Step Kings were dead!

Most of his elite subordinates were killed!

And now, even Gou Gui was gone...

Meanwhile, the opponent was still alive and kicking!

The operation was a complete failure.

Gou Xuxing knew that if he returned to the clan now, they would have to face the fury and punishment of the higher-ups!

"I'm going to kill you!"

Gou Xuxing inwardly muttered as Lin Xun's figure appeared in his mind. Never before had he ever hated someone so deeply.

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The clouds hung above the ancient forests while mountains rose in the distance, painting a magnificent picture.

Lin Xun traveled alone through the wilderness.

In the day, he observed the mountains and rivers and searched for aeth veins to learn the essence of Chaofeng Eye.

At night, he would meditate and absorb the essence of the world to temper himself.

He didn't encounter any danger along the way. The enemy seemed to have understood that they were beaten and did not appear again.

A few days later.

On a mountain peak surrounded by lavender mist, Lin Xun waved his sleeve. The fog was immediately blown away, revealing the mountain's true face.

Crash~

He reached out and made a grabbing motion, causing the mountain to shake as a terrifying force descended upon it. Before long, a vein-like stream was extracted.

The vein sparkled beautifully with flowing lavender light.

Lavender Treasure Copper!

It was a type of high-grade material that was very expensive. A thumb-sized piece could be exchanged for thirty pieces of low-grade aeth essence in the market.

The Lavender Treasure Copper vein before him probably weighed more than ten thousand pounds and was as thick as a python.

Lin Xun casually tossed it into his storage ring before continuing on his way.

Over the past few days, he had used the Chaofeng Eye to discover many treasure troves that contained various aeth veins and ore deposits such as True White Prime Gold, Blue Fiend Rune Iron, Red Smoke Jade, and many others."

There were also a few aeth veins that contained high-grade aeth crystals, aeth essence, and other treasures. Although they were of varying quality, they were clearly more scarce than the ore deposits.

In addition, the Chaofeng Eye also allowed Lin Xun to discover some prime locations which could be called 'blessed lands.'

Of course, it wasn't all rewards. There was also danger.

Treasure troves with excellent feng shui would sometimes contain hidden danger.

Lin Xun had encountered such dangers more than once. Take yesterday, for example, when he discovered a mountain that glowed with treasure light. The mountain also gave off a dark gold luster and was surrounded by thick aeth qi. Lin Xun deduced that it was a Golden Jade ore deposit.

While he was excavating, however, terrifying blood-earth qi suddenly gushed out from below the mountain and spouted into the sky.

In a mere few moments, all of the grass, rocks, mountains...and everything else within a hundred-mile radius was corroded and destroyed!

Lin Xun would have also been in trouble if he hadn't avoided it in time.

Earth-blood qi was a type of frightening and bizarre qi that possessed unimaginable corrosive power.

Even Heaven Ascension cultivators would instantly be corroded into nothingness if a tiny speck touched them!

Such encounters had happened several times to Lin Xun over the past few days.

However, he also learned from each experience as his understanding of the Chaofeng Eye grew deeper and deeper.

Half a month later.

Late at night. The stars shone brightly, illuminating the night sky while the mountains were quiet save for the whistling night wind.

Under a willow tree halfway up the mountain, Lin Xun was meditating beside a campfire, the flickering flames casting moving shadows on his face.

His presence was withdrawn and silent like an unmoving rock.

A squirrel climbed up the tree and curiously observed Lin Xun from the branches. After a long hesitation, it carefully leaped down and brushed his face with its fluffy tail.

Upon seeing that he still didn't move, it joyfully hopped about on his shoulder as if it had found an interesting toy.

In the end, the squirrel grew tired of playing. It burrowed its head into his arms, curled itself up, and began snoozing away.

A pair of green eyes suddenly appeared from the darkness in the distance, belonging to a Blood Leopard.

It stealthily approached like a vigilant and seasoned hunter, its green eyes staring at Lin Xun and the sleeping squirrel.

Just a little more...

The squirrel was still fast asleep, its soft little belly rising and falling as it breathed, completely unaware of the approaching danger.

The originally unmoving Lin Xun opened his eyes at this moment, making it seem as if lightning was flashing in the darkness.

Plop!

The Blood Leopard immediately prostrated itself on the ground, trembling in fear as it hissed pitifully.

An ethereal aura spread from between his brows as he quietly gazed at the Blood Leopard. In an instant, numerous sensations flooded his mind and heart.

The Blood Leopard had been starved for several days and was mother to a litter of cubs. It desired food because its cubs were dying of starvation.

It was also feeling fear, despair, and frustration. It wasn't afraid of death but was instead worried that its cubs would be unable to survive after it died...

These feelings and thoughts that belonged to the Blood Leopard were instantly captured and understood by Lin Xun.

It was the ability of the ninth transformation of the Tribulation Dragon Nine Transformations, Qiuniu Heart.

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#### **Chapter 812: Picture of a Daoist Riding a Bull**

The Qiuniu was an ancient divine beast that possessed the mystical ability to understand the language of animals and plants and communicate with them through the linking of hearts.

It was even rumored that it could communicate with the dao of the world itself!

As its namesake suggested, Qiuniu Heart was a peculiar secret art used to understand other living things and intermingle with nature itself.

After practicing Qiuniu Heart, the user's mind would become capable of better harmonizing with various thoughts and ideologies across heaven and earth. In addition, it enabled the practitioner to more naturally and easily sense traces of the dao itself while cultivating!

This was amazing, to say the least.

In fact, it could even be considered akin to a form of enlightenment!

Even among the mighty Cyclic Derivation experts, not just anyone could comprehend and control the power of 'Dao Meaning.'

After all, the dao was something nameless, intangible, formless, abstract, and cryptic. It wouldn't be strange for no one among a thousand Cyclic Derivation experts to be capable of comprehending the mysteries and essence of the dao.

Cultivators who practiced the Qiuniu Heart, however, would gain the ability to naturally sense traces of the dao.

From this, it was easy to imagine what an amazing and magical secret art it was.

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"The heavens are benevolent. Your encounter with me can be said to be predestined. This is for you."

With a clear mind, Lin Xun took out a huge piece of the black dog leg and threw it to the Blood Leopard.

He waved his hand. "Go."

His figure was clothed in clear starlight from the multitude of stars above, making him appear all the more transcendent.

The Blood Leopard was stunned. It released a low whimper as it knelt down and bowed its head at Lin Xun.

After which, it picked up the black dog leg with its mouth and disappeared into the night.

The squirrel was still sound asleep, its large fluffy tail covering its body as light breathing sounded from its nose.

Lin Xun was trying to figure out the essence of the 'Qiuniu Heart'.

A few days ago, he had finally grasped all the mysteries of Chaofeng Eye and proceeded to learn the last transformation of the Tribulation Dragon Nine Transformations.

Tonight was the first time he finally got a glimpse of the entrance to the secret art and made a little progress.

"I didn't expect it to be so incredible. Coincidentally, this secret art will help me to overcome the barriers in my dao comprehension!"

Lin Xun's black eyes gleamed brightly under the starlight.

There was one last area he had to work on before he could advance to the Cyclic Derivation Stage: dao comprehension.

The four seasons, growing and withering, the rising sun and setting moon, the cycle of day and night, the rising and falling tides...these were all parts of existence.

All things had form while form was also emptiness. Dao was the root of everything and the embodiment of heaven and earth. The dao ripple was the interpretation of the cycle that all things experienced while also the beginning and the end.

This was the dao ripple. It was the willfulness and burning nature of the fire, it was the infinite vitality of wood, it was the unrivaled fierceness and sharpness of gold...

The dao ripple encompassed everything. It represented the omnipresent dao aura that blended into heaven and earth while filling everything in between.

It was wonderful and formless, abstract and mystical.

Lin Xun had already mastered the water dao ripple long before he reached the Heaven Ascension Stage. However, he was still stuck at the perfect water dao ripple realm until now and had been unable to ascend to the 'dao meaning' stage.

It was a problem that Lin Xun had been thinking about all this time and Qiuniu Heart finally allowed him to see hope!

"Once I master the water dao meaning, I will no longer have to suppress my cultivation stage and can begin to make preparations to advance to the Cyclic Derivation stage..."

Lin Xun was filled with expectation. After all, he had been stuck at the Heaven Ascension stage for far too long!

Whoosh!

A silhouette suddenly appeared in the distance and approached. The Blood Leopard had surprisingly returned, carrying a rusty copper block in its mouth.

Lin Xun was taken aback as he watched the Blood Leopard carefully put the copper block on the ground before it turned and left. This was clearly its 'repayment.'

It caused Lin Xun's expression to change as he pondered, "Sheep are filial to those that raise them, and crows know to repay favors. I never imagined that the Blood Leopard would also understand such a concept and come to repay me..."

He picked up the palm-sized copper block and saw that it was covered in a layer of dark green rust and looked like a fragment of some kind of treasure.

Lin Xun exerted force with his finger, removing the rust to reveal the copper block's true appearance, which immediately caused his pupils to shrink.

The bronze block looked very ordinary and had been engraved with the picture of an old man in daoist clothes riding on the back of an azure bull while leisurely looking at the sky.

It looked very old and seemed to have been eroded by the passage of countless years. Although some parts were dark and blurred, Lin Xun felt a supreme presence pounce at him when he looked at it!

It was a vast and infinite presence that gave off a sensation of boundless terror. At that very moment, Lin Xun felt as if he had fallen into a trance and the old man on the ox seemed to come alive and look back at him.

What kind of eyes are these?

They were as deep as the universe and seemed to contain the sun, moon, and the passage of time. It was as if all the mysteries of the heavens and dao were contained within them!

Hss!

Lin Xun gasped, deeply shaken by the sight, feeling a deep awe that nearly made him fall to his knees in worship. It was downright inconceivable.

However, when he tried to get a closer look, the vision evaporated into nothingness, leaving no trace behind. Lin Xun was unable to find anything no matter how hard he stared or looked.

Lin Xun was baffled. How had the picture of the daoist riding a bull been imprinted onto the copper block? This object likely had incredible origins!

Lin Xun rose to his feet, waking the sleeping squirrel. With a small shriek, it hopped back onto its feet and scurried away.

Not long after, Lin Xun arrived at a cave on a cliff. The Blood Leopard lay inside, surrounded by five or six cubs.

Lin Xun stood outside the cave and sent his spirit sense in. He carefully scanned every inch of the cave, hoping to find any clue about the copper block.

However, he ultimately found nothing.

The Blood Leopard was awakened and was surprised to see Lin Xun. It let out a low hiss as if asking him the reason for his visit.



Lin Xun activated the Qiuniu Heart in an attempt to communicate with the Blood Leopard.

Pictures immediately appeared in his mind. The Blood Leopard was searching for food in the wilderness, but instead found a cave with a dried corpse inside.

The corpse was in a meditation posture and was likely a cultivator. From the dust covering its body, the cultivator had probably died countless years ago.

The Blood Leopard walked forward and lightly touched the corpse with a paw, causing it to turn to dust, leaving behind a mottled copper block.

This was where the pictures stopped.

"So a cultivator died here and left behind this copper block..." Lin Xun contemplated over this new information.

Suddenly, the Blood Leopard got up and rushed down the side of the cliff.

A long time passed before it finally returned with an ancient bone scroll in its mouth which it placed at Lin Xun's feet.

Crack!

