

Prodigies 861

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Chapter 861: Five Assessments

Cangwu Mountain stood tall in the air, stretching beyond the sky. Its majestic and ancient body exuded purple divine light and qi like a sacred mountain from ancient times.

In front of the mountain stood countless cultivators. They all had blazing eyes as they stared at the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree on the mountainside.

The trunk that was as thick and strong as a dragon's body seemed to be cast from bronze. The branches resembled sharp swords and blades as they extended in all directions. There were over a thousand bronze flower buds dispersed across the branches, spewing out sacred light like flames raining down.

Undoubtedly, this was an unparalleled opportunity.

It was unprecedented.

It was rare!

Boom!

A genius talent launched into action. It was Sha Liuchan—the young master of the Ocean Shark Clan. His monstrous blood-colored qi rushed up from his body as he somersaulted through the air.

Everyone immediately noticed the mysterious prohibition barrier rippling like a light screen, obstructing people from approaching.

Buzz!

However, as Sha Liuchan neared it, the light screen bloomed with bright dao light and enveloped Sha Liuchan within it.

Then, another unbelievable scene followed. Sha Liuchan miraculously shrank in size until he was as small as an ant, and a beam of dao light transported him onto Cangwu Mountain, where he could no longer be seen.

All cultivators gasped in astonishment.

"Xumi Mustard Seed?" Lin Xun's expression changed strangely.

It was a kind of supreme divine power that could transform the power of space and time and store a world into a single leaf or flower.

Lin Xun had once come across such a mysterious ability on the unfathomable Fangchun Mountain after entering the Deva Secret Realm in the Return Dominion.

At the time, a lotus flower bloomed like a lantern and illuminated the universe, and within the lotus flower housed a true ancient relic—Fangchun Mountain!

Lin Xun just did not expect to witness the supreme ability again before Cangwu Mountain!

It seems like a true almighty Saint has once resided on this mountain...

“Let’s go!”

The area had already plunged into chaos with genius talents scrambling to be the first to reach Cangwu Mountain.

Li Qinghuan from the Cangming Sect, Wu Duanya from the Dark Sun Sect, Zhuo Kuanglan from the Feather Sword Sect and Lu Jiuge, the fifth crown prince from the Fire Crow Clan...

Rays of light repeatedly shot across the sky like divine rainbows, drawing exclamations from the spectators again and again.

Before long, Lei Qianjun from the Great Desolate Lightning Clan and Qing Lian’er, the saintess of the Blue Luan Clan, also soared into the sky and set off.

“Oh? That guy indeed came.” Lin Xun caught a glimpse of a familiar figure—Fang Linhan, the successor from the Eight Extremes Blade Temple.

He was as arrogant and full of himself as always, swaggering across the air with his long black hair fluttering around him and a wide blade strapped to his back like he owned the world.

However, Lin Xun’s expression soon turned a little awkward mixed with guilt and he retracted his gaze.

It turned out that Ji Xingyao, the saintess of the Unsolved Mystery Sword Alms, had also come.

She was dressed in a plain dress, but her aura was as cold as snow. She looked like a fairy descending from the sky with her slender and graceful figure and ethereal beauty.

Instantly, all eyes gathered on her, staring at her with admiration, lust, and fanaticism.

Even if Ji Xingyao was without her mask this time, Lin Xun still recognized her with one glance. She was the prideful girl whom he faced off against before.

“I must not run into her this time...” he muttered to himself.

Then, there was another uproar in the audience. Lin Xun quickly looked up to see a young man appearing beside Ji Xingyao.

The young man was very eye-catching. Not only was he very handsome, but he also had a tall and elegant figure and exuded confidence, like a radiant sun shining in every direction.

“Isn’t that Yu Lingkong from the Longevity Land in the South Wonder World? He is indeed extraordinary!”

“I heard that there is a Saint in the Yu Clan, and Yu Lingkong is also blessed by the heavens. He is born with extraordinary talent, and his status in the South Wonder World rivals that of Fairy Ji.”

“Look, he and Fairy Ji are a perfect match. Perhaps, only a peerless figure such as Yu Lingkong is worthy of a saintess like Fairy Ji.”

Everyone sighed with envy and admiration.

“Is he Yu Lingkong?” Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. Even he had to admit that he was perfect whether it was in terms of appearance, bearing, and mannerism.

Adding to that, he had a remarkable background, transcendent status and outstanding cultivation base.

It was no wonder that a dazzling character like him would attract so much attention.

However, Lin Xun’s attention was drawn to the item in Yu Lingkong’s hand—a Saint treasure—Longevity Hall!

I must be extra careful if I have to face off against him at the Dao Lantern Festival.

Lin Xun also suspected that peerless figures such as Ji Xingyao, Lei Qianjun and Mu Jianting likely have many powerful trump cards and killing weapons in their hands.

Bai Fengliu suddenly whispered, “Little Brother Lin, quickly look! The successors from the Miluo Palace are also here. You have to be careful of the girl in the purple dress. From what I heard, she isn’t an ordinary person. She has an extremely mysterious background and is said to be related to the legendary Celestial Phoenix Clan!”

Lin Xun lifted his head and saw a group of handsome men and beautiful women, all seemingly extremely extraordinary.

Especially the maiden in the purple dress who headed the group. She might not be breathtakingly beautiful, but she was extremely graceful. She had flawless, creamy skin that glowed like a crystal, and she exuded a uniquely pure and elegant aura. She was like an orchid from a secluded and tranquil valley.

She’s connected with the Celestial Phoenix Bloodline?

Lin Xun quivered inwardly. The Celestial Phoenix was a legend-like clan with an unimaginably terrifying and powerful background in ancient times.

“I believe she’s called Luo Jia. The successors from the Miluo Palace all call her Senior Sister Luo Jia, so she must have an extremely well-respected status within the Miluo Palace.”

“Established in the Earth Emperor World, Miluo Palace is very mysterious, and it has been almost isolated from the world for thousands of years. We seldom hear any news about them. Since their successors showed up at the Dao Lantern Festival this time, we can speculate that they most likely are after a great blessing,” Bai Fengliu quickly analyzed.

Although this old man is shameless, I have to admit that he’s amazing when it comes to information and news.

“Lin Xun, let’s act now.” Yue Jianming couldn’t hold back anymore.

Lin Xun nodded. “Okay, let’s set off.”

Shua! Shua!

Immediately, the two sped into the sky and rushed towards Cangwu Mountain in the distance.

“Remember that if you seize any treasures, you must give me a share!” Bai Fengliu yelled at the top of his voice, drawing contemptuous glances from the nearby cultivators.

“Demon God Lin is also taking action!”

Meanwhile, Lin Xun’s movements caught the attention of many cultivators.

“Rumors are circulating everywhere that he possesses great treasures, including an unrivaled Saint treasure. Now that he has entered Cangwu Mountain, many people will target him out of greed and his situation could become very bad!”

“Hey, let’s wait and see how Demon God Lin will resolve this disaster. I doubt he can walk out of Cangwu Mountain alive.”

“Do you mean that Demon God Lin will likely meet with an accident at this Dao Lantern Festival?”

“Do you need to ask?”

There were endless discussions among the spectators.

Bai Fengliu’s heart sank. The storm targeting Lin Xun will inevitably come after all.

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Buzz!

As Lin Xun approached the light screen that stretched across the sky, his vision blurred and mysterious power enveloped his body. Then, the scenery seemed to be distorting, and the world seemed to be shifting before his eyes like he was traveling through time.

With a swoosh, his figure vanished from the spot.

That was the supreme power of the Xumi Mustard Seed. Cangwu Mountain might be just in front of them, but even a true Saint would fail to get close to the mysterious prohibition light screen.

After a few minutes.

Geniuses disappeared one after another, but the atmosphere did not die because of that.

On the contrary, a large crowd of cultivators waited patiently.

Most of those cultivators came to watch as onlookers, but some were the elders and masters of those genius figures or families and friends.

For example, Granny Jin He, members of the Zhongli Clan, the Ocean Shark Clan, and the Blue Luan Clan. Many influential figures from the ancient sects were also waiting patiently.

“Since ancient times, anyone who wants to reach the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree will have to pass five tests. Those who fail will be teleported back here.”

“The first test is to enter the Reverse Five Elements Secret Realm in Cangwu Mountain. Only those who can survive there for ten days will be eligible to take the next test.”

“There are at least tens of thousands of genius figures from all over the West Infinity World taking part in the Dao Lantern Festival. This event can be called a gathering of stars. But how many can pass all five tests in the end and reach the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree?”

The cultivators of the older generation analyzed.

“Our experience with the previous Dao Lantern Festival can’t be applied this time. The Great Age is coming and Cangwu Mountain has undergone shocking changes. Just the number of lantern flower buds on the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree alone is already different from that in the past.”

Granny Jin He suddenly said aloud, “It can be predicted that anyone who successfully arrives under the sacred tree and not be eliminated will more or less obtain some blessings.”

Everyone’s eyes flashed, and they fell into deep thought.

“The event has only just begun. From the outside world, it is impossible to see how the assessment is progressing in Cangwu Mountain now. We will only know how many people obtain unprecedented blessings when they pass the five tests and reach the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree.”

Granny Jin He said indifferently, “Everyone, just wait patiently.”

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Chapter 862: Ice Snow Secret Realm

“Roar!”

Just as Lin Xun regained consciousness and before he could get a clear view of his surroundings, a thunder-like roar rang in his ears.

At the same time, a terrible blast of foul wind slapped him in the face and a biting chill ran through him, making his body go stiff.

With a swoosh, he vanished from the spot.

The rocks shattered, ice shards flew everywhere, and a huge pit of several feet wide was left in the ground.

Lin Xun was so shocked that he broke out in a cold sweat. What tremendous destructive power!

It was a giant ice-snow hawk with wings over ten feet long and razor-sharp claws. Its entire body sparkled like glass, and its eyes shot out rays of cold light like they were carved from ice.

Chi!

The ice hawk cut through the sky with its blade-like wings and with a light swipe of its sharp claws, a ray of ice-snow sword light swiftly slashed through the air, releasing gorgeous but terrifying qi.

Lin Xun quickly activated the Hornless Ice Dragon Step and sped away.

The land split with a straight thousand-foot crevasse. The terrifying qi cut through the ground as easily as cutting tofu.

Even Lin Xun was surprised. The giant ice-snow hawk was like a master swordsman. The sword intent it released was condensed, sharp, and fierce. Moreover, it did it with ease and speed.

Moreover, he noticed that the vicious bird did not seem to possess any emotions nor did it have a trace of life force, just like a puppet.

However, it had a terrifying fighting instinct. In just two strikes, it already demonstrated the terrifying combat skills seen only in warriors who had fought hundreds of battles.

Shua! Shua! Shua!

The ice-snow hawk attacked once again. It wildly beat its wings, firing thousand rays of sword intent and hurling them down from the sky.

The blow was so terrifying that it made even Lin Xun feel as though he was facing a half-step king!

Boom!

He mobilized his cultivation base to its peak, and his fists started flying at lightning speed, performing the Nine Heavenshaking Destructions Art. The force of the punches was so powerful that the sky and earth quaked.

The ear-splitting collision tore the ground open, shattered ice shards flew everywhere, and the sky was filled with biting cold qi, sword intent, and fist power.

