

Prodigies 891

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 891: The Lantern of Eternal Darkness

Past experience could be a guide for the future.

Everyone secretly raised their guard against Demon God Lin and told themselves to be extra careful of him in the future. He wasn't only fierce in battle but also had a fierce heart and cunning mind. They could suffer from his schemes if they were not cautious!

Earlier, the five experts from the Zhongli Clan and the Blue Luan Clan had already been deceived by him. Under the impression that his spirit power was weak, they took advantage of the opportunity to attack his friend Yue Jianming.

Who would have thought that he was only pretending? He suddenly removed his disguise and caused the five experts to be tragically eliminated.

Even Zhongli Wuji and Qing Lian'er were frightened by him and ran away in a panic as if their buttocks had been caught on fire.

But now, Lin Xun played the same old tricks. He deliberately pretended to be weak like he was waiting for someone to take the bait. Even though he hadn't said a word, Sha Liuchan and the others were so eager to get revenge that they jumped out and took the bait. In the end, they were deceived once again and suffered a tragedy.

The slap in the face was so skilful that everyone felt the pain for Sha Liuchan and the others.

So cunning and cruel!

Demon God Lin does not let go of any chance to hit his opponents!

However, they thought wrongly of Lin Xun this time...

After all, this was the fourth test so how would Lin Xun be in the mood to play tricks on Sha Liuchan and the others?

Sha Liuchan and the others brought it on themselves. They eagerly brought their faces close to him so he had no choice but to slap them.

"Lin Xun, you're so despicable!!" Sha Liuchan and the others were so ashamed and furious that they yelled at the top of their voices.

This guy did this on purpose! He is so cunning! He dug a pit on purpose and waited for us to jump in.

"Am I despicable? All the fellow cultivators present saw that you wanted a beating and jumped out at your own initiative. Now that you have embarrassed yourself, you call me despicable? How can you call yourself a genius talent?" Lin Xun snorted coldly.

Everyone stared at Lin Xun, speechless. No one could refute what he said.

Sha Liuchan and the others were so infuriated that their lungs were about to rupture. How would they have known that the high and mighty Demon God Lin would be so cunning and cruel?

To screw them up, he didn't care about his morals!

"As I said, don't waste your time with idiots, and you are worse than idiots. At best, you are just a bunch of clowns. You are ridiculously deluded!" Lin Xun spoke leisurely, but his words slashed Sha Liuchan and the others like knives.

They hated the fact that they couldn't charge over and tear him to pieces.

"To be honest, I didn't want to deal with you guys, but you had to bring your face over to me! Are you guys not happy? Then open your eyes and watch!"

His words shocked everyone once again. Demon God Lin has already lit a Spirit Lantern, what else does he want to do now?

Sha Liuchan stood blankly.

Buzz!

His soul of the primordial spirit continued to pace the void and soon came to stand in front of a Spirit Lantern and lightly waved its sleeve.

The Spirit Lantern bloomed with endless light like the sun!

Si—

Everyone was dumbfounded. It was already shocking enough that someone had lit a lantern to the level of Midday Sun.

But not only did Demon God Lin light another Spirit Lantern, it was illuminated also to the level of Midday Sun!

This was too unbelievable. No one had heard of someone lighting two Spirit Lanterns in the fourth test, and both of them presented earthshaking visions as they were illuminated!

"He..." Everyone was at a loss for words.

Even Ji Xingyao, Yu Lingkong and Luo Jia were startled by the scene and quickly swept their spirit senses over to look closer. But when they realized what had happened, their hearts trembled wildly in their chests.

It was unheard of that someone lit up two Spirit Lanterns to the levels of Midday Sun!

"That guy did this on purpose!" Ji Xingyao gnashed her teeth. Just a moment ago, she couldn't wait to see how Lin Xun would clean up the mess, but in the blink of an eye, he caused such a huge scene again!

"I was mistaken..." Yu Lingkong muttered to himself while inexplicable emotions rushed up in his heart along with a hint of uncontrollable murderous intent.

He felt threatened by Lin Xun, which made him feel very uncomfortable.

A guy to whom he had never attached any importance to possessed tremendous spirit power that made him feel threatened. He couldn't accept that.

"He really is a demon god-like figure..." Luo Jia uttered thoughtfully.

.....

Sha Liuchan and the others trembled as they gritted their teeth, and their faces alternated between white and purple.

When Lin Xun lit the first Spirit Lantern, they might have felt disgruntled, but now, they were filled with shame and anger.

It was such a huge blow!

At the thought of their mocking remarks and provocation against Lin Xun, they wanted to find a hole and bury themselves. It was too embarrassing and shameful!

"How is he Demon God Lin? He is more like a god at digging pits for other people..." someone murmured.

Everyone found the name very apt. He so calmly and casually dug a pit for other people to fall into. His pit-digging ability had to be close to reaching the dao.

Some people couldn't help but pity and laugh at Sha Liuchan and the others when they saw them so stunned by the blow.

.....

Five Spirit Lanterns hung in the night sky like blazing suns, shining brightly and complementing each other.

They belonged to Ji Xingyao, Yu Lingkong, Luo Jia and Lin Xun.

However, to everyone's surprise, it wasn't over yet.

Lin Xun's spirit power continued to grow stronger and stronger, lighting up Spirit Lanterns one after another.

Moreover, each one was as bright as the great sun and shined upon the universe!

Not only were Sha Liuchan and the others struck dumb, but everyone else was also shocked to the core like they had witnessed a miracle happening in the world.

This was because something similar had never happened in the past!

How strong was Demon God Lin's spirit power?

Peerless geniuses such as Ji Xingyao, Yu Lingkong and Luo Jia also found it hard to maintain their calm as though they felt pressure bearing down on their hearts.

Unquestionably, they were inferior to Lin Xun on the fourth test!

Lin Xun had left all his competitors trailing behind in his dust!

Soon, another four sun-like Spirit Lanterns were blazing in the sky, all of which were lit by Lin Xun. In total, he had illuminated six Spirit Lanterns.

If word got out, it would no doubt cause another sensation in the world. After all, there had never been a similar situation in the previous Dao Lantern Festival.

However, everyone was baffled to see that Lin Xun still didn't stop.

In other words, he chose to not accept the spirit inheritance contained in any of the multiple Spirit Lanterns that he had lit.

What was he doing?

.....

He was searching.

He was searching for a Spirit Lantern that suited him, but even if he could light up many lanterns, he couldn't find one that satisfied him.

His spirit power had already reached the highest place in the void, where many cultivators could no longer detect.

However, there wasn't a single Spirit Lantern. There was nothing apart from darkness.

Lin Xun refused to give up and continued to charge upwards.

Soon, even Ji Xingyao and the others were struggling to sense Lin Xun's spirit power; it was too far away.

"He very likely has formed the soul of the primordial spirit, otherwise, it would be impossible to reach such a high void..."

It dawned on many peerless geniuses that Lin Xun had cultivated his spirit power to an incredible height. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to form the soul of the primordial spirit!

It was almost impossible to cultivate that at the Cyclic Derivation Stage, and it was only seen mostly with Life Death Stage Kings

However, Demon God Lin achieved that!

The spirit was like a lantern that illuminated one's body. As long as the primordial spirit lived, the spirit lantern would remain forever bright. The strength of one's spirit power was key to one forging the dao and becoming a king.

Everything pointed to the fact that Lin Xun had the potential to become a king far beyond the ordinary!

Ji Xingyao and Yu Lingkong dared not treat Lin Xun as nothing anymore.

Higher and higher...

Lin Xun suddenly felt unprecedented exhaustion. He knew that this height was the limit of his spirit power.

He glanced around and saw nothing but pitch-black. Even so, there was a death-like atmosphere crushing his heart.

"It seems like there are none..." Lin Xun uttered helplessly. "Perhaps Midday Sun is already the highest-grade spirit lantern."

However, just as Lin Xun was about to turn around, a question struck him.

The darkness is like a cage covering the sky, isn't this a kind of light?

The Spirit Lanterns were all shining with infinity light like dazzling suns, but they can never completely dispel the light of darkness!

With this thought, Lin Xun no longer tried to search for Spirit Lantern but observed the night sky with the soul of the primordial spirit.

After an unknown period, the soul of the primordial spirit quivered, detecting a very vague and almost imperceptible ancient aura.

His guess was correct!

Instantly, the soul of the primordial spirit mobilized all its power to search the ancient and silent aura.

Vaguely, Lin Xun felt as if he was surrounded by endless darkness while an ancient and oppressive aura filled the air.

It was as deep as night and as still and empty as darkness.

At this moment, Lin Xun spotted a Spirit Lantern that was only the size of an infant's palm. Its body was entirely black like a lantern of darkness that had integrated with night.

The all-encompassing darkness generated feelings of despair, hopelessness and depression.

But the lantern was different. It was too unique and instead had an air of magnificence and grandness.

That's it!

After his long search, Lin Xun strongly felt for the first time that his spirit power needed a lantern of darkness that bloomed the light of eternal night!

Swoosh!

His soul of primordial spirit leapt into the Lantern of Darkness.

As soon as the soul of the primordial spirit stepped inside, an incomparably ancient and powerful aura burst forth like a tsunami, drowning it completely.

At the same time, the darkness that shrouded the world rippled and wave after wave of obscure energy spread across the void, swaying the lit Spirit Lanterns hanging in the void.

The swaying lanterns and light pouring down made the dark night look more and more deep, empty and still...

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 892: Spirit Flower Converge

Whispers of indescribably obscure and mysterious dao sounds echoed in his spirit like the chanting of scripture from ancient times, full of unfathomable meaning.

It was a mighty and pure spirit inheritance.

Instantly, Lin Xun felt his spirit transforming and growing, falling into a deep comprehension state.

Shua!

An unknown period had passed when wisps of dreamy clouds spiraled out from the head of Lin Xun's primordial spirit, glowing brightly.

In the end, they gathered to form an illusory flower bud.

Before long, the flower bud bloomed, accompanied by beams of bright and pure dao lights.

PA! PA! PA!

As every petal unfolded, it produced a crisp and mysterious dao sound that stirred the spirit. The soul of the primordial spirit felt cleansed, refreshed, and stronger.

In the end, the flower bud fully bloomed and miraculously spewed out mists of snow-white light from its center.

It floated above the head of the soul of the primordial spirit, casting a waterfall of light rays upon it until it was bright and transparent.

Lin Xun instantly knew that his spirit had been transformed once again. It was as if a wisp of wisdom light had awakened his memory and projected every event and experience of his cultivation path in minuscule detail in his mind like a painting scroll.

"Spirit flowers converge at the crown of the head, providing a view of the truth of the past!"

He felt enlightened. The soul of the primordial spirit had formed a spirit flower and become completely different from before.

This surprised him because it was incredible that a lantern of darkness that bloomed with the light of eternal night actually contained an ancient spirit inheritance that pushed his spirit power to a new height!

The flower, which originated from the spirit and represented past cultivation, provided him with a lot of insights.

Only then did he realize that, in ancient times, spirit cultivation was also divided into different stages.

There were six stages of spirit cultivation: perception, spirit sense, divine spirit, spirit flower convergence, divine wandering and saint spirit transformation!

Perception was the initial stage of awakening spirit power and beginning to perceive the world.

Spirit sense was a spirit power that only great Spirit Sea cultivators could master, which allowed them to gain insight into heaven and earth and observe the traces of the great dao.

The divine spirit referred to the soul of the primordial spirit who watched over the mind-sea. It was inexhaustibly profound with infinite intelligence and wisdom.

Previously, Lin Xun's spirit power was at this stage.

The spirit flower convergence stage was a more mysterious stage than the divine spirit stage. It was further divided into three smaller levels: seeing the past, seeing the present, and seeing the future.

A great dao spirit flower would form on the head of the soul of the primordial spirit every time it reached a new stage and bring with it unimaginable secrets.

As for divine wandering and saint spirit transformation, they were spirit stages under the umbrella of the saint path, which was too distant for Lin Xun to fathom for now.