When Lin Xun picked up the bone scroll, it rapidly cracked as if about to disintegrate.

He hurriedly scanned it with his spirit sense and immediately saw a line of writing that belonged to the ancient era.

"I wished to follow the Saints and cross over to the other side of the cosmos side to see the All-Wonder Dominion. However, the path was found to be broken. After 48,000 years of bitter searching, I leave behind this relic of our ancestors. It appears that I am not fated to see the path of our ancestors and my journey will end here!"

Lin Xun was taken aback.

Crack!

In his hand, the bone scroll had already turned to dust and scattered away into nothingness.

However, Lin Xun seemed completely oblivious to it.

In his mind, he could see an almighty cultivator from the ancient era stumble across a relic of the ancestors by chance. As a result, he desired to follow the Saints and cross over to the other side of the cosmos in search of the All-Wonder Dominion.

However, despite searching hard for 48,000 years, he failed to find the path to the All-Wonder Dominion. In the end, he sat down in regret and returned to the earth, leaving behind a single bronze block.

"This object is likely the 'relics of the ancestors' which the cultivator believed was related to the All-Wonder Dominion on the other side of the cosmos. It should be the reason why he grew interested in following the Saints to search for the All-Wonder Dominion..."

Lin Xun fell into deep thought and could not help but inwardly sigh as he held the bronze block.

Despite searching for 48,000 years, he ultimately failed to find what he was looking for and could only leave this world in regret...

As expected of the All-Wonder Dominion that was one of the four great dao dominions!

Lin Xun had once entered the Return Dominion where he obtained a mysterious dao verse and a Flying Immortal Tablet which were both related to the Kunlun Dominion. Hence, he naturally understood how mysterious the four great dao dominions were.

He never imagined that a copper block left by the ancestors would also be related to the All-Wonder Dominion.

After a long time, Lin Xun finally put away the copper block. He then nodded at the Blood Leopard before turning around and leaving.

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Three days later.

Lin Xun appeared in front of a majestic mountain that looked as if it was home to a tiger.

With the Chaofeng Eye, he instantly determined that a rich aeth essence deposit was hidden in the mountain.

Just as he was about to begin excavating, however, he discovered that others had arrived before him and were already excavating the mountain.

A group of cultivators was working in a cave at the waist of the mountain.

There was also a fancy carriage parked outside the cave that was guarded by elite cultivators. Evidently, there was someone important inside the carriage.

Upon seeing this, Lin Xun decided to leave since he had no intention of competing with others for the ore deposit. However, it was then that a gentle voice rang out.

"Is the Young Master also here for this ore deposit?"

The curtains of the carriage were pulled open, revealing a beautiful face.

She has curved black eyebrows, glistening red lips, and pearly-white teeth. A slight smile hung from the corners of her lips as she raised her eyes to look at Lin Xun, giving off a graceful and elegant aura akin to an orchid.

The guards near the carriage were startled, clearly just discovering Lin Xun's presence. They immediately looked at him with vigilant expressions.

"What keen senses. It's impressive for her to have sensed me from so far away. She probably practices some kind of spirit cultivation art..."

Lin Xun was a little surprised. He soon shook his head, indicating that he was only passing by before turning around to leave.

By the carriage, a handsome youngster that looked to be around fifteen or sixteen shouted, "How dare you?! My sister is asking you a question. Who gave you permission to leave? Could it be that you have some ulterior motive?"

The elite guards displayed unfriendly expressions.

The ore deposit contained aeth essence of astonishing value and had just been discovered by them a few days ago. Hence, they were naturally worried that it would be coveted by others.

Lin Xun's sudden appearance immediately drew their suspicion, and they believed he might be a spy sent to gather information.

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#### **Chapter 813: Feather Sword Sect**

Lin Xun turned around. The corners of his lips curved upwards as he looked at the handsome youngster who had rebuked him and nonchalantly said, "Be careful with your words. Don't you know that trouble comes from the mouth?"

The youngster was furious. He jabbed his finger at Lin Xun and said, "Trouble comes from the mouth? How dare you threaten me! Speak, who sent you? If you aren't truthful, don't even think about leaving today!"

Shiing! Shiing! Shiing!

The guards drew their weapons and coldly stared at Lin Xun, ready to move if needed.

An icy light flashed in Lin Xun's black eyes. He knew the other party had misunderstood.

However, even if there was a misunderstanding, they shouldn't be so overbearing, right?

"Can you bear the consequences if I stay?"

Lin Xun spoke casually while activating the Pulao Roar, infusing his voice with terrifying intimidation.

The handsome youngster trembled as if he had been struck by lightning and stumbled backward only to fall onto his butt.

The guards were shaken and in disbelief. It was too bizarre. A single sentence from the stranger had somehow subdued their Young Master!

"How dare you launch such a sneaky attack?!"

The youngster shrieked in rage, "What are you guys still standing there for? Go kill that bastard!"

Lin Xun frowned. Anyone else would have become wary and cautious after receiving such a blow and no longer dare to act so cockily.

However, the youngster was clearly a spoiled kid who was used to always getting his way and had probably never suffered before.

"Shut up!"

Just as a fight was about to erupt, the lady from the carriage interjected and scolded the handsome youngster, "Xiaotian, haven't you caused enough trouble yet? Resorting to violence without properly investigating the situation first? How impudent!"

The young lady had appeared graceful and subdued while she was silent, but the moment she was angered, she gave off a unique majesty and pressure that made the youngster's face change indeterminately, not daring to talk back.

Meanwhile, the lady turned to Lin Xun and apologized, "I hope the Young Master may forgive my spoiled younger brother for provoking you."

Lin Xun displayed a superficial smile. "Since you knew he has such a bad temper, why didn't you stop him earlier? Could it be that you also wanted to test my temper?"

The lady grew increasingly apologetic. "It turns out that the Young Master has already seen through my petty antics. I am indeed in the wrong. If you're unsatisfied with this, I am willing to show my sincerity by offering you some compensation."

Her response was open and honest, and she didn't try to refute or cover up. It stunned Lin Xun as he inwardly remarked that she was indeed no simple individual.

"No need. Since it was a misunderstanding, I naturally won't bicker with a kid. Goodbye." Lin Xun nonchalantly waved his hand and turned to leave.

The lady grew somewhat anxious and hurriedly asked, "May I ask for the Young Master's name?"

Lin Xun replied, "We're merely strangers who met by chance. Is there a need for such a question?"

The lady explained, "Please do not misunderstand, Young Master. Since I was in the wrong earlier, I only wish to do what I can to make up for it. Otherwise, I won't have peace of heart."

Lin Xun inwardly sighed, somewhat disillusioned. Although the lady appeared sincere, she definitely had a hidden agenda.

After talking for so long, it was clear that her aim was to ascertain his identity and try to deduce his purpose for coming here.

In other words, she was still suspicious of him and suspected that there was something more to his sudden appearance at this mountain where the ore deposit was hidden.

Lin Xun had experienced many things throughout his cultivation journey. Thus, he only needed a single glance to see through the lady's intentions.

"If you are truly sincere about making amends, continue excavating your ore deposit in peace. This tiny bit of wealth is nothing to me." Lin Xun left these words behind and left.

The lady's expression froze as she felt her face heat up. He...has already seen through my thoughts?

She mulled over their interaction and realized that the young man was an extraordinary individual who was different from the proud geniuses she had encountered in the past.

"Young Master, my name is Yu Xuejiao and I come from Snow Maple City. I will compensate and repay you if we meet again in the future!"

Her clear voice echoed into the distance. Unfortunately, Lin Xun was already long gone, and it was impossible to know if he had heard her.

"Elder Sister, given your status, why do you have to be so respectful to that guy? It looks to me that he's obviously a spy with bad intentions!" The handsome youngster was very disgruntled. His name was Yu Xuetian, and he was Yu Xuejiao's brother.

The guards were also puzzled.

The Yu Family was the number one faction in Snow Maple City and was very renowned in the area. As the most outstanding woman of the Yu Family's young generation, Yu Xuejiao was almost akin to a celebrity in Snow Maple City.

Despite this, she had repeatedly apologized and displayed a courteous attitude to the unfamiliar youngster which was obviously far too unusual!

Yu Xuejiao was stunned for a while before she softly sighed, "What do you guys know? None of us could have stopped him if he wished to seize the ore deposit earlier."

She had practiced a spirit cultivation art since young which made her senses extremely powerful. From the moment she set eyes on Lin Xun, she knew that he was an extraordinary expert who felt akin to an unfathomable abyss!

"We've been out here for almost a month. It's about time we return to the city..." Yu Xuejiao suddenly made a decision. It was so abrupt that the others were immediately taken aback.

Return to Snow Maple City?

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Four hours later.

The terrain had become gentle and flat.

The mountains had gradually faded into the plains, and the silhouette of a huge city could be seen in the distance.

When Lin Xun arrived at the plain, he slowed down and headed in the direction of the city.

He had been trekking through the wilderness for more than a month after leaving the Flame Capital, spending day and night wandering through the deep forests with only the birds and beasts as his companions.

According to Lin Xun's estimation, he had traveled several tens of thousands of miles. Along the way, he encountered many dangers in addition to being pursued by the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan.

After all, the mountainous wilderness was a primitive land where ferocious beasts roamed, and frightening avians reigned in the skies. Moreover, there were many poisonous insects and natural

dangers that made the journey even more challenging. It was simply impossible for an ordinary person to make such a trek.

In fact, even an ordinary cultivator would not dare to travel solo through the wilderness like Lin Xun.

Finally seeing a city again after so long reinvigorated Lin Xun. Moreover, he did need to confirm his bearings and the path to Perched Phoenix Province.

There were also several essential items he needed to procure such as aeth essences for his cultivation and mid-grade Spirit Accumulation Jades to feed the God Devourer Insects.

In addition, he should be able to hear about the recent happenings in the West Infinity World.

After leaving the mountainous wilderness, there were no longer as many beasts to be seen, and Lin Xun began to encounter other people instead.

Most of them appeared to be merchants who were returning from foraging herbs and plants in the mountain forests. There were also some that had returned from buying animal skins and other miscellaneous goods from the mountain tribes. Although the journey was dangerous, the profits were pretty decent.

Through them, Lin Xun found out that the city was called Snow Maple City and was located near the border of Yunyao Province.

Yunyao Province was quite famous in the West Infinity World because it was home to an ancient sect that possessed great influence in the West Infinity World—The Feather Sword Sect!

This sect had 8000 disciples, 3000 cultivation paradises, and terrifying foundations. Most notably, the sect had six Sword Kings and a Half-Step Sword Saint!

Sword King!

It was a title given to a sword cultivator who had reached the Life Death King stage.

On the other hand, a Half-Step Sword Saint was even more incredible. It was a title given to a terrifying expert who had overcome the nine longevity tribulations and was half a step away from reaching the Saint realm.

With six Sword Kings and a Half-Step Sword Saint, it was easy to imagine how powerful the Feather Sword Sect was!

It was for this reason that the Feather Sword Sect was also known as one of the sacred cultivation lands in the West Infinity World and was a top-class powerhouse even among the ancient sects.

In terms of status, it was only slightly inferior to the number one sect of the West Infinity World, the Unsolved Mystery Sword Alms.

After all, the Unsolved Mystery Sword Alms had a true Saint expert. This alone more than showed its supreme foundations and power.