"This isn't a wild bird, but a top expert who has mastered the art of swords!" Lin Xun's pupils shrank.

He dared not lower his guard for a second. With a long roar, he soared into the air with the Hornless Ice Dragon Step and attacked with full power.

"Die!" Light flared around Lin Xun's fist as he brought it through the air and smashed it into the body of the ice-snow hawk.

Kacha!

Another astonishing scene happened. The ice-snow hawk broke into countless ice shards like a sculpture and scattered across the earth.

"Is it made of ice?" Lin Xun gasped.

Then, he rushed forward and picked up some ice shards to examine closer.

In the end, he concluded that it was just ordinary ice. Yet it was able to evolve into a giant ice-snow hawk and manipulate sword intent!

It was unbelievable!

"Cangwu Mountain is indeed extraordinary. Even a top figure like Sha Lu likely would be no match for that fierce bird..."

A grave look crossed Lin Xun's face.

He surveyed the surroundings and saw that the land within thousands of miles had frozen over. The ground was formed from thick ice, sparkling in the sun like crystal, and there was a chill in the air that cut to the bone.

It was a vast expanse of whiteness between the earth and the sky like an endless world of ice and snow.

Clang!

Lin Xun brought out the Broken Blade, and with a flash, he split open the layer of ice and burrowed into the earth.

Ten feet.

One hundred feet.

One thousand feet.

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There was still a thick layer of ice at a depth of eight thousand feet below the earth, and there was still no sign of him nearing the bottom.

In the end, he had no choice but to give up on the thought to investigate the area.

“The first test of the Dao Lantern Festival is the Reverse Five Elements Secret Realm, which means this place should be a secret world...” Lin Xun stopped and pondered. “I wonder how many participants have been teleported to this secret realm like me.”

Before he arrived, he had already learned from Bai Fengliu that the Dao Lantern Festival consisted of five assessments and each one was unpredictable, grueling and dangerous. The slightest carelessness could lead to an elimination!

According to Bai Fengliu, in the previous Dao Lantern Festival, more than ninety percent of the participants failed to make it through the five tests.

In other words, only a handful of people would reach the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree in the end!

Even if a cultivator was qualified to participate in the Dao Lantern Festival, if they failed the five tests, then they still would not get their hands on the opportunities and blessings from the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree!

Rumble—

The nearby ground of ice and snow suddenly cracked and rattled and then ice and snow went flying.

Fish formed by compacted ice and snow soared into the sky. Unlike those in the outside world, their bodies were at least ten feet long and with a pair of wings for them to maneuver in the air.

It was a miraculous sight.

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. He had released his spirit sense to investigate the area within thousands of feet, but he detected nothing, yet the ground suddenly exploded and a school of snow-winged fish rushed out of it!

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

They patrolled the sky as freely and nimbly as swimming in the sea. As their mouths opened, multiple blinding bolts of white lightning shot out and struck down on Lin Xun from all directions.

Crack!

The snow-white lightning easily ripped apart the void, its power comparable to the full-strength attack of a Cyclic Derivation expert.

The swarm of snow-winged fish hovered and danced in the air as they relentlessly launched snow-white lightning, shaking the world.

This is bad!

Lin Xun's expression changed subtly as he swiftly turned around and bolted in a full-speed dash.

He wasn't afraid of the swarm of strange fish, but he knew it would be too troublesome to deal with them and it would be too much effort to get rid of them all.

He didn't want to waste his energy before he figured out what the Reverse Five Elements Secret Realm was about.

However, just as he escaped from the attacks of the bizarre fish, something else obstructed him from advancing.

In the sky, the wind howled and snow whirled wildly in the air, transforming into several beautiful women dressed all over in snow feather clothes.

They twirled and waved their long, dangling sleeves as they danced to melancholic music, creating a sad and moving atmosphere.

From a distance, the beautiful shadows of ice women dancing between the sky and the earth amid mournful singing sent chills down the back.

It was a group of ice-snow devil women!

Lin Xun gasped in horror. The moment he heard the mournful song, his spirit shuddered like it was being battered by endless sadness and despair. He felt he was being dragged into a pit of desolation.

Undoubtedly, this was an extremely terrifying sound wave attack. If Lin Xun hadn't cultivated the soul of the primordial spirit, then he would have been affected already.

Roar!

As Lin Xun made an obscure dao sound, a Pulao Beast took shape in the air and roared skywards, shaking the nine heavens.

The seemingly tangible sound waves from the roar transformed into waves of golden ripples, engulfing the sky.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Caught off guard, several ice-snow devil women exploded under the force of Pulao Roar.

Lin Xun quickly took the chance to activate the Hornless Ice Dragon Step and vanished in the blink of an eye.

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One hour later.

His expression became more and more serious. Along the way, he encountered giant ice-snow hawks, snow-winged fish, ice-snow women, and ice-snow demon trees...

Every foe was as strong as a top Cyclic Derivation cultivator and had all mastered different great dao inheritance, such as Sword Dao, Lightning Dao, and Sound Dao.

Most importantly, there were far too many of them. As soon as he got rid of one batch, another would appear like it would never end.

"How troublesome..." Lin Xun wrinkled his brows.

According to the rules of the test, anyone would be able to pass successfully as long as they survived for seven days in the Reverse Five Elements Secret Realm.

But Lin Xun had a strong feeling that the first test alone could eliminate many genius talents from the competition!

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Chapter 863: Ice and Fire Integrate

Winds whined and snow whirled, forming a vast world of whiteness and biting cold air.

As Lin Xun pushed forward with the journey, he encountered dangers again and again, but he managed to avoid them all in time and escape.

It felt too dull and lonely. There was no other scenery in the secret realm apart from snow and ice.

Suddenly, a sound pierced through the wind and snow, and a gust of wind caught Lin Xun's hair.

It was a group of young men and women traveling on streams of light. They were particularly eye-catching in the vast world of white snow and ice so Lin Xun couldn't help staring at them in surprise.

After traveling for so long, they were the first group of geniuses he saw.

The young men and women were also surprised to see Lin Xun wandering alone in the snowstorm.

"That guy has guts. He dares to cross this ice-snow wasteland by himself without any disguise or cover. Could he be a peerless figure? But why don't I remember that there is such a person?"

"How would he be a peerless figure? He's just a pitiful guy with no background and no friends. Don't forget that in this Reverse Five Elements Secret Realm, even a peerless person would know to find a companion to travel with and be extra careful. How would they be so reckless like him? He is just looking for death!"

The young men and women discussed with each other.

“There’s no need to speculate. He is definitely a fool with no background and no friends, so he has no choice but to act alone. Also, it’s obvious that he doesn’t know about the dangers of this secret realm. It will be over for him soon.”

“We are approaching the Fire Lotus Ice Mountain soon, and it will be even more dangerous then. We should follow that guy and let him scout out the paths for us first so we can avoid any dangers in advance,” someone suggested.

Lin Xun raised his eyes and furtively glanced at the young men and women. He did not say anything and continued on his way.

He had already activated the Great Formless Art to alter his appearance and aura when he entered the Ice Snow Secret Realm. Even if Yue Jianming was here, he wouldn’t be able to identify him.

He knew very well that someone had been secretly exacerbating the situation by releasing information about him and making him become a target for everyone. He guaranteed that a reckless fellow wouldn’t miss out on the chance to attack him and seize the rumored treasures on him, including a Saint treasure.

He wasn’t afraid, but he wouldn’t be so stupid to not be guarded against attacks.

He changed his appearance to see how many people wanted to target him at the Dao Lantern Festival and who was the culprit for fanning the flames!

Roar!

An ear-piercing roar resounded in the distance, quickly followed by a giant snow-white ape leaping into the air. Its translucent hair glistened as ferocious qi raged around its ten-foot-tall body. It looked savage and violent.

Its body was flexible and nimble, its fangs were knife-sharp and its eyes were scarlet-red like fresh blood, shooting out beams of blood-red light.

Undeniably, it was a fierce beast much stronger than the ice monster beasts that Lin Xun had encountered along the way.

Lin Xun slightly narrowed his eyes, realizing that the real dangers were gradually emerging now.

Shua!

With a flash, he avoided the terrifying beast, moving around it from the other side.

“Hey, the fool is quite sharp. He knows how to avoid dangers.”

“That’s normal. People like him are most afraid of death. After all, it’s not easy for him to be qualified enough to take part in the Dao Lantern Festival.”

The young men and women sneered mockingly as they followed Lin Xun.

Huh?

After dozens of miles, a hint of surprise crossed Lin Xun's face. Within the biting cold wind, he smelled the cloying scent of blood.

Then, he noticed clouds of smoke and dust above the icy ground in the distance. He squinted his eyes and could roughly make out feathers, broken bones, and scales scattered all over the ground as well as puddles of bloodstains.

Not long ago, there had to have been a fierce and intense battle there!

Lin Xun was chilled to the bone.

At the same time, through his spirit sense, he discovered an unusual scene.

A lava lake seemed to be floating on the snow-white layer of ice, glowing a bright-red hue. It was at least ten feet wide with billowing white mist rising from the surface and filled with the pungent scent of sulfur.

It was unbelievable to find a lake of lava in the middle of a world of snow and ice. Moreover, not an inch of the surrounding ice had melted. Instead, it looked like the ice and fire had integrated.

"The Reverse Five Elements Secret Realm...Reverse...Could the scene in front of me be a so-called reversal?" Lin Xun contemplated.

He didn't recklessly draw closer to investigate because he sensed danger given that a bloody battle had broken out near the lava lake not too long ago.

"Hey, you, go check out that lake!" The group of young men and women following Lin Xun urged him to take the risk.

Lin Xun frowned, swept a glance over them, and snorted, "You can go yourself if you want to know so much. Stop shouting here."

He was analyzing the bizarre environment, suspecting that there was some great mystery to the so-called Reverse Five Elements Secret Realm, where ice, snow, and lava strangely coexisted without conflict.

As they say, it is impossible to mix fire with water and that is a law between heaven and earth.

However, here, they achieved a miraculous balance that allows them to coexist. Perhaps, once a certain limit is reached, a reversal is inevitable. This might be where the name came about.

As he was fathoming the mystery, he ignored the yelling of the young men and women.

"Do you hear us?"

The faces of the men and women darkened. In their view, Lin Xun was alone, weak, and a nobody, unlike any of the other peerless figures who participated in the Dao Lantern Festival.

Therefore, they had no reason to be polite and respectful to Lin Xun. They only regarded him as someone easy to bully.

"If this secret world is a rune array, then the so-called Reverse Five Elements might just be a formation of the reversal of the five elements..." Lin Xun pondered.

"Do you want to die?!"

Lin Xun's apathetic attitude angered a young man and made him raise his hand and launch a palm strike. "It's no use pretending to be deaf, even if you don't want to go, you have to go!"

Boom!

A dazzling palm of wind took shape, tearing apart the void as it roared toward Lin Xun like a dragon charging out of an abyss. He wanted to threaten and force Lin Xun to investigate the area ahead.

"Die!"

A cold light flashed in Lin Xun's dark eyes, and the young men and women shuddered inwardly.

Bang!

Then, Lin Xun turned around and with a light forward step, a snow-white Hornless Ice Dragon soared into the sky and instantly crushed the palm of wind.