"Cultivating the spirit is to investigate life and death, seek the root of longevity. The spirit is like a lantern, and the primordial spirit lives forever just like longevity. It can extend the lifespan and live freely in the world, unhindered by life, old age, sickness and death!

"For cultivators, the stronger their spirit, the more profound mysteries of heaven and earth they can grasp and comprehend, which has immeasurable benefits on seeking the secret of longevity.

"It involves the secret of life and death, the key to forging the dao and becoming a king. It will have an irreplaceable magical benefit when I step onto the path of longevity and become a Saint!"

All kinds of enlightenment flashed through Lin Xun's mind.

.....

Clang—

The fourth test came to an end with a long hum of an ancient bell.

All experts who lit up Spirit Lanterns and were receiving enlightenment from the spirit inheritance were startled and quickly withdrew their spirit from the Spirit Lantern into their bodies.

"So fast, why do I feel like only a few seconds have passed and it's over?"

Some cultivators gazed absently. They still hadn't awakened from their comprehension.

"Amazing! This enlightenment has provided me with a glimpse into the mystery of cultivating the divine spirit. I believe it won't be long before I can cultivate the soul of the primordial spirit!"

Some cultivators were beaming from ear to ear.

Everyone seemed to have had a good harvest.

"Unfortunately, there wasn't enough time; otherwise, I could have grasped more mysteries!"

Some cultivators were still not satisfied.

Ji Xingyao, Yu Lingkong and Luo Jia also awakened from their comprehension, each wearing different expressions, but all had an unconcealable glow of joy on their faces.

The Spirit Lanterns they obtained were top-grade, and the enlightenment they received was more profound, which significantly improved and transformed their spirit power.

“By the way, where is Demon God Lin, which Spirit Lantern did he choose in the end?” someone asked suddenly.

“Yes, from what I observed, he didn’t choose any of the six Spirit Lanterns that he lit before.” Another expert also came to their senses.

No one saw what happened after Lin Xun abandoned the six Spirit Lanterns and his spirit rushed to the highest place in the void.

“He must have failed. If he had lit a Spirit Lantern, then it would have triggered an earthshaking vision, but I didn’t notice any movement.” Sha Liuchan sneered.

Everyone’s expressions turned strange. Didn’t that guy fall into the pit dug by Demon God Lin earlier? How did he still have the courage to disprove Demon God Lin?

“What? Why are you looking at me like that? Do you think I said something wrong?” Sha Liuchan felt a little uncomfortable with the gazes.

“That’s the truth. If he had lit a Spirit Lantern to the level of Midday Sun then I would have noticed it, but there had been no other signs of movement from him ever since he reached the higher place in the void. This suggests that he likely ended up with nothing,” Yu Lingkong suddenly spoke aloud, surprising everything.

Everyone looked taken aback.

Demon God Lin possesses heaven-defying strength so how would he have ended up with nothing?

“It should be true. I have checked before and found that no Spirit Lantern existed in the highest place in the void,” Ji Xingyao also said in a soft voice.

She had no intention of taking the chance to attack Lin Xun, but she did find the situation strange and puzzling.

If Lin Xun found nothing then he should have returned to look for a Spirit Lantern that he had already lit up earlier and accept its inheritance.

However, he abandoned all six Spirit Lanterns in the end.

It’s so strange!

Even Ji Xingyao said that so how could the other experts calm down? How could the remarkable Demon God Lin make no harvest in the fourth test?

Others might have only collected stones and ignored the diamonds, but at least the stones still brought them previous opportunities. But Lin Xun was too picky and ended up with nothing.

What a tragedy!

“Hahaha.” Sha Liuchan couldn’t be happier. Certain that Lin Xun had suffered a tragedy, he couldn’t help but exclaim, “Just now, he had lit six Spirit Lanterns, and all of them presented Midday Sun phenomena. They were all so impressive, but it turned out that he missed out on them all...”

“Hey, you can’t say that. This is because Demon God Lin has high requirements for himself and snubbed the Midday Sun.” Zhongli Wuji’s words were tinged with mocking.

Qing Lian’er also smiled. “The god of destiny likes to make fools of people. If this gets out, it will be a huge joke to the world. I bet no one in the world would have thought that Demon God Lin would come to this.”

The others smiled awkwardly, not knowing what to say.

“Is this really the case?” Bai Lingxi raised her brows.

“Definitely not!” Yue Jianming stated firmly.

It was at that moment when Lin Xun, who was sitting cross-legged on the ground, opened his eyes and a strange light flashed in their depths.

“What? Can you not accept it?”

As Lin Xun stood up, he ran his indifferent eyes across Sha Liuchan and the others.

Even if it was only a glance, they felt extremely uncomfortable as though Lin Xun had seen through all their secrets.

At the same time, some experts sharply noticed that Demon God Lin had become a different person. His bearing had become more outstanding, and he had an ethereal air around him.

Hey!

What’s going on?

Many people were bewildered.

But when they tried to inspect closer, they came to discover that beneath Lin Xun’s seemingly ordinary aura was an unfathomable aura as deep as a bottomless abyss.

Sha Liuchan and the others’ complexions changed, and their hearts tumbled in their chests as the scenes of Lin Xun tricking them earlier flashed across their minds. They were so angry that they almost cursed out loud!

However, out of a sense of caution and vigilance, they just smiled coldly and said nothing more.

Ji Xingyao couldn’t help asking, “Have you lit a Spirit Lantern?”

Lin Xun smiled. “What do you think?”

Ji Xingyao wrinkled her brows. She couldn’t stand seeing Lin Xun’s hateful smile, his cocky face, and him deliberately pretending to be mysterious.

In the end, no one knew whether Lin Xun lit another Spirit Lantern.

But ruminative expressions crept into many people's eyes. They noticed that Lin Xun was too calm and composed and didn't look the slightest bit dispirited. He didn't seem to be putting on an act.

Suddenly, the talismans in everyone's hands glowed, produced strange waves of energy and engulfed them.

Very quickly, everyone vanished.

The fifth test was about to begin.

.....

At the same time, the outside world was stirred up.

"What? Demon God Lin lit up six Spirit Lanterns by himself and all to the levels of Midday Sun?! Is he human?!"

"He's a monster!"

"Fairy Ji and the others were destined to shine brightly and shake the world. But I never thought that Demon God Lin would suddenly jump out and steal everyone's limelight."

Endless uproars erupted.

Even the big shots were alarmed. The Spirit Lantern Illumination Test was completely different from those in the past with an unexpected turn of events!

"I heard that Lin Xun came from a lower domain, and he is with no clan or sect. I am touched by his talent and am willing to make an exception to take him in as a disciple," an influential figure said with a smile, stroking his beard.

"What a coincidence! Our sect has already had our eyes on Demon God Lin, and we were planning to recruit him into our sect when the Dao Lantern Festival ends."

.....

All the influential figures expressed their intention of recruiting Lin Xun.

"Everyone, stop arguing. A peerless genius such as Lin Xun can only unearth his true potential by joining the Unsolved Mystery Sword Sect."

Even Granny Jin He spoke out, leaving the cultivators shocked and dumbfounded. Isn't Demon God Lin too popular?

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 893: Sword Demon Ye Chen

The group of influential figures each had a different force standing behind them, and they represented the will of the major ancient sects and clans of the West Infinity World.

It could be said that anyone they selected, even an idiot, would leap to the dragon's gate and undergo earth-shaking transformations whether it was in terms of their identity, background, or status.

Moreover, Demon God Lin was not an idiot. On the contrary, he was regarded as a peerless individual among the geniuses, and his name and reputation were known throughout the West Infinity World.

Additionally, he came from a lower domain and had no clan or sect behind him. He was alone. Based on those circumstances, any ancient clan or sect would be very willing to hold out an olive branch and recruit a peerless genius like him into their sects.

"I am going to say it. No matter how great the price is, I will bring Lin Xun into my sect!"

"Haha, who wouldn't?"

"Everyone, why go so far? Let's not ruin our relationship just for Demon God Lin!"

The influential figures all flushed with anger and almost rolled up their sleeves and came to blows.

Meanwhile, the other cultivators were green with envy. Demon God Lin is indeed amazing! Even the ancient sects are scrambling over him.

It should be mentioned that ancient sects were akin to unreachable great mountains in the West Infinity World. They had strict demands and requirements for selecting disciples, and every year, countless young cultivators were cruelly rejected.

But now, the influential figures from the ancient sects were in heated arguments with each other over Demon God Lin. This was unheard of!

"Speaking of which, Demon God Lin deserves to be valued by so many people. His performance at the Dao Lantern Festival has been amazing so far."

A cultivator exclaimed and many people echoed his words.

In the first test, Lin Xun made his way up the Fire Lotus Ice Mountain by himself and effortlessly captured a nine-petal fire lotus despite the hostile attacks from the other genius figures.

In the second test, he was suspected to have come first and won a special reward. Although it was only a suspicion and hadn't been confirmed, all clues pointed to the fact that he won first place!

In the third test, he made a breakthrough on the Sinking Sea, defeated Sha Liuchan, and forced him to flee in a panic.

And in the fourth test, he created an unprecedented miracle. He alone lit up six Spirit Lanterns, all of which were to the level of Midday Sun. He shone so brightly that his limelight overshadowed Ji Xingyao, Yu Lingkong, and the others. He was in a league of his own!

Who wouldn't be tempted to recruit such a peerless genius in terms of both strength and potential into their sect?

It was no wonder that the big shots would quarrel endlessly and almost come to blows. No one would be able to sit back and do nothing.

Someone snorted, "Hmph! Everyone, don't you know that the kid is an enemy of the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan? Also, ever since he rose to fame, he has offended countless people! Are you sure that you want him as a disciple?"

It turned out to be an influential figure from the Ocean Shark Clan.

"That's right, everyone, please think again. At least, my Blue Luan Clan will not let go of any opportunity to take revenge on that kid!" A middle-aged woman from the Blue Luan Clan made her stance clear.

"Most importantly, everyone, don't forget that Yu Lingkong, Zhongli Wuji, Zhuo Kuanglan, Sha Liuchan and Qing Lian'er, the peerless figures of the younger generation, have clearly announced that they will kill the kid when they reach the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree."

The middle-aged woman's face twisted disdainfully. "It's hard to say whether the kid can come out of Cangwu Mountain alive!"

Immediately, the tense atmosphere subsided, and changing expressions flashed across everyone's faces. They began to think about the pros and cons of recruiting Lin Xun as a disciple.

"That's the truth."

Many cultivators sighed. Demon God Lin might be strong, but he has offended far too many people.

If we want to take him in as a disciple, we will have to first consider and think about the possible consequences!

Suddenly, someone sneered, "Hmph, you want to take someone in as a disciple, but you don't want to bring trouble to yourself and bear any responsibility. Doesn't that mean you want to get something for nothing? How can there be such a good thing in this world?!"

Those words made everyone's face darken. Who dared to ridicule and mock them?

All of a sudden, the atmosphere stilled. These words were extremely grating, so who would dare to say that to them?

There was no need to guess who the owner of the voice was because they could tell right away.

It was a young man dressed in a black robe with glistening black hair as smooth as silk. His tall and straight figure resembled a spear about to pierce the sky.

He was standing atop a low mountain with his hands behind his back, sweeping his gaze across the audience. Within his eyes seemed to be frightening visions of thousands of swords shooting out.

"Young man, be careful of what comes out of your mouth!" an old man warned.

"What? Did I touch a sore spot?" The young man's voice was indifferent but his eyes glowed with a cold threatening light, as sharp as a sword. "Old man, let me tell you, if you dare to threaten me again, you will lose your life!"

"You want to die!"

The old man flew into a rage. He came from an ancient sect and was considered a renowned figure, but now he was being reprimanded and threatened by a junior. He had lost face in front of so many people.

“Sword Thirteen!” the youth said aloud.

An old servant with a long sword strapped to his back emerged in the far distance. He was very thin and wore an unusually indifferent expression.

Pu!

Everyone only saw their vision blur before the old man’s head flew across the air.

From the start to the finish, no one saw how the old servant attacked.

Everyone was aghast, and the atmosphere turned deathly quiet.