Whoosh~

A terrifying undulation suddenly spread in the sky as a divine snow-white avian soared through the air, carrying a dozen young men and women.

Since it was quite close to the huge gates of Snow Maple City, there were many figures coming and going on the road who were startled by the disturbance and could not help but look up.

An uproar soon followed.

"It's a Phoenix-Blood Snow-Luan that possesses the bloodline of the ancient phoenix. What a frightening aura. That's probably the pressure of a Half-Step King!"

"Phoenix-Blood Snow-Luan, they must be disciples of the Feather Sword Sect!"

The place became extremely noisy for a time, and many people were unable to hide their shock and excitement. After all, the Feather Sword Sect was a supreme cultivation paradise in the Yunyao Province!

How could anyone not feel shocked and surprised at the sight of a Phoenix-Blood Snow-Luan appearing from the sky carrying a dozen young Feather Sword Sect successors at a border area city?

People also could not help but wonder why these Feather Sword Sect successors had come to Snow Maple City.

Lin Xun had just arrived at that city gate and was about to enter when he saw this scene.

Whoosh!

The Phoenix-Blood Snow-Luan descended, sweeping up a large cloud of dust.

The dozen Feather Sword Sect successors gracefully dismounted. The men were handsome and the women were beautiful, making them resemble immortals descending upon the mortal world. Every individual gave off a unique charm and felt akin to a giant among men.

This was especially true for the man leading the group who wore feather clothes and a star crown on his head.

His eyes shone brightly, his hair was black as ink, and his posture was straight as a sword. While simply standing there, he looked like an unrivaled sword immortal from legend.

"Goodness, that wouldn't be Zhuo Kuanglan, would it?"

Someone suddenly exclaimed, causing a huge commotion as the nearby cultivators gasped.

Zhuo Kuanglan!

He was a younger generation talent of the Feather Sword Sect and was one of the sect's five inner true disciples. He was also quite famous in the West Infinity World and was one of the rising stars of the younger generation.

Even Lin Xun could not help but narrow his eyes, sensing how terrifying Zhuo Kuanglan was. It felt as if there was an overwhelming sword will within his body, giving him an extremely oppressive presence.

However, Lin Xun's gaze was soon drawn to a man beside Zhuo Kuanglan.

Why is it him?

Lin Xun's heart shook upon recognizing the man, unable to believe his eyes. He never imagined that he would encounter this person here.

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 814: News Tree**

The man wore azure robes with a jade sash and had his hair tied up in a bun. His facial features were very handsome, and he carried an azure ancient sword on his back while his expression seemed to exude a touch of loneliness.

It was the Little Sword Lord, Xie Yutang!

When Lin Xun was a weak young teenager, he first encountered Xie Yutang in the ancient forest outside Feiyun Village.

Back then, Lin Xun only possessed True Martial stage cultivation, while Xie Yutang had already reached the Spirit Sea stage and could travel freely on his sword like an immortal.

Later on, at Haze City which was located in the empire's southwestern province, Lin Xun met Xie Yutang once again during his first meeting with Liu Qingyan.

On that second meeting, however, Xie Yutang domineeringly threatened Lin Xun to let go of a defeated noble clan disciple while pointing a sword at his throat.

Lin Xun still remembered what Xie Yutang had said back then.

"If a tiny ant bites off more than he can chew, he will only bring disaster to himself!"

It was the first time Lin Xun had been threatened in such a manner; with a sword pressed against his throat while being viewed as an ant. It was a memory he would never forget.

Subsequently, Little Sword Lord Xie Yutang left for the Ancient Wasteland Domain soon after Lin Xun's arrival at the Forbidden City. Since then, he had not heard any news about Xie Yutang.

Never did Lin Xun imagine that he would see Xie Yutang again at Snow Maple City, which was located at the border area of the Yunyao Province of the West Infinity World.

"Looks like he joined the Feather Sword Sect after arriving at the Ancient Wasteland Domain. Moreover, he seems to be quite highly regarded by the sect."

Lin Xun quickly figured things out. As someone who was accompanying one of the five inner true disciples of the Feather Sword Sect, Zhuo Kuanglan, Xie Yutang probably had quite a high status in the sect.

Lin Xun currently felt neither good will nor ill will toward Xie Yutang. Although he had been threatened at swordpoint by the other party before, it was also true that Xie Yutang had saved him once by chance.

Therefore, as far as Lin Xun was concerned the ledger between him and Xie Yutang was clean, and neither side owed the other anything.



Of course, Lin Xun also had his own sense of pride and dignity. Although he wasn't going to retaliate against Xie Yutang, Lin Xun wasn't going to go over and say hi either.

Although it wouldn't be wrong to call them 'old friends' from the same hometown in the Ancient Wasteland Domain, even old friends might not always be able to let go of the past.

"Lin Xun?"

However, when Lin Xun was about to turn around and leave, Xie Yutang also noticed him and was immediately surprised. "You've also come to the Ancient Wasteland Domain?"

Lin Xun blandly made a noise of acknowledgment.

Xie Yutang frowned. Although it had only been a few years since they last met, he found that Lin Xun had already reached the perfect Heaven Ascension stage, which made him even more surprised.

Xie Yutang asked, "Are you currently part of any sect?"

He had honestly not thought much about Lin Xun all these years.

In fact, it was only back when he was still in the Forbidden City that he learned that Lin Xun had made quite a name for himself.

However, he never expected that the youngster from a small village at the edge of the Ziyao Empire would already have the ability to enter the Ancient Wasteland Domain after only a few years!

It was a discovery that surprised him and filled him with curiosity.

It must be known that not just anyone in the Ziyao Empire could enter the Ancient Wasteland Domain! In fact, only the top powerhouse factions could afford to send their disciples to this vast and grand cultivation holy land!

"Nope."

Lin Xun shook his head.

Xie Yutang acknowledged with a soft grunt, feeling relieved.

Indeed, it was already a huge blessing for a youngster with no background to enter the Ancient Wasteland Domain to cultivate. How could he possibly have joined an ancient sect as well?

"Junior Brother Xie, is that one of your friends from the lower plane?"

Zhuo Kuanglan suddenly interjected. He majestically stood there in his wide sleeves and sash, his figure straight as a sword while an aura of superiority seemed to beat around him. Merely speaking immediately made him the focal point of the entire place.

Xie Yutang casually replied, "We aren't really friends but acquaintances."

Zhuo Kuanglan acknowledged and withdrew his gaze. He made no move to exchange pleasantries with Lin Xun, displaying an air of aloofness and arrogance.

The lower plane!

The nearby Feather Sword Sect successors were taken aback before soon displaying disapproving looks containing some measure of contempt and disdain.

They had originally felt curious seeing Xie Yutang talk with Lin Xun, wondering which ancient sect he was a disciple of.

However, they immediately lost interest upon learning that he came from a barren lower plane and was not part of any sect.

Zhuo Kuanglan nonchalantly said, "Junior Brother Xie, we have important matters to attend to and cannot tarry any further."

Xie Yutang clearly didn't have any intention of introducing Lin Xun to others. He immediately nodded and said, "Everything shall go as Senior Brother Zhou instructs."

"Then let us depart."

The group immediately headed toward the city gates. From start to the end, none of them gave a second glance to Lin Xun.

To them, a youngster from a lower plane like Lin Xun was no different from a passerby and wasn't worth their attention.

Only Xie Yutang cast a side-eye glance at Lin Xun and calmly transmitted, "You can come to find me if you encounter any trouble. However, I'll only help if I can, so don't be too hopeful either."

After which, he hurried away as well.

Lin Xun's black eyes narrowed before he displayed a bright smile.

Xie Yutang had spoken with a sense of superiority as if he was giving charity to the poor and was obviously not being sincere.

Admittedly, being despised and ignored by disciples from the Feather Sword Sect before entering Snow Maple City wasn't in the cards when Lin Xun first thought about heading to the city.

Moreover, even Xie Yutang had shown an attitude of superiority which Lin Xun found rather amusing and comical.

He shook his head and put this little episode behind him as he began walking towards the city gates.

.....

Not long after Lin Xun left, a magnificent carriage appeared from the distance, surrounded by a group of guards.

Inside the carriage were the two siblings, Yu Xuejiao and Yu Xuetian.

Ye Xuetian excitedly said, "Elder Sis, let's head to the 'News Tree' at the city center first. I wonder if any huge events have occurred in the West Infinity World while we were away for the past month."

Yu Xuejiao slightly hesitated. In the end, she couldn't bear to disappoint her younger brother and nodded. "Alright, we'll go and have a look."

The News Tree was a bizarre ancient tree planted by the very well-informed Windspeaker Clan.

Whenever something sensational happened, Windspeaker Clan experts would 'hang' the news they gathered on the tree which would then be condensed into leaves for people to view and read.

The News Tree leaves possessed the peculiar ability to transform into words and images, allowing them to vividly recreate the actual scenes of the information.

There were also some secret messages that could be viewed from the News Tree although they required aeth essence to be fed to the leaves to see their contents.

Due to this, the News Tree was also known as the "money tree" of the Windspeaker Clan.

.....

The central district of Snow Maple City.

An ancient towering News Tree had taken root here. Its branches extended into the sky like gnarled dragons, covered in numerous leaves.

The glittering white leaves looked as if they had been carved from ice and were as large as a palm-leaf. These were the special leaves that contained all kinds of information discovered by the Windspeaker Clan experts.

When Yu Xuejiao siblings arrived, they were surprised to find that the place was exceptionally busy. The crowd around the tree was so tightly packed that not even water could squeeze through.

Yu Xuetian exclaimed in excitement, "There's such a huge crowd here. Something big must have happened!" He hurriedly hopped off the carriage and squeezed his way into the crowd.

"Brother is still too impatient..." Yu Xuejiao shook her head before she also got up and walked off the carriage.

She clearly remembered that the only time when so many cultivators would be gathered around the News Tree was when a major event had occurred.

"Did something big really happen while we were away?" Yu Xuejiao could not help but feel curious.

It was at this moment that Yu Xuetian, who had managed to squeeze all the way to the front of the crowd, suddenly cried out in shock, "Big Sis, come quickly!"

Shocked, Yu Xuejiao was soon escorted by the guards to the News Tree where she reunited with Yu Xuetian.

Her body immediately stiffened the moment she looked at the trunk and her expression changed slightly.

It's him!?

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 815: Rise to Fame in the Present**

All cultivators knew that news was rarely hung on the trunk of the News Tree.

However, if news was posted there, it would mean that something big enough to stir the entire West Infinity World had happened!

Presently, there was a single snow-white leaf the size of a palm leaf hanging from the trunk of the ancient News Tree.

Hazy light overflowed from it, transforming into a screen.

On the screen, a battle for the ages was unfurling.

It was a duel between a young man and woman.

The man resembled a young demon god. His black eyes shone fiercely as a brilliant glow spread around him, exuding an aura of overbearing tyranny and disdain as he wove through the sky.

The woman wore a silver mask. Her beautiful figure resembled a fairy but her attacks were simply astonishing. The horrifying sword qi she unleashed was unparalleled in sharpness and could cut even the nine heavens itself!

Although the image on the screen was shaky and blurred, it didn't diminish the attention of the cultivators present. They looked deeply shocked and were completely drawn by the battle.

Meanwhile, an elderly voice sounded from the screen, introducing the battle—

"This is an earth-shaking battle that took place a month ago in the Flame Capital of the Fire Spirit Province which caused the entire Fire Spirit Province to fall into an uproar. The moment we found out, our Windspeaker Clan immediately started investigating all the details about the battle..."