The Hornless Ice Dragon didn't stop after that, but instead flung its tail across the air and brought out a gush of terrifying cold light to engulf the young men and women.

The youngsters had to be extremely strong and extraordinary since they were qualified to participate in the Dao Lantern Festival, but unfortunately for them, they ran into Lin Xun.

Even Sha Liuchan, Qing Lian'er, and other peerless figures lost to Lin Xun after teaming up. How would it be different with them?

"You...are..."

"Demon God Lin?"

They were struck by a flash of realization, and their eyeballs almost rolled out of their sockets.

Once Lin Xun made a move, they immediately recognized that he was the invincible Demon God Lin who suppressed everyone in the Four Seasons Pavilion with his mighty power a few days ago!

However, it was too late. The snow-white Hornless Ice Dragon once again swung its tail with full force. Its power and might were incomparable. In the blink of an eye, they were all screaming and wailing on the ground.

"Demon...No...Young Master Lin, we didn't know it was you. We were too ignorant. Please calm down and forgive us all."

The young men and women trembled, and their teeth chattered like crazy as various rumors about Lin Xun crossed their minds. Their arrogance and disdain had completely faded, replaced by fear and shock.

He was an unrivaled fierce person!

The young people might come from outstanding backgrounds and be regarded as influential figures of the younger generation, but they were considered nothing when compared to someone like Demon God Lin!

“You guys have insulted and offended me several times in a row. Do you think I can forgive you just because you admitted you have been too ignorant?”

Lin Xun wore the coldest expression.

He wasn't a ruthless person, but he also wasn't someone who would let other people bully him. He previously couldn't be bothered to pay any attention to those fly-like guys, but that only made them more and more disrespectful to him, so he had no choice but to take action now.

He couldn't tolerate them anymore!

Bang!

With a kick, he sent a young man screaming across the air.

However, just as he was about to strike again, the space rippled and the young man vanished out of thin air!

Lin Xun raised his eyebrows. As he expected, during the five assessments of Cangwu Mountain, once someone's life was threatened, they would be teleported away. Their worst outcome was just elimination and failure to obtain any blessings, but they would never lose their lives.

Lin Xun had already understood this before. He also knew that after he passed the five tests and arrived in front of the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree, he would lose this special protection.

In other words, at that time, deaths could happen during the fight for great blessings!

“No! I beg you! Please don't!”

The young men and women panicked, their expressions changing dramatically. They didn't want to be eliminated like that. They had just started the test so how would they be willing to leave so soon?

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Lin Xun's expression remained unchanged as he kicked them into the air one by one and eliminated them from the world of snow and ice.

Very quickly, only a black-robed young man remained.

The young man was the guy who attacked Lin Xun first.

Lin Xun stared at him. “Were you not very curious about what is hidden in the lava lake? I will fulfill your wish now and let you go and see for yourself.”

“No—!” The black-robed young man was so frightened that his soul almost left his body.

However, while he was begging for mercy, Lin Xun lashed out with a swift kick and sent him into the lava lake.

Rumble!

But before the black-robed young man landed, a rumble in the lake set off monstrous waves of blinding-red lava and incinerated the dome of the sky.

Shua!

At the same time, a long snake flashed in the air like fire-colored lightning and violently rushed toward the black-robed young man.

Lin Xun gasped in the distance. With one glance, he recognized that the monster was a rare beast from the ancient era—Fire Serpent Dragon!

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Chapter 864: Divinity Crystal

The Fire Serpent Dragon resembled a snake in some parts and a dragon in others. It was a beast born from the spirit fire of heaven and earth.

Its body was only as wide as the mouth of a bowl and around ten feet long. Its scales had a dazzling sheen and its strength was known to be terrifying. In ancient times, it had the title of a great evil!

Boom!

The Fire Serpent Dragon flashed across the air, its slender body swift, graceful, and nimble like it was dancing in the air. Its every movement was lightning-fast and produced dazzling flames.

They were like wisps of flames, but they were as sharp as a sword.

Before the black-robed young man could dodge, multiple thumb-sized holes were left in his body. All he could do was scream tragically.

He was a genius talent, but he couldn't fend off a single attack of the Fire Serpent Dragon!

Lin Xun's expression changed. Then, without any wavering, he stepped forward and threw his palm forward.

Boom!

A bright azure palm of qi burst forth like a blast of powerful wind, dispelling the shower of flames, and at the same time, rescuing the black-robed young man by tossing him into the distance.

Lin Xun saved him because he had something to ask him. Otherwise, he would not have bothered.

Chi!

Irritated by the disturbance, the Fire Serpent Dragon swayed, and its blood-colored diamond-like eyes flashed a ruthless light. It violently charged at Lin Xun.

Its speed was so fast that it resembled fiery lightning dancing wildly in the sky, leaving a trail of dazzling flames.

The flames tore the void apart and left chilling, black scorch marks in space.

The Dance of Flames!

That was the innate Dao art of the Fire Serpent Dragon. The divine flames dancing wildly across the nine heavens could incinerate the sky, melt the earth, and turn everything into ashes.

Rumor had it that in ancient times a Fire Serpent Dragon emerged and brought great calamity to the world. It activated its divine art and set thousands of miles of mountains and rivers aflame, burning countless lives to death and turning the world into a place of devastation and despair.

Now, such an unrivaled secret art appeared in the world once again!

Lin Xun dared not lower his guard and drew upon all his strength to fight off the beast.

He didn't intend to flee this time because both the lava lake and the Fire Serpent Dragon appeared in the world of snow and ice despite their fire attributes. There had to be a meaning to this mystery, and it could be connected to the 'reverse' name of the secret realm.

Boom!

Lin Xun swiftly moved through the air, surrounded by a Hornless Ice Dragon. He gathered dazzling and powerful qi to his fist and charged up to meet the Fire Serpent Dragon head-on.

In the blink of an eye, the heaven and earth were roaring like thunder, the void was in utter chaos, and waves of fist qi and showers of flame were raging in all directions.

The black-robed young man trembled all over, teeth chattering. Only then did he fully realize that he was too weak compared to Demon God Lin.

The Fire Serpent Dragon was comparable to peerless geniuses in terms of strength and possibly even stronger than great Cyclic Derivation experts.

But Demon God Lin was able to hold his ground against it. That was too abnormal!

Shua!

A moment later, a white blade flickered in the air, and the Fire Serpent Dragon was severed into two with a bang.

It was the power of the Broken Blade, which could be considered as one of Lin Xun's strongest powers. He brought it out because he didn't want the battle with the Fire Serpent Dragon to drag on.

"It's that move!"

The black-robed young man's heart pounded wildly in his chest. He remembered that a few days ago, Qing Lian'er, the saintess of the Blue Luan Clan, was severely wounded and almost killed by that move!

The Fire Serpent Dragon failed to evade or block the attack.

Bang!

As Lin Xun put away the Broken Blade, he came to find that the Fire Serpent Dragon's body was still burning fiercely after it was severed.

As it was being burned to ashes, a fire-colored crystal around the size of a fingernail landed on the snowy ground. It emitted a wondrous fiery-red light like a red diamond.

With a sweep of his sleeve, Lin Xun lifted it into the palm of his hand.

The gemstone was very small, but it was dazzlingly bright, almost translucent, and exuded wisps of dreamy divinity light.

The black-robed young man suddenly said aloud, "That's a divinity crystal. It contains abundant great dao origin power, which can greatly improve one's cultivation base without affecting the stability of the foundation. It is a rare item that only existed in ancient times."

Lin Xun nodded. He could tell that the young man was only being this cooperative because he didn't want him to kill him and knew that he had something to ask him.

The young man took a deep breath before he promised, "Lin Xun, I can tell all the secrets that I know if you don't eliminate me."

He knew very well that Lin Xun had limited knowledge about the Dao Lantern Festival given that he came from the lower domain and was traveling by himself.

This was because only the successors of ancient sects would grasp such secrets!

"Speak."

Lin Xun indeed wanted to know more about this unusual place, so he was very happy to see the black-robed young man obediently cooperate with him.

Very quickly, Lin Xun learned about other information.

Each of the five tests of the Dao Lantern Festival held great mysteries as well as treasures that were incredibly rare in the outside world.

For example, the first level, the Reverse Five Elements Secret Realm, contained divinity crystals and divinity herbs!

Divinity crystals boosted a cultivator's cultivation base.

On the other hand, divinity herbs were like an inheritance, giving birth to true dao arts!

What were dao arts?

Dao represented the power of the dao.

Art represented combat arts!

They were more terrifying than secret arts, and only Cyclic Derivation Stage experts who had mastered Dao Meaning power were able to comprehend and grasp such combat arts.

Such arts contained the wonderful truth of the great dao and infinite powers!

In the outside world, only ancient sects would hold such precious and rare manuals. The majority of cultivation arts circulating in the world were only secret arts, which were far different from dao arts.

Therefore, Lin Xun was taken aback by what he heard. He thought that blessings and treasures could only be obtained from the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree.

He never expected there to be so many opportunities in the five tests.

This demonstrated that Lin Xun's background was inferior to that of successors from ancient sects.

The ancient sect successors could receive guidance from elders and masters of their sect and could refer to the manuals of their sect, so it was understandable that they had an advantage over ordinary people.

On the other hand, Lin Xun was alone. He had to investigate and explore everything by himself. Inevitably, he was in an unfavorable situation compared to the ancient sect's successors.

Soon, Lin Xun learned that the majority of Dao Lantern Festival participants didn't hope to reach the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree.

Their greatest goal was to seize the opportunity and treasures hidden in the five tests!

For example, the divinity crystals and divinity herbs would make the heart of even peerless geniuses flutter.

"What an amazing place. Here, you can compete with your peers, pass tests, temper yourself, improve your cultivation, and also obtain treasures that are only found here. It's a treasured place for cultivation." Lin Xun fell into deep thought.

He was only at the initial Cyclic Derivation Stage, so at a normal cultivation rate, it should take him at least three to five months to break through to the next stage.

This was already considered very fast. If he encountered a setback, then he might not be able to make a breakthrough in three to five years.

But if he could seize this opportunity, then his cultivation might improve by leaps and bounds!

The mysterious woman hiding in the Omega Secret Realm had mentioned that the real great age would come within three years.

This meant that if he failed to set foot onto the perfect Cyclic Derivation Stage within three years, then when the great age came, he would be at a disadvantage against others and might not be able to compete for the opportunity to become an absolute apex king!

In the competition for the great dao, one wrong step could be disastrous!

That was the fundamental reason why all the geniuses would resort to all means to improve themselves before the great age came.

"Are there any other secrets?" Lin Xun asked. His understanding had been deepened massively.

After some wavering, the black-robed young man said aloud, "There is another rumor. It is said that in this Dao Lantern Festival, there will be an unprecedented unique great blessing. And it is very likely to be an egofied saint treasure!"

Lin Xun's heart fluttered.

An egofied saint treasure!

He knew well how remarkable such treasures were.

The No-Nonsense Bow that he held was a damaged egofied saint treasure. Even if it was broken, it still possessed unimaginable and heaven-defying powers.

“Many peerless figures must have participated this time for that, including Ji Xingyao from the Unsolved Mystery Sword Alms and Yu Lingkong from the Longevity Land. It is a great opportunity that even old monsters covet.”