Even influential figures such as Granny Jin He went stiff for a moment, trembling inwardly with a solemn expression.

Meanwhile, the old servant’s face remained cold and indifferent, as if he disregarded everyone present. Then, he turned around and silently came to stand beside the youth in black with his hands behind his back.

His dull and bland aura and his bone-thin figure made him look very ordinary, but everyone knew that the old servant was the one who killed the old man from an ancient sect.

His movements were swift and direct and completed in one go. No one could see how he took off the old man’s head.

So fast!

“Who doesn’t agree?”

The black-robed youth spoke calmly as he wandered in the silent world.

Everyone looked at each other in dismay, but no one answered.

Even Granny Jin He, a well-respected expert, chose to remain silent.

The black-robed youth seemed to lower his head in a disappointed manner and then he said aloud, “My name is Ye Chen, and I come from the North Dipper World. Anyone who wants to retaliate can find me in the North Dipper World.”

He turned around and was about to leave when he remembered something. “If Demon God Lin survives Cangwu Mountain then please help me pass along the message to him that he is welcome to come to Crape Myrtle Mountain in the North Dipper World as a guest any time!”

After saying that, he walked away.

The old servant followed him in neither a fast nor slow manner.

From start to finish, no one dared to obstruct them.

An exclamation broke the silent atmosphere, "It's him! Ye Chen! The most outstanding sword genius of the younger generation of the ancient Ye Clan from Crape Myrtle Mountain!"

Everyone was stunned.

The ancient Ye Clan was an extremely famous family of Saints in the North Dipper World. The clan had existed since ancient times and had given birth to several saints over the years.

Now, there was still a Saint watching over Crape Myrtle Mountain!

"I remember! Ye Chen should be the sword genius who is known as the Crape Myrtle Sword Demon among the younger generation of the North Dipper World!"

Granny Jin He's gaze turned complicated.

Ye Chen's fame wasn't any inferior to that of Ji Xingyao and Yu Lingkong, and might even be greater!

"He fought across the North Dipper World alone and chilled the nine thousand provinces with a single sword!"

"He's a sword genius who defies heaven!"

This was the North Dipper World's assessment of Ye Chen. Additionally, he had received recognition from countless ancient sects and was undeniably a genius-level existence.

However, no one expected that someone who had long made a name for himself in the North Dipper World would appear on the periphery of Cangwu Mountain in the West Infinity World.

"Could he have specially come for Demon God Lin? Otherwise, why would he leave a message to welcome Demon God Lin to visit Crape Myrtle Mountain?"

Many cultivators quivered inwardly. The words that Ye Chen left made their imaginations run wild.

.....

The old servant reminded him in a low voice, "Young Master, it's time to go back."

"Sword Thirteen, do you not want to know why I did that?" asked Ye Chen.

The old man gave a gentle smile. "Young Master, I believe you had a very good reason for doing that."

Ye Chen nodded. "That's right, ever since I arrived in the West Infinity World, I keep hearing the name of Demon God Lin, but it is often accompanied by criticism and ridicule. The most ridiculous thing is that those complaints are all related to his background."

The old man explained with a smile, "It's normal. The kid comes from a lower domain, and he has risen too fast. He has no one to depend on and is alone, so it's normal that people target him."

"But I can't stand it."

Ye Chen frowned. "I purposely watched outside Cangwu Mountain just to see what kind of person that Demon God Lin is. I have got my answer now—he is definitely an extremely outstanding and powerful

person. But it's infuriating that such a remarkable person has to suffer unnecessary and ridiculous criticism and attacks."

Ye Chen's lips curled up with disdain. "Sword Thirteen, you also saw what those so-called influential figures were like. They want to take Demon God Lin in as their disciple, but they don't want to bring trouble to themselves. I couldn't stand their ugly faces!"

"So, young master, is that the reason why you stood up for Demon God Lin?"

"I am not standing up for him, but I couldn't stand watching them be hypocrites."

Ye Chen exuded a menacing aura that was as sharp as a sword. "I cultivate to follow my heart, so if I can't stand it, it means that my heart does not follow. And if my heart does not follow, what dao am I trying to cultivate and comprehend?"

The old servant said, "But there are many things in this world that don't always achieve what your heart desires."

"Then get rid of it with one sword strike!" Ye Chen's voice was sonorous and without the slightest waver, just like his personality and his sword.

.....

Meanwhile, in Cangwu Mountain, the figures of Lin Xun and others appeared in an ancient forest of steles.

The final test would take place in this forest of steles.

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 894: Steele Forest Dao Practice

The ancient stele forest spanned across a huge area with thousands of stone steles.

Every stone stele was covered with vines and moss, giving the feeling that it had been standing for a long period.

The vast world had nothing but many ancient steles standing upright, creating a solemn and quiet atmosphere.

This was the fifth test, called the Stele Forest Dao Practice.

Every stone stele was engraved with mysterious and cryptic carvings, which were formed and evolved from traces of the grand dao.

To pass this test, a cultivator first had to select a stone stele to practice and comprehend the power of the grand dao imbued within it.

Only those who could comprehend and grasp all the mysteries in it were deemed qualified to pass the test.

In short, this tested a cultivator's comprehension and understanding of the grand dao!

.....

Only fewer than five hundred people were currently standing before the Stele Forest, which was less than five percent of the total number of people who participated in the Dao Lantern Festival.

There weren't even ten percent of the original number of people!

Ninety-five percent of the other cultivators had already been eliminated in the first four tests. The elimination rate was terrifying.

But there was no doubt that those who made it as far as the Stele Forest were top figures among the young geniuses.

One person exclaimed, "Dao Practice Stele Forest...here must lie true grand dao opportunities!"

Another explained, "The engravings on each stone stele are imbued with a different grand dao power. In addition to the nine first-tier dao powers, the five elements, yin and yang, wind and thunder, there are also many other mysterious and rare grand dao powers."

A third chimed in, "In past Dao Lantern Festivals, someone had derived the unique dao of false appearance and was able to unify all things into one and create confusion."

"There had also been someone who derived the dao of intense blood. Although it is only a third-tier grand dao, it can make the blood and qi bubble and explode with combat power far exceeding their own cultivation," remarked someone else.

Another genius stated, "There are also grand dao powers such as primordial chaos dao, cloud mist dao, tidal dao, and illusory domain dao, all of which have their own unique power and effects."

A group of geniuses were standing in front of the ancient stele forest with blazing eyes like they were staring at a treasure.

If they passed the test, then they wouldn't only reach the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree but also grasp a type of grand dao power!

This wasn't an ordinary blessing, but a dao blessing!

Of course, if they failed to derive anything, not only would they have to return empty-handed but they would also be directly eliminated.

Based on previous Dao Lantern Festivals, the last test, Dao Practice Stele Forest, wasn't the most dangerous test, but it had the highest elimination rate among the five tests!

The grand dao was concealed within different stone steles, but not everyone could derive it, practice it, or comprehend it.

On the contrary, dao comprehension was undeniably the most difficult aspect of cultivation and had obstructed countless cultivators in the past.

It was not only related to one's own comprehension, but also had an element of luck.

.....

“Is this the Dao Inscription Land left by the ancient sages? If so, the opportunity that Master spoke of must be hidden in there!” Luo Jia, who had been calm and indifferent all this time, felt her emotions fluctuating intensely.

She was from the Miluo Palace in the Earth Emperor World, so her unexpected participation in the Dao Lantern Festival attracted attention and piqued the curiosity of many people. They believed that she also came here for the great blessings on the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree.

Only she knew that she came for this forest of steles!

“This time, I must find it. Only then can I awaken the power of my bloodline!” A determined glint flashed in her bright eyes.

.....

“The sect master has mentioned that this Stele Forest isn’t that simple and hides amazing dao blessings. I don’t know if it is true or not but...” Ji Xingyao uttered ruminatively.

“As expected, Cangwu Mountain is indeed a holy mountain from ancient times. I made the right decision to come.” Yu Lingkong’s eyes gleamed with excitement.

In addition to them, other peerless geniuses were bubbling with emotions.

They all come from different forces, but before they came to participate in the Dao Lantern Festival, they had already learned about the many secrets of the Stele Forest and knew that the dao blessings within them were remarkable.

Even before participating in the Dao Lantern Festival, they were already eyeing certain stone steles in the Stele Forest!

This was the foundation that the successors from ancient sects had. With guidance from their elders and sect master, they could make preparations in advance and not miss out on any opportunities.

“Lin Xun, you have to be careful. After passing this test, you will arrive at the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree and at that time, those guys will definitely do everything they can to deal with you.” Yue Jianming reminded Lin Xun.

Lin Xun nodded, looking distracted.

This was because the moment that he came to the Stele Forest, he felt whispers of summoning that made the Origin Aeth Artery in his heart ripple like it was awakening.

This completely drew Lin Xun’s attention.

His Origin Aeth Artery had the name of Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer and was rated as a grade one innate talent in the Ziyao Empire.

However, besides bringing immeasurable benefits to him on his cultivation path, the Origin Aeth Artery had always remained in a state of silence.

He couldn’t pry into its hidden secrets, mysteries, and power.

But there was no doubt that the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer was very special. Otherwise, Yun Qingbai, an unrivaled successor from the Omega Sword Sect, wouldn't have ventured into the lower domain alone and massacred his family to take his Origin Aeth Artery.

From what Lin Xun heard, Yun Qingbai had made rapid progress in his cultivation after seizing his Origin Aeth Artery. Now, he was hailed as the number one swordsman in the Ancient Wasteland Domain and also strongest below the king stage!

Now, a brand new Origin Aeth Artery was inside him. It was complete, spotlessly white, and shining, but it had always been in a still and silent state.

Only when Lin Xun was on the verge of exhaustion and nearing death would it release a mysterious current of warmth to help repair his body.

For example, when Lin Xun struggled to win against the will left by a group of cultivators in the second test Realm of Limits, it was the Origin Aeth Artery that helped him during the most critical juncture. In the end, he won a special reward for first place—the Dao Immeasurable Bottle.

But now, the Origin Aeth Artery was showing signs of movement before arriving at the Stele Forest, like it was being summoned by some power. How would Lin Xun not be surprised?

Could it be that the grand dao power concealed in a certain stone stele in this forest can awaken my Origin Aeth Artery?

His heart thumped.

"Lin Xun, are you okay?" Yue Jianming couldn't help feeling worried when he saw Lin Xun gazing absently into space.

Lin Xun shook his head. "I'm fine."

"Fine? You must be worried that you won't be able to protect yourself when you get to the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree!" Sha Liuchan snorted.

Lin Xun raised his eyes and saw that Sha Liuchan, Zhongli Wuji and Qing Lian'er all wore cold smiles on their faces.

They clearly couldn't wait to pass this test and arrive at the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree.

This time, Lin Xun couldn't be bothered dealing with them.

Ever since the Dao Lantern Festival started, those guys had been pestering him like flies buzzing in his ears. He had had enough. Not only they couldn't wait, but Lin Xun was also eager to get rid of them once and for all.

Clang!

The ancient and leisurely sound resounded again, drifting through the ancient forest of steles.

Buzz—

The vines and moss that coated the thousands of steles suddenly turned into ashes and drifted away.

After that, every stone tablet seemed to be waking up from a slumber of endless years, blooming with obscure grand dao power and swaying like ripples. It was a spectacular scene.

There were too many grand dao auras, and all were different. Some were blazing and showy, while some were ice cold and chilling, and others were powerful and vast.

The waves of various types of cryptic energy that belonged to the grand dao immediately drew the attention of all cultivators like scenes descending upon the world.

Whether it was Ji Xingyao, Yu Lingkong, or other top geniuses, they all found it incredibly hard to conceal their excitement and anticipation.

The dao blessing was almost within reach!

Lin Xun felt the burning sensation in his chest intensifying like a fire was spreading. On the four heart acupuncture points, the spotlessly white Origin Aeth Artery produced pulses of strange energy as sacred white light flowed out like it was cheering and longing for something.

He realized that if he could seize this rare opportunity, he could uncover the mysterious veil of the Origin Aeth Artery and get a glimpse of its true form!