"Regretfully, all that we've managed to ascertain so far is that the demon-god-like youngster is named Lin Xun and was seen at one of the inns in the Flame Capital. It's also rumored that he has quite a close relationship with the Star Dome Sect's successor, Xia Xiaochong, and the Eight Extremes Blades Temple's successor, Fang Linhan. "

"Despite spending many days investigating, our Windspeaker Clan has failed to uncover Lin Xun's origins. However, we are certain that he is someone who can be called a supreme heaven pride among the West Infinity World's younger generation!"

Lin Xun?

The name was so unfamiliar that it left the cultivators present baffled. When had such a supreme heaven pride appeared in the Fire Spirit Province?

Yu Xuejiao's heart trembled violently. She had recognized in a single glance that the demon-god-like man depicted on the screen was the same youngster she had met several hours ago!

"It turns out that he is far stronger than I thought..." Yu Xuejiao was unable to remain calm.

She secretly rejoiced that she had not used strong-arm tactics on Lin Xun back then. Otherwise, the consequences would have been unthinkable.

Yu Xuejiao's younger brother, Yu Xuetian, was dumbfounded. His expression fluctuated indeterminately, not daring to believe his eyes.

He had also recognized Lin Xun. The thought of how he had rudely provoked Lin Xun drenched his body in a cold sweat. It was scary to think how close he had been to incurring a big disaster!

The elderly voice continued to speak from the screen, "As for the lady, her origin is even more mysterious and terrifying. It is taboo for us to say more, and we have no choice but to keep it a secret..."

An uproar immediately ensued.

Lin Xun was already mysterious enough, but it turned out that the girl in the silver mask had even more scary origins. It was genuinely alarming that even the Windspeaker Clan did not dare to reveal her identity.

"The battle for the great age is fast approaching, and many hidden monsters have begun to reveal themselves to the world."

"In the future, things will only become more and more lively. Many heaven-defying geniuses are destined to emerge from the younger generation like the young man named Lin Xun, whom no one had ever heard of before!"

Many cultivators sighed and lamented.

"Such a peerless duel is indeed a rare event. It is likely that Lin Xun's name will soon spread throughout the entire West Infinity World! "

Some people predicted.

"Yeah, such a monster can probably compare to the five younger-generation inner true disciples of the Feather Sword Sect. Someone like him will definitely become famous throughout the world."

The comments and judgments from the nearby cultivators caused Yu Xuetian's complexion to become increasingly pale as he grew uneasy and anxious.

The Yu Family was only a major power in Snow Maple City. Although they had strong foundations, how could they possibly compare to a supreme heaven pride who could shake the entire West Infinity World?

"Little Brother, this is a lesson you must remember. Do not act so recklessly in the future. Otherwise, you'll sooner or later bring disaster to yourself!"

Yu Xuejiao took the opportunity to caution and teach Yu Xuetian.

Yu Xuetian nodded. He had learned his lesson this time.

"Make way, make way!"

Suddenly, a Windspeaker Clan expert squeezed into the crowd with an excited expression. "Something even more astonishing has happened, and it's related to Lin Xun. If you guys don't get out of the way, don't blame me for the news being delayed!"

Related to Lin Xun?

Even more astonishing news?

The surrounding cultivators immediately gave way, urging the Windspeaker Clan expert to hurry up and release the news.

The Windspeaker Clan expert was very pleased with the result. He leisurely strode forward with his head held high like a king being worshiped by the people.

Members of their clan not only loved to seek out news but also adored attention. It was a sensation that could not be bought with money and greatly satisfied their vanity.

No matter how much the crowd wanted to strangle the Windspeaker Clan expert for making them wait, they could only restrain themselves and helplessly wait for the news to be revealed.

In the end, the Windspeaker Clan expert seemed to have finally gotten his fill and placed a crystalline, snow-white leaf on the trunk of the News Tree.

Omm!

The snow-white leaf seemed to come alive, emitting a misty light that rapidly condensed into a screen.

However, the contents displayed was a line of sinister and bloody words—

"Bounty notice!"

"A bounty for the human cultivator Lin Xun. Anyone who provides clues to his whereabouts will be rewarded a thousand high-grade aeth essences!"

"If captured or killed, bring his head as proof to be rewarded five thousand high-grade aeth essences!"

"The bounty will be valid long-term!"

The contents were simple and straightforward. However, the words flowed with a chilling killing intent that made one's scalp turn numb.

The sight of the bounty caused the entire place to fall stiflingly silent as all the cultivators' expressions changed drastically.

The Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan!

To think that it was a bounty notice from the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan! Moreover, the wanted individual was the supreme heaven pride, Lin Xun!

A thousand high-grade aeth essences was a staggering amount that even a Cyclic Derivation expert would willingly sell their services for. In addition, this amount could even buy a King Dao aeth treasure.

As for five thousand high-grade aeth essences...

That was way way more!

"What did Lin Xun do to incur such a drastic response from the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan?"

"That's a clan that specializes in tracking and killing enemies and is well-known for their brutality and savagery. I can't believe they placed a bounty on Lin Xun. They must have suffered a humongous loss at his hands!"

After a long time passed, the silent atmosphere was finally broken by the sounds of discussion. Everyone was bewildered and shocked. After all, the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan was a famous faction that was both hated and feared.

They often acted without regard for anyone else and were cruel and ruthless. As such, they had committed many grave offenses that caused public outrage in the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

Now, they had even posted a bounty on a new rising star who had all the makings of a supreme heaven pride!

"Why? The Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan is too much. Are they unable to resist exterminating a new rising star of our human race?"

Some cultivators voiced their indignation which immediately incited the rest of the crowd.

Most cultivators deeply loathed the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan and instinctively sided with Lin Xun as a result.

"Abominable! Those black dog scumbags are too arrogant. I can't believe they even issued a bounty on Lin Xun in the entire West Infinity World, who even bullies others like that?"

"Just wait, arrogant and domineering people like them will sooner or later suffer retribution!"

Many cultivators also voiced their indignation one after another.

Even Yu siblings were on Lin Xun's side. After all, the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan was the cultivation world's 'public enemy,' and was infamous throughout the land!

If it wasn't for their enormous forces and terrifying foundations, many factions would have long joined together to exterminate them.

"You Windspeaker Clan people as well, how dare you help those black dog bastards spread the bounty notice? Have you guys become their lapdogs?"

Someone angrily pointed at the Windspeaker Clan expert who had posted the bounty notice.

The latter immediately felt wronged and hurriedly said, "We have always adhered to the doctrine of neutrality and only disseminate information. We also never involve ourselves in grudges or quarrels. I'm sure this is something everyone knows."

After a pause, his eyes seemed to swivel in thought as he said, "Please do not be angry. Some of our Windspeaker Clan higher-ups have conducted a meticulous analysis of this information and came up with some amazing deductions which might make you guys happy."

Happy?

The crowd was puzzled.

It was at that moment that an elderly voice rang out from the leaf—

"It was reported that Lin Xun was pursued by experts from the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan for an unknown reason shortly after leaving the Flame Capital."

"The Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan dispatched two Half-Step King experts and a real King expert. In addition, they were supported by almost a hundred elite experts and were led by a Young Master of the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan with the title of 'Thousand Killer,' Gou Xuxing."

This immediately incited a series of gasps as many cultivators felt their hands and feet turn cold as their hearts rose in their chests.

How terrifying!

A King expert dispatched to hunt down a mere youngster! This alone would already be shocking.

But they had also sent an entire group as well!

The place became deathly silent again and even the air began to feel a little heavy. The cultivators carefully listened, afraid to miss a single detail.

Such shocking and explosive news was certain to cause huge waves in the West Infinity World!

"From the information we've gathered, the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan's operation didn't go smoothly, and they instead suffered a series of setbacks..."

The elderly voice continued the analysis as the cultivators listened with rapt attention.

No one noticed that at one far corner of the crowd, a figure wearing a black cloak whose face was half-covered by a hat had quietly left amidst the analysis.

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 816: Geomancer**

On the busy city streets, crystalline-looking snow maple trees could be seen almost everywhere.

This ancient tree species had a glittering crystal-like body that looked as if it was constructed from snow bricks. When viewed amidst the thick white haze, the thousands of trees looked like haphazardly placed glowing snow stacks, creating a very beautiful sight.

It was a view unique to Snow Maple City.

Rumor said that in the ancient era, a snow maple tree had attained cultivation and proved its dao here. On the day it became a Saint, its leaves danced in the air like snowflakes, creating a snowstorm that covered the sky.

Lin Xun, however, wasn't in the mood to enjoy the beautiful scenery as he hurried through the streets with his body cloaked and his face concealed by his hat.

"The Windspeaker Clan truly has the biggest mouth in the world. They spread news faster than anyone else!" Lin Xun inwardly cursed.

He had entered the city earlier than the Yu siblings and thus also arrived at the News Tree before them.

Originally, he had wanted to see if anything important had happened recently. Who could have anticipated that the sensational news would end up being related to himself...



If not for his quick thinking to immediately cover himself with a cloak and hat, he would probably have been recognized.

"The Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan is truly despicable. I can't believe they posted a bounty on me. Do they think that I'm an easy target?"

Lin Xun was unable to restrain his murderous intent when he recalled the bounty notice he had seen.

After leaving the Flame Capital, he had been relentlessly pursued and encountered countless dangers.

Before he could properly settle the score, the other party had already gone ahead and issued a bounty on him in the West Infinity World.

It showed that they were intent on putting him down at all costs!

"Whatever. I'll settle the score with those black dog trash after I'm finished with my business." Lin Xun took a deep breath and made his decision.

.....

Snow Treasure House.

This was the largest merchant group in Snow Maple City. The artifacts, rare treasures, pills, weapons, and other goods it sold were fully capable of meeting the needs of the cultivators in the city.

Lin Xun was warmly received by a lady attendant soon after arriving.

"I plan to sell a batch of aeth materials. Please help me make the arrangements." Lin Xun went straight to the point.

The attendant was stunned and couldn't help but ask, "What kind of materials will the Young Master be selling and what is the quantity like? If the quantity is too little..."

Lin Xun could hear the skepticism in the attendant's words and interjected, "The materials are of pretty good quality, and there should be sufficient quantity. I'm only a little worried about whether the Snow Treasure Building will be able to take it all."

The attendant displayed a reserved smile and said, "The Young Master might not know that our Snow Treasure House is the number one merchant group in the city. Until now, there haven't been any goods in the entire Snow Maple City that our Snow Treasure House can't take."

Lin Xun grinned. "That sounds perfect. Please go get an appraiser and prepare enough aeth essences so we can begin the dealings."

He had no time to waste. Snow Maple City wasn't a place he could stay for long, not to mention a bounty notice had been issued on him. If his whereabouts were exposed, a big ruckus would certainly follow.

Upon seeing Lin Xun's confidence, the attendant didn't dare tarry any longer. She quickly led him into an elegant private room before leaving in a hurry.

Not long after, the attendant returned with a man and woman.

The lady attendant said in a low voice, "Young Miss, this is the Young Master who wishes to sell aeth materials."

However, she was quickly shocked to find that the Young Miss was frozen as if she was bewitched the moment she set eyes on Lin Xun.