The black-robed young man was indeed very cooperative. He told Lin Xun everything without waiting for further questioning.

“Turns out that there are so many unknown secrets to the Dao Lantern Festival...” Lin Xun’s gaze drifted off as he fell into deep thought, but his heart blazed with determination.

I chose the right time to come to the Dao Lantern Festival. Otherwise, I would have missed out on so many precious and rare opportunities and treasures.

“You can go.”

Lin Xun planned to continue onward. He was very interested or perhaps determined in collecting divinity crystals and divinity herbs.

The black-robed young man hurriedly asked, “Lin Xun, can you...take me too?”

Lin Xun turned his head around to look at him and smiled slightly. “I’ve already decided to let you go. Do you still want to stick to me?”

The black-robed young man reddened in embarrassment when a thought struck him. “I know of a place where there is a lot of good stuff. If you let me travel with you, then I can guide you there!”

“What place?”

“Fire Lotus Ice Mountain!”

“In previous Dao Lantern Festivals, many people obtained rare treasures on that mountain, but only very few people know about the mountain’s location because it is concealed in a mysterious ‘reverse’ land...”

“That’s a good enough reason. Lead the way,” Lin Xun interrupted before he finished.

The black-robed young man’s spirits were immediately lifted.

Although he had been suppressed by Lin Xun earlier, he didn’t mind at all. On the contrary, he thought that being able to act together with Lin Xun would not only be safer, but he might even obtain some opportunities that he missed out on before!

After all, he was the infamous Demon God Lin, a fierce man recognized by the world.

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Chapter 865: Divine Battle Seal

Along the way, Lin Xun refined a divinity crystal.

It might only be the size of a fingernail, but it contained abundant divinity aura as well as strange power which drastically improved Lin Xun's cultivation in an instant.

The miraculous effect surprised even Lin Xun. It was better than consuming a rare medicinal herb, and it did not impact his own dao foundation.

A thought struck Lin Xun.

It can be called a divine item of blessing! It has tremendous beneficial effects on one's cultivation. If I can get my hands on more then I might be able to break through to the next cultivation level within a short time.

But his journey hadn't been all peaceful. Instead, there had been dangers everywhere. From time to time, all kinds of fierce birds, savage beasts, and demon spirits would emerge from the vast world of snow and ice, but they were all formed from condensed ice and snow and were not real living creatures.

Even so, they possessed extremely terrifying strength and grasped powerful dao arts and combat skills. If Lin Xun's spirit sense wasn't strong enough, then he wouldn't have been able to avoid those dangers in advance and be caught in many fierce battles along the way.

Still, the black-robed young man was left pale with fright. He felt that he would have been eliminated long ago if he hadn't followed Lin Xun!

"Fellow Cultivator Nie, what's so special about the Fire Lotus Ice Mountain?" Lin Xun asked suddenly.

"It is a reverse origin land of the Ice Snow Secret Realm. Every time that the Dao Lantern Festival starts, fire lotus flowers bloom on the ice mountain. They are as beautiful and magnificent as flames."

The black-robed man then continued, "They are not ordinary fire lotus flowers, but are instead divinity herbs imbued with the profound meaning of dao. If you can get your hands on one, it is no different from obtaining a dao art inheritance!"

The black-robed young was called Nie Yian and was a successor from the ancient sect Blue Dipper Sect in the West Infinity World.

"Divinity Herb?" Lin Xun's interest was piqued.

"However, that place is very dangerous, and it isn't that easy to obtain a fire lotus flower. According to the elders of my Blue Dipper Sect, the Fire Lotus Ice Mountain has a remarkable origin..." Nie Yian told Lin Xun everything he knew.

.....

Two hours later.

Boom!

From the endless snowstorm, a gush of terrifying and fierce battle spirit rushed out, spreading across and pervading the nine heavens. The ancient and grand power sent a shudder through the universe.

Lin Xun's pupils shrank and his body tensed up. What strong battle spirit!

"That's the aura of the Divine Battle Seal! We are close to our destination!" Nie Yian exclaimed with delight.

Although he knew many secrets, it was his first time participating in the Dao Lantern Festival.

Only then did it dawn on Lin Xun that Nie Yian had previously mentioned a rumor about a battle seal on the Fire Lotus Ice Mountain that was left by an almighty saint in the ancient era. It had withstood endless years of erosion without disappearing!

At first, Lin Xun thought it was just a rumor, but he was shaken when he sensed the intense battle spirit within the snowstorm.

A battle seal that had survived thousands of years had to be too terrifying!

It was hard to imagine what sort of terrifying cultivation one needed to achieve that.

As they continued onwards, the sky full of battle spirit grew stronger and stronger. It was so intense that it hit their faces like an ancient and powerful blade flitting across the long river of time without eroding one bit!

At the same time, it was a great hindrance to their operation and brought them more and more pressure.

Fortunately, it didn't take long for them to see a snow-white ice mountain looming in the vast world.

It was extremely majestic. Its tremendous body shone brightly like it was constructed from translucent white jade stones, exuding a biting cold air from the thick blanket of snow and ice that covered it.

The ancient and terrifying battle spirit was precisely spreading outwards from the mountain peak.

To Lin Xun's surprise, after arriving, the battle spirit grew fainter and fainter, and the oppressive power seemed to have subsided like the tide.

As a result, they smoothly arrived at the foot of the mountain.

It was the Fire Lotus Ice Mountain!

Lin Xun raised his head and studied the mountain. The snow and ice surface resembled white jade, and the mountain cliffs and rocks were jagged. The majestic mountain towered steeply into the sky like a pillar.

"Huh? More people came."

Near the foot of the mountain, many of the genius talents had already arrived, dispersed across different areas. When they saw Lin Xun and Nie Yian appear, they all raised their vigilance.

"The fire lotus flowers appear very irregularly, and there are only very few of them. The more people there are, the greater the competition," someone whispered.

"It's a pity that the aura of the Divine Battle Seal has completely shrouded this ice mountain. The higher you go, the stronger the oppressive force. I don't know if we can scale it so easily," someone sighed.

Lin Xun noticed that many figures were standing all over the mountain, seemingly waiting for something.

However, there were more cultivators at the foot of the mountain, and the number of people decreased the higher it was.

“Fellow Cultivator Lin, this mountain is shrouded in the aura of the Divine Battle Seal. The higher you go, the stronger the pressure will be. However, correspondingly, the grade of the fire lotus flower will also be better the higher you go.”

Nie Yan then continued, “For example, at the bottom of this ice mountain, you can only find two-petal fire lotus flowers, while further up, you can obtain three-petal, four-petal, five-petal and even six-petal fire lotus flowers.”

Nie Yan explained, “The higher the grade, the stronger the dao art inside the fire lotus flower.”

Lin Xun nodded.

He surveyed the surroundings and found that the peak of the ice mountain was bare without a single fire lotus flower. He couldn't help finding it a little strange.

Nie Yan explained, “We need to wait. Fire lotus flowers appear randomly. One may appear on the top of the mountain and turn into a nine-petal fire lotus flower, or one may appear at the foot of the mountain and turn into an ordinary two-petal fire lotus flower.”

Understanding dawned on Lin Xun.

“However, the probability of fire lotus flowers appearing at the foot of the mountain is much higher, but then again, most of them are ordinary. The probability of a fire lotus flower appearing at the top of the mountain is small, but if one does appear, it would be at least a six-petal fire lotus flower.”

Lin Xun commented, “But it seems that the competition here is quite fierce.”

Nie Yan said with a wry smile, “Fortune is obtained from taking risks. Furthermore, a place of such an opportunity naturally attracts competition.”

Boom!

While they were speaking, a battle broke out halfway up the mountain. It turned out that a group of genius talents was fighting for a fire lotus flower that just appeared!

The battle was fierce, with swords and blades constantly flitting across the sky and divine lights beaming in all directions. Even the sky started to change.

Lin Xun noticed that it was a five-petal fire lotus flower that was around the size of a bowl. The stem was as green as jade, and the flower was as gorgeous as the glow of fire.

In the end, the fire lotus flower was captured by a man in a golden robe. But when the battle came to an end, three geniuses were directly teleported away and eliminated!

“The competition is indeed intense...” Lin Xun narrowed his dark eyes. “Are you going up there?”

Lin Xun was eager to act.

“Forget it, I’ll just stay near the bottom.” After some wavering, Nie Yian sighed softly.

He had self-awareness. He had already sustained injuries during the duel with the Fire Serpent Dragon so he didn’t dare to climb the ice mountain and compete for treasures with the others.

Lin Xun nodded and made his way up the mountain alone.

“Oh right, the Divine Battle Seal that envelops the ice mountain has an unimaginable effect on honing cultivation arts,” Nie Yian’s voice sounded from behind.

In truth, he didn’t need to remind Lin Xun at all. When Lin Xun started to ascend the mountain, he already felt ancient battle spirit bearing down on him.

The battle spirit was boundless, powerful, and majestic like the sea.

The higher the altitude, the greater the oppressive force and the stronger the restriction of movement. He felt as if he was climbing with a mountain on his back, and his body and spirit felt crushed.

He had no choice but to mobilize his cultivation base and circulate the qi within his body to fend off the oppressive power. Only then did the pressure on him lessen.

But as long as he continued forward, the oppressive power would multiply, so he would soon have to activate his real powers.

During this process, he truly felt the terror of the Divine Battle Seal. It was unbelievable that the battle spirit left from ancient times could be so terrifying.

However, as Nie Yian said, the oppression of this battle spirit was beneficial in honing cultivation arts.

The battle spirit was pure, ancient, and incomparably majestic. One would find many profound secrets about it if one studied it closer.

“Huh? Who is that guy? He has already reached halfway up the mountain. Only top geniuses can reach that far.”

Some cultivators were surprised to see Lin Xun.

However, Lin Xun looked very unfamiliar so they couldn’t identify him from his appearance.

“There’s another strong competitor.”

Some of the genius talents halfway up the mountain raised their guard like he was a formidable enemy. They knew that no ordinary person could reach that area.

“Kid, you have come late so you better know your place. It will be your turn when we each capture a fire lotus flower. If you dare to act recklessly, then I believe everyone here won’t allow it,” a young man threatened.

Everyone else nodded, their eyes growing stern and ice-cold, reflecting a threat.

A bunch of idiots. At the foot of the mountain, Nie Yian chuckled to himself. How dare you threaten the great Demon God Lin? Are you not afraid of angering him and forcing him to tear you to pieces?

Lin Xun was also slightly taken aback. He ran his eyes over them and said indifferently, "Don't worry, I won't compete with you guys."

They relaxed their bodies and looked at Lin Xun with disdain. They thought that Lin Xun had given up.

The next second, they stood stunned.

Lin Xun was continuing up the mountain!

Their eyes went wide with surprise.

Along the way, Lin Xun had his hands behind his back while his moon-white robe fluttered with the wind. His pace was not particularly fast, but very steady, like he was taking a stroll around a garden.

The geniuses halfway up the mountain all looked dumbfounded before their faces became overcast. As they thought back to their threats and warnings to Lin Xun just now, it felt like a direct slap to their face. They felt their faces burn with embarrassment.