Shua!

A figure madly charged forward. They couldn't bear it anymore and rushed towards the ancient stele forest.

"Let's go!"

"Quick, don't let anyone get ahead of you!"

The other experts also launched into action, racing to be the first. The scene suddenly turned chaotic.

Similar to previous tests, fighting was banned and so if they didn't take the first step, the stele they had their eyes on could very likely be snatched by someone else!

Therefore, even Ji Xingyao and other peerless geniuses did not dare to be careless and started to act as soon as the bell rang.

Swoosh!

At the same time, Lin Xun activated the Hornless Ice Dragon Step and darted forward like a flash of light. His astonishing speed left the other experts speechless for a moment.

However, very quickly, Lin Xun stopped abruptly with a strange expression.

He felt that the waves of energy that caused the awakening of his Origin Aeth Artery came from a stone stele at the edge of the Stele Forest.

However, the majority of cultivators directly ignored the stone steles in the peripheral area because, based on the secrets and information they received as well as past Dao Lantern Festivals, almost all the steles on the periphery of the forest contained very ordinary grand dao power and weren't worth their attention.

On the contrary, the deeper the stele was in the Stele Forest, the stronger the grand dao power hidden within it and the more extraordinary its grade!

Therefore, the cultivators all swarmed to the depths of the forest.

Lin Xun had also heard about the Stele Forest from Bai Fengliu, so he was very bemused at the moment.

He never expected a stone stele at the edge of the forest could trigger the awakening of his Origin Aeth Artery!

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 895: The Running Saint

Did that mean almost all the stone steles on the periphery of the Stele Forest were imbued with only ordinary grand dao powers?

Lin Xun stood still with a strange look on his face.

All cultivators were racing into the depths of the Stele Forest, and people like Ji Xingyao and Yu Lingkong had already had their eyes on a certain stone stele.

Only a few wandered around the outer area like Lin Xun.

This was also understanding. Even if there were thousands of steles standing in the ancient forest, not everyone could derive and comprehend the grand dao power within every stone stele.

Generally, the higher the grade of grand dao power, the more difficult it would be to derive and grasp it. Without superb comprehension ability and talent, it would be impossible to comprehend and control such divine powers.

The experts present were all top figures so they all had a clear understanding of themselves and knew that the most important thing they had to do in the Stele Forest was to choose a stone stele that suited them the best.

If they aimed too high, they could be eliminated!

However, the cultivators investigating the outer area were surprised to see that Lin Xun was still standing in the peripheral area and made no further movement.

They subconsciously believed that a peerless genius like Lin Xun should rush into the depths of the Stele Forest and compete with Ji Xingyao, Yu Lingkong and the others.

However, he seemed to have no intention of doing that, but strangely wanted to search for a stele on the periphery of the Stele Forest.

"Could it be that Demon God Lin knows that his comprehension isn't good enough?" someone suspected.

Someone quickly retorted, "Shut up, did you think his comprehension is not good enough? Don't joke around. Comprehension is related to one's spirit, and Demon God Lin was able to light up six Spirit Lanterns to the level of the Midday Sun with his spirit power. How dare you say that his comprehension isn't good enough! Are you stupid?!"

Someone gave a reminder, "Everyone, watch what you say. I have a feeling that Demon God Lin is going to pretend to be a pig to eat a tiger again. He wants to dig a pit for people to fall into again!"

Immediately, many experts' expressions twisted strangely, realizing that Demon God Lin should be called a god at digging pits instead...

The expert who suspected that Lin Xun's comprehension was not good enough broke out in cold sweat, and his heart pounded. He almost walked into the pit by himself!

Demon God Lin is so cunning. At this time, he isn't fighting for his dao blessings, but he plans to dig pits to trap people. It's so hard to guard against him!

It was understandable that they had such thoughts. During the Spirit Lantern Illumination Test, they were under the impression that Lin Xun had deliberately pretended to be weak to trick the five experts from the Blue Luan Clan and the Zhongli Clan which caused them to be eliminated.

After that, he pretended that he couldn't light any Spirit Lantern in the thousand-foot-high void and drew ridicule from Sha Liuchan and the others.

But in the end, he erupted with mighty power and lit up six Spirit Lanterns in one go, which was a direct slap in the face of Sha Liuchan and the others. They were so embarrassed that they almost coughed up blood and buried their heads.

Now, the powerful Demon God Lin was wandering the periphery of the Stele Forest. This scene inevitably caused many thoughts to run through their minds.

"Hmph!"

"Do you want to trick people again? Think again!"

"Do you think that we're idiots and will fall for your tricks over and over again?"

"You are considered a peerless figure, but you are so sinister and cunning, and you have no integrity, don't you feel ashamed?"

In the distance, Sha Liuchan and the others burst into anger, believing that Lin Xun did that to target them again!

Demon God Lin is addicted to tricking people. He has already tricked us into a pit and now he wants to use the same trick again. This is getting old now!

We won't fall for it again!

They had been traumatized and became very sensitive. Every little unusual movement from Lin Xun made them subconsciously think that he was planning to trick them again.

What else could Lin Xun do? He was innocent, but he didn't bother to explain to them because it was pretty amusing to see Sha Liuchan and the others exasperated.

"A bunch of idiots."

“Xing Zhenzi, the successor from the Hidden Holy Land’s Great Zen Temple in the North Dipper World, is right. When the real Genius Gold Rankings appear, the so-called-geniuses in this world will be swept away and have their title of genius removed!”

In Lin Xun’s view, Sha Liuchan was an insult to the title genius!

.....

Ignoring the strange gazes cast at him, Lin Xun made his way to a certain stone stele at the periphery of the Stele Forest.

The stone stele was covered with dust and tilted at an angle, looking old and timeworn. But upon a closer look, carvings lay beneath the thick layer of dust. The markings were so obscure that it was difficult to make sense of them.

Compared with other stone steles that were emitting waves of cryptic energy and projecting mysterious visions, the stone stele seemed too ordinary, just like a piece of junk.

In the peripheral area of the Stele Forest, many stone steles were ancient, mottled and ordinary.

But Lin Xun could feel his Origin Aeth Artery about to combust in his four heart acupuncture points, erupting with bright and sacred white lights and bringing burning and piercing pain to his chest.

“This is it!” Lin Xun took a deep breath, sat down cross-legged, and studied the mottled and ordinary-looking stone stele.

Huh?

Many experts were perplexed by Lin Xun’s movements. Is Demon God Lin planning to practice dao in front of that ordinary stele?

Could he be digging a pit for other people to fall into again?

“That guy always does unexpected things and tackles things in unconventional ways. He just likes to be different from other people. He is going to dig a hole for himself again just as he did at the Spirit Lantern Illumination Test!”

Sha Liuchan and the others smiled coldly.

Everyone’s expressions became complicated. Indeed, during the Spirit Lantern Illumination Test, Lin Xun managed to light six Spirit Lanterns, but he refused to settle with any one of those and continued to search for a higher-grade Spirit Lantern.

In the end, he achieved nothing.

Many people felt pity for him.

What about this time? Would Demon God Lin repeat the same mistake?

It quickly became quiet, and a solemn atmosphere permeated the Stele Forest.

The test had already begun. They had made it this far after passing several obstacles, so they wouldn’t want to be eliminated at the last hurdle.

With intent and concentrated expressions, they focused all their attention on deriving the mystery within their chosen stone stele.

“This stele is impossible to decipher!”

“Argh, this stele is so ordinary, but I can’t derive its secret. Could it be that my comprehension is too poor?”

“I advise everyone to not choose this stele or you will regret it!”

Just as Lin Xun was preparing to act, several lines of writing on the ground in front of the stone stele caught his attention.

They were all in different handwriting and were obviously written by different people, but they were all oozing with negative emotions of bitterness, despair, anger, and confusion.

It seems like geniuses in the past have attempted to decipher the mystery of this stele in previous Dao Lantern Festivals, but they all failed in the end.

And failure represented elimination!

“There’s a great secret here, but it’s a pity that I can’t see it. My comprehension is superior to that of my peers. Who would have thought that I would also stop before this stele? —The god of destiny really— likes to make fools of people!”

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes at those words. This must be a peerless person and also, they realized the extraordinariness of this stone stele, but they still failed in the end!

Lin Xun wavered in front of the stele for a while.

This was the fifth and final test. If he encountered an obstacle and became eliminated, he wouldn’t be able to reach the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree.

Should I choose this stone stele?

He hesitated.

He grunted in pain and clutched at his chest. His chest was getting hotter and hotter like it was tearing apart while the Origin Aeth Artery was growing brighter and brighter like it was about to burst out of his chest.

“The experts in the past failed to decipher the great power in this stele. Perhaps it has nothing to do with their level of comprehension, but...because they lacked a kind of luck!”

A thought struck Lin Xun. The stele might be specially reserved for people who possessed the talent of Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer.

Otherwise, why would his Origin Aeth Artery react so strongly and abnormally in front of the stele?

“Fine, no matter what, I should give it a try! I’m lucky if I succeed, and if I don’t, it is fate!” Drawing a deep breath, he cast away all the distracting thoughts in his mind, maintaining a calm and empty state of mind. Then, he enveloped the stone stele with his spirit power.

The stele was marked with scribbles that resembled the graffiti of a three-year-old child.

But the contact between his spirit and the inscription seemed to set off an explosion in his mind and brought multiple scenes flashing across his mind one after another.

In a vast world, an old man with disheveled hair, a haggard face, and a thin figure was running wildly across the mountains and valleys.

He hobbled and stumbled as he ran, but his every step sent a shudder through the mountains and caused everyone to tremble!

Time flew, and the world swiftly changed. Tens of thousands of years seemed to have passed in the blink of an eye, but the old man was still running wildly. He never stopped once in the mountains and valleys.

Later, he stepped into the sky, ascended the clouds, soared beyond the void of emptiness and ran wildly across the vast starry sky. With a single step, he sped past thousands of starry rivers. Even the stars changing in position were not as spectacular as his running!

Who is he?

What is he doing?

Lin Xun wondered.

It was terrifying that someone could achieve that. The old man had to be a Saint with supernatural powers. He might even be stronger than a Saint. The river of stars acted as his path, and his every step was akin to teleportation!

In the process, time flew by, everything changed, the sun rose and the moon set. It was unknown how long passed. All the scenes became hazy and indistinct.

But the figure of the old man hadn't been erased, resisting the erosion of time and the obstruction of space. He was still running wildly in the vast world!

He seemed to be searching for something, and he seemed to be fighting intensely!

Yes, it was like a battle! Every moment felt as intense as if he was facing a formidable enemy.

Lin Xun's heart pounded from the indescribable tension and pressure.

Boom!

Suddenly, the old man abruptly halted, and in front of him was a vast expanse of nothingness. It was boundless and empty.

Suddenly, a beam of terrifying light erupted from his body like he was burning. The starry sky quaked behind him.

From afar, he resembled a grand abyss about to engulf everything with his boundless power.

That...

Lin Xun trembled all over. That's the aura of the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer. The old man possesses the power of the Origin Aeth Artery just like me!

The Prodigies War

Chapter 896: Playing Chess with the Sky

The old man was skinny, but he had a majestic and imposing air around him. He was soaring in power at an astonishing speed as beams of dazzling dao light shot out from him.

Ahead of him was completely empty as if his journey ended there, and there was no further path for him.

Behind him, the rivers of stars were tumbling and the void of emptiness was quaking, as if they were terrified of being devoured by the aura of the old man.

He was like an abyss, able to devour everything in his way!

So unbelievable!

Lin Xun's heart was in his throat. He was shocked beyond anything. What kind of terrifying cultivation does one need to achieve that?

Saint level?

Or perhaps Saint-King?

Lin Xun didn't know.

To his surprise, the old man withdrew his aura, and his straight figure became stooped as though he had lost all his strength. An air of gloom, helplessness, and bitterness hung around him.

He was like a traveler who had been wandering for years, or like a veteran soldier who had fought on the battlefield for a long time.

"I take the universe as a game of chess, regard the past and present as the chess board, the great dao as the chess manual, and my life as a chess piece to play against the sky..."