It wasn't only the Young Miss. The little Young Master was also dumbfounded and looked as if he had seen a ghost.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun was also taken aback as he inwardly remarked that it was such a coincidence to encounter this pair of siblings again.

It was Yu Xuejiao and Yu Xuetian!

They had just returned to Snow Precious House when someone reported that a customer wanted to sell a large amount of materials and was worried Snow Precious House wouldn't be able to take it all in, which simply felt absurd to them.

In the several thousand years their Yu Family had managed Snow Precious House, no customer had ever dared to make such a bold claim.

Out of curiosity, they immediately decided to go and see who this customer was who had dared to make such a bold claim.

In fact, they even began to suspect that it was someone sent by a competitor to cause trouble.

However, never in their wildest dreams would they have imagined that they would see Lin Xun here!

When they recalled the earth-shaking news that they had heard at the News Tree, both siblings began to feel a sensation of unrealness to the situation.

The very demon-god heaven pride, who was the center of the sensational news that was rapidly spreading and shaking Snow Maple City, had appeared here?

Wouldn't it cause an even bigger commotion if this were to get out?

Although most of Lin Xun's face was hidden by the brim of his hat, Yu Xuejiao was still able to identify him right away!

However, she soon stiffened. Lin Xun was also looking at her and although his gaze appeared calm, it made her heart shiver as she rapidly returned to her senses.

She instructed the lady attendant to leave with a wave before closing the doors of the private room. Finally, she said, "Young Master...wishes to sell aeth materials? "

She looked composed as if she was receiving an ordinary customer.

Beside her, Yu Xuetian could not help but blurt out, "Elder Sis, don't you recognize him? He's..."

Yu Xuejiao casually said, "Little Brother, we were mistaken. Do not say anymore and just watch from the sidelines."

Although Yu Xuetian could not understand, he did not dare to speak any further. He took up a spot in the corner and continued to observe Lin Xun out of wariness, fear, respect, and curiosity.

A sliver of appreciation flashed in Lin Xun's black eyes. Even he had to admit that Yu Xuejiao was an extremely intelligent woman.

There were things that you should never say out loud even if you knew. Sometimes, acting as if you didn't know was the wisest choice.

Just like at this moment, for example. Yu Xuejiao understood that the moment the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Race found out their Yu Family had been in contact with Lin Xun, it would definitely lead to an unpredictable catastrophe!

Lin Xun said, "If it's a problem, I'll go to another merchant group."

Yu Xuejiao was taken aback. Soon after, she laughed. "My Snow Precious House is a business. How could we possibly drive customers away?"

In response, Lin Xun no longer held back. With a wave of his sleeve and a loud clatter, a complete purple ore vein resembling a coiled python appeared, filling the room with its radiance.

Yu Xuetian's eyes lit up as he blurted out, "A fully intact Lavender Treasure Copper vein!"

Meanwhile, Yu Xuejiao also displayed her appraisal ability. After examining it for a brief moment, she said, "High-grade quality, but it still needs to undergo a re-refinement process to produce true Lavender Treasure Copper. According to my estimations, this ore vein is roughly worth eighty high-grade aeth essences."

Lin Xun nodded. "We'll go with the price you've given."

Eighty high-grade aeth essences was equivalent to eight-thousand mid-grade aeth essences! It was definitely a generous offer.

Yu Xuejiao smiled faintly. "As long as the Young Master is satisfied. I shall go to prepare your aeth essence."

Lin Xun called out to stop her, "No rush, there are still many other aeth materials I wish to sell."

Yu Xuejiao was stunned. To be frank, a deal worth eighty high-grade aeth essences was already a rather big transaction that would seldom occur even once a fortnight.

However, she never imagined that this was merely the start!

Clatter~

With another wave of his sleeve, an ore vein covered in a hazy and smoky crimson glow appeared. Although it was only as thick as a thumb, it was also extremely long and managed to coil up into a rather sizable pile.

It was a completely intact Crimson Smoke Jade ore vein!

Yu Xuejiao immediately identified it at a glance. It was also a rare and precious high-grade material that was even more highly valued than the Lavender Treasure Copper.

"Red as if it's burning and crystal clear without any visible impurities. This is peak quality material that can be exchanged for a hundred and twenty high-grade aeth essences according to the market rate."

Yu Xuejiao took a deep breath and quoted a price.

She didn't have the courage to lie to Lin Xun even a little because he was a peerless individual who was destined to shake the West Infinity World.

Lin Xun grunted softly in acknowledgment before retrieving more ore veins one after another. There was True White Gold, Jade Rune Steel, Star Gold Jade.....

About a dozen ore veins were piled up in the private room. They glowed gorgeously, flowing with enchanting light.

"This this...this is too much..." Yu Xuetian's lips trembled, completely dumbfounded.

Although he was born into the rich Yu Family that was the number one faction in Snow Maple City and had seen many treasures in his life, he had never seen so many aeth veins together in one place!

Even Yu Xuejiao felt a little unsettled, and she could not help but ask, "Young Master, are you also a geomancer who is proficient in searching for ore veins?"

Geomancer!

It was a noble and superior existence that knew the art of reading the land and possessed the almost magical ability of interpreting the aura of the earth and predicting the direction of the energy that flowed within it.

Whenever a faction wanted to construct a cultivation paradise, they would spare no cost to enlist the help of a geomancer!

Regretfully, there were far too few geomancers. These rare individuals could usually only be found in ancient factions.

Even in the Yunmeng Province which contained more than a thousand cities, there were only five known geomancers, four of whom were employed by the Feather Sword Sect!

From this, it could be seen how revered a geomancer was. They were existences that were no different from the rune grandmasters who were proficient in crafting aeth tools.

"Nope." Lin Xun shook his head. He also knew of the existence of these geomancers, but he did not know much about the secret arts they had mastered.

The ore veins he wished to sell had been found in the wilderness with the Chaofeng Eye's ability.

Yu Xuejiao's expression turned somewhat complicated as she inwardly said, "How else could he have found so many rare and precious ore veins?"

However, since Lin Xun was unwilling to admit it, it wouldn't be polite to probe any further.

It didn't take long for the final transaction price to be calculated. The total was one thousand and twenty high-grade aeth essences!

The astronomical figure left even Yu Xuejiao and Yu Xuétian in a daze.

Even the Yu Family that was known as the number faction in Snow Maple City could not obtain so many aeth essences in short notice!

Only now did they finally understand why Lin Xun had remarked earlier that he was worried the Snow Precious House wouldn't be able to take it all...

Lin Xun was naturally able to somewhat understand their predicament and said, "I'll be needing Spirit Accumulation Jades, preferably high-grade although mid-grade is also fine. The more you have the better. How much will Snow Precious House be able to provide?"

Yu Xuejiao's spirits were immediately lifted by these words.

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 817: Drunken Flower**

Six hundred high-grade aeth essences, thirty high-grade Spirit Accumulation Jades, and sixty-six mid-grade Spirit Accumulation Jades.

This was the fortune Lin Xun left Snow Precious House with after liquidating all of the aeth ore veins he had obtained in the wilderness.

He was very satisfied with the amount.

Although the Chaofeng Eye's wondrous ability was to read the aura of the land, to Lin Xun, it was no more than obtaining a money-making method at the moment.

He soon took out a map that recorded the locations of the West Infinity World's provinces and the routes that connected them.

It was an item he had also purchased from Snow Precious House.

"There are still more than ten provinces to cross from here to Perched Phoenix Province, which is about a million miles away. The fastest I can reach is ten days..."

Lin Xun silently pondered.

Since he was now wanted by the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan, he had no choice but to travel through the remote and uninhabited wilderness.

As a result, it would take much longer to reach Perched Phoenix Province.

The lively and busy streets were lined with shophouses. Lin Xun walked along the street, passing many shops as he followed the cobbled path and eventually arrived at a restaurant.

Drunken Flower.

The inn had quite an elegant name. The building was a hundred feet tall and was constructed from green jade bricks. A faint mist swirled around it as it seemed to hide between the snow maple trees, making it appear rather interesting.

"This is the place."

Lin Xun glanced at the name of the restaurant before he strolled inside.

Drunken Flower was the oldest restaurant in Snow Maple City. Its customers were mostly people of high status in the city with no lack of top experts among them. It wasn't just a place for dining but also for business discussions and functions.

Lin Xun went straight to the highest floor, chose a window seat, and asked for a pot of the restaurant's unique alcohol, Snow Maple Brew, and three pounds of spirit deer meat.

"There are only three months left until the Dao Lantern Festival. From what I know, the Clear Sky Province's Azure Sea Sect's young generation leader, Li Qinghuan, the Huaiyin Province's Dark Sun Sect's number one true disciple, Wu Duanya, the Fumu Province's Golden Eagle Clan's Third Crown Prince...have all set off for Cangwu Mountain."

"It will indeed be an unprecedented lantern festival. The monsters and heaven prides of the younger generation will gather like stars and display their brilliance during the festival!"

"That's right. I heard that our Yunmeng Province's Feather Sword Sect's younger-generation heaven prides will be led by one of their five true disciples, Zhuo Kuanglan, and they are sure to show their abilities at the Dao Lantern Festival!"

"That said, the most talked about individual of the Dao Lantern Festival is undoubtedly the Unsolved Mystery Sword Alms' saintess, Ji Xingyao. Moreover, I heard that the supreme heaven pride from South Wonder World's Longevity Land, Yu Lingkong, will also be participating!"

"It's regrettable that such a grand event belongs only to the top-class heaven prides of this era. Ordinary people like us don't even have the qualifications to attend."

On the top floor, a group of cultivators was discussing the Dao Lantern Festival and would occasionally let out loud sighs.

It was somewhat surprising to Lin Xun. He had not expected the Dao Lantern Festival to receive so much attention even before it began.

In the Fire Spirit Province, he had been invited by the Thousand Illusions Sect younger-generation heaven pride, Yue Jianming, who had hoped to go to the Dao Lantern Festival together with him.

Subsequently, the Eight Extremes Blade Temple's Fang Linhan had also made it pretty clear that he wanted to participate in the Dao Lantern Festival.

Now, he was even hearing discussions about the Dao Lantern Festival at a border city of the Yunmeng Province. How could Lin Xun not be surprised?

"Looks like the Dao Lantern Festival will probably draw the attention of the entire West Infinity World when it begins....."

Lin Xun continued enjoying his meal and drink.

The Snow Maple Brew was dry with a mellow aftertaste and had a unique fragrance, while the spirit deer meat was marinated with some kind of secret mix of spices that gave it a strong and spicy unique flavor.

From time to time, Lin Xun would glance at a particular private room.

A group of figures with intimidating auras were seated inside, each displaying a haughty and cold expression. There was no need to do any research to know that they were from the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan!

According to the news he had previously received from the News Tree, any cultivator who could provide a clue about his whereabouts would be rewarded with a thousand high-grade aeth essences from the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan experts.

Lin Xun's purpose for coming to the Drunken Flower Restaurant was simple: he wanted to see if he could receive the reward if he revealed himself!

After eating his fill, Lin Xun was about to make his move when he suddenly saw a group of young men and women walking up to the top floor. All of them were good-looking individuals who gave off extraordinary presences.

At the head was one of the Feather Sword Sect's five true disciples, Zhuo Kuanglan, who was followed by Little Sword Lord Xie Yutang and the others.

All the conversations in the restaurant stopped the moment they appeared as respectful gaze after gaze was drawn toward them.