At the same time, they trembled with fear, knowing that if they had provoked Lin Xun, then the consequences could have been disastrous!

After all, a guy who could ascend to the top of the mountain so easily was not someone they should provoke!

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Chapter 866: Competition for Fire Lotus Flower

Soon, under the astonished gazes of everyone, Lin Xun moved further and further away, gradually nearing the peak of the ice mountain.

Many cultivators inhaled sharply. Who is that guy? Why haven't I heard of such a remarkable person taking part in the Dao Lantern Festival?

After the initial astonishment, gloating expressions came to their faces.

"Hey, there's going to be an exciting show. The area around the mountain peak has already been occupied by dozens of tyrannical and strong figures. I can't believe that guy is recklessly approaching that area. Let's see whether he has the ability to remain."

"Wu Duanya, the successor of the Dark Sun Sect, Li Qinghuan from the Cangming Sect, and other well-known geniuses in the West Infinity World have all gathered there!"

"Sha Liuchan, the current saint of the Ocean Shark Clan, who is known as one of the ten great geniuses of the Fiend Devil Sea, has occupied the best position on the mountain this entire time!"

Due to no fire lotus flower appearing, many cultivators shifted their gaze over to Lin Xun and exchanged discussions. Some were surprised, some were shocked, and some wore gloating smiles with the attitude of watching a good show.

At the foot of the mountain, Nie Yian's expression changed, replaced by a hint of pity. "Sha Liuchan is also there..."

He felt that Sha Liuchan was very unlucky...

Huh?

Meanwhile, Lin Xun, who just reached the mountain peak area, noticed Sha Liuchan right away.

He was dressed in a black robe, sitting cross-legged on an icy rock. His long blue hair framed his tall and built body, and his cold face wore a unique look of contempt. He looked intimidating even from afar.

While he was meditating, his closed eyes suddenly sprang open as Lin Xun neared and shot out a pair of dazzling blood-red light beams.

"Ah, another person has come to die!" Sha Liuchan was taken aback before he snorted coldly, "Guys, who is going to take action first to see if this guy is qualified to stay here?"

He didn't recognize Lin Xun.

It made Lin Xun feel a little strange. This guy's memory is so bad, and he is as arrogant as before.

"Allow me." A handsome young man in flowy white clothes stepped forward. With a jade fan in his hand and a feather crown on his head, he looked particularly elegant and handsome and stood out from the rest of the others.

"Wu Duanya from the Dark Sun Sect!"

Exclamations arose from the distance. No one expected such a peerless figure would be the first to volunteer to stop Lin Xun.

"That kid is in trouble." Pitying looks crossed some people's faces.

They all come from ancient sects so they all knew how powerful Wu Duanya was. Despite his handsome and elegant appearance, he was incredibly fierce and ruthless in battle.

Within the Dark Sun Sect, he had the title of Mad Demon Blade Lord.

It was said that he once ventured into the famous Nest of Five Poisons in the West Infinity World by himself and slaughtered a pack of ferocious monster-beast cultivators and caused carnage!

"Friend, you look very unfamiliar. Are you from one of the sects in the West Infinity World?" Wu Duanya smiled at Lin Xun, but his eyes were cold and frightening, penetrating the soul like the sharpest blade.

"I suggest you retreat." Lin Xun cast a sidelong glance at him and quickly retracted his gaze.

When he was in Star Cliff City, Bai Fengliu helped him collect a lot of information, including about Wu Duanya.

Bai Fengliu told him that although Wu Duanya was strong, he was inferior to Sha Liuchan and Qing Lian'er in terms of strength.

So, Lin Xun felt he wasn't worth his time.

Lin Xun's impoliteness took the others aback for a moment before they all burst into laughter.

"Brother Wu, it seems like this friend looks down on you."

"Haha, interesting. A guy whom I have never heard of dared to behave so fearlessly and ignored Brother Wu's question. It's rare to see someone with such courage."

The geniuses in other areas were also amused to see a mediocre-looking guy speak and act so tough!

"Friend, what if I don't retreat?" Wu Duanya was still smiling, but the cold light flashed more intensely in his eyes.

As he was speaking, he strode towards Lin Xun.

"It's fine if you won't retreat. You will just be eliminated. I feel bad for your Dark Sun Sect. This is only the first test, but their disciple will already be eliminated here. The elders of your sect are going to lose face," Lin Xun uttered indifferently.

"It seems like you want to do it the hard way!" Wu Duanya's face darkened, and his eyes flashed a chilling light. His white robe rattled around his body, and terrifying power rioted around him.

Woah!

But before he could make a move, a dazzling spark of light suddenly took shape in the nearby void followed by a mysterious fire lotus flower floating across the air.

The petals cast out million wisps of gorgeous light. It was a magnificent spectacle. There were as many as seven petals!

Everyone's pupils shrank and they all launched into action.

"Wind Demon Hand!"

"Chasing Soul Thunder Art!"

"Great Void Stamp!"

Terrifying divine brilliance, dao light, and the glow of treasures flooded the sky.

"Let's see who dares to fight with me!"

Sha Liuchan appeared to be the strongest. As he soared into the sky, his body was covered in raging blood-colored qi, and with a stretch of his hand, terrifying beams of dao light transformed into a cage wrapped in powerful lightning and sped towards the seven-petal fire lotus flower.

Even Wu Duanya, who planned to deal with Lin Xun, changed the target and competed for the fire lotus flower.

Rumble!

Deafening sounds constantly rang out like volcanoes colliding.

Although the fire lotus flower appeared without notice, everyone reacted with incredible speed. Or perhaps, they had been preparing for its appearance from the very beginning.

Shua!

However, Lin Xun was the first to act. This wasn't because he had the fastest reaction but because he was the closest to the fire lotus flower that just appeared.

He activated the Hornless Ice Dragon Step and darted toward it in an instant.

But he stopped halfway. With a flash, he retreated to the other side.

"Hmph! Glad you know your place!" Sha Liuchan snorted, ignored Lin Xun, and fought fiercely with the others for the fire lotus flower.

Know my place?

A smirk curved Lin Xun's lips. He didn't intend to give in, but he knew that the moment he captured the fire lotus, he would inevitably face a barrage of attacks from the dozen genius talents.

Of course, if he fought with his all, he had a way to avert the crisis, but he had another idea and didn't do so.

Shua!

After he backed away, he didn't watch from the side. Instead, with a flash, he appeared in front of a steep cliff that was farther away from the top of the mountain. Then, he lightly waved his hand in the air.

An astonishing scene happened. A fire lotus flower miraculously emerged where his hand was!

The lotus flower had eight petals and spewed out a shower of thousand wisps of flames like a fire cloud was burning.

"What!? There's another fire lotus flower?"

"It's an eight-petal fire lotus flower, which is equivalent to a top dao art inheritance!"

In other areas of the ice mountain, the spectating cultivators couldn't believe their eyes.

"Argh!"

Sha Liuchan, Wu Duanya, and other peerless figures in a fierce battle couldn't stop their faces from darkening.

Lin Xun put away the fire lotus flower with a smile on his face and stood aside, watching the others leisurely.

He effortlessly captured an eight-petal lotus flower while the others were fighting to the death for a seven-petal lotus flower. How would the others not be irritated?

Most importantly, he had only just arrived at the mountain peak area while everyone had been waiting for a long time!

"This is luck. You can't see it, you can't touch it, but it's omnipotent. Demon God Lin is indeed a legendary genius blessed by the heavens," Nie Yian exclaimed enviously.

In the end, the seven-petal fire lotus flower landed in the hands of Li Qinghuan, a successor from the Cangming Sect.

The result surprised Lin Xun a little.

Li Qinghuan was a handsome and gentle-looking young man. He was extremely low-profile and had no tendency to show off anything, but during the intense competition, Lin Xun noticed that his strength was remarkable and the timing of his attacks was perfect.

"That guy isn't inferior to Sha Liuchan, and may even be stronger..." Lin Xun speculated.

"Everyone, thank you." Li Qinghuan put away the fire lotus flower and saluted everyone. Then, with a modest smile, he humbly retreated to his previous position.

Although the others were bitter, there was nothing that they could do so their faces were a little cloudy.

"Kid, you have just arrived in this area. You don't deserve the fire lotus flower. Quickly bring it out!"

As though he had nowhere to vent, Sha Liuchan glanced around and locked his eyes on Lin Xun with a ruthless and serious expression.

Immediately, the others stared at Lin Xun with hostile gazes.

They also found it very unfair. After waiting for so long, they not only failed to obtain a fire lotus flower, but they let a guy who just came to take it. How could they not be bitter?

Moreover, they thought that Lin Xun was an easy target to bully since he was a nobody and he was traveling alone.

"Friend, if you know what's good for you then hand it over. Otherwise, you won't only lose your treasure, but will also be eliminated today!" Wu Duanya threatened, his eyes glowing a menacing light.

The others all locked their qi onto Lin Xun from different places as if they wanted to force him to surrender.

"That guy is in trouble!" The genius talents in other areas sensed that Lin Xun's situation was not good.

"Blessings are decided by the heavens. You guys can't get it yourself, so you want to snatch it from me. This is a bit too much." Lin Xun curled a corner of his lips in a sneer.

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Chapter 867: Tyrannical as a Demon God

"Too much? Hehe, blessings originally have no owners, do you think it's yours because you managed to seize it first?" Wu Duanya snickered.

"What do you want then?" Lin Xun raised an eyebrow.

"To test if you have the ability to keep it!"

Wu Duanya moved as he spoke. His white clothes fluttered as he drew his battle blade with a shing and slashed downwards at Lin Xun, drawing an arc of snow-white brilliance in the air.

Swish!

Space was ripped apart like cloth. The blade's edge was simply too fierce and domineering as it flashed like lightning, inducing endless terror.

Boom!

Meanwhile, Lin Xun also made his move. He attacked with his true power, throwing a fist containing the combined essence of the entire Nine Heavenshaking Destructions Art.

It felt as if a mighty sun had emerged, causing the surroundings to change color due to its glorious brilliance as it blazed with power that sought to pulverize everything to dust.

Sha Liuchan was also about to move, but suddenly realized something that caused his expression to abruptly change as he cried out, "You're..."

The hearts of the other nearby supreme heaven prides shuddered at the domineering and terrifying power of the punch.

Bang!

Fist-force and blade slammed into each other like colliding meteorites, resulting in an eruption of blinding radiance. A horrifying qi wave also unfurled, shaking the entire ice mountain.

The pupils of the heaven prides from the foot of the mountain to those scattered across the other districts could not help but contract at this moment.

To their horror, Wu Duanya staggered backward after the clash with a trembling body. The blade in his hand wailed piercingly as it nearly flew out of his grip.

Wu Duanya's blood churned wildly within him, making him so uncomfortable he almost coughed up blood.

His expression drastically changed, realizing that things weren't going well. Just as he was about to counterattack with all his might, Lin Xun, who had already taken the initiative, had already used the opening to charge forward and punch again.

Boom!

Dreadful first-force burst forth with such blinding radiance that Wu Duanya could barely keep his eyes open. It was already too late for him to change his move, leaving him no choice but to meet the attack head-on again.

With a loud thud, Wu Duanya was forced back again. He staggered backward as all the bones in his body creaked as if trying to resist a tremendous force. His face paled as blood spilled out from the corner of his lips.