"But in the end...I still lost..." the old man sighed.

The sigh was filled with indescribable bitterness and unwillingness that touched Lin Xun's heart.

Amazing! Play against the sky in a game of chess!

"The path has been cut off, where should I go? Is it really impossible to escape from the chess game and break out of its restraint?"

The old man's voice became deeper and deeper. He looked melancholic as he stood there alone with a large expanse of nothingness in front of him.

"Then..."

All of a sudden, the old man straightened his hunched back again, and his eyes shone with a terrifying divine light. His thin body erupted in a blaze of light like it was flaming.

“Use my body to reconstruct a path!”

“Use my spirit to guide the lost forward!”

Boom!

Suddenly, the figure of the old man transformed into immeasurable light, rushing into the vast nothingness ahead and was no longer seen anywhere...

The scenes ended there, quickly fading.

Lin Xun woke up. The mottled and tilted stone stele was standing right in front of him, and an ancient qi assaulted his face. The stone carvings on the stele were still like scribbles and were still indecipherable.

But Lin Xun was soaked in a cold sweat. All the scenes he just witnessed were unbelievable and terrifying beyond imagination.

An old man was running wildly across the mountains and the rivers, and then soared into the sky, ascended the clouds and then roamed across the void of emptiness and the starry sky. His every step was akin to teleportation!

He did all that because he was playing a game of chess with the sky, trying to break out of the chessboard and be free!

His boldness was awe-inspiring. Even the current generation of Saints would have to look up to him.

However, Lin Xun was most moved by the old man’s final decision to use his own body to reconstruct the broken path and use his own spirit to guide the lost in the future.

Could it be because he was unwilling to fail at that point so he wanted future generations to carry on the path that he persistently pursued?

.....

The Steele Forest seemed particularly quiet in the vast world. Several cultivators were standing in front of ancient stone steles, solely focused on comprehending and practicing the dao. A solemn atmosphere pervaded the air.

It took Lin Xun a long time before he could calm down. But when he looked at the scribbles on the stone stele again, the vision he saw just now was gone.

Casting away all the distracting thoughts, Lin Xun activated his spirit sense to investigate the stele.

Suddenly, the scribbled and mottled stone carvings seemed to have become a vast ocean, forming a terrifying vortex about to swallow up the sky.

Immediately, it turned into a storm and raged across the universe.

Before long, another black hole took shape in the void of emptiness and silently inhaled a bright sky of stars...

One after another, magnificent images filled with destructive power were presented in a chaotic manner.

Too many!

Lin Xun almost fainted from the intertwining of the complex aura and the chaotic scenes. Even though his spirit power was tremendous, he still felt a sense of unbearable oppression, chaos, and confusion bearing down on him. He almost coughed up blood.

It was the aura of the grand dao, but it seemed very different.

Before long, he was shaking all over and seemed like he couldn't hold on much longer. The grand dao power was rife with destruction and raging aura that could swallow up even his spirit and will!

It was at that moment that his burning Origin Aeth Artery produced a peculiar warm current, and it spread throughout his body.

Instantly, Lin Xun regained consciousness, feeling a pure and vast power filling his body and making his mind calmer and stronger than ever.

The grand dao aura rife with destruction and chaos struggled to invade and batter his mind but was no longer able to. Instead, he was able to spot all kinds of wonderful truths within the chaos.

Lin Xun focussed his attention and began to concentrate on deriving the secrets.

Vaguely, he seemed to feel sacred light rising from his Origin Aeth Artery and transforming into a great abyss. Moreover, in the depths of the abyss were the echo of sages chanting scriptures, as illusory as the voice of the dao.

His spirit power was activated to its peak state, and he had performed the secret art of the Qiuniu Heart. His power of perception instantly soared to an unprecedented level.

Little by little, he carefully deciphered all kinds of secrets concealed within the stone carvings and comprehended them.

.....

As time went by, the ancient stele forest became more and more quiet and solemn.

However, some experts had been eliminated!

Pu!

A young man's body was suddenly twitching all over. He raised his head and spat out a mouthful of blood. "Impossible, my comprehension and derivation can't be wrong, so how can I not decipher the profound meaning?"

A yell broke the peaceful silence.

Before the young man had time to react, he was teleported away and eliminated from the test.

After that, one expert after another failed. Some had devastated looks on their faces, some were speechless, and some were beating their chest and stamping their feet in frustration.

But they were all eliminated without exception.

This was the fifth test, which tested a cultivator's comprehension and ability to control grand dao powers. There might not be obvious dangers, but if they failed, they would still be eliminated.

However, some experts had already passed the test.

Buzz!

A stone stele glowed brightly and poured out a gush of dreamy, waterfall-like, silver light.

In front of the stone stele, a woman beamed an excited and brilliant smile. Clenching her beautiful hands, she murmured, "Astral Mysteries! Although it is only a fourth-tier grand dao, it allows me to draw upon the power of stars and unleash unprecedented power in battle!"

Wow—

Another stone stele was shrouded in the spectacular vision of a surging river of blood.

A young man in black stood up and laughed loudly, "The Blood River Grand Dao exists, and it matches perfectly with the grand dao that I am looking for!"

"Obedient Wind Grand Dao!" A gust of wind suddenly rose from the peerless genius Lei Qianjun and swept the world.

Soon after that, Mu Jianting opened his eyes. "The power of extreme yin integrates perfectly with my power of extreme yang, just like yin and yang, my grand dao is now complete!"

Similar scenes happened one after another.

Some people were eliminated, and some passed the test and gained dao blessings.

Only fewer than two hundred people remained in the ancient stele forest. In other words, three hundred people had already been eliminated since the test began.

As for those who passed the test and obtained dao blessings, there were around one hundred people. Another fifty-odd people were still trying to decipher the stone carvings.

.....

The outside world was shrouded in a tense atmosphere.

This was the last test and also the most critical hurdle. If they passed, they would not only obtain a dao blessing but be qualified to reach the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree!

During this period, the elimination of every expert attracted nervous gazes, followed by incessant pitying sighs.

"This time, I wonder how many people will reach the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree..."

Many influential figures couldn't say for sure because the elimination rate was too shockingly high!

Of course, there was also good news, which set off commotions.

"Mu Jianting comprehended the Extreme Yin Grand Dao."

“Lei Qianjun comprehended the Obedient Wind Grand Dao.”

“Zhongli Wuji comprehended the Moving Mountains Grand Dao.”

“.....”

Their respective clansmen beamed with delight and excitement while the other cultivators sighed and looked at them enviously.

.....

Meanwhile, the test in the ancient stele forest was in its final stages.

Only a few people were still deriving and comprehending the dao.

The others had either been eliminated or had already grasped grand dao power and were waiting outside the Stele Forest.

“Only Fairy Ji, Young Master Yu, Miss Luo Jia and Demon God Lin are left.”

Everyone waited with bated breaths.

They could all tell that the grand dao power within the steles selected by the four was incredible.

“I can agree that Fairy Ji and the others will derive unfathomable grand daos, but Lin Xun is clearly pretending and putting on an act!”

Sha Liuchan couldn’t help remarking. He couldn’t stand watching anymore and had to say something.

Only Lin Xun had chosen a stele in the outermost area of the vast Stele Forest. Moreover, it looked very ordinary. Any other cultivators would have derived the grand dao power within it already.

Unfortunately, Lin Xun had not made any progress.

Although Sha Liuchan hated Lin Xun to the bone, he wouldn’t think that Lin Xun’s comprehension was weaker than the others.

So, he believed that Lin Xun was playing tricks again and pretending.

The other experts also found it baffling. They had carefully studied the stele that Lin Xun had chosen, and it indeed looked very ordinary. Although they couldn’t pry into the stone carvings, the aura around the stele was very mediocre and wasn’t special in any way.

“Don’t speak so early, lest you get slapped in the face again,” Yue Jianming sneered.

His one sentence stabbed Sha Liuchan’s heart like a knife and made his face darken.

Other cultivators’ expressions turned strange.

Sha Liuchan had indeed been tricked by Demon God Lin during the Spirit Lantern Illumination trial and was slapped in the face.

It was precisely because they had witnessed that that they dared not say anything regardless of how puzzled they were, lest they would also be slapped by Lin Xun.

“Who are you? How dare you talk to me like that?” Sha Liuchan’s eyes glowed a menacing light as he scanned Yue Jianming like a sharp knife.

“Who are you then? Your sneak attack on Lin Xun on the Sinking Sea failed and then you were defeated and had to flee in a panic. After that, you again embarrassed yourself during the Spirit Lantern Illumination Test. Why haven’t you learned from your lessons? Don’t you think it's embarrassing?”

Yue Jianming wasn’t afraid because this was the fifth test, where fighting and killing were banned.

Many people stifled a snigger. Sha Liuchan is indeed very unlucky.

Sha Liuchan was so angry that smoke was rising from the top of his head. He felt utmost shame and humiliation with his scars uncovered in public.

“We will soon reach the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree, where I will be the first to kill you, a lackey of Demon God Lin!”

Sha Liuchan’s voice seemed to be squeezed out from between the teeth and was filled with chilling murderous intent.

It was then that another vision shook the world.

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 897: Reaching Heaven Grand Dao

Clang!

In the depths of the Stele Forest, a ray of blinding golden light burst into the clouds, transforming into a sword with a sharp clang.

Within seconds, a sword cry shook the world, and golden light filled the sky.

Everyone felt a prickling pain in their eyes, and their skin felt as if it were being stabbed by needles. How could they not be dumbstruck by the mighty grand dao power that could form the vision of a divine sword piercing the sky and golden brilliance dyeing the mountains?

At the same time, Ji Xingyao rose to her feet. The golden light flowed down her graceful body and took the shape of several brilliant, golden sword flowers as they landed on the ground.

Si—

Gasps rang out in rapid succession.

Everyone present was a top figure so they all knew that it wasn’t a simple grand dao!

“The name of this dao is Supreme Mystery. Its fierce aura is unrivaled in the world, and it is extremely rare. It originated from the golden grand dao, but it is also detached from the golden grand dao and ranks above the first tier!” Mu Jianting murmured, his expression changing incessantly.

Supreme Mystery Grand Dao!

His words set off another wave of exclamations.

Fairy Ji is indeed worthy of being a successor from the Unsolved Mystery Sword Alms. Perhaps, only a peerless genius like her can comprehend such a transcendent grand dao.

Everyone's gazes changed as they looked at Ji Xingyao. She was like a fairy and as beautiful as the moon.

Boom!

However, before everyone could react, another vision appeared—

Amidst the chaos, a blue lotus drifted across the air, separating the clear and turbid qi like it was splitting heaven and earth apart.

"Blue Lotus Grand Dao!"

"Heavens, does such a rare grand dao exist in this world?"

Everyone immediately recognized the grand dao power, and mutters of exclamation and astonishment rippled through the area.

It was rumored that in ancient times, a blue lotus was born in the primal chaos. It formed a path between heaven and earth and split the clear and turbid qi apart. It was known as the Eternal Sky Lotus!

However, this was only a rumor and seemed impossible, so no thought that dao existed.

As Yu Lingkong got up, clear and turbid qi circulated his body, forming an ethereal aura around him that seemed invincible against all laws.

Everyone's gaze turned complicated.

A successor from the Longevity Land in the South Wonder World obtained such a remarkable blessing at the Dao Lantern Festival. Regardless of how glum they were, they had to accept it.

"Congratulations Miss Ji for mastering the Supreme Mystery Grand Dao. In ancient times, this dao was considered one of the Four Wonder Kill Daos," Yu Lingkong said with a gentle smile on his face.

"I'm more impressed with you. In ancient times, the Blue Lotus Grand Dao was called the true profound dao of heaven and earth. I didn't expect to see it reappear in the world after so many years." Ji Xingyao's beautiful face was calm as still water and her voice was clear and cold.

Yu Lingkong laughed heartily. "No matter what, the grand dao that you and I have grasped are both listed in the ancient Reaching Heaven Dao List. They can be called heavenly blessings to us!"

Reaching Heaven Dao List!

Emotions rippled across everyone's faces.

In ancient times, all the Saints in the world once assessed all the grand daos of the world and concluded that there were three thousand grand daos, but only ninety-nine could be called Reaching Heaven and far surpassed the first-tier nine daos.

Later, cultivators in the world compiled that ninety-nine grand dao into the Reaching Heaven Dao List according to their mysteries and power.

Those grand daos were also called pinnacle first-tier daos and reaching heaven daos!

However, the Reaching Heaven Dao List was passed down from ancient times, and the Reaching Heaven Daos were extremely rare. It was near impossible to comprehend and grasp them without great opportunities and blessings.

Moreover, very few people in the world knew about such secrets after so many years.

However, it was foreseeable that with the news that Ji Xingyao and Yu Lingkong had mastered the Supreme Mystery Grand Dao and the Blue Lotus Grand Dao respectively, the Ancient Reaching Heaven Dao List would also reappear in the Ancient Wasteland Domain and become known to the cultivators of the four great worlds!

.....

The atmosphere had become silent and still while a vortex of emotions was swirling in everyone's heart. They were originally delighted with their dao blessings, but when they compared theirs to Ji Xingyao's and Yu Lingkong's, their joy and excitement faded and were replaced by complicated emotions.

In the outside world, they could be regarded as top dazzling geniuses known throughout the West Infinity World, but they finally understood what it meant by there was always someone better!

There would never be a shortage of geniuses in this world. In addition to the geniuses in the Dao Lantern Festivals, there were many more talents in the four worlds of the Ancient Wasteland.

Suddenly, a clear cry pierced the silent atmosphere and snapped everyone out of their rambling thoughts.

They glanced around, dumbfounded. A celestial phoenix?

Light fluttered in the void like rain, dreamy and illusory, while a divine bird spread its wings and let out a cry that stirred the nine heavens.

It was dazzling and gorgeous. Its wings spanned more than ten feet, and its body was like that of a powerful steed. Halos of divine light enveloped its body, sprinkling mists of sacred light onto the world.

It was so mysterious like a bird from the legends had appeared in the world.

"Old ancestor is right. The disciple accepted by Sword Saint Elder Ling Juekong from the Miluo Palace must have the blood of the Celestial Phoenix Clan flowing in her body!"

Yu Lingkong's eyes shone brilliantly. He guessed something.

"The Celestial Phoenix Dao, a legendary Reaching Heaven Grand Dao..."

Ji Xingyao was also alarmed, and many rumors flashed to her mind.

The celestial phoenix was already a legend-like creature in ancient times. Born from heaven and earth, it was as mysterious as it was terrifying.

The Celestial Phoenix Dao was even more rare and unique, and it was almost unheard of. The reason for that was very simple: only cultivators from the bloodline of the celestial phoenix could comprehend this grand dao!

But descendants of the celestial phoenix were incredibly rare whether it was in ancient times or the present world!

Therefore, this grand dao was also very illusive and hadn't appeared in the world in countless years.

Unexpectedly, it appeared today!

The whole audience was wide-eyed and speechless with amazement. Many also showed crazed looks in their eyes.

The celestial phoenix danced in the sky, and its clear cry shook the nine heavens. Let alone them, even the old monsters in the world likely had never seen such visions in their lifetime.

However, it was at that moment that Luo Jia got up. Her elegant figure was bathed in a hazy glow that added to her mysteriousness and etherealness.

"Congratulations, Miss Luo Ji!" Yu Lingkong was the first to break the silence, congratulating her with a warm smile and gazing at her with undisguised admiration.

"Fellow cultivator, you have awakened the power of your bloodline in your body. From now on, your cultivation will improve by leaps and bounds, and the great dao will be within reach," Ji Xingyao said in a clear voice.

"I don't deserve such praise." Luo Jia was as gentle and tranquil as before, like an ethereal orchid in an empty valley.

Many cultivators couldn't help but marvel at the spectacular scenes. They never thought that three kinds of Reaching Heaven Grand Dao would appear one after another in the Dao Lantern Festival.

Each one was incredibly rare and amazing!

This had never happened in the previous Dao Lantern Festival. If it spread to the outside world, it would be bound to cause an uproar.

.....

There was a long silence. Everyone was occupied with their own thoughts, digesting all the earth-shaking things that had happened.

But a sneer broke this silent atmosphere, "Hey, Demon God Lin is the only one left again. Let's see how long he will continue to play tricks!"

Everyone didn't need to look to know that it was Sha Liuchan who spoke.

Sure enough, Sha Liuchan folded his arms across his chest and fixed his eyes on Lin Xun with a cold smile on his lips.

While Sha Liuchan watched Lin Xun with mocking eyes, everyone was very puzzled. Lin Xun's chosen stone stele was an old and mottled stele on the outermost edge of the forest, so he should have comprehended the grand dao power imbued within it already given his comprehension.

"Maybe that stele is special, and the grand dao it contains conflicts with Demon God Lin's cultivation path, so he is having trouble grasping it," someone analyzed.

Many people nodded. That could be true, and it was not the first time it happened.

Even cultivators with extraordinary talents and superb comprehension might end up with nothing if the path that they seek conflicted with a certain grand dao power.

"What do you mean by his path goes against the grand dao? He is not stupid, how would he choose to study a stone stele that conflicts with his own path?" Sha Liuchan snorted coldly, "In my opinion, the kid must be pretending to trick us again. He has such a bad heart and is always thinking of digging pits for people to fall into. But this time I won't be fooled again!"

Everyone was at a loss for words.

Although Zhongli Wuji and Qing Lian'er hadn't said a word, they agreed with Sha Liucha's analysis. Lin Xun was too cunning. The more abnormal his behavior, the higher the chance of him scheming something!

"You are thinking too highly of yourself. Do you think Lin Xun will waste his energy to scheme against you, someone he already defeated earlier, and ignore the grand dao power in the stone stele?" Yue Jianming said coldly.

"Do you want to die!?" Sha Liuchan's face darkened.

He found Yue Jianming more and more irritating. "Just you wait, this time not only Demon God Lin is going to die, but you will also be buried with him!"

Yue Jianming chuckled and didn't even bother with him anymore.

Sha Liuchan looked at him with disdain. He was very sure that if it wasn't for Lin Xun's help, Yue Jianming would have been eliminated as early as the Sinking Sea round and would not even have had the chance to take the fifth test.

Perhaps, because of this, he willingly became Lin Xun's lackey.

How despicable!

With this thought, Sha Liuchan's anger eased.

At that moment, Zhongli Wuji chuckled out loud. "During the Spirit Lantern Illumination, Demon God Lin got nothing in the end. Will he repeat the same mistake this time?"

Everyone's expression changed strangely, but no one said anything. It was understandable. Demon God Lin was too abnormal. Anyone who thought he was not good enough was always slapped in the face in the end.

Seeing everyone ignore him, Zhongli Wuji's face froze awkwardly before he said hesitantly, "It seems that you all have other opinions, but in my view, he is pouring water into a sieve again."

Before his voice faded, a cryptic wave of energy swept over Lin Xun's body like a black hole had erupted out of nowhere.

Instantly, everyone's expression changed.

While Zhongli Wuji was struck dumb. The speed of the slap was like that of a tornado. It came too unexpectedly!

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 898: Star Annihilation Heaven Devourer

It was deliberate!

Demon God Lin did it on purpose!

Zhongli Wuji's complexion turned pale, and he almost wanted to cough up blood. He was already extremely wary of Lin Xun, but he was still slapped in the face.

Worst of all, he had fallen into the same pit before.

Sha Liuchan went stiff and broke out in a cold sweat. He had been about to say something just now, but Zhongli Wuji interrupted and fell into the pit for him instead.

Demon God Lin was too cunning and unbearable. He used the same trick over and over again but in a slightly different way and caught them all off guard.

However, unexpectedly, not many people laughed at Zhongli Wuji because everyone was staring curiously at Lin Xun.

No matter what, Demon God Lin was a peerless figure yet he chose a stone stele located in the peripheral area of the Stele Forest to practice the dao. What kind of grand dao power would he comprehend this time?

Buzz—

Cryptic waves of grand dao energy surged around Lin Xun like he was a slowly rotating black hole, causing the nearby space to collapse inch by inch and be torn into turbulent currents.

"The Vortex Dao?" Many experts had strange expressions mixed with pity on their faces.

The Vortex Dao was at most a fourth-tier grand dao. Although its attack power was unique and domineering, it was much inferior to any one of the first-tier grand daos, let alone a Reaching Heaven Grand Dao!

It took him such a long time to only comprehend a fourth-tier grand dao. If this happened with other experts, then it would be considered normal, but it was tragic if it happened to Demon God Lin.

Only Ji Xingyao, Yu Lingkong and other peerless figures scrunched their brows, feeling a little anxious.

They could tell from one glance that the grand dao power that Lin Xun grasped wasn't just a simple Vortex Dao because the aura was more than terrifying.

It resembled an abyss, a prison!

It had a spine-chilling aura.

But before they could investigate closer, the visions projected around Lin Xun receded like a tide without a trace.

He...

Ji Xingyao and the others narrowed their eyes, more and more certain that Lin Xun might have had a huge harvest and grasped an extremely rare grand dao power.

It should be mentioned that they were all from the ancient sects and clans so they were all very knowledgeable and familiar about the ninety-nine Reaching Heaven Grand Dao in ancient times.

Even so, they were struggling to figure out the grand dao power that Lin Xun had comprehended.

What could it be?

Shua!

Their eyes immediately shifted onto the ancient, mottled, and seemingly-ordinary stone stele in front of Lin Xun.

However, it seemed to have changed from before. It had a veil of mystery around it.

What is going on?

The other experts noticed Ji Xingyao's unusual expression and followed her gaze.

Crack!

However, before they could see clearly, the stone stele was crumbling inch by inch, and the stone shards were turning into ashes and vanishing into the air.

Everyone's eyes narrowed simultaneously. What's going on?

They had never heard of a stone stele destroyed in any of the previous Dao Lantern Festivals!

Let alone destroyed, it was impossible to touch the stele because each one was shrouded in terrifying restriction power that would set off upon contact. If that happened, not only would they be severely wounded, but they would also be at risk of being eliminated.

But now, a stone stele self-destructed before their eyes!

"As expected, Lin Xun wouldn't have comprehended any ordinary grand dao power!"

All of a sudden, Ji Xingyao and the others looked at Lin Xun differently. There was surprise tinged with vigilance.

The rest of the people also realized that something unusual had happened. There wouldn't have been such bizarre visions if Lin Xun had only comprehended a fourth-tier Vortex Dao.

Then, what did Demon God Lin grasp from that stone stele?

.....

Lin Xun ignored the gazes around him. He had already awakened from his state of comprehension.

However, indescribable emotions rushed up his heart when he confirmed the grand dao power he had comprehended.

The spotlessly white Origin Aeth Artery was glowing brightly on the four heart acupuncture points, sometimes transforming into a star vortex black hole and sometimes turning into a Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer.

This dao was called the Star Annihilation Heaven Devourer!

It was a grand dao that had been lost since ancient times, but once cultivated to its peak form, its boundless power could devour the sky like an abyss and annihilate the universe of stars!

Lin Xun would never forget that old man running wildly in the depths of the starry sky, and he would never forget his earthshaking power that shook the rivers of stars.

He was certain that the old man also possessed the innate talent of Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer as well as the dao power of Star Annihilation Heaven Devourer!

"This dao power is terrifying but obscure. Its destructive aura dominates the heavens and it is extremely difficult to comprehend. I've only managed to barely grasp some superficial knowledge of its profound meaning after such a long time..." Lin Xun murmured.

But even so, the superficial knowledge of its profound meaning shook him to the core. Even if it was only a wisp of profound meaning, it could unleash unimaginable power in battle!

.....

"Fellow cultivator Lin Xun, can I ask what kind of dao you have comprehended?" Mu Jianting from the Jade Emptiness Temple asked curiously.

All gazes shifted onto Lin Xun.

"Vortex Grand Dao," Lin Xun causally told a lie without the slightest change of expression or heart rate.

He even let out a long, deep sigh.

"Lin Xun, you are so fake! Who would believe such a lie?" someone couldn't help but confront him.

Ji Xingyao, Yu Lingkong and the others also looked at him with disdain.

How can this guy lie without blinking his eyes? Does he think we are idiots?

Lin Xun smiled. "It's up to you if you want to believe it or not."

Everyone stared at him speechlessly, but they became more and more convinced that he had comprehended an extraordinary grand dao power!

“Then let me ask you, were you first place in the second test?” Ji Xingyao suddenly asked.

Her question took everyone aback for a moment before it struck them.

Yes, until now we still haven’t figured out who won the special reward for being first place in that Realm of Limits.

But Lin Xun exclaimed in surprise, “Xingyao, are you expressing your admiration for me now?”

He addressed Ji Xingyao very affectionately. Anyone unaware of their relationship would have thought that they were very close.

“Shameless!” Ji Xingyao yelled in exasperation, her voice cold as ice. This guy is beyond help.

The other experts’ expressions had a tinge of admiration for Lin Xun. He has guts to tease Fairy Ji in public. Is he not afraid of being eaten alive by Fairy Ji’s admirers?

Lin Xun indeed felt a gush of murderous intent coming from Yu Lingkong.

He smiled and didn’t care. That proud girl, Ji Xingyao, has brought me much trouble before, so what if I tease her a little?

Yu Lingkong felt increasingly uneasy. Everyone present could tell how he felt towards Ji Xingyao, yet Lin Xun still dared to tease her in front of him. How would it not spark murderous intent from him?

“The five tests of the Dao Lantern Festival are about to come to a close, and we will soon go to the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree. When we get there, don’t forget what you said on the Sinking Sea!” Yu Lingkong’s voice was indifferent and calm.

Everyone trembled inwardly. They remembered that Yu Lingkong had promised that he would kill Demon God Lin when they reached the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree!

Not only Yu Lingkong, but also peerless geniuses such as Zhongli Wuji, Sha Liuchan, Qing Lian’er, and Zhuo Kuanglan all spoke out against Lin Xun!

“The good show is finally about to start...” The corners of Li Qinghuan’s lips curled upwards. He had no intention of taking part in the show, but he was more than happy to watch.

The atmosphere suddenly turned silent and oppressive. All the cultivators realized that another earth shaking storm would break out once they reached the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree!

Demon God Lin—could he survive the crushing of this upcoming storm?

No one knew.

But Lin Xun wasn’t the slightest afraid, but rather excited.

Yu Lingkong and the others wanted to kill him, but wasn’t it also the same for him?

He had accumulated a lot of anger over the several tests, and he couldn't wait to settle accounts with them all at the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree!

Clang!

A familiar ancient bell struck.

Everyone quivered inwardly and their eyes shone brightly. Finally, the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree was about to lift its mysterious veil!

.....

Clang!

The ancient bell echoed throughout Cangwu Mountain and soon spread to the outside world.

Immediately, the cultivators who had long been paying close attention to the movement on Cangwu Mountain perked up. The five tests were finally over, and the final battle for great blessings was about to come!

"How many people are left?"

"Seventy-two."

"As expected, the Dao Lantern Festival is different from those in the past, and the number of cultivators about to reach the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree is more than any other year."

While everyone was discussing the result, eyes were gathered on the distant Cangwu Mountain and on the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree on the mountainside.

The ancient tree stood tall and strong like a coiling dragon in the air. Its trunk and branches seemed to be cast from bronze, and its blossoming buds resembled little bronze lanterns, casting thousand rays of dazzling light.

Every bronze flower bud contained a fortune, which could be an ancient treasure or a precious inheritance...

Only the strongest who reached the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree were qualified to fight for those fortunes!

"This last hurdle will definitely set off a rain of blood and intense battles and lead to the fall of peerless geniuses. Is it worth it?" someone muttered.

"For the great blessings and fortunes, everything is worth it!" someone said in a resounding voice.

"That's right, how can there be no blood in the vie for supremacy? From ancient times till now, which generation of geniuses haven't forged their paths from a mountain of corpses and sea of blood?"

"Don't worry, before those geniuses came, they must have already expected to face a bloody battle so they must each have trump cards up their sleeves to protect themselves. Otherwise, the sect and clan behind them wouldn't have let them come and risk their lives."

Amidst the discussion, an abrupt change happened on the distant Cangwu Mountain—

Rumble!

The strong and tall Ancient Dao Lantern Tree stretched its many branches like it was awakening from a deep slumber. The dense branches grew incessantly, stretching to the heights of the void and was about to obscure the sky!

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 899: Black Spirit Demon Subduing Shuttle

Rumble!

As the sacred tree continued to grow and extend, the entire Cangwu Mountain rumbled and quaked with it, forming earthshaking visions.

Purple clouds rose and accumulated above the mountain, thunder and lightning intertwined in the air, and thousand rays of auspicious lights and divine rainbows shot across the sky like a shower. A sacred and grand atmosphere pervaded the entire area around Cangwu Mountain.

“Heavens!”

Many cultivators shuddered, feeling repressed and about to suffocate. Some of the less strong cultivators broke out in a cold sweat and almost collapsed to the ground on their buttocks.

The sacred majesty swept the world like a landslide or a tsunami. Even Grandma Jin He and other influential figures tensed up, terror-stricken.

So amazing!

But soon, a sound resounded like the chime of a bell.

Cangwu Mountain came to a still, standing solemnly like before, and a profound silence prevailed over all.

On the mountainside, the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree had transformed into a pillar-like sacred tree that seemed to be holding up the sky.

The dense branches extended to the heights of the void, like multiple paths leading to the heavens.

On the branches, flower buds swayed in the wind like lanterns, producing bell-like chimes that were as pleasant as the sounds of nature.

All of a sudden, everything faded into silence, and all cultivators felt a weight lifting off them.

The heavenly sound of the dao reverberated, creating an ethereal and dreamy atmosphere. Everyone felt as if their whole bodies had been cleansed, refreshed and cleared of all distracting thoughts.

“So amazing!”

The group of cultivators marveled, finding Cangwu Mountain more and more extraordinary. Such a miraculous place indeed deserved the name of holy mountain.

“Look, those bronze flower buds are changing!” a cultivator cried out.

On the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree, thousands of bronze flower buds grew from the size of a fist to the size of a lantern, and every petal was entwined with the aura of the great dao, spewing out dao lights and blooming with dazzling life force.

“When they blossom and bear fruit is the moment when blessings and fortunes are born!” Grandma Jin He said every word with a noticeable pause in-between.

At the same time, all the cultivators noticed figures emerging around the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree like towering pillars.

Those who had passed the five tests of the Dao Lantern Festival were beginning to arrive at the ancient tree!

.....

Lin Xun looked up and marveled. “So tall!”

He along with other experts had been teleported to stand under the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree.

He looked up and saw that the body of the ancient tree was like a giant dragon soaring into the air and seemed to stretch endlessly across the sky.

It was very quiet and peaceful with sacred qi flowing down from the ancient tree.

Bronze flower buds hung like lanterns on the dense branches.

Although they had yet to bloom, they were intertwined with dao light and spewed out divine brilliance. Glowing like little suns, they produced whispers of ethereal dao sounds.

All experts, including Lin Xun, Ji Xingyao and Yu Lingkong were stunned into silence. Even the word sacred couldn’t describe the scene happening before their eyes.

It was too extraordinary as if it shouldn’t exist in the mortal world. It was as though a sacred tree had fallen from the immortal world!

“There are thousands of Ancient Dao Flowers! Doesn’t this mean that there are thousands of fortunes hidden within them?” someone cried out, eyes blazing like flames.

Another said, “You can’t say that, those are still flower buds, and only those that blossom and bear fruit will give birth to fortune and blessings.”

“However, there have never been so many flower buds formed in the past Dao Lantern Festivals, so there is no doubt going to be a lot of fortune and blessings born this time.”

Some experts calmly analyzed the situation, but even so, their hearts still pounded at the conclusion they came to.

“Legends say that although the Ancient Dao Flowers give birth to earthshaking treasures and precious inheritances, there is only one fortune that can be called the best among the many,” remarked one expert.

Another exclaimed, "Whoever gets their hand on it will be the biggest winner of this Dao Lantern Festival!"

"That's right. I remember that Elder Mu Cangxue from the Unsolved Mystery Sword Sect won this number one blessing and obtained a Heaven Earth Wonder Root."

Everyone's eyes gleamed with anticipation. They couldn't wait to get started.

However, the buds had yet to bloom on the sacred tree so they could only forcibly restrain themselves. Otherwise, they would have scrambled over the tree already.

"Miss Ji, do you want to go up there with me and take a look?" Yu Lingkong suddenly asked with a gentle smile.

Ji Xingyao hesitated for a moment, but she nodded in the end. "All right."

"Then, Miss Ji, allow me to escort and protect you!" Yu Lingkong beamed, but as he was speaking, his eyes glanced at Lin Xun inadvertently.

Lin Xun narrowed his black eyes. He knew that the gesture was a silent warning and a declaration of war!

Very quickly, Yu Lingkong and Ji Xingyao readied themselves and leapt with a somersault through the air to the strong and thick trunk of the sacred tree. Then, they swiftly continued upwards.

Rumble!

Terrifying silver lightning flashed from the sacred tree with murderous intent to stop the two from advancing.

The two figures glowed brightly, seemingly unafraid. They maneuvered through the intertwining lightning with unstoppable speed and soon reached a very high place in the void.

Everyone's heart palpitated.

The Ancient Dao Lantern Tree was enveloped in a terrifying supernatural power that could transform into deadly power to attack the cultivators. The higher it was, the more terrifying the killing attacks.

Let alone ordinary cultivators, even top geniuses like them dared not to let their guards down.

But Yu Lingkong and Ji Xingyao were no ordinary top geniuses. They moved through the void with ease and confidence like they were taking a leisurely stroll.

It didn't take long for them to reach a height of thousands of feet, and their figures almost faded from sight.

"The higher you go, the greater the chance of obtaining a great fortune, since most precious blessings and fortunes are found on the top canopy of the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree. Unfortunately, only a small number of people have the foundation and ability to reach that area..." an expert sighed.

As he was speaking, experts acted one after another, racing onto the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree.

Although it was impossible to reach the canopy of the tree, the countless branches densely covered with thousands of Ancient Dao Flowers still gave the cultivators hope to fight.

“Everyone, didn’t you want to deal with me here? Why are you all leaving?”

Lin Xun asked aloud when he saw that Sha Liuchan and the others were readying themselves and rushing towards the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree.

The cultivators were stunned for a moment.

Does Demon God Lin want to fight even before they obtain any treasures?

“Hmph, your life is worthless compared to the treasures here. It won’t be too late to kill you after we take the treasures!” Sha Liuchan yelled, his face darkening.

“Don’t waste time talking to him. When we arrive there, no one will be able to leave before the time is up. There will be plenty of time to kill him then.” Zhongli Wuji explained.

“Hurry, let’s go.”

Qing Lian’er was also getting impatient. If it wasn’t for the treasures, she would have personally killed Lin Xun already.

A cold light flashed in Lin Xun’s dark eyes. He quickly realized that those guys had formed an alliance and planned to work together!

This surprised Lin Xun.

He was still unaware that, because of his astonishing performance in the five tests of the Dao Lantern Festival, he had already sparked fear and vigilance from Sha Liuchan and the others. To ensure that they could kill Lin Xun, they secretly formed an alliance.

“What’s the hurry, why not have a fight first?” Lin Xun had a lot of pent-up anger that he wanted to release. How could he let them slip away?

Boom!

As he was speaking, his figure flashed, and he charged headlong towards them. His qi rioted around him, and he oozed superiority like a true demon god.

The other experts inhaled sharply. They had already expected fierce bloody battles to break out once they arrived here. They even thought that Lin Xun’s life would be in danger because he had too many enemies.

But they never thought that Lin Xun would be the first to make a move before his enemies. He was so ridiculously aggressive and strong like he was completely unafraid of being besieged by those peerless geniuses!

“Do you want to die!?” Sha Liuchan thundered.

Sensing Lin Xun charging towards him, he spun around without any hesitation and swung a golden trident across the air.

Boom!

With a swift grabbing motion in the air, Lin Xun activated the Bi'an Stamp and met the attack head-on. In the collision, the trident blasted out of Sha Liuchan's hand, wailing incessantly, and his body flew across the air like it was struck by lightning. Blood pooled in his mouth, and he almost fell from the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree.

The audience was struck dumb, finding it hard to believe their eyes. Sha Liuchan failed to block even one blow from Lin Xun?

They had previously witnessed a battle between Lin Xun and Sha Liuchan and Qing Lian'er in front of the Four Seasons Pavilion a few days ago.

Sha Liuchan still could contend against Lin Xun then, displaying the fierceness, power and demeanor that a peerless genius should have.

Who would have thought that after just a few days, Sha Liuchan already couldn't hold his ground against Lin Xun?!

In truth, the reason for that was very simple. It wasn't that Sha Liuchan was weak, but that Lin Xun had become too strong, much stronger than when he started the Dao Lantern Festival.

Boom!

With a successful blow, Lin Xun rushed forward without any wavering and followed up with another punch, wanting to take the opportunity to defeat and kill Sha Liuchan in one go.

His body was glowing an azure hue, and he exuded an air of superiority like a real demon god. His killing attacks were swift, decisive and domineering.

Ding!

However, at that moment, a peculiar shrill metallic ring rang out. Lin Xun, who was charging forward, suddenly sensed imminent danger.

He frantically drew back and vanished from the spot.

Chi!

At the same time, a black shuttle shot past where he was, tearing a straight crack into space.

If Lin Xun had reacted one bit slower, then it would have pierced right through his body!

The shuttle was no more than seven inches long and around the thickness of a chopstick, but the tip was as sharp as a wolf's fang and shone with a chilling light. Black flame dao runes surged around its surface as it hovered in the void and emitted a spine-chilling ferocious aura.

The most terrifying thing about it was its astonishing speed, which was comparable to the speed of teleportation.

"Black Spirit Demon Subduing Shuttle!" Someone had recognized the treasure.

[The Prodigies War](#)

Chapter 900: The Prison-like Divine Tree and the Blood-stained Blessing

Black Spirit Demon Subduing Shuttle!

It was an ancient ancestral treasure of the Zhongli Clan that possessed horrific power comparable to a Supreme King Weapon.

Such treasures were usually found in the hands of King stage old monsters.

Evidently, however, in order to give Zhongli Wuji the best chance in the Dao Lantern Festival, the Zhongli Clan had made a huge investment by passing this mighty treasure to Zhongli Wuji to use for self-protection and as a trump card to slaughter his opponents!

"Go!"

With a wave of his sleeve, Zhongli Wuji kept the Black Spirit Demon Subduing Shuttle. He shot an icy glare at Lin Xun before flying toward the divine tree with Sha Liuchan and the others.

"Lin Xun, don't chase them."

Yue Jianming rushed forward to stop Lin Xun. "They've already formed an alliance and there's no benefit in clashing with them here."

"Ah well, I just wanted to see what other trump cards they had." Lin Xun grinned. He hadn't intended to pursue them.

He also understood that this wasn't a good time to fight. After all, allowing a battle to break out before the blessing appeared would only create unnecessary risk.

However, this event made Lin Xun realize that Zhongli Wuji and the others did indeed have powerful trump cards up their sleeves.

The Black Spirit Demon Subduing Shuttle earlier, for example, was an extremely powerful Supreme King Weapon. If Lin Xun hadn't trained his spirit cultivation to the spirit flower convergence stage and preemptively detected that sliver of killing intent, he would have likely been injured by the sneak attack.

Given that Zhongli Wuji possessed such a trump card, it was almost certain that Qing Lian'er, Sha Liuchan, and the others also had something similar.

"Come on, let's move together." Lin Xun decided that he would also have a look at the top of the divine tree.

Unexpectedly, Yue Jianming declined, "If not for you, I would have already been eliminated at the fifth trial. I am already satisfied with how far I've gone and do not intend to compete for this blessing."

There was a certain resolve in his calm voice.

This stirred Lin Xun's emotions. The blessing on the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree would make any cultivator go crazy with desire.

Despite this, Yue Jianming had made the appropriate choice to stop here. It was a decision that undoubtedly required insane willpower and determination!

Even Lin Xun could not help but admire Yue Jianming's resolve. Although he might not be on the same level as the top heaven prides for now, his resolve and character would sooner or later propel him to greatness.

In the end, Lin Xun set off alone while Yue Jianming chose to stay at the bottom of the ancient tree where it was relatively safe.

After all, since all the top dogs were climbing the divine tree to compete for the blessing, they had neither the energy nor time to spare to deal with Yue Jianming.

.....

Boom!

The moment Lin Xun stepped foot onto the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree's incomparably thick trunk, a concentrated barrage of lightning began to rain down upon him.

Lin Xun did not neutralize the lightning nor face it directly. Instead, he activated the Hornless Ice Dragon Step and avoided each strike with minimal movement as he dashed up the trunk.

He advanced with ease as if he was taking a leisurely stroll, his figure appearing as ethereal as the mist.

The divine tree reached far into the sky. Its trunk was incomparably thick, and its branches resembled pathways extending deep into space, making it feel as if you were walking in a maze.

Moments later, Lin Xun had no choice but to stop because a battle had erupted ahead.

Boom!

An expert turned into a purple python measuring more than a hundred feet long. Divine purple light rose around it like steam as it pounced at its target.

The target was a youngster who was approaching a flower bud. Upon sensing the attack, he suddenly let out a roar as a pair of sharp shining wings emerged from his back and a battle immediately broke out between the two.

Rumble!

Their attacks loudly rumbled as bright light shot everywhere.

The purple python's body was extremely hard as if it were made from immortal-gold. It emitted a harsh clanging noise when struck by the youngster's wings as a flurry of sparks burst from their contact.

This was an example of the bitter and desperate battle for a blessing. The victor was soon decided. The youngster suffered heavy injuries, with his wings nearly snapped off and his feathers stained in blood. Half of his body was in a mess as he fled.

In a flash of light, the purple python transformed into a young lady. She walked to the flower bud while vigilantly scanning the surroundings.

She was clearly after the blessing in the flower bud. After defeating the youngster, she camped in the area to stop anyone else from approaching.

The woman's pupils contracted at the sight of Lin Xun, displaying a deep amount of wariness.

Lin Xun ignored her and continued on his way.

It was only after Lin Xun disappeared that the woman finally breathed a long sigh of relief and soon revealed a self-deprecating expression. Right, why would a supreme heaven pride like Demon God Lin compete with her for this blessing...

Boom!

It did not take long for Lin Xun to come across another battle. An expert summoned a thunder talisman, releasing red lightning to attack Li Qinghuan.

Li Qinghuan drew a circle with her hands, causing yin and yang qi to emerge and transform into a black and white disc. The disc rumbled toward the opponent as an intense duel unfurled.

Lin Xun was surprised because although the expert looked unfamiliar, he was obviously also a supreme heaven pride who seemed to be able to match Li Qinghuan blow for blow.

Rustle!

However, when Li Qinghuan noticed Lin Xun in the distance, his expression abruptly changed slightly as he immediately withdrew from the battle and fled.

The expert wielding the thunder talisman was stunned. However, he immediately reacted when he saw Lin Xun and displayed a vigilant expression.

"He ran away quite quickly."

Lin Xun ignored the expert and continued on his way after glancing in the direction Li Qinghuan had left.

He found a few more flower buds along the way, but all of them were being desperately fought over.

"You're asking for death!" A loud shout suddenly rang out in the distance. It turns out that the Jade Emptiness Temple successor, Mu Jianting, had also encountered an opponent.

His opponent was a Xun Clan expert who moved as fast as the wind. He wielded a pair of blood-colored bronze truncheons that exploded the air with every swing.

The bronze truncheons were clearly a pair of ancient treasures that possessed terrifying destructive power and flashed with blinding blood-colored light with each attack.

On the other side, Mu Jianting looked tall and imposing with his robe fluttering around him. He was clearly angered since the battle was going on longer than anticipated, and decided at this moment to no longer hold back and brought out a pine-patterned ancient sword.

Shiing!

It was followed almost immediately by a dazzling wave of vast and glorious sword light.

It was clearly a Supreme King Weapon. Mu Jianting had channeled power into it without reservation because he did not want to waste any more time.

A split second later, blood splattered as the Xun Clan expert's head was decapitated, and his headless body crashed into the ground.

It was a shocking death for a top heaven pride!

"AHH!"

Before Lin Xun could react, a scream rang out from another direction. Yet another first-class expert was killed, exploding into chunks of flesh and blood.

His opponent was the Great Desolate Lightning Clan's Lei Qianjun. Chain-like crystalline lightning swirled around him, making him resemble a mighty god of lightning.

He had brutally clobbered his opponent to death, displaying extremely astonishing combat power.

These were examples of how bloody and cutthroat the battles for blessings could get. In here, even the mighty heaven prides could meet their end at any moment.

Moreover, these were only the battles Lin Xun had come across. The Ancient Dao Lantern Tree was humongous, and there was no telling how many other fights were playing out in other areas.

Although the blessings had yet to appear, the flower buds on the divine tree would blossom sooner or later. Hence, in order to secure the best locations and timing, conflict was inevitable.

As such, Lin Xun likewise could not help but become more alert and cautious.

Along the way, he continuously kept a lookout with his spirit sense and made some observations as a result.

Illusory and dreamy dao light drifted from some of the flower buds that seemed to be full of life and ready to blossom at any moment.

On the other hand, there were also flower buds that didn't move or show any signs of life.

Naturally, the heaven prides were fighting over the first group of flower buds.

They knew that if a blessing descended, it would most definitely appear in the flower buds that were full of life.

In short, the flower buds' life energy was the basis for judging the size of the blessing!

.....

Battles continued to break out as fierce and bloody clashes played out in different areas on the Ancient Dao Lantern Tree.

The original sacred and solemn divine tree seemed to have turned into purgatory.

This was the stage where the dazzling top heaven prides competed!

If it were not for mysterious restriction power covering the divine tree, the destructive undulations generated from the battles alone could probably destroy mountains and cause an unimaginable disaster.

Lin Xun didn't get involved in any of the fights. After all, his goal was the top of the divine tree.

Hmm?

Suddenly, Lin Xun paused and glanced at a certain flower bud.

The originally silent, motionless, and lifeless flower bud had begun to undergo an astonishing change as if awakening from a deep sleep. Blinding divine light spurted from it, bathing the surroundings in an ethereal and sacred aura.

At this rate, it wouldn't take long for it to blossom!

Lin Xun was immediately tempted.

Crash!

At that moment, however, a gold-robed man rushed over as a scroll unfurled from his hand.

The scroll depicted the horrifying scenes of the sun being destroyed, the moon falling from the sky, and mountains crumbling.

It was undoubtedly a terrifying secret treasure and a deadly weapon!

The gold-robed man clearly knew how strong Lin Xun was and didn't underestimate him. Hence, he immediately used his killing move at the start.

Swish!

Lin Xun could not hesitate because the opponent's secret treasure was too powerful. He also did not hold back and summoned the Broken Blade.

The Broken Blade was a spirit weapon that could display unbelievable power when used with the Spirit Control Art.

Unlike in the past, Lin Xun's spirit power had now reached the spirit flower convergence stage, allowing him to wield the Broken Blade with much greater ease and power.

The Broken Blade shone brightly as its sharp blade cut through the approaching scroll in a flash of illusory white light.

"You..."

The gold-robed man stiffened, almost unable to believe his eyes. He had only attacked Lin Xun because of his confidence in the scroll. After all, it was an ancient secret treasure imprinted with a Supreme King aura and possessed terrifying and unfathomable power.

Despite this, it was destroyed after a single exchange!

This made the gold-robed man realize that the Broken Blade was even more powerful than the scroll!