The other customers were shocked when they recognized Zhuo Kuanglan and the others, surprised that the Feather Sword Sect successors would appear in such a place.

As soon as Zhuo Kuanglan and the others arrived, they heard a laugh from one of the private rooms as a young man stepped out.

"Brother Zhuo, you guys are finally here. Please come in."

The young man was dressed in fire-red robes. He had sword-shaped eyebrows, eyes that shone like stars, and looked very elegant and suave. Moreover, his presence was not the slightest bit inferior to Zhou Kuanglan's.

However, the most prominent part about him was the fire rune between his brows. It shone brightly in a mystical manner and was impossible to look at directly.

The other customers in the room were unable to remain calm at the sight of the young man and their faces rapidly filled with astonishment and disbelief.

Someone could not help but exclaim, "The Fifth Prince of the Fire Crow Clan, Lu Jiuge!"

A series of gasps rang out.

The Fire Crow Clan was a top-five clan in the West Infinity World and its saint, Lu Jiuge, was a legendary heaven pride.

When he was born, a fiery haze descended from the sky and coalesced into a fire rune that was branded onto his chest. This was known as the Fire Spirit Body and possessed incredible talent and potential.

Among the current younger generation of the West Infinity World, Lu Jiuge was an undisputed supreme heaven pride who was famous throughout the West Infinity World.

How could anyone not be astonished that such a legendary heaven pride had appeared here today?

One of the five true disciples of the Feather Sword Sect, Zhuo Kuanglan, and the Fifth Crown Prince of the Fire Crow Clan, Lu Jiuge, were here. For what purpose were these two supreme heaven prides meeting?

Everyone's curiosity was aroused in an instant.

So that's the Fire Crow Clan's supreme heaven pride? His aura is very strong, and he possesses Cyclic Derivation cultivation. He's not the least bit inferior to Zhou Kuanglan.

Lin Xun thought to himself.

Meanwhile, Xie Yutang also noticed Lin Xun's presence, causing him to be slightly stunned before quickly withdrawing his gaze.

This was tantamount to ignoring Lin Xun and showed that he had no intention of exchanging greetings.

Instead, when Lin Xun looked over, Xie Yutang's lips curled in a proud arc, feeling a slight sense of superiority.

Lin Xun inwardly chuckled. Did this guy really think that standing with Zhuo Kuanglan and Lu Jiuge would impress him and make him envious?

The Feather Sword Sect group soon entered the private room with the Fire Crow Clan's Fifth Crown Prince, Lu Jiuge.

Lin Xun finished the last of his alcohol at this moment. He rose to his feet and walked toward another private room.

It was the room where the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan experts were seated.

"What's he doing?"

The other customers frowned. None of them felt any goodwill toward the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan.

Hence, they could not help but feel repulsed to see a human cultivator pay a visit to the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan experts.

"Covered in a cloak, and even his face is concealed by his hat. Someone who looks as sneaky as him can't possibly be a good person and is probably about to commit some evil deed!"

Someone icily snorted. He did not dare to speak out too directly in fear of angering the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan experts, but did not hold back at all against Lin Xun.



"I heard that a bounty appeared on the News Tree earlier. It seems that the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan placed a bounty on a demon-god-like youngster. Could he be here to give information for the reward?"

"That does sound possible!"

"How shameless."

The customers conversed as they looked at Lin Xun in suspicion and disdain.

If not for the presence of the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan experts, their words would probably be even more offending and unpleasant.

Lin Xun felt a sense of helplessness. He knew that he was being misunderstood, but couldn't be bothered to explain.

He arrived in front of the room, looked at the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan experts, and said, "I heard that anyone who can provide clues to the whereabouts of the bounty target will be heavily rewarded?"

The other customers could no longer sit still at these words as their expressions darkened. He's scum after all!

In order to get the reward, he even went so far as to snitch to the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan. It was simply shameless!

"People only care about money nowadays. Doesn't anyone care about dignity and self-respect anymore?"

Since the customers didn't dare to openly criticize him, they could only use sarcasm to mock Lin Xun.

"Do you guys want to die? If not, shut up!"

An icy bellow suddenly thundered from the room. It was a black-robed youngster with a long, narrow face and bewitching blood-red eyes who gave off a savage and intimidating aura.

Everyone immediately fell silent. Their expressions fluctuated indeterminately, not daring to speak.

Although they were resentful, they didn't dare to openly clash with the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan, afraid it would bring them trouble.

Meanwhile, the black-robed youngster's bewitching blood-colored pupils looked at Lin Xun and indifferently said, "You're right. As long as you provide a clue about that kid's whereabouts, the one thousand high-grade aeth essences in this storage bag will be yours!"

Clang!

The black-robed youngster tossed a bag on the table and said, "You can tell us now."

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 818: A Painful Slash**

The atmosphere on the restaurant's top floor instantly fell silent as numerous customers looked over.

To snatch to the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan in such a public setting was undoubtedly shameful and disdainful behavior, especially at such a time.

After all, the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan was notorious and tales of their evil deeds were well-known even across the four seas. They were essentially the public enemy of the cultivation world.

"A thousand high-grade aeth essences? That's far from enough."

Lin Xun was unfazed as he continued, "I do not believe that the person you guys have placed a bounty on is worth so little."

The black-robed youngster frowned as an iciness flashed in his bewitching blood-colored pupils, seemingly not expecting the person who came to receive the reward would dare to ask for more.

It caused a murderous impulse to rise in his heart.

A pretty lady with snow-silver hair said from the side, "Brother Gou Qi, it seems that this friend is very sure of himself. It won't hurt to give him a little more aeth essences as long as he can provide a lead to that little shit's whereabouts."

She exuded a coquettish aura which made her appear extremely sexy when paired with her scarlet-red lips, ample bust, and smooth white skin.

Upon hearing her words, an almost undetectable iciness flashed in Lin Xun's black eyes that were hidden under the brim of his hat.

Little shit?

These words alone had sentenced her to death in Lin Xun's eyes.

Clang!

The black-robed youngster called Gou Qi threw out another storage bag and said with an icy expression, "This contains three hundred high-grade aeth essences. In total, that's one thousand three hundred high-grade essences. I believe that this price is already enough to buy a Half-Step King expert's life. If you're still dissatisfied, don't blame me for no longer showing any courtesy!"

Lin Xun did not even look at it as he shook his head. "It's not enough. I can tell you the exact location of that target, which I believe is worth far more than this little bit of aeth essence."

Even the watching customers could not help but wet their lips at this moment. So greedy, isn't he afraid that his greed will lead him to his death?

One thousand three hundred high-grade aeth essences was already a sky-high amount that even Half-Step King experts would willingly go into servitude for!

But he claimed it wasn't enough?

"Friend, you're going too far! "

Gou Qi's expression was ice-cold as horrifying icy light seemed to overflow from his scarlet pupils. "Do you really think that my Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan are wastrels?"

"Heh, you think you have us by the neck and can cut off a big slice of our flesh just because you have a measly clue? Friend, are you sure you want to do that?"

The silver-haired woman let out a soft chuckle. "Humans should have self-awareness. If you obediently cooperate, you might be able to earn some goodwill from my Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan."

She intentionally mentioned the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan as both a warning and a threat.

Lin Xun laughed without making a sound and said, "From what I know, the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan is a mighty clan that has factions all over the Ancient Wasteland Domain, and yet you guys can't even take out a little aeth essence? That is truly disappointing. It seems that none of you wish to obtain a clue about the target. In that case, I'll be taking my leave."

After speaking, he turned to leave.

"Stop right there!"

Gou Qi abruptly rose to his feet, displaying all of his murderous intent. The pressure he gave off was so terrifying that it caused the other customers to feel a chill as their expressions changed drastically.

Lin Xun leisurely said, "If you attack, it will be equivalent to telling the whole world that the bounty issued by your Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan is merely a front and that you guys are deliberately making a fool of everyone."

"You—"

Gou Qi was so angry that his complexion turned steely-green. He wanted to slap this bastard to death. Never had he seen anyone who dared to threaten their clan in such a manner!

The silver-haired woman interjected at this moment, "Brother Gou Qi, this friend is right that we might break our trust. Since that is the case, you should quote a price, my friend."

Murderous intent flickered in her heart as she transmitted to Gou Qi, "Satisfy him first. It won't be too late for us to take back the reward from his corpse after we get the clue."

Gou Qi's expression darkened, but he did not say anything else.

"I believe it should be at least five thousand high-grade aeth essences, right?"

The other customers' eyes nearly popped out at these words, thinking they had misheard. This wasn't just being greedy but clearly intending to give a painful slash to the black dogs!

Gou Qi almost exploded from anger as murderous intent overflowed from his eyes. "Are you certain?"

Lin Xun casually said, "Of course it's still negotiable, but it can't go much lower. After all, many people know that the target you guys intend to deal with is a very dangerous individual. If I leak his location, I'll have to face the consequences of his revenge as well."

"Friend, you're clearly extorting us!"

The silver-haired woman was also enraged. They have never seen such a reckless fool. How dare he try to extort them? Was he tired of living?

Most importantly, they genuinely didn't have that much aeth essence on them at the moment. After all, it was no small amount and was enough to buy a King-grade tonic or a Supreme King-tier Weapon!

In the end, Gou Qi restrained himself and decided to first satisfy Lin Xun. They would settle the score with him after obtaining the information!

"Here is three thousand high-grade aeth essences. If you're still not satisfied, there is nothing else to be done."

Gou Qi and the others had managed to scrounge up three thousand high-grade aeth essences and put them into a storage bag.

He frostily looked at Lin Xun. "You can tell us now, right?"

Three thousand high-grade aeth essences for a mere piece of information!

The hearts of the other customers were violently shaken. At the same time, they began to realize how determined the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan was about killing the target.

At this juncture, even the Feather Sword Sect successors and the Fifth Crown Prince of the Fire Crow Clan, Lu Jiuge, in another private room were startled.

"Who is this person? He's pretty audacious to try and extort the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan." Lu Jiuge softly chuckled. He was dressed in a fiery-red robe and a white jade belt with an ever-present look of pride on his handsome face.

"I have met him once before."

Zhuo Kuanglan frowned slightly. "Although he is from a lower plane, I did not expect that he would choose to snitch to the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan. How disgraceful. Junior Brother Xie, since you know him, can you tell us what kind of person he is?"

He looked toward Xie Yutang.

"Him? He was merely an uncouth youngster from a poor and remote village. However, I too never imagined that he would be so spineless. It seems that I will have to draw a line with him from now on!"

Xie Yutang displayed an indifferent expression despite being somewhat angered. He felt that Lin Xun had made him lose face in front of everyone, and was ashamed and disgusted to be associated with the latter.

Lu Jiuge acknowledged with a soft grunt and said, "I am rather curious about the person who is being targeted by the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan. To think that they would go so far as to offer three thousand high-grade aeth essences for a mere clue."

One of the Feather Sword Sect successors immediately said, "Speaking of this matter, I did hear that just a while ago, there was a news report regarding a young man called Lin Xun from the News Tree in the city..."

He recounted the events about Lin Xun's bounty and also briefly mentioned the astonishing duel between Lin Xun and the young lady wearing a silver mask.

Even Zhuo Kuanglan and Lu Jiuge were amazed, and surprised that there was such an incredible individual in the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

"By the way, Junior Brother Xie, isn't that youngster from the lower plane also called Lin Xun?" Zhuo Kuanglan suddenly recalled something as bewilderment flashed in his eyes.