He was overwhelmed by shock and horror. Who is this guy? Why is he so strong and scary?

Boom!

However, without waiting for him to recover, Lin Xun's third punch was thrown. It resembled an enraged punch from an ancient demon god that shone brilliantly like the sun as it descended with almighty power.

Wu Duanya's scalp turned numb as his hair stood on end. With a scream of alarm, he abruptly twisted his body in an attempt to avoid the attack.

However, the punch was retracted by Lin Xun halfway. The ease with which he did it perfectly displayed his astonishing mastery of the martial dao.

The heaven prides in the other districts were in a daze due to shock.

How could they have imagined that Wu Duanya, who was a famous figure in the West Infinity World with the title of Mad Demon Blade Lord, would be so effortlessly suppressed?

Immediately after the battle began, he was overwhelmed by his opponent's fists and repeatedly forced back. It was simply incredulous.

Sha Liuchan's expression turned grave as his eyes flickered in thought. His gaze was brimming with hatred and a tinge of almost imperceptible fear as he glared at Lin Xun.

The other heaven prides felt as if they had been caught off guard. Although the battle had been extremely short, it was also crazily intense and earth-shaking.

The power displayed by Lin Xun was so domineering that it left them feeling fearful and stifled.

"Didn't you want to test me? Why are you running instead?" Lin Xun displayed a bright smile.

In the distance, Wu Duanya's cheeks burned as shame and anger flooded his heart. The earlier series of events had felt like a dream and caught him unprepared.

If he had known this would happen, he would have gone all out from the start!

However, his first mistake only led to more. He had fallen into an unfavorable situation which caused him to be suppressed in an embarrassing and humiliating manner.

"Again!"

Wu Duanya roared in anger as his eyes bulged from their sockets.

He was originally quite dashing, looking suave and elegant in his fluttery white clothes. However, his face was now white and twisted with anger, causing him to look a little sinister and hideous as if he was nearly about to go crazy.

"There's no longer a need to fight."

It was at this moment that Li Qinghuan, who had been keeping a low profile, stepped forward and blocked Wu Duanya.

Wu Duanya bellowed, "Why do you stop me?!"

However, he was ignored by Li Qinghuan who instead gazed at Lin Xun and said, "As expected of the renowned Demon God Lin. No one would know if you didn't do anything, but the moment you choose to act, you immediately display the domineering might of a demon god."

"What?! He's Demon God Lin?"

"This..."

The other heaven prides' faces changed slightly as they began to look at Lin Xun in a different light.

So it's him, no wonder he looked like that.

"Demon God Lin!"

"My god, that guy is Demon God Lin!"

"He's as strong and ferocious as they say. Even Wu Duanya was pressured into fleeing within three punches!"

Uproars erupted in the other areas of Fire Lotus Ice Mountain as heaven pride after heaven pride was flabbergasted by the revelation.

Nie Yian appeared surprisingly composed. He had already anticipated this and was instead observing Sha Liuchan.

His expression fluctuated indeterminately as he silently stared at Lin Xun in uncertainty. It was obvious that he wasn't calm at all.

"He...he's Lin Xun?" By this juncture, Wu Duanya was also frozen in disbelief.

He felt like vomiting blood and almost cursed out loud. He would never have acted so rashly if he knew the other party was the 'demon god.'

"Shall we continue?"

Lin Xun glanced at him. He had returned to his original appearance. The disguise was no longer needed since his identity had been uncovered.

"You think I don't dare?"

Although he was wary due to Lin Xun's reputation, he was still a powerhouse whose name was known throughout the West Infinity World. He believed that it wasn't impossible to take Lin Xun down if he brought out his trump cards!

"Come on, it was just a misunderstanding earlier and the two of you shouldn't butt heads anymore. We're all here for the opportunity and it won't benefit anyone to have a big fight now."

Li Qinghuan tried to mediate.

Lin Xun chuckled. He looked deeply at Li Qinghuan and said: "You're right, this is only the first trial. It would be a big loss to be eliminated at this stage."

"Hmph!" Wu Duanya coldly snorted.

Lin Xun smirked, "If you're not convinced, you can fight me again when we arrive at the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree like Zhongli Wuji. However, the stakes then won't be as low as merely being eliminated."

Although his words were casual, they carried a touch of domineeringness that caused heaven prides to raise their brows.

"What's there to be afraid of?" Wu Duanya frostily said, "We'll see who has the last laugh!"

He was genuinely pissed and believed he had only been suppressed earlier because it never occurred to him that the other party would be Demon God Lin. As a result, he had carelessly allowed the opponent to seize the initiative.

That would never have happened if he was serious!

Lin Xun merely smiled and didn't say anything else. He turned around and walked towards the summit.

"What do you want?" Sha Liuchan's expression sank. He just so happened to be standing in Lin Xun's path.

Lin Xun nonchalantly looked at him. "If you want to fight again, I can make it happen right now. Otherwise, get out of the way."

The other heaven prides inwardly gasped. They knew Demon God Lin was domineering, but they didn't expect him to be that forceful.

To go straight at Sha Liuchan right after Wu Duanya was a bold act that no one else would dare to do.

"Haha, hahaha..." Sha Liuchan laughed loudly as his long sky-blue hair danced around him. He seemed to be extremely angry.

To everyone's surprise, however, Sha Liuchan restrained himself and allowed Lin Xun to walk past his area!

"This..."

The other heaven prides could not understand what was happening. Sha Liuchan was a saint from the Ocean Shark Clan and a descendant of an ancient terror. He was known to be very cruel and violent.

Typically speaking, he would have immediately been enraged at such a provocation. Hence, it was surprising that he had held back.

Could his previous fight against Demon God Lin have made him afraid?

Only Li Qinghuan had a thoughtful look.

"Brother Li, did you figure out something?" asked Wu Duanya via transmission. He had a good relationship with Li Qinghuan, and they were considered long-time friends.

Li Qinghuan mused, "Sha Liuchan has a deadly trump card, but has decided to hold back because he does not wish to clash with Demon God Lin at this time. If I'm not wrong, he's afraid they would both end up seriously injured if they fought, allowing the rest of us to take advantage of the situation."

Secondly, he probably intends to face Demon God Lin after overcoming the five trials so he can finish everything in one fell swoop!"

"In other words, he intends to kill Lin Xun like Zhongli Wuji?" Wu Duanya surmised.

"Demon God Lin isn't that easy to kill. He's rumored to have a great blessing and a Saint Treasure in his possession. Although these rumors might not be entirely true, there must be a basis for them."

Li Qinghuan softly said, "I advise you not to clash with him again. Our goal is that unique, unrivaled blessing. Nothing else matters."

Wu Duanya acknowledged although it wasn't certain if he would listen.

Meanwhile, Sha Liuchan was also weighing his options. He wasn't stupid and knew that fighting Lin Xun now would only benefit others. Hence, it wasn't worth it at all.

"I'll tolerate you a while longer. When you reach the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree, I will make sure that you die a very ugly death!" Sha Liuchan secretly gnashed his teeth.

No one knew what he would think if he found out that Li Qinghuan had mostly guessed his thoughts purely through observation.

However, none of this was of any concern to Lin Xun.

His steps became slower as he walked up the mountain, eventually stopping about a dozen feet from the top.

This was the limit where he could still react if something unexpected were to happen.

Any more forward and he would not be able to withstand the omnipresent power of the Divine Battle Seal.

Phew~

Lin Xun lightly exhaled and sat down. He quietly immersed himself in the ancient battle intent surging from the ice mountain while waiting for the next Fire Lotus Flower to appear.

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Chapter 868: Comprehending the Battle Seal

The majestic ice mountain's clear, snow-white body gleamed beautifully as it seemed to reach into the sky.

Lin Xun was quietly meditating on the mountain.

The mountain was shrouded in a Divine Battle Seal from the ancient era which gave off an ancient, vast, and astonishing battle intent.

Lin Xun was immediately alarmed the moment he attempted to comprehend the battle intent. The aura from the Divine Battle Seal was incredibly pure and divine. It instantly resonated with his aura, producing unrestrainable battle intent.

With a deep breath, Lin Xun forcibly suppressed his battle intent and continued to comprehend the aura.

He was already certain that the Divine Battle Seal's aura would tremendously benefit his martial dao cultivation!

By supplementing one's martial dao attainments with comprehension of such battle intent, one would be able to deduce and infer other things related to the martial dao.

Lin Xun quickly scanned the surroundings and found that Sha Liuchan, Li Qinghuan, Wu Duanya, and the other supreme heaven prides weren't wasting time either and were immersed in meditation in their respective zones.

Evidently, they already knew the wonderful usage of the Divine Battle Seal's aura.

Without further ado, Lin Xun cast aside other thoughts and focused on comprehending.

He also activated the Qiuniu Heart to more easily and directly perceive the essence of the Divine Battle Seal.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun didn't completely let his guard down. He could easily multi-task since he had already cultivated a divine spirit. While comprehending, he made sure to continuously scan the surroundings with Chaofeng Eye.

After all, it was through Chaofeng Eye's ability that he had been able to sense the eight-petal fire lotus' appearance in advance and subsequently obtain it.

It was a secret art that could read the aura of the land and see through all deceptions with a single glance.

Hence, on the Fire Lotus Ice Mountain, Lin Xun could detect subtle changes that others were unable to perceive and predict where the Fire Lotus Flower would appear before anyone else.

Time passed little by little.

The summit area was silent, and no Fire Lotus Flower appeared again.

Instead, Fire Lotus Flowers appeared one after another at the lower area of the mountain, causing competition to break out among the experts camping there.

However, these Fire Lotus Flowers would have at most five petals, making them mid-grade and below quality. Such flowers were not very attractive to Lin Xun and the other supreme heaven prides.

Several heaven prides faced life-threatening danger amidst the competition and were unfortunately eliminated.

At the same time, many new heaven prides arrived, and began to climb the mountain to compete for opportunities.

Of course, this wasn't just limited to the Ice Snow Secret Realm. Similar scenes were also playing out in the other Reverse Five Elements Secret Realm.

Some were eliminated while others obtained rewards, some were happy while others were sad.

.....

Hmm?

Lin Xun suddenly got up and rushed toward Wu Duanya's area.

"What are you doing?!"

Wu Duanya's expression immediately changed as he drew his battle blade in alarm.

Crash~

Lin Xun ignored him and instead grabbed at a nearby ice boulder.

There was originally nothing there, but when Lin Xun reached out toward it, a brilliant, seemingly burning lotus flower appeared.

Whoosh!

The seven-petal fire lotus was collected by Lin Xun in the blink of an eye.

Wu Duanya's eyes widened in surprise as his face burned with embarrassment. He realized that he had reacted too intensely earlier and felt somewhat ashamed.

To make things worse, if Lin Xun had not moved, the seven-petal fire lotus would have been his!

The other supreme heaven prides were also alerted to the disturbance. When they saw what happened, their expressions turned a little strange for a while as their eyes flickered in thought.

It might have been pure luck if it happened once.

However, he had moved before anyone else again and snatched up another fire lotus. This obviously meant that there was more than luck at play!

He must possess some kind of secret art that allowed him to sense where the fire lotus would appear in advance!

The supreme heaven prides present arrived at the same conclusion which made their expressions darken slightly. If this was true, how would they compete for the fire lotus with Lin Xun?

Lin Xun returned to his position and sat down again as if nothing had happened. He continued to meditate, ignoring the gazes that were looking at him.

Six hours later.

Lin Xun once again moved before anyone else and seized an eight-petal fire lotus.

It made the others' faces turn increasingly ugly and they began to look at Lin Xun with unfriendly eyes.

Most of them were still empty-handed despite patiently waiting here for so long and even the rare few who did get something had to fight through fierce competition.

Their experiences were a far cry from Lin Xun, who had effortlessly obtained three fire lotuses!

Moreover, they weren't ordinary fire lotuses but rare treasures that contained dao arts!

Each fire lotus represented a dao art. Hence, its value was so tremendous that it could not be measured by the wealth of society!

This was precisely why the other supreme heaven prides were unable to remain composed. It felt as disgusting as swallowing a fly and caused their eyes to harden.

"Lin Xun, aren't you going too far?" Sha Liuchan's expression was stormy and there was an irrepressible anger in his voice.

"All of us are camping here but you're monopolizing everything. Your actions are simply unsightly!"

Wu Duanya also said in a cold voice, "I have something to ask everyone. Have you guys resigned yourselves to just watch and allow this to continue?"

The eyes of the other supreme heaven prides flashed in anger. "Of course not!"

Lin Xun raised an eyebrow and smiled. "You guys don't have the ability to seize the opportunities and are instead blaming me for that? Don't you feel ashamed as so-called famous supreme heaven prides of the West Infinity World?"

Everyone's faces became increasingly ugly. They secretly wished they could strangle the bastard because he was simply too infuriating!

"Lin Xun, do you want to make enemies with all of us? No matter how strong you are, I don't think you'll be able to contend against all of us together, right?"

Sha Liuchan suddenly rose to his feet as an icy light shot from his eyes.

He evidently wanted to rope the others in to form an alliance against Lin Xun!

Sure enough, although the others didn't say anything, they began to menacingly glare at Lin Xun.

However, Lin Xun merely displayed a faint smile and said, "True, I can't guarantee that I'll be able to face all of you alone, but I promise that if we fight, I will at least pull some of you along with me to hell!"

Everyone's expressions changed slightly. They didn't expect that Demon God Lin would still refuse to back down and instead show such a strong front at this juncture.

"There's no need for everyone to go so far."

Li Qinghuan smiled and said, "From what I can see, if we want to seize the next fire lotus, we'll only need to follow Dao Friend Lin's eyes and act accordingly."

Someone asked in confusion, "What do you mean?"

"It's simple. Since Dao Friend Lin can predict where the fire lotus will appear, we only need to pay attention to his movements to compete."

Li Qinghuan explained with a smile, allowing everyone else to understand. Their eyes immediately brightened and they began to look at Lin Xun as if he was prey.

"Wonderful!" Wu Duanya laughed heartily.

"That's a good idea." Sha Liuchan also nodded.

Only Lin Xun frowned, realizing that things were going to become somewhat troublesome.

He could indeed use Chaofeng Eye to predict where the fire lotus will appear, but if others were watching him, they would be able to move the moment he did and compete.

Worst of all, Lin Xun strongly suspected that the others would likely target him first.

Lin Xun glanced at Li Qinghuan and inwardly remarked that although he seemed low-key and modest, his methods were more terrifying than Sha Liuchan and the others.

"In that case, let us each rely on our own abilities."

Lin Xun smiled and didn't say anything else.

Several hours passed.

Suddenly, Lin Xun stood up and dashed toward Li Qinghuan's area.

Boom!

Meanwhile, the other supreme heaven prides who had been closely watching Lin Xun moved without hesitation.

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Chapter 869: Toying

Sha Liuchan, Wu Duanya, and the others were excited. They were like hunters who had finally found their prey and felt pleased that they were about to hunt the target.

Boom!

Everyone opted to use their full strength from the start. Although they didn't know where the fire lotus would appear yet, all of them coincidentally chose to obstruct Lin Xun.

Because removing Lin Xun from the equation was the only way for them to have a chance to compete for the fire lotus when it appeared.

To their surprise, however, Lin Xun returned to his original position at this moment instead of continuing forward.

"This..."

The other supreme heaven prides were stunned and had no choice but to forcibly stop themselves.

Lin Xun pretended to be surprised and frowned. "What are you guys doing? I was just tired of sitting so I stood up to move a little. Were you guys trying to attack me?"

Everyone's faces turned somewhat ugly, especially Sha Liuchan, who could not help but shout, "Lin Xun, what's the meaning of this?"

Lin Xun grinned. "Chill, I was just playing with you guys."

"You..." Everyone was so angry that they almost vomited blood. How could they have anticipated that Lin Xun would use this opportunity to make fun of them?

"I didn't expect that you guys would be so cooperative. It honestly surprised me." Lin Xun smiled brightly.

As he spoke, he suddenly moved again and rushed in another direction.

Wu Duanya roared, "Keep alert, he's trying to trick us, stop him!"

There was no need for his reminder. The other supreme heaven prides did not hesitate to act the moment they saw Lin Xun move again.

They icily chuckled inside. How laughable, does he think such a silly trick would work on us?

However, they were soon stupefied because Lin Xun once again returned to his original spot and mockingly looked at them without saying anything.

His mocking expression made Sha Liuchan, Wu Duanya, and the others so angry that their faces turned white with rage.

Tricked again!

How evil! How can someone like him exist?

Even the usually mild-tempered Li Qinghuan could not help but frown and softly sigh. "Brother Lin, you're being rather childish. If word of this spreads, it will only hurt your reputation."

Lin Xun laughed. "I also want to ask you guys whether it feels shameful to gang up on me?"

Wu Duanya murderously said, "Lin Xun, aren't you worried that we'll unite to eliminate you first?"

"Heh heh, you can try."

Lin Xun appeared indifferent.

Everyone had very stormy expressions. They didn't want to be led around by the nose and toyed with again because it was far too humiliating.

Hence, Wu Duanya's suggestion sounded quite appealing.

Eliminating Demon God Lin was equivalent to removing the most troublesome competitor.

Swish!

However, Lin Xun moved again before they could make a decision.

Still trying to screw with us?

Everyone was furious. Did he think they were three-year-olds who would play along with his childish antics?

It was at this moment that Li Qinghuan's pupils suddenly shrank and he loudly shouted, "Crap, move!"

Everyone was stunned, only to see that Lin Xun didn't return to his position like before. Instead, he moved like lightning toward a certain spot a dozen feet away.

Damnit!

They immediately returned to their senses. He tricked us!

Boom!

Everyone moved without any hesitation and rushed toward the place Lin Xun was heading to stop him.

Unfortunately, it was already too late. They could only watch as Lin Xun turned into a blur and reappeared with a fire lotus in his hand.

The most surprising part was that the fire lotus had nine petals. It seemed to be surrounded by a drizzle-like haze made from light and shone brightly like a magnificent and gorgeous sun. It was definitely a peerless herb!

"Put it down!"

Sha Liuchan's, Wu Duanya's, and the others' eyes immediately turned red with almost maniacal anger.

They were already pissed off from being toyed with earlier and were now a step too slow to react, allowing Lin Xun to snatch away a nine-petal fire lotus. It made them feel as if they were going to explode from anger.

Rumble!

There was no need for any discussion. They attacked with their full power and unleashed a barrage of secret arts, creating a flood of terrifying light that rushed straight toward Lin Xun.

It was an astonishing scene, to say the least.

After all, it was the combined might of a dozen supreme heaven prides targeting a single individual. The sight of it startled the other experts on the ice mountain, causing their expressions to change drastically as they gasped in shock.

However, Lin Xun had already rushed down the mountain the moment he seized the fire lotus, causing the horrifying bombardment to miss.

Boom!

Although the attacks missed, they caused the entire mountain, sky, and land to shudder violently.

"Trying to escape? Dream on!"

Wu Duanya was still seeing red and immediately charged after Lin Xun.

The chase soon reached the mountain foot where Lin Xun finally came to a stop, causing Wu Duanya to sneer sinisterly. "Why aren't you running anymore?"

Lin Xun turned around and displayed a sunny smile. "Why do I have to run? Is there a need to run if you're the only one I have to deal with?"

Wu Duanya froze and soon realized something that caused him to turn rigid. He stiffly looked around and indeed found that he was the only one who had chased...

Nearby, many experts were looking at him in pity.

Wu Duanya's heart shivered, dumbfounded by the realization. All of his anger had already evaporated, replaced by indescribable fear and sullenness.

How could he have anticipated that the others would have no team spirit and not chase together with him!?

The thought of facing Demon God Lin alone made his expression become very interesting to look at.

Lin Xun kindly advised, "Go back and don't be so rash next time."

Wu Duanya's expression fluctuated indeterminately, feeling humiliated and embarrassed. He almost wished he could just ignore everything and fight Lin Xun to death.

However, Lin Xun merely smiled and left.

Wu Duanya was left behind in an awkward position, unable to follow or withdraw. If there were a crack in the ground, he would have already dived in to hide himself out of shame.

It was too humiliating!

When the supreme heaven prides near the summit area saw Lin Xun leave, they secretly breathed a sigh of relief. It felt as if they were sending away a horrible plague.

The thought of how so many of them together had ultimately failed to stop Demon God Lin and were instead repeatedly toyed around by him made them feel frustrated, embarrassed, and sullen.

Damned Demon God Lin, we'll make you pay one day!

This thought was unanimous among Sha Liuchan and the others.

The experts on the other parts of the ice mountain could not help but inwardly wet their lips at the series of events. In fact, it even made them feel like admiring and worshiping Lin Xun a little.

He had seized several fire lotuses amidst such fierce competition and ultimately came out unscathed. Such prowess and style were indeed deserving of the title Demon God Lin!

"He's a truly difficult individual to deal with..."

At the summit, there was a rare look of graveness on Li Qinghuan's face.

Previously, he had only been aware of Lin Xun's terrifying combat power and did not fear him much.

However, the earlier events made Li Qinghuan realize that Lin Xun was an extremely formidable opponent!

Not only did he possess overwhelming combat power, but he was also resourceful, bold, and able to decisively retreat after obtaining a few fire lotuses. The last point alone made Li Qinghuan see him in a different light.

Li Qinghuan knew that Lin Xun would incur everyone's wrath if he stayed. It would become impossible for him to obtain any more fire lotuses, and he would instead be targeted by everyone.

Evidently, Lin Xun also realized this and chose to leave as a result.

However, this was precisely what scared Li Qinghuan.

Any other cultivator would likely be unable to control their desire if they had Demon God Lin's strength. Hence, they would likely opt to stay instead and continue vying for the fire lotuses.

However, it was clear that Demon God Lin was different from the norm.

Li Qinghuan inwardly muttered, "I hope we will not encounter him again in the final competition..."

.....

"I would not have obtained such a haul without your guidance. This is for you." When Lin Xun left, he called over Nie Yian, who had been camping at the foot of the mountain, and gave him a seven-petal fire lotus.

Nie Yian was greatly alarmed and somewhat surprised. He had not expected Lin Xun to give him such a gift.

He was already crying inside because he had been unable to secure a single fire lotus. Hence, he was deeply touched by Lin Xun's actions.

"Take it. I am a person who repays kindness with kindness and hatred with hatred. The previous misunderstanding has been resolved long ago, so you do not need to worry about it anymore."

"Thank you!" Nie Yian took a deep breath and earnestly thanked him.

If there was any resentment left towards Lin Xun, all of it would disappear at this moment. In fact, he even began to admire Lin Xun's character.

Lin Xun chuckled and bid goodbye to Nie Yian.

He had to find a safe place to absorb the three remaining fire lotuses and find out what kind of dao art inheritance was hidden within them.

Shortly after departing, Lin Xun frowned as if he had recalled something and began retracing the path he came from.

.....

"How unbelievable...."

Nie Yian was still somewhat dazed. Until now, he still couldn't believe that Lin Xun would so casually give him a seven-petal fire lotus.

After all, it was a top-tier divine herb that most definitely contained an extraordinary dao art!

"Leave your fire lotus behind and we'll let you off!" Suddenly, a group of experts with icy expressions approached and surrounded Nie Yian.

Nie Yian's expression changed drastically. He hurriedly stored the fire lotus and sternly said, "Are you guys trying to take advantage?"

"Cut the bullshit. You're a successor of the Blue Dipper Sect yet you've colluded with Demon God Lin to steal the fire lotuses. What a disgrace to your sect. We'll give you three breaths. If you do not hand it over, don't blame us for being rude!"

The group consisted of both male and female heaven prides, and their tones were very forceful.

They had been camping at the foot of the mountain since the beginning and had witnessed the scene of Nie Yian and Lin Xun arriving and leaving together.

Therefore, after seeing that Nie Yian and Lin Xun had separated, they immediately rushed in to take advantage.

After all, it was a seven-petal fire lotus!

Such a tempting treasure was more than worth the risk!

Nie Yian's heart immediately turned cold. He never imagined the fire lotus he had unexpectedly obtained would possibly be taken away in the blink of an eye!

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Chapter 870: Combustion Star River

"Three, two..."

Someone in the group started a countdown as the other experts closed in with murderous expressions.

Killing and robbing weren't only commonplace in the outside world. In fact, it was even more prevalent among the heaven prides who participated in the Dao Lantern Festival.

In order to seize opportunities and blessings, even the King stage old monsters could disregard almost everything.

In this world, things such as rules and restraints had always been exclusive to the weak. The truly strong were above the rules!

This was reality.

Nie Yian's face had become extremely ugly. In the end, he gritted his teeth and decided to give up.

It was only the first test of the Dao Lantern Festival. He would rather lose the seven-petal fire lotus than be eliminated here.

Far away, Lin Xun could not help but inwardly sigh when he saw this scene. It turned out that he had been right.

"Scram and I'll pretend I didn't see anything."

Lin Xun appeared in a flash and cut straight to the point. His cold eyes swept across the group as he began to 'expel the guests.'

Demon God Lin!

The experts were alarmed, and their expressions changed slightly. They had personally witnessed Lin Xun leave earlier and had not expected him to return.

Nie Yian, who was originally about to give up, was first dumbfounded and unable to believe his eyes. He soon became elated and began to tremble uncontrollably.

In the end, all of his emotions transformed into heartfelt gratitude.

He never imagined that Lin Xun would not only give him the fire lotus but also come to help him in his time of need.

At this juncture, Nie Yian wouldn't even frown if Lin Xun asked him to jump into a fire.

"Demon God Lin, you'd best stay out of our affairs."

"Don't think that we're afraid of you because you're strong. Do you think you alone will be enough with so many fellow experts present?"

The experts sneered. They would not give up so easily.

Clang!

The Broken Blade suddenly flew out and began circling around Lin Xun. A terrifying blade will spread, tearing open alarming cracks in the surrounding space.

"I'll say it one more time. Scram." Lin Xun's expression was ice-cold. A mere dozen so-called heaven prides were simply unable to threaten him.

"Demon God Lin, you've already offended so many supreme heaven prides and are in a bad situation where disaster will probably soon befall you. Do you still intend to burn bridges with us at such a juncture?"

One of the experts' expressions darkened as he raised his voice and said, "Don't forget that you're alone in the West Infinity World. You have no ancient sect to rely on or a strong faction to support you. If you offend us, you will likely be unable to bear the consequences."

"That's right. You're merely a cultivator from a lower plane. I advise you to keep a low profile or you won't even know how you die!"

"Moreover, it's impossible to kill us in this secret realm. Instead, you'll only offend us by opposing us. Do you think that's worth it?"

The group of experts was indeed very fearful of Lin Xun. However, they did have their status and background to fall back on, so they threatened him in hopes of making him back down.

Lin Xun simply spat out five words, "What a bunch of garbage."

Swish!

At the same time, the Broken Blade shot forth, leaving a trail of dazzling and breathtaking light that felt as if it had cut through time itself and arrived from the past.

A bizarre scene immediately followed. One could only watch as space violently rippled around the experts, and they were teleported away one after another!

Nie Yian gasped, utterly shocked by this scene.

The instantaneous exchange was simply horrifying to think about. When Lin Xun attacked, the experts had been teleported away before they could even react.

What did this mean?

It meant that Lin Xun's attack was too powerful. The moment it was released, no one present could block it which would only result in them being instantly killed!

Otherwise, the secret realm's order power would not have eliminated the experts by teleporting them away.

Lin Xun frowned. The secret realm's power was simply too god-like. The power seemed to be sentient and omnipresent, forbidding any deaths from occurring within its domain.

Lin Xun immediately put away the Broken Blade, deciding not to test the power any further.

There were five or six experts left who had managed to escape elimination. However, they had already been scared out of their wits and were trembling uncontrollably, looking as if their souls had been frightened out of their bodies.

Lin Xun ignored them and left with Nie Yian. It was only a long while later before they finally parted ways.

"Lin Xun, I...thank you." Nie Yian didn't know what to say.

"Be a little more careful."

Lin Xun smiled before he turned around and left.

.....

Three days later.

Deep in an icy land covered in snow. Lin Xun opened his eyes and awoke from his meditation.

He reached out and gently pressed his hand toward the icy layer above.

Boom!

A cloud of flames that resembled the starry sky surged from his palm. Stars seemed to ignite and explode within it, producing a terrifying burning power.

It instantly burned a giant hole through the thirty-thousand-feet thick layer of ice above, creating a tunnel that reached all the way to the surface!

It was the dao art inheritance Lin Xun had obtained from the nine-petal fire lotus.

The technique was clearly extremely powerful and possessed astonishing destructive power.

"How terrifying. If executed at full power, its destructive power will be overwhelming, to say the least. I don't even want to imagine how deadly it will be when used against an army..."

Lin Xun could not help but feel somewhat amazed.

This was a dao art!

It was the fusion of dao and technique to produce almost infinite power that could truly burn mountains, boil the sea, and even melt entire worlds!

The most astonishing part was that the Combustion Star River was not the least bit inferior to the Tribulation Dragon Nine Transformations and the Nine Heavenshaking Destructions Art.

Lin Xun muttered to himself, "I can't believe a reward from the first test of the Dao Lantern Festival is already so amazing. I dare not imagine what kind of earth-shaking blessings are hidden in the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree that can only be reached after overcoming the five tests."

However, the biggest gain this time wasn't learning the dao art but comprehending the Dao Ripple of Fire through it!

Fire was one of the five elements and one of the most domineering daos. It was extremely ferocious and violent, and possessed shocking destructive power.

"It took only three days for me to comprehend the essence of the Fire Dao Ripple. The power of this supreme-grade dao art is simply magical."

Even Lin Xun himself had trouble believing it.

It must be known that he had faced many difficulties in comprehending the Water Dao Ripple. In fact, it had taken him all the way until right before he advanced to the Cyclic Derivation stage to achieve the Dao Meaning level.

In comparison, a single supreme-grade dao art had enabled him to successfully comprehend the Dao Ripple of Fire!

Although there were uncountable daos in the world, not many were publicly acknowledged as 'grand daos.'

Among them, the five elements, yin and yang, wind, and lightning were known to all cultivators as first-tier grand daos.

These nine grand daos were also known as the nine first-tier daos.

Although there were also second-tier, third-tier, fourth-tier...and so on, none of them could compare in power to the nine first-tier daos.

For example, sword dao, blade dao, murder dao, destruction dao, and other daos of similar vein belonged to the martial dao category and were a type of method to control dao power.

Lin Xun had also heard that there existed a power above the first-tier grand daos known as the supreme daos.

However, supreme-tier dao power could only be understood and wielded by Saint experts. In other words, there was no supremacy under the Saint stage!

"Since ancient times, the more daos a cultivator has mastered, the more power they would be able to bring out which, at times, could even create a multiplicative effect. Likewise, the deeper the understanding of the dao, the better you would be able to display your power.

"Since I have now mastered the Dao Meaning of Water and the Dao Ripple of Fire, my combat power has undoubtedly improved although it is still far from enough.

"I've heard that in the ancient era, there existed supreme heaven prides who could wield wind, lightning, earth, fire, yin and yang. They were masters of numerous grand daos and possessed inconceivable strength.

"If I wish to create a new path, I will need to explore far more in this direction.

"To become a Supreme Life Death King expert isn't just about vying for the greatest blessing but it also requires foundations and power!"

A fire seemed to burn in Lin Xun's black eyes. Comprehending the Dao Ripple of Fire had opened a new door in his cultivation journey, allowing him to see new possibilities. It felt like he was being enlightened and awakening to a whole new world.

This was one of the disadvantages of solo cultivation. You had to learn and explore everything by yourself, unlike the successors of the ancient sects who could receive guidance and teachings from their elders.

However, there were also advantages. For example, he could boldly make unconventional changes and find the most suitable path for himself.

Likewise, the guidance received by the ancient sect successors could become shackles and make them only able to follow the path already forged by their elders!

If you followed an old path, you would only ever reach the same heights of your predecessor, which was not what Lin Xun wanted.

His path was destined to be greater than all predecessors! He would forge a path that was unique to himself!

Whoosh!

Lin Xun launched himself off the ground and soared upwards to the surface.

The white land was filled with wind and snow. Since three days had passed, he only needed to survive for four more days to pass the first test.

"I wonder where Yue Jianming is now..."

Lin Xun still had two eight-petal fire lotuses and intended to give them to Yue Jianming and Bai Fengliu. After all, he would not have been able to participate in the Dao Lantern Festival without Yue Jianming's help.

Likewise, he would not have learned many secrets about the Dao Lantern Festival if not for Bai Fengliu. To repay kindness with kindness was one of the principles that Lin Xun had always stuck to.

The dao arts hidden in the two eight-petal fire lotus would also be extremely powerful and could be rated as first-class.

The only difference between them and the nine-petal fire lotus would be that they did not possess any dao power inheritance.

For instance, Lin Xun had comprehended a sliver of the Fire Dao Ripple after learning the Combustion Star River dao art.

This was only achievable with the supreme-grade fire lotus and that was why it was absolutely unrivaled!

"There's no point in thinking about it. I'll use the remaining four days to collect more divinity crystals and divinity herbs..."

Lin Xun took a deep breath and made his decision.

Swish!

In a flash, he disappeared into the falling snow.