Xie Yutang was also inwardly shocked beyond belief after hearing everything. He instinctively shook his head and said, "It can't be him, it must be someone else with the same name."

You must be kidding!

If Lin Xun is a supreme heaven pride, what would that make me?

It's definitely impossible!

The others seemed to be relieved by this. Indeed, how could a youngster from the lower plane possess such unrivaled might?

Moreover, it had been denied by Xie Yutang himself, who was acquainted with the youngster from the lower plane. It was impossible for these two Lin Xuns to be the same person.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun immediately agreed to the generous offer of three thousand high-grade aeth essences with a wide grin. "It's just barely enough."

What do you mean by barely enough?

Upon hearing this, Gou Qi's, the silver-haired woman's and the other black dog experts' faces grew increasingly stormy, nearly unable to restrain their murderous impulse.

Lin Xun reached toward the storage bag only to be interrupted by a stern shout from Gou Qi, "Hold it right there! You haven't even told us anything and you're trying to take the reward? "

"I'm just checking to see if the number is correct."

Lin Xun casually said, "What's more, I'm very suspicious that you guys are only making a verbal promise. Once I reveal the information, you guys might begin to regret this transaction. Hence, it will be better for me to keep the aeth essences first."

With that, he picked up the storage bag and weighed it in his palm.

Gou Qi wanted to strangle the other party so much that he almost shattered his teeth from gnashing them too hard. In the end, he held back and coldly said, "You can tell us now, right?"

All of them had stormy, ice-cold expressions, and were barely able to conceal their killing intent. Did he think their aeth essence was so easy to take?

This fool truly didn't know how the word death was written!

"No need to be so antsy. I am right here and definitely can't escape. Is there a need to be so anxious?"

Lin Xun unhurriedly put away the storage bag and smiled, "I'm still a little hungry, do you guys want to eat together first?"

One of the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan experts could no longer hold back and roared, "Eat your mum! If you don't spit it out, I will rip you into two right here and now!"

"Friend, are you toying with us? Gou Qi was also furious as killing intent spread from him.

The other customers' expressions changed drastically. Is a fight going to break out?

In the other private room, the Feather Sword Sect successors and Lu Jiuge also looked over.

Xie Yutang's expression remained indifferent. He sorely wished that Lin Xun would be killed to save him from being embarrassed again.

Lin Xun withdrew his smile as he gazed at Gou Qi and others and said, "I wasn't toying with you guys. I have been right here from the start, but you guys kept asking me for my whereabouts. I'm genuinely also at a loss about what to do. Is there anyone more stupid than you guys in this world?"

Everyone was stunned. What in the world is this situation?

Gou Qi seemed to understand and immediately shouted, "You...you're Lin Xun!?"

The silver-haired woman's and the others' expressions fluctuated indeterminately as if they had been struck by lightning.

How could they have imagined that the target would appear in front of them of his own accord and even ruthlessly extort aeth essence from them?

### **[The Prodigies War](#)**

#### **Chapter 819: The Demon's Might Shocks Everyone**

Gou Qi, the silver-haired woman, and the other black dog experts were so triggered that they nearly vomited blood.

Not only did they fail to recognize the target that had appeared right in front of them, but they even allowed him to extort a huge amount of aeth essence from them. Moreover, it felt even more humiliating that they had taken so long to realize this.

If word of this got out, what face would they have left?

"You're asking for death!"

Gou Qi could no longer hold back. He released a deep roar as a terrifying, giant dog phantasm overflowing with jet-black light emerged behind him.

"Kill!"

The silver-haired woman and the other black dog experts also shouted as they attacked, aiming to either capture or kill Lin Xun to release their shame and anger.

However, Lin Xun merely smiled in a carefree manner and said, "I have been waiting for you guys to get into the pot to sate my appetite!"

Boom!

Lin Xun's aura abruptly changed as he stepped forward, making him resemble a demon god. He punched, sending out a burst of fist-force that rushed forth like a dragon and smashed apart an expert's chest, splattering blood and bits of bones everywhere.

Everyone was startled. How terrifying. He had killed an expert with a single punch!

"You dare?!"

Gou Qi charged and swung his palm downward. Blood-light poured out like a river of blood from hell, creating a horrifying scene.

Thud!

A snow-white ice dragon flew out from Lin Xun's foot and raised its head and roared. With a loud thud, it neutralized Gou Qi's attack with a swing of its tail.

By this juncture, Lin Xun had already used the opportunity to execute a killing move.

Plop plop plop!

He struck like lightning, first imprisoning several incoming opponents with Baxia Imprisonment before crushing them with Bi'an Stamp.

The Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan experts were unable to dodge in time, and their bodies exploded in the air, turning into bloody mist.

So domineering!

The onlookers gasped at how swiftly and effortlessly he had slaughtered them. Such overwhelming might was practically akin to the descent of a demon god!

"These dogs are too weak. Their meat will definitely be low quality."

Lin Xun's eyes flashed intimidatingly. The only ones left were Gou Qi and the silver-haired woman.

"Lin Xun, you're courting death!"

Gou Qi roared as he trembled with anger and fear, only now realizing that the opponent was too powerful and not someone they could oppose.

He was already freaking out and felt like he was on the verge of falling apart. After being deceived and extorted, they were now being killed and viewed as food by an opponent that far outclassed them. It was a frustratingly humiliating and powerless feeling that could not be put in words.

"Hand over your life!"

Lin Xun dashed forward to face Gou Qi. He executed the Nine Heavenshaking Destructions Art, infusing each wide and powerful swing of his fist with the almighty power to shake the heavens and destroy the land.

Boom!

The dreadful power caused the restaurant to shake violently as if about to collapse. The other customers were horrified and quickly fled in a panic.

Only the Feather Sword Sect successors and the Fifth Crown Prince of the Fire Crow Clan, Lu Jiuge, remained calm and collected. However, even they could not help but be secretly astonished by the strength Lin Xun displayed.

Crack!

Gou Qi's right arm snapped, causing blood to splatter everywhere. Despite being a Cyclic Derivation expert and a top-class individual among the younger generation he had suffered a big loss after a single exchange!

Everyone's expressions changed when they witnessed this.

"Kill!"

Meanwhile, the silver-haired woman let out a loud cry. However, instead of attacking, she smashed through the wall with a loud boom and ran away!

She knew she was outmatched and did not dare continue fighting. Instead, she would go to find help.

However, how could Lin Xun possibly allow her to leave? He immediately made a cryptic sound, "Du-or!"

Pulao Roar!

Lin Xun brightly glowed like a terrifying sun as a golden ripple made from soundwaves spread from his mouth.

The roar sounded like a shout from an ancient god, filled with boundless terror that could shatter the land!

Plop!

The silver-haired woman burst into a cloud of bloody mist.

Hiss~

A series of gasps immediately followed. Everyone's souls trembled in horror. The woman was a Cyclic Derivation expert, but she had still been wiped out by a single roar!

"AHH—" Someone in the restaurant screamed as the blood drained from his face.

"What a terrifying secret art." Lu Jiuge's eyes glowed with a divine radiance, somewhat astonished by the sight. It reminded him of the Golden-Horned Azure Lion Clan's innate talent, Lion Roar!

The Feather Sword Sect disciples were also astonished, causing their expressions to change slightly. They had originally believed the youngster from the lower plane to be a disgraceful, spineless coward for snitching to the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan for the aeth essence reward.

Who could have imagined that he would transform into a completely different person in the blink of an eye? His overwhelming and domineering power alarmed even people like them!



Xie Yutang's heart churned wildly as his expression fluctuated indeterminately. He could not imagine how the youngster from the backwater countryside, who had just arrived in the Forbidden City, could become so powerful in a few short years. It was simply inconceivable!

Although the roar had shaken everyone, only Lin Xun knew that he had intentionally restrained his power to obtain such a result. Otherwise, the entire restaurant would have been turned to dust!

An illusory hazy glow flowed around him, giving him an ethereal and transcendent aura. Despite his elegant appearance, the power he wielded was domineering and unreasonable like a god or demon descending onto the mortal realm.

Gou Qi was the only one left. He looked at Lin Xun in despair. His heart was already flooded by fear only now fully realizing the extent of Lin Xun's terrifying strength.

"Lin Xun, are you intending to make a mortal enemy of our Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan?" Gou Qi gritted his teeth. The only thing he could rely on now was the fearsome reputation of his clan.

Crack!

Lin Xun did not even bother to reply. Instead, he moved forward and snapped Gou Qi's neck.

Gou Qi died and returned to his original form. His huge black dog body crashed onto the ground with a loud rumble, bleeding streams of blood.

All the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan experts had been put to death, or to be more precise, massacred. Lin Xun had basically encountered no resistance at all as he easily crushed them all.

His ruthlessness and overwhelming power made the other customers' hearts tremble again. That inconceivable strength had subverted the foundations of their imagination.

On the other hand, Lin Xun appeared as if he had done something completely unremarkable. He picked up Gou Qi's body and stuffed it into his storage ring.

Before he left, he looked toward the other private room and his gaze locked onto Xie Yutang.

Xie Yutang's eyes immediately froze, feeling somewhat afraid and uncertain. Does he intend to do something to me?

Zhuo Kuanglan's expression remained unchanged and seemed to be pondering something while Lu Jiuge continued to drink as he watched. On the other hand, the other Feather Sword Sect disciples became on guard.

The atmosphere became somewhat stifling.

However, Lin Xun merely smiled faintly and said, "You did good earlier by drawing a clear line between us. Now, the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan won't trouble you because of me. From today, neither of us shall owe the other anything."

Lin Xun had heard everything Xie Yutang had said about him earlier. In front of the Feather Sword Sect disciples and Lu Jiuge, Lin Xun was described as an uncouth and unbearable country bumpkin whom Xie

Yutang was ashamed to be associated with. In turn, Lin Xun could not help but feel bitterly disappointed by this.

Although he had no intention of retaliating against Xie Yutang, Lin Xun would not be so courteous next time if he were to be slandered in such a manner again!

After leaving these words behind, he withdrew his gaze and drifted away.

Xie Yutang's stormy expression fluctuated indeterminately, seemingly enraged. He suddenly rose to his feet and fiercely glared at Lin Xun from afar as if wanting to teach him a lesson.

Zhuo Kuanglan faintly smiled and said to stop Xie Yutang, "Junior Brother Xie, there's no need to be angry. He's just a guy who got carried away, so why bother with him?"

"Yeah, he's very arrogant and even dares to make an enemy of the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan. Someone like him will encounter disaster sooner or later."

"That's right. The Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan is so enormous and powerful that even the ancient sects would be reluctant to mess with them. He is merely an uncouth youngster from the lower plane, yet he chooses to butt heads with such a clan. Isn't this basically asking for death?"

The other Feather Sword Sect disciples also spoke out to console him.

Xie Yutang inwardly sighed and silently sat down again. His heart, however, was still filled with anger and resentment, making him wish he could murder Lin Xun with his own hands.

Do you really think that you can do whatever you want because you have become stronger and can completely disregard me?

This was the reason for Xie Yutang's resentment, and it was also a type of inferior mentality. Since long ago, he had shown nothing but disregard toward Lin Xun and viewed him as an uncouth youngster from the backwater countryside.

He, on the other hand, was from the Xie Clan, which was one of the seven high clans of the Ziyao Empire. Moreover, he was blessed with extraordinary talent and status that Lin Xun could never hope to match.

After entering the Ancient Wasteland Domain, he successfully enrolled in the Feather Sword Sect to cultivate, which made him feel an even greater sense of superiority over Lin Xun.

However, the events that transpired today made him feel utterly humiliated!

He suddenly discovered that the youngster he had disregarded before had grown to the point of nearly surpassing him. How could someone as proud as himself accept that?

"He is no ordinary person," Lu Jiuge remarked in a soft voice as divine light surged in his eyes. "I would like to have a spar with him if he appears at the Dao Lantern Festival."

Zhuo Kuanglan's and Xie Yutang's hearts trembled, not expecting that Lu Jiuge would have such a high opinion of Lin Xun.

It was also at this moment a cry of surprise rang out in the restaurant.

"I'm certain he's the supreme heaven pride who rose to fame in the Fire Spirit Province! He's that demon-god-like youngster!"

"It must be him. The Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan placed a bounty on him, but instead of hiding, he voluntarily showed up and slaughtered them. Only someone like him has the guts to do that!"

"My god, Demon God Lin has appeared in Snow Maple City!"

The entire restaurant was in an uproar, and everyone was shocked beyond belief.

They had previously despised Lin Xun, thinking that he was shamelessly going to divulge information about Demon God Lin's whereabouts to the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan.

Who could have imagined that he would turn out to be Demon God Lin!?

It made them feel embarrassed and lament that perhaps only Demon God Lin would dare to come out and collect the reward on himself.

After hearing these conversations, Zhuo Kuanglan, Lu Jiuge, Xie Yutang, and the others suddenly realized something.

The youngster from the lower plane turned out to be the same Lin Xun who had risen to fame in the West Infinity World. He was Demon God Lin!

The comical part was that Xie Yutang had claimed earlier that the two Lin Xuns were definitely not the same person...

Xie Yutang's expression changed again. His face burned unbearably as if he had been slapped by an invisible hand.

### [The Prodigies War](#)

#### **Chapter 820: Slaughter all the Black Nightmare Dogs**

Xie Yutang's hands quietly clenched into fists as indescribable shame and indignation welled up within him.

A youngster who he had always thought to be insignificant had become the astonishing and sensational Demon God Lin, which was simply unacceptable!

Even Zhuo Kuanglan was silent for a moment before he softly laughed and said, "If so, I would also like to spar with him to witness his capability. I hope...he'll have the chance to participate in the Dao Lantern Festival."

The other Feather Sword Sect disciples looked at each other.

It was hard to believe that a youngster from the lower plane had caused such a big commotion. Not only had he roused the interest of the Fifth Crown Prince of the Fire Crow Clan, Lu Jiuge, but even one of the Feather Sword Sect's five true disciples, Zhuo Kuanglan, seemed to have also begun to pay attention to him. This caught the other Feather Sword Sect disciples completely off guard.

"If you dare to appear at the Dao Lantern Festival, I will make sure to personally defeat you first!" Hatred surged in Xie Yutang's heart as he gnashed his teeth so hard they nearly shattered.

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"Brother, what happened in the restaurant?"

Outside the Drunken Flower Restaurant, an expert from the Windspeaker Clan started poking around like a cat that had smelled something fishy.

Once he learned everything he wanted to know, the Windspeaker Clan expert became so excited that his eyes started glowing as he grinned from ear to ear.

Big news!

Absolutely breaking news!

This Windspeaker expert could already imagine how much of a commotion would ensue when he spread the news and how it would draw everyone's attention.

He promptly made the decision to leave, intending to immediately head to the News Tree to post the news.

However, he was stopped just as he was about to move. "You're going to publicize the news?"

"Why are you asking if you already know? Quit wasting my time and get out of the way."

This Windspeaker expert impatiently retorted, only to suddenly jump in fright when he saw the appearance of the person who had stopped him. He stammered, "Lin...Lin...uh..."

Before he could say anything else, his mouth immediately snapped shut under Lin Xun's glare.

Lin Xun asked "What's your name? "

"Bao Xiaoxing."

"Good name."

Bao Xiaoxing asked, "Heh heh, Lin...Young Master Lin, is there something I can do for you?"

"Do me a favor and help me announce that I have no intention of making an enemy of the entire Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan, but if they refuse to stop, don't blame me for not showing any more courtesy!"

"Young Master Lin, may I ask how exactly you will stop being courteous?" Bai Xiaoxing was itching with curiosity.

Lin Xun displayed a sunny smile and jokingly said, "Perhaps I'll one day slaughter all the Black Nightmare Dogs in the world?"

Bai Xiaoxing's jaw dropped. This was no longer anywhere near the realm of rudeness, but instead, it was a bold proclamation that he'd exterminate the entire Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan!

He couldn't help but ask, "Young Master, are you...joking?"

"You can take it as a joke." Lin Xun chuckled before he drifted off.

However, he would never have been able to imagine the huge commotion Bai Xiaoxing would soon cause shortly after Lin Xun left Snow Maple City!

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"Demon God Lin appeared in Snow Maple City and decimated a group of Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan experts!"

"Meanwhile, Demon God Lin has also announced that he has no intention of making an enemy of the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan, but if they refuse to back down, he will one day slaughter all the Black Nightmare Dogs in the world!"

On this day, a certain piece of news threw the entire Snow Maple City into an uproar.

"Demon God Lin is simply too awesome and domineering. Who in the world would dare to fearlessly threaten the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan like him?"

Many cultivators marveled, believing that Lin Xun was full of swag.

"In all my years, I have never seen any younger generation cultivator declare war on the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan like Demon God Lin. The younger generation does indeed surpass the old!"

Several older-generation practitioners sighed deeply.

"Hmph, he's only risen to fame recently and already thinks he's invincible? People easily break if they surpass their threshold. An arrogant person like him is akin to a shooting star that is destined to fall after shining gloriously. He won't live for long at this rate!"

There were also cultivators who disapproved, believing Lin Xun had made a stupid move. Facing the entire Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan alone was no different from trying to smash a rock with an egg or an ant trying to shake a tree. Calamity would likely befall him soon.

In any case, the news that shook the city spread to the entire Yunmeng Province at an alarming speed.

Several Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan experts nearly exploded in anger upon hearing the news. Slaughter all the Black Nightmare Dogs in the world?

He should be put to death for daring to say such a thing!

They were also upset with the Windspeaker Clan. What kind of insulting message was this? Was this something that can be said by the likes of you guys?

Upon realizing that things were getting bad for them, the Windspeaker Clan experts hurriedly spread another message. "Please do not misunderstand, friends of the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan. This statement is purely Demon God Lin's words and does not represent the attitude of our Windspeaker Clan!"

Regardless, the news made such a huge stir that it even drew the attention of many major powers, who began to investigate Lin Xun's identity and background.

For a time, Lin Xun was like a comet that had appeared in the sky and formally entered the eyes of many major powers.

However, the West Infinity World was far too big with its thousands of provinces. Although the series of news regarding Lin Xun was sensational, their influence was limited to a certain area, and his fame had not yet reached the point of shaking the entire West Infinity World.

It was no surprise, however, that more and more cultivators and factions in the West Infinity World would learn of Lin Xun's existence.

After all, this was the power of fame.

Among the younger generation, there were those who became famous for their superb talent, while there were others who became known due to their status and background.

There were also people like Lin Xun who carved their own bloody reputation through fighting and killing.

It had been less than half a year since he arrived at the West Infinity World, so he could be considered a late starter among his peers. Although his reputation was growing, he was still a long way behind some of the most famous supreme heaven prides of the West Infinity World.

Of course, this was only limited to fame and influence and not combat power.

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Three glittering icy leaves hung from the main trunk of the News Tree, each projecting different images.

On the first leaf, Lin Xun was akin to a demon god as he fought a mysterious masked girl in the sky.

The second leaf was the bounty notice from the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan. It gave off a bloody and murderous aura that would make anyone's heart shiver.

The third leaf displayed the news of Lin Xun killing a group of Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan experts at the Drunken Flower Restaurant. It also included Lin Xun's declaration against the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan.

The Feather Sword Sect disciples, the Fifth Crown Prince of the Fire Crow Clan, Lu Jiuge, and others stood before the tree, silently gazing at the different messages on the three leaves.

An invisible aura suddenly unfurled from Lu Jiuge, causing his fiery-red robes to flap violently as a sharp light flashed in his eyes.

The nearby cultivators were frightened by the change and hurriedly backed away as their expressions changed drastically.

At the same time, peerless sword will burst out from Zhuo Kuanglan and shot straight into the sky!

His black hair fluttered around his straight as a sword figure. The intimidating presence he gave off caused the nearby crowd's hearts to tremble as they gasped.

However, both Lu Jiuge and Zhuo Kuanglan appeared oblivious to these changes, their unblinking eyes still glued to the battle scene on the first leaf.

"To think that it would even arouse their fighting intent..."

Some of the more discerning cultivators immediately realized that the change in Lu Jiuge's and Zhuo Kuanglan's auras was due to the battle playing out on the first leaf.

It was a subtle reaction between fellow supreme heaven prides that only individuals who had reached their level could experience.

Xie Yutang's heart churned at the sight of this, feeling increasingly angry and hateful. He could not imagine how Lin Xun had grown so fast!

That overwhelming supreme aura that seemed to look down on the entire world made his heart shake.

When he saw the unintentional changes in Zhuo Kuanglan's and Lu Jiuge's auras, Xie Yutang wondered if he was trapped in some kind of dream.

Didn't this mean that Lin Xun already possesses the potential and foundations to challenge Senior Brother Zhuo and Lu Jiuge?

No!

Impossible!

How can he have grown so quickly in a few years?

Xie Yutang refused to accept it. He desperately wanted to meet Lin Xun and face him in battle!

Only by defeating Lin Xun would he be able to unravel this 'knot' in his heart!

It could perhaps already be called a heart-demon. If he did not cut it, it would become a shackle that constrained his cultivation.

Xie Yutang was very intelligent and talented. Otherwise, it would have been impossible to attain his current heights. Hence, he instantly judged that Lin Xun had become his heart-knot and would forever cast a shadow in his heart and mind if not defeated!

For cultivators, this was akin to a disaster and would gravely affect their cultivation or even cause them to be stuck and unable to progress!

However, Xie Yutang never imagined even in his wildest dreams that there would come a day when a teenager he had always disregarded would affect his heart and mind...

It was at this moment that Lu Jiuge suddenly gave an evaluation of Lin Xun, "If he survives the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan, he will definitely become a supreme individual among the West Infinity World's younger generation who is impossible to ignore."

"The battle for the great age is indeed approaching. Even an unknown youngster can rise like a comet...I wonder how many more like him there are out there?"

Zhuo Kuanglan muttered, his eyes filled with intimidating divine light.

Almost as if they were of one mind Zhuo Kuanglan and Lu Jiuge glanced at each other, seeing each other's inner thoughts.

Lin Xun's appearance was akin to finding a new rival they could compete with!

Of course, this was only if he could survive the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan. Otherwise, everything else would be meaningless.

On that same evening, group after group of Black Nightmare Riders appeared in Snow Maple City one after another. These Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan experts were brimming with murderous intent as they gathered, covering the entire Snow Maple City in a tense atmosphere akin to the calm before a storm.

Everyone realized that Demon God Lin's actions had completely enraged the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan!