

# The Prodigies War

## Chapter 1271: Divine Connection State

“Senior Brother, please!”

“Please!”

In front of the thousand-foot altar, two figures sped past one another and a battle instantly broke out.

The easiest way to test and guide a person’s cultivation was to fight.

This was what was happening.

In his lifetime, Ghost King Xuan Kong was a pinnacle Big Saint who conquered the world and had been cultivating for countless number of years.

Although he had lost his cultivation, given his experience and knowledge, he was more than qualified to advise Saints on their paths!

Lin Xun also knew this very well.

His guidance was unquestionably a rare and precious opportunity.

After all, ever since Lin Xun embarked on his cultivation path, he had almost always relied on himself to seek his dao path.

*Boom!*

Lin Xun unleashed himself completely and fought with his all. Beams of dao light rumbled around him, and his aura was as mighty as a demon god; He activated all the daos and arts he had mastered on his cultivation path.

For example, the Nine Heavenshaking Destructions Art, Tribulation Dragon Nine Transformations, Heavenly Yuan Six Slashes...

The first two moves of Great Diffusion Void Breaker Finger, A Moment of Spring and Autumn and Close Yet Far...

As he demonstrated martial power, he also displayed the mysteries of the water, fire, true dragon, undying and Tai Chi grand daos which he had grasped.

The area was instantly filled with ceaseless rumble of dao sounds, spectacular visions, and surging fighting spirits.

But—

Regardless of what kind of marvelous art or profound great dao secrets Lin Xun brought out, Ghost King Xuan Kong countered each move as they came his way.

His figure was as perfectly straight as a spear, his movements were relaxed and gentle, and his face was steely and stern, without a flicker of emotion.

At first, Lin Xun anticipated receiving some recognition and praise, or criticism and corrections from Ghost King Xuan Kong.

Unfortunately, he got nothing.

During the battle, Ghost King Xuan Kong seemed to have turned into another person. His face was serious, solemn, strict and completely focused. Not a sound came from him.

Seeing this, Lin Xun also completely dispelled all apprehensions and distracting thoughts, becoming clear physically and mentally. He called on all his courage and fought with all his strength.

*Boom!*

The battle grew increasingly terrifying.

Without any reservations, Lin Xun activated Yazi's Rage and Sacred Combat Art to their fullest.

His body, mind and spirit were all engrossed in the battle!

It was not an exaggeration to say that among his peers, not many could defend themselves against his mad attacks!

Underworld Son was strong, but Lin Xun still defeated him despite being an entire cultivation level below him!

The clone of Ancient Buddha Son was also strong, but Lin Xun still overpowered him under his relentless full-power attacks!

However, at this moment, Ghost King Xuan Kong easily countered all his blows.

Other cultivators would drop their jaws if they witnessed this. Only those who truly realized the abilities of Ghost King Xuan Kong would understand that his grasp and control of martial arts had reached a flawless and miraculous level!

His every gesture and motion was swift, relaxed, calm and natural, yet full of mysterious and unfathomable power, able to destroy all attacks without fail.

Lin Xun could not even touch his clothes!

Other people would have been discouraged and surrendered. It was like dealing with a tremendous unshakable mountain. Even a hurricane had no impact on it. How would it not be demoralizing?

But Lin Xun did not give up!

He was utterly immersed in the battle, forgetting the world, this earth, and the people!

It had been a long time since he had unreleased his power so wilfully and without restraint, nor had he ever fought so freely.

That feeling set his blood burning and his fighting spirit pulsing. He was able to fight to his heart's content!

His dark eyes grew brighter and brighter, and his mind became calmer and clearer. Faintly, his understanding towards battle and martial arts was rapidly improving...

Ghost King Xuan Kong's expression was as serious and cold as before, and there wasn't even the slightest ripple.

But in his heart, waves were being lifted!

In other words, from the very beginning of the battle, his junior brother Lin Xun had surprised him

Lin Xun's grasp of martial arts, his control of dao arts, his skilful combat abilities, and his rich fighting experience had completely exceeded his expectations.

It was hard to imagine that someone at the third longevity tribulation would possess such a terrifying foundation and strength!

Ghost King Xuan Kong had also faced off against geniuses and heaven-defying monsters of the same generation while he was seeking the longevity path. However, no one was as powerful as Lin Xun.

His strong power was attributed to a combination of all his strengths—martial arts, grand dao powers, fighting experience...

But as the battle continued, Ghost King Xuan Kong was astonished to find that his junior brother Lin Xun was becoming more and more powerful and tyrannical.

Every time he thought that this was Lin Xun's limit, the next second he would turn stronger and turn his understanding on its head, surprising him time and time again!

He was like a little heaven-defying monster!

Ghost King Xuan Kong suddenly remembered that when he was training in the sect, only a few of his senior brothers and sisters were as powerful as Junior Brother Lin Xun when they were at his present cultivation level.

“The supreme king stage is indeed extraordinary...” he murmured to himself.

And when Lin Xun activated the Star Annihilation Heaven Devourer and attacked with the Impermanence Slash, a careless step almost led to Ghost King Xuan Kong being hit!

*Chi!*

A torn piece of clothing whirled in the air like a butterfly before turning to dust.

Ghost King Xuan Kong withdrew from the battle. “Junior brother, that’s enough.”

*Huh?*

Lin Xun stared at him blankly as he awakened from the pure fighting state, the powerful aura around him receding like a tide.

He gasped for breath.

The battle might have only lasted less than the time it took to burn a stick of incense, but it was the most unrestrained he had ever fought. Thus the consumption of energy was extremely high.

“Junior Brother, with your talent and foundation, you are in the top five of geniuses I have ever seen in my life,” Ghost King Xuan Kong remarked.

He was ranked in the top five!

A pinnacle big saint had to have encountered countless influential figures in his lifetime so it was considered a huge compliment to be among the top five geniuses he had met in terms of foundation and talent.

“With your current powers, you should be able to easily kill ordinary kings who are at the fifth longevity tribulation stage and below,” analyzed Ghost King Xuan Kong.

Lin Xun quietly listened.

“But you know, although your strength and foundation are incomparably strong, you waste too much unnecessary power in battle. Furthermore, you are only properly using at most seventy percent of your ability.”

Those words shocked Lin Xun, and he quickly gave a cupped fist salute. “Senior Brother, please offer me a word of guidance.”

“I am far from giving you guidance. I will just help you understand better how to truly tap into your strength and make the best use of it so that you can push your abilities to their fullest.”

As Ghost King Xuan Kong spoke, he thrust a fist forward.

It was simple, direct and plain.

But in Lin Xun’s eyes, the fist seemed to have broken through the shackles of time and space to pierce the long river of time. It exuded an overwhelming and aggressive force that made people feel tiny and insignificant.

Suddenly, Lin Xun felt as cold as if he had fallen into an ice cave. He had nowhere to escape or hide. Even his spirit and fighting spirit were being oppressed and began to waver!

Ghost King Xuan Kong explained, “The great dao is simple, and so is martial art. Once the flourishing ends, all returns to true. Just like in battle, once you separate the wheat from the chaff, abandon the complexity, the remaining essence is invincible and indestructible.”

With the experience and knowledge he developed as he traveled unhindered across the world in his lifetime, Lin Xun felt enlightened by his words.

Ghost King Xuan Kong did not superficially advise him on his dao and arts but instead on how to conserve physical strength and unleash the strongest power with the least amount of energy.

At the same time, he was guiding Lin Xun on how to fully tap into his potential and manipulate it in battle.

Lin Xun had been aware of these issues in the past, but he had never truly understood or thought about them deeply.

Ghost King Xuan Kong’s teaching was like a ray of enlightenment piercing his window and letting him see a whole new world!

“Hit this with all your strength.”

Ghost King Xuan Kong stretched out his hand, and an ancient black stone tablet was inserted into the ground.

Lin Xun took a deep breath, pushed his strength to its limit, and threw a punch forward. The stone tablet was left with a three-inch deep fist mark.

The stone tablet was clearly made of unusual materials!

“From what I saw, you wasted a lot of power with this punch, and you did not fully utilize your strength,” Ghost King Xuan Kong remarked. “Do you remember the punch I threw earlier?”

Lin Xun nodded.

“Now, I will explain to you the secret of that punch.”

Ghost King Xuan Kong treated Lin Xun as if he were his junior brother, passing on everything he knew without reservation.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun seized every minute to understand.

Unknowingly, an hour passed.

Lin Xun got up and punched forward again. The five-inch deep fist mark on the stone tablet was a clear improvement from last time!

In his heart, waves reared up.

In the past, he had always thought that if he drove his combat power to an unprecedented level, he would trump his peers and enemies.

But now, he realized he was wrong.

For example, the latter punch used less than eighty percent of his power compared to the previous punch, but it was twice as strong!

“Lu Ding can slaughter a whole cow without any effort, staying calm and relaxed. The reason lies in his superior technique that touches upon the dao! This dao is the understanding of the true meaning of martial arts.”

Under the guidance of Ghost King Xuan Kong, three hours later, Lin Xun made another punch, which pulverized the stone tablet into dust on the ground!

“Not bad, you have comprehended some of the mysteries. The great dao can be the simplest. Dao arts, grand dao powers, they all require you to grasp their true essence and meaning to exert the greatest of your strength!”

Ghost King Xuan Kong revealed a hint of a smile.

In truth, he was rather amazed that Lin Xun could comprehend the true meaning of martial arts in just a few hours, which exceeded his expectations.

“Junior brother, this is the Divine Connection State of martial arts. Even if there are millions of secret techniques and all sorts of wonderful methods, as long as you connect with the divine, you will be successful in every endeavor.”

Divine Connection!

In the past, Lin Xun’s understanding of martial arts was only as far as My Own Law.

My own law was my heaven.

And above it was the Divine Connection State. Once one obtained a hint of the divine and took it as their own, one’s martial arts could connect with the divine!

What was divine power?

To reach the point of Divine Connection in martial arts.

“Now, I will teach you how to tap into all your strength, so as to maximize your combat power!” Ghost King Xuan Kong said aloud.

Lin Xun immediately calmed himself and listened intently.

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## The Prodigies War

### Chapter 1272: Extreme Absolute

Humans often unleashed unseen potential in response to danger and the threat of death.

Ghost King Xuan Kong imparted the knowledge of how to bring out this hidden potential in ordinary battles to Lin Xun!

In short, this method could be summarized in five words——

Heart pounding and spirit shaking!

Let the heart and spirit be fully mobilized during the battle, just like the cultivation, in order to reach a state of readiness to erupt in full.

“Under the threat of death, the heart and spirit are greatly affected. Some people will become desperate and some will lose all hope.

“But some would call on unprecedented fighting spirit and erupt with beyond ordinary strength.

“For example...”

Ghost King Xuan Kong suddenly rushed forward, a sharp blade appearing in his grip, and aimed it right at Lin Xun’s throat.

*Fast!*

*Unbelievably fast!*

From beginning to end, he showed not a shred of hesitation.

Lin Xun’s hair stood on end, his heart leapt to his throat, and his spirit trembled violently.

He did not doubt that Ghost King Xuan Kong’s attack could easily take his life just like the shadow of death!

*Run!*

At the same time, a powerful survival desire ignited every part of him. His whole body was like a fully drawn bowstring being released.

With a swoosh, he wildly retreated.

“This is called heart pounding and spirit shaking.”

Ghost King Xuan Kong put away the sharp blade and looked at Lin Xun in the distance before saying, “Carefully think about what happened just now. If you can understand the mystery, then you can truly tap into your strength and maximize it.”

The wound across Lin Xun’s throat slowly healed, and it was soon repaired like nothing happened.

He stood still in the same spot, lost in thought.

Hovering between life and death was terrifying.

Under such a nerve wrenching experience, anyone would be filled with fright.

But at the same time, that experience could stimulate their potential!

Why was it that every time after Lin Xun survived an extremely dangerous and intense battle, his strength would significantly improve?

It was because battles strengthened and honed his daos and arts, and allowed him to identify and correct his flaws, thereby further improving himself.

But more importantly, battles of life and death released his hidden potential and turned it into part of his strength!

Lin Xun very quickly understood this.

Then, he began to recall and study what he had just experienced. The series of movements of when he was assassinated appeared in his mind like still scenes.

*No, not this...*

He realized that there was no mystery in those scenes. The key was in his own consciousness, instinct, qi and energy...and his immediate reaction to the assassination.

If he was able to capture those details, he might be able to glimpse into the true secret of tapping potential.

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One day later, Lin Xun woke up disoriented and confused.

“Senior Brother, please.”

“Okay!”

The two were embroiled in a fight once again. Strangely, occasionally during the battle, Lin Xun’s strength would turn much more reliable and efficient, striking much more accurately than usual.

Ghost King Xuan Kong knew that Lin Xun had begun to touch upon the true secrets to releasing his full potential!

But it was not entirely steady.

After the battle, Lin Xun sweated profusely, breathed rapidly, and collapsed on the ground, exhausted.

But his black eyes had become unusually bright.

In his mind, he faintly captured that mysterious state.

He ignored everything else and fell into deep thought.

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Another two days passed.

Lin Xun drew a deep breath and stood up, saying, “Senior Brother, sorry to trouble you.”

“Please!”

Another battle broke out.

This time, Lin Xun’s cultivation did not change, but his combat strength was evidently much different from before as if he had been reborn!

Only occasionally would his strength abruptly weaken and return to its previous normal state.

A satisfied gleam shone in Ghost King Xuan Kong’s eyes. *This junior brother is the latest to join the sect, but he is indeed exceptionally talented. In just three days, he had figured out the true secret of tapping his potential!*

*Although he is still a little short of being proficient, it is only a matter of time.*

“Junior brother, your path is different from mine and there is nothing else I can teach you,” Ghost King Xuan Kong stated.

Lin Xun was taken aback at first before deep gratitude filled his heart and he bowed respectfully. “Senior Brother, thank you for all your guidance!”

Whether it was guiding him to reach the state of divine connection in martial arts or practicing methods to tap his potential, Ghost King Xuan Kong had put in a lot of effort and taught him everything he knew without any reservations. How would Lin Xun not be appreciative towards him?

“Junior Brother, this secret method of tapping potential is called Extreme Absolute by the ancient great sages, which means to release everything to the extreme level and leave absolutely nothing behind.”

Ghost King Xuan Kong reminded him, “If it is not a life and death fight, do not use this method so often. Otherwise, once you exhaust yourself, you will not have the energy to continue and fall into a hopeless pit.”

Lin Xun nodded.

This method of extreme release was indeed very miraculous and terrifying, but at the same time, it consumed a huge amount of physical strength and so could not last for long.

“Come with me,” said Ghost King Xuan Kong, leading Lin Xun onto the thousand-foot altar.

The altar looked like it was made of jade, and its surface was adorned with complicated diagrams that added to its ancient charm.

On top of the altar was a cracked and broken table.

But the surface was visibly engraved with complicated and cryptic texts.

To Lin Xun's surprise, he recognized the words alone, but when he tried to put them together, he could not make heads or tails of them.

"This Tragic Death Land is actually formed from the remnant of a Saint treasure. This Saint treasure is called Tragic Death City and it is a Xiantian item. Its fragmentation was a result of the battle of the Nine Domains that took place in ancient times."

Ghost King Xuan Kong's expression turned complicated, with a mix of hatred, sorrow and melancholy.

"If it weren't for this Tragic Death Land, then the remnant of my soul would have been annihilated long ago. But it is also because of this place that I had to suffer endless torture and live a life worse than death..."

Ghost King Xuan Kong restored calmness to his features and said aloud, "Originally, I wanted to use the corpse to realize the dao and reshape the path of my life. But if I did this, I would lose my will in life and become a monster that is neither human nor ghost nor demon. If that's the case, then I would rather choose to sleep here forever!"

His voice was low but resolute.

Lin Xun's gaze turned complicated.

He could not imagine the despair, helplessness, and pain that a pinnacle Big Saint felt for his remnant soul to be trapped here. He also could not imagine the torture and suffering of spending endless years here.

But he was certain that the feeling would make the majority of cultivators break down!

Ghost King Xuan Kong said aloud, "Junior brother, do me a favor. The Tragic Death Land has existed to this day because of the Xiantian Clear Pearl buried under it. That object is the source of the Saint treasure Tragic Death City. It needs to be removed for me to be liberated."

"Liberated?" Lin Xun had a bad premonition. "Senior Brother, is there no other way?"

Ghost King Xuan Kong chuckled optimistically. "No. The Tragic Death City exists to help souls find peace. Unfortunately, the city was destroyed back then, leaving only this tragic

Death Land, and has long lost its power. Otherwise, I would have been liberated here a long time ago...”

“I will look for other ways!” Lin Xun vowed. He had only known Xuan Kong for a few days, but he was already impressed by his character, personality and charisma.

From the bottom of his heart, he did want to watch Xuan Kong disappear!

Xuan Kong clapped him on the shoulder and reassured him in a gentle voice, “I can’t wait any longer. If you hadn’t come, I...I likely would have turned into a complete monster. Fortunately, the heavens have been kind to me and allowed you and I to meet here. Even if I disappear into nothing, I still have no regrets in my heart.”

Speaking of this, he suddenly remembered something and took out a pale green bamboo leaf-shaped jade pendant to hand to Lin Xun.

“Junior Brother, if you have the chance to meet the clansmen of the imperial Jiang Clan, then please return this item to them and tell them that this belongs to Jiang Xingque.”

An imperceptible tender look came to Xuan Kong’s eyes, which was very quickly replaced by melancholy and a sense of loss.

Lin Xun held the jade pendant firmly in his hand and nodded strongly. “Senior Brother, you can rest assured that I will return this item to the Jiang Clan even if I have to travel to the ends of the earth.”

Xuan Kong smiled and then pointed to the piece of obscure text on the table. “Junior brother, I am going to try my best to uncover this sealed text and you must seize the opportunity to retrieve the Xiantian Clear Pearl and leave this place as soon as possible.”

“Senior Brother!”

Lin Xun opened his mouth to speak, but Xuan Kong interrupted with a wave of his hand, “No need to say more, I have made up my mind.”

*Boom!*

The next moment, his hand stretched towards the piece of text, and beams of terrifying dao light collided with deafening rumbles.

*Crack!*

Xuan Kong gathered up inch after inch of the text in his hand, but at the same time, his face twisted in a grimace like he was under unimaginable pain.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun noticed a bottomless cave under the altar table, pouring out a blast of splendid clear and pure light.

That was the great dao pure qi!

“Hurry!”

Xuan Kong shouted as terrifying deathly qi resurfaced in his eyes, and his face started to become distorted like a malicious spirit.

*Swoosh!*

Without hesitation, Lin Xun rushed into the cave.

After a while, Lin Xun safely returned with a bright and clear dove egg-sized pearl, swirling with chaotic energy and dense dao light.

“Junior Brother, quickly go!” Xuan Kong roared like a berserk beast about to collapse, veins almost bursting on his forehead. “Remember, refine the pearl into your body and don’t let others see it!”

Lin Xun took another deep look at Xuan Kong, gritted his teeth, turned around and darted into the distance.

*Roar!*

A shrill, mournful roar resounded from behind him.

He looked back and saw that on the thousand-foot altar, Xuan Kong’s purple hair was dancing wildly and his body was enveloped in black fog like a ferocious ghost demon.

“Senior Brother...”

Lin Xun’s voice choked up, emotions churning endlessly in his heart. He fought the urge to run back.

“Junior Brother, take care!”

In the black fog, Xuan Kong’s voice echoed out. It was hurried, hoarse, tired, and also filled with a sense of relief that he never showed before.

When Lin Xun looked back again, only the billowing black mist remained on the altar. Xuan Kong’s figure had long disappeared.

A pinnacle Big Saint had shaken heaven and earth in his lifetime. To protect the Ancient Wasteland Domain and fight back the invasion of enemies from the eight domains, he had no regrets about shedding his blood and sacrificing his life.

Now, after being trapped for endless years, the remnant of his soul was finally freed...

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## The Prodigies War

### Chapter 1273: Successors of Skyleless Sect

A few days passed and the number of cultivators gathered outside of Tragic Death City did not reduce but instead increased significantly.

But very few people dared to recklessly enter.

They all waited.

Everyone could tell that the city was extremely mysterious. Sometimes, it was like a holy legendary city and other times it was like an ominous ghost town.

How would there not be any fortunes or treasures in there?

However, after the experts who mustered up the courage to enter the city had failed to survive, the crowd of people gathered outside the city did not dare to take action.

*Boom!*

Suddenly, a violent quake startled everyone and drew their attention.

In the distant city, the billowing black fog receded and the eerie aura that enveloped the city also rapidly dissipated.

“This is our chance!”

Many people’s eyes lit up.

“Charge!”

Many experts could not wait and raced into the city.

Instantly, the place turned to chaos.

In the midst of this chaos, Lin Xun and the big black bird returned from the city along the same path they came at an incredibly fast speed.

The big black bird couldn't help but ask, "These few days...what have you been doing?".

Lin Xun thought of Senior Brother Xuan Kong and an expression of profound sorrow clouded his face. "I don't want to talk about it."

The big black bird sensed that Lin Xun was not his usual self and did not ask any more questions.

Just as they reached the city gate, someone exclaimed, "Hey, it's that man and bird who entered the city a few days ago! They're not dead!"

Instantly, Lin Xun and the big black bird noticed that some eyes that swept over them glinted with suspicion.

The two ignored them and headed directly towards the city gate.

This seemed very strange to the other cultivators.

Everyone else was racing into the city to hunt for treasures and opportunities, but the two went in the opposite direction and seemed to plan to leave as quickly as possible!

"Friend, did something happen in the city? Why don't you stay a while and talk to us?"

A scrawny man blocked the city gate, eyes flashing.

*Bang!*

The scrawny man was sent propelling across the air with blood trickling down his mouth and nostrils. Lin Xun had sent him flying before he could even react. All he could do was scream tragically.

"He brought it upon himself!"

The big black bird snorted. *Lin Xun is clearly in a bad mood but he still provoked him. Does he not want to live anymore?*

The scrawny man gnashed his teeth and roared maliciously, "Hurry, stop those two, they must have obtained some unspeakable benefits in the city!"

In truth, he was not sure. He only said that to pass the misfortune onto Lin Xun.

Sure enough, the other cultivators were tempted.

Everyone else was rushing into the city, but those two were in a hurry to leave. According to others, the two had already entered the city a few days ago so how would they not have made some harvests?

It was hard not for people's imagination to run wild!

"Some people are following us."

After passing the city gate, it did not take long for the big black bird to notice other cultivators tailing them secretly, and clearly with bad intentions.

"No need to pay attention to them. Lead the way, we will go find Ancient Buddha Son."

Lin Xun did not turn his head back once. Of course he sensed their presence, but he did not care.

The big black bird nodded.

An ice-cold voice rang out, "Friend, please wait a minute. We want to learn about the situation in the city from you. I hope you can give us some advice."

The words and tone sounded very polite, but it was followed by a tremendous fire-red net descending from the sky to trap Lin Xun and the big black bird!

It was the doing of a black-robed youngster. He clearly had an extraordinary background and exceptional combat prowess. A group of servants closely followed him around.

Lin Xun did not look back or dodge. Instead, a veil of light enveloped him like a layer of sharp blades.

With a crash, the fiery-red net was shredded apart and light rained down.

But this did not frighten the black-robed youngster. Instead, he sneered out loud, "I didn't realize you're a skilled master. But do you think you can leave after destroying my treasure?"

Before the voice faded, he sped headlong in Lin Xun's direction and a jade green sword slashed through the air, creating a thousand foot long trail of sword qi that blazed like a jade-colored sun.

Lin Xun stopped abruptly, his dark eyes turning terrifyingly cold.

As he turned around, he stretched out his hand and made a grabbing motion.

The green sword qi crumbled inch by inch like a snake that had been struck at its vital point, turning into a shower of jade-green light.

The black-robed youngster's pupils shrank, and he felt a chill run down. Knowing the power of his sword, he was aghast that the opponent could crush it so effortlessly.

This proved that the opponent was far stronger than him!

*Run!*

Without hesitation, the black-robed man turned to flee.

A cold intent gleamed in Lin Xun's eyes, and with a flick of his hand, the body of the black-robed youngster exploded thousands of feet away and reduced to a shower of blood.

He vanished like a puff of smoke in the blink of an eye!

The black-robed youngster's subordinates stood petrified, their souls almost leaving their bodies. Their greed had caused them to anger a terrifying enemy!

"Whoever is dissatisfied can try to catch up!"

Lin Xun ran his black eyes over everyone, but that glance was enough to strike terror into the hearts of even cultivators hiding in the shadows. Everyone tensed up and were chilled to the core.

When his voice fell, Lin Xun continued onwards.

The scene of the slaughter of the black-robed youngster was like a warning, and no one dared to follow him anymore.

*Rumble!*

Before long, the Tragic Death Land, the grand ancient city, collapsed and vanished into thin air.

Instantly, it sparked commotion.

A place of fortune and treasures disappeared before they had the chance to explore it!

Lin Xun did not look back, but the sorrow deepened in his heart. He knew that he would likely never see his senior brother Xuan Kong ever again in his life...

*Buzz!*

A strange blue treasure ship suddenly appeared in front of Lin Xun and the big black bird like it had teleported.

"Is it them?"

On the treasure ship, a young man in silver stood with a calm and indifferent expression, studying Lin Xun and the big black bird.

He was bathed in silvery divine light that accentuated his bright, dazzling eyes and extraordinary bearing.

Next to him stood a man in a gray robe who was sweating profusely. He stammered, “Yes, it’s them. A few days ago, I saw them enter the mysterious city.”

*Bang!*

The silver robed man propelled the man in gray robe far away with a wave of his sleeve like he was getting rid of a fly.

Witnessing the scene, Lin Xun and the big black bird immediately understood what was going on. Those people wanted to intercept them and snatch their treasures.

The big black bird was so infuriated that the anger coiled in his stomach. Ever since entering the city, apart from some alpha qi, he had gained nothing else!

But now, he was being targeted and treated like a lamb to the slaughter. How would he not be furious?

“Kid, are you trying to mug us?” said the big black bird in a cold voice.

The silver robed young man corrected him indifferently, “Mug? No, that’s too extreme. I just want to ask you two to offer what you have found in the city to me with both hands.”

He was thin and not too tall, yet he still had an intimidating and imposing bearing. He completely disregarded Lin Xun and the black bird.

“Offer them to you?” The big black bird cackled angrily, “How dare you try to act dumb in front of me?”

On the blue ship, a pretty woman in beautiful attire proclaimed haughtily, “Our young master is Xue Zhixian, a successor of the Skyless Sect. I advise you not to be rude, otherwise you are going to bring trouble upon yourself!”

Their young master, born with an innate battle spirit body, was exceptionally talented and had now reached the fourth longevity tribulation. Once armed with his sword, he was invincible, and countless peers had been killed at his hands.

Now, he was a well-known longevity influential figure in the Upper Nine Realms after achieving brilliant results and ranking thirty ninth on the Genius Gold Rankings!

Not anyone could make it onto the Genius Gold Rankings.

This was especially true in the current Upper Nine Realms. The top one hundred on the Genius Gold Rankings all possessed supreme strength of the third longevity tribulation stage or above!

Their young master was undeniably one of the most powerful figures in the Upper Nine Realms!

“Skyless Sect?”

Lin Xun frowned. He remembered that Le Caiwei, whom he had a good relationship with, was from the Skyless Sect of All-Mystery Spirit Mountain.

“It’s not too late to be afraid now. I advise you to quickly present your offerings and perhaps my young master will go easy on you and forgive you this once,” said the pretty woman in a triumphant voice mixed with disdain.

“Ridiculous, do you think we would be afraid of him? How arrogant of you to say he will forgive us once. You better get lost before we get angry!” The big black bird’s face darkened.

“You guys should know Le Caiwei. She and I are friends. Out of respect for her, I won’t bother arguing with you. Now, get out of my way!”

Their obstruction and threats only worsened Lin Xun’s bad mood, and if it was not for his old friend Le Caiwei, he would have vented those negative emotions on them long ago.

“Huh? Did you say you know Le Caiwei?”

Suddenly, a deep voice sounded from the treasure ship, followed by a figure walking out of it.

The man had a noble and handsome appearance and a dignified and imposing bearing. His hair was a pale blue color, and his eyes were swirling with wisps of blazing flames.

He only stood there causally, but he exuded a sharpness that seemed to be saying he was above the world!

The pretty woman quickly stepped aside and bowed. “Senior Brother Yang, we didn’t mean to disturb you.”

But Senior Brother Yang ignored her. Instead, his gaze immediately was fixed on Lin Xun as soon as he appeared, looking a little surprised.

“It’s you!” His countenance grew cold.

At the same time, Lin Xun raised his eyebrows, recognizing the man, and said calmly, "I didn't expect to see you here."

The man was none other than Yang Tianqi!

Lin Xun had met Yang Tianqi years ago when he was crossing the boundary river to get to Jade Flame City in East Victory World with Le Caiwei.

At that time, Yang Tianqi appeared with an old man called Ku Jing to take Le Caiwei back to the sect.

However, Lin Xun had an extremely bad impression of him.

He would never forget that he suddenly attacked him just because he found the sight of him annoying. Adding to that, he stated that he only wanted to test his strength but his every strike was merciless.

If the old man Ku Jing had not interfered, then Lin Xun would have given him a lesson he would never forget in his life!

Funnily, just as they were leaving, Yang Tianqi sent a voice transmission to warn him.

Lin Xun still remembered those words of undisguised threat.

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## The Prodigies War

### Chapter 1274: There is Always Someone Better

*"You'd better remember that, with your status and identity, you are not worthy of Junior Sister Le. If you pester Junior Sister Le again in the future, I guarantee I will kill you with my own hands!"*

Lin Xun would never forget those words.

Not to mention that he had never thought of Le Caiwei that way. Even if he did have thoughts about her, so what?

From that point on, Lin Xun always remembered Yang Tianqi!

If it was only a threat, Lin Xun would not have paid any attention to him because far too many people had threatened him before. Yang Tianqi was not the only one in the world.

But his mistake was that he attacked him extremely rudely and ruthlessly!

Lin Xun was not as generous when it came to being attacked.

But he did not expect to run into Yang Tianqi again after so many years.

Meanwhile, a torrent of murderous intent was rushing up in Yang Tianqi's heart.

He would never forget that Le Caiwei had snapped at him when he wanted to destroy Lin Xun!

Since that incident, Le Caiwei had never been more than lukewarm to him, even after they returned to the sect, which deepened his hatred towards Lin Xun even more.

Everyone in the Skyless Sect knew that he liked Le Caiwei since he was young and he already treated her as his.

The presence of Lin Xun was like a thorn to Yang Tianqi.

He thought that, after all these years, he would never see the loathsome guy again. Who would have thought that this was not the case?!

On the contrary, the loathsome guy had catapulted to fame and became the renowned Demon God Lin!

Over the years, Yang Tianqi clearly remembered that, whenever news related to Lin Xun came from the outside world, Le Caiwei would pay special attention to them.

How would he be comfortable seeing that?

But now, he only had one thought in mind when he saw Lin Xun again: Get rid of the thorn!

“Junior Brother Yang, do you know him?”

At the bow of the ship, Xue Zhixian looked a little surprised, but he could tell that Yang Tianqi's attitude towards Lin Xun was very cold, and even tinged with murderous intent!

Just like when enemies come face to face, their eyes blazed with hatred.

Yang Tianqi's face was devoid of expression as he answered in a cold voice, “He is Lin Xun. He is a well-known figure in the present Upper Nine Realms. He defeated Underworld Son and also suppressed Ancient Buddha Son.”

Lin Xun!

Xue Zhixian was taken aback at first before he burst into laughter, “What a coincidence, by a lucky chance, we caught a big fish this time!”

How would he not have heard about Lin Xun before? But he was not the least afraid. Rather, he experienced a surge of excitement as if he discovered a huge prey.

“Big fish? He is about to become a dead fish!” Yang Tianqi snorted coldly.

Dao light circulated him, and his qi and blood raged like the sea. The world started to quake and rumble as his killing intent spread, resonating with the power and force of his body.

This was a manifestation of profound cultivation and superb strength.

In terms of imposing manners, he was not inferior to Xue Zhixian in any way.

He might be arrogant and conceited, but he was undeniably a longevity giant ranked in the top fifty of the Genius Gold Rankings.

“Well, then this is a joyous occasion. It is destined that Demon God Lin will fall in our hands.” A sarcastic smile appeared on Xue Zhixian’s lips.

They originally planned to seize Lin Xun’s treasures, and now, it worked out even better for them because Lin Xun was Yang Tianqi’s enemy.

They could kill two birds with one stone!

In the distance, figures started to gather, alerted by the movements on this side.

As soon as they learned the identities of the two sides, they couldn’t help but let out an audible gasp and subconsciously retreated farther away.

Xue Zhixian from the Skyless Sect was an ancient-era eccentric genius with a notorious reputation and unparalleled fighting strength that trumped many others.

Yang Tianqi was just as impressive!

Who would not be afraid to see the two show up together?

Similarly, when they recognized Lin Xun, they lost their composure. The battle of Kongzhe Mountain that happened not long ago had already spread throughout the Upper Nine Realms!

Who would have imagined that Demon God Lin, who utterly crushed Underworld Son and forced him to flee in panic and had also driven Ancient Buddha Son to misfortune, would appear in Stupa Brahma Land in the Root Mountain Realm?

Moreover, he was about to face off against two longevity giants of the Skyless Sect!

“I want him dead. Apart from that, you can have all the treasures on him,” Yang Tianqi stated indifferently.

“Fine.”

Xue Zhixian nodded leisurely.

The big black bird almost flew into a rage. *Those two think they can decide Lin Xun's life with just a few words. How arrogant and crazy is that?!*

“Old black, stand aside and watch.”

Lin Xun's black eyes were like ice, without a flicker of contempt nor fear, only surging murderous intent.

Originally, out of respect for Le Caiwei, he did not want to do anything too extreme to people of her sect. Unfortunately, the other party treated him as someone they could slaughter as they pleased.

This crossed the line.

“You two, do you want to die one by one, or meet death together?” Lin Xun asked indifferently.

His words not only shocked the spectators in the distance but also took Yang Tianqi and Xue Zhixian aback. Undisguised killing intent flashed in their eyes.

“Lin Xun, you should be proud to be able to defeat Underworld Son and Ancient Buddha Son, but in front of me, is your arrogance justified?” Xue Zhixian fixed Lin Xun with a stare and uttered coldly, “In the Upper Nine Realms, there are as many cultivators as there are clouds in the sky. Do you not know what it means by ‘there is always someone better than you in this great wide world?!’”

“Get lost!” Lin Xun did not bother to answer and just stepped forward and threw a punch.

The punch was simple, direct, but carried unstoppable and unparalleled force.

“Huh?”

Yang Tianqi narrowed his eyes. That one punch made him realize that the rumors about Lin Xun's strength were not at all exaggerated. He had become much stronger than before.

Compared to when he met him in Jade Flame City, he was like a completely different person.

He knew he had to put aside his contempt for him and not let down his guard. Someone who could defeat Underworld Son and Ancient Buddha Son had to be more than ordinary.

But Yang Tianqi was unaware that Lin Xun did not use his new strongest means—the Extreme Absolute state because...

He did not deem him worthy of doing so!

*Boom!*

The void rumbled, and infinite divine brilliance bloomed.

Xue Zhixian's silver robe whipped about. With a long roar, he exchanged blows with Lin Xun, fighting with all his strength.

Of course, he also knew how powerful Lin Xun was and would not treat him as an ordinary person, so he did not hesitate to unleash his real strength right away.

*Bang! Bang! Bang!*

Dao light collided like two terrifying volcanoes and created an explosion of light that swept the void like a tidal wave, pulverizing everything it touched.

The earth split with multiple horrible cracks, spreading in all directions.

In the blink of an eye, the two had clashed dozens of times!

Soon, Xue Zhixian was blasted backwards, staggering. His chest heaved up and down, and his qi and blood were frantically tumbling around him. The color had been drained from his face.

When he looked at Lin Xun again, his eyes were filled with a grave and solemn expression.

The series of exchanges made him feel extremely small and insignificant like he was up against a lofty, unshakable mountain.

He could not believe it.

In the distance, everyone was flabbergasted, with only one thought in their mind. *He is indeed worthy of being called Demon God Lin!*

Xue Zhixian was a known powerful longevity giant who outshone countless people, but he was unable to shake Lin Xun at all!

After witnessing that, Yang Tianqi's expression changed indefinitely. He was wrong. He believed that, even if Lin Xun was stronger than Underworld Son, he would not be that much stronger. But the outcome had proved him completely wrong.

He did not rush to take action and wanted further confirmation.

“Trash!”

The big black bird spat out disdainfully, feeling satisfied and delighted.

Xue Zhixian took a deep breath, and his eyes flashed like cold lightning. He realized that his opponent was a little tricky to deal with and also that he had underestimated him.

However, he was not afraid because Yang Tianqi had yet to join them.

“Kill!”

Xue Zhixian moved. His hands glowed a mysterious blue hue as a crystal-clear blue sword appeared in his grip.

The sword was only the size of a palm, yet it was still blindingly bright and razor sharp, like a vast ocean dyeing the entire space a beautiful blue shade from the dao light it emitted.

“Mist Ocean Sword!” someone exclaimed.

It was one of the four great swords of the Skyless Sect, famed for its unrivaled sharpness.

*Shua!*

Xue Zhixian came charging over with the sword. His imposing aura intensified as the sword intent swept the space like a raging ocean.

Moreover, obscure and dense dao runes surfaced all over him before gathering to form the head of a ferocious beast. This was his innate battle spirit talent, which assisted him in unleashing far beyond ordinary combat power.

Lin Xun's expression was calm, his aura restrained, and his every move and stroke was light and unshowy. He had a simple and natural air around him.

In fact, this was a display of strength condensed to the extreme level!

The profound great dao took the simplest form!

Martial arts was the same.

Once one obtained a hint of the divine, one could connect with the divine!

Then, a strange scene followed. Xue Zhixian's imposing manner and power were so strong that it was noticeable to anyone.

But unexpectedly, he was suppressed by Lin Xun.

Lin Xun countered his every single attack with ease.

Not to mention wounding Lin Xun, he failed to even get near him!

He seemed untouchable!

“Die!”

Xue Zhixian roared, his face twisted, his body shining stronger and brighter than the sun. He seemed to have gone berserk.

He truly realized that the situation was not right and decided to fight with his all!

A sword shot forth like lightning piercing the sky, tearing the universe, breaking the yin and yang. It was so sharp and dazzling that it stung the eyes of the audience in the distance.

But Lin Xun's expression maintained its calm, and he slammed his fist forward.

*Bang!*

The Mist Ocean Sword violently vibrated, whimpering.

Xue Zhixian felt as if he had been struck by lightning. His chest caved in, his ribs almost shattered, and he was bleeding from all seven orifices. With an excruciating scream, he was smashed to the ground like a torn sandbag.

The scene horrified everyone!

No one imagined that a peerless figure such as Xue Zhixian would be defeated so quickly and so tragically.

“There is always someone better than you in the vast world? Do you understand this now?” Lin Xun's indifferent voice echoed as he marched forward.

The silence was palpable. Minutes ago, everyone heard Xue Zhixian mock Lin Xun with those words, but now, it hit Xue Zhixian himself instead.

He brought humiliation upon himself!

*Chi!*

However, just when Lin Xun was about to completely eliminate Xue Zhixian, a slash of sword qi split the air like a rainbow from beyond the sky.

It was Yang Tianqi. This mighty attack announced his entrance into the battle!

Lin Xun was not surprised. His black eyes locked on Yang Tianqi, and a cold smile tugged the corners of his lips.

“The enmity of the past and the insult of today should be brought to an end!”

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## The Prodigies War

### Chapter 1275: Stupa Land

At first, Yang Tianqi was pleasantly surprised to run into Lin Xun again. It was like enemies meeting each other after many years.

He even made the decision to kill Lin Xun no matter what and get rid of the thorn.

But when he witnessed Xue Zhixian’s tragic defeat, it felt like a bucket of ice cold water had poured over him, extinguishing the joy in his heart. He stiffened, flooded by indescribable terror.

He did not feel good at all.

Relatively speaking, his strength was not worse than Xue Zhixian, but it also was not better.

How could he fight Lin Xun?

However, he knew he had to do something because Xue Zhixian was on the brink of danger.

But, to guarantee his own safety, he decided to flee as soon as he rescued Xue Zhixian!

This was undoubtedly a shameful and humiliating decision.

Unfortunately, Lin Xun did not intend to allow him that chance.

*Boom!*

Lin Xun effortlessly deflected the waterfall of sword qi gushing at him with a raise of his hand and was already charging towards Yang Tianqi.

The terrifying speed caught Yang Tianqi off guard.

His face blanched, and he had to fight back with all his strength.

Then, he experienced the feeling of being utterly overpowered.

Regardless of what powerful cultivation art or means he activated or how many precious treasures he brought out, all were destroyed and suppressed by Lin Xun.

He was like an ant shaking a tree!

It was impossible to describe Yang Tianqi's current mood and feelings. Years ago, when he first laid eyes on Lin Xun, he already disliked and disdained him.

Even just now, when he again faced Lin Xun, who was no longer the same as before, he still radiated an air of pride and superiority.

But all that disdain, dislike, pride, and superiority had been destroyed, crushed and trampled to pieces!

His face turned livid and distorted with shock and anger. His eyes were splitting in the corners, and his hair was disheveled. He was no different from a trapped beast driven into a desperate situation.

How could he still maintain the demeanor of a longevity giant?

*Boom!*

Another punch made Yang Tianqi cough up blood, his long light blue hair became ruffled and disorderly, and his muscles were still twitching and vibrating.

He had been badly wounded. He struggled to even protect himself, let alone rescue Xue Zhixian.

In the distance, not a single voice could be heard. Everyone was paralyzed to the spot, minds shaking. Who could believe that Lin Xun had consecutively overpowered two longevity giants from the Skyless Sect?

Moreover, it seemed to have not taken much effort from Lin Xun.

“Another piece of trash!” remarked the big black bird, looking more smug and contemptuous of Yang Tianqi. *He was so arrogant moments ago, but now, he has been beaten to the point that he is almost on his knees!*

At the same time, the big black bird also sensed that Lin Xun's strength had completely transformed after being trapped in Tragic Death Land for several days.

His cultivation remained the same, yet his strength had significantly improved!

"That kid must have gained a lot," the big black bird muttered.

*Bang!*

Before long, Yang Tianqi was dripping with blood and plunged from mid-air, smashing into the ground and laying motionless like a stunned toad.

On the pale blue ship, the pretty woman was struck with horror, teeth chattering. If she hadn't witnessed it with her own eyes, she could never imagine that the legendary Demon God Lin would be so terrifying!

When she thought about how they intercepted such a terrifying person and attempted to force him to give up his treasures, she almost collapsed and broke down.

However, she did not, but Yang Tianqi did.

Trembling, he got back on his feet, his expression changing indefinitely. "Lin Xun, for the sake of Junior Sister Le, can you please spare us this time?"

He had begged for mercy!

In the distance, everyone was chilled to the core.

It was unbelievable that a longevity giant would beg for mercy and that only highlighted the terror of Lin Xun even more.

Were Xue Zhixian and Yang Tianqi strong?

Yes!

But their opponent was stronger than them, and more than a little bit!

This was why there was a saying that there was always someone better in the great wide world!

"It's over," Lin Xun uttered calmly.

With a thud, Yang Tianqi's head rolled to the ground. A peerless figure of his generation came to an end like that.

Even in death, his eyes were wide with shock and disbelief.

Unfortunately, he did not know that if he had cared about Le Caiwei right from the start, then he would never have ended up like this.

He had brought upon this himself.

On the ground, as though suffering a panic attack, Xue Zhixian sprang up and bolted into the distance.

*Pu!*

The Broken Blade slashed across the air and took his head. He followed in the footsteps of Yang Tianqi.

Everywhere, it was utterly silent, the heavy stench of blood that hung in the air seeming nonexistent.

On the blue treasure ship, the pretty woman was already scared stiff, her face deathly pale, almost to the point of transparent.

“Was that cruel?” Lin Xun looked over at her.

The pretty woman shuddered, her teeth chattered, and she shook her head frantically. “No...they had obstructed the road and attempted robbery. They brought their fates upon themselves.”

Lin Xun looked away. Meanwhile, the big black bird had finished clearing the battlefield, searching for loot, and returned happily.

“Remember to collect their bodies.” With those words, Lin Xun and the big black bird never glanced at the pretty woman again and continued onwards.

Watching their departing figures as they left, the experts watching from afar all felt a sense of relief as if a weight had lifted off their bodies. The cold feeling also gradually subsided in their hearts.

When they looked at the bodies of Yang Tianqi and Xue Zhixian, their faces were filled with pity. *You could have offended anyone else, but why did you choose Demon God Lin?*

*If you did not bring this upon yourself then what?*

The pretty woman had collapsed on her buttocks, petrified, like her soul had left her body.

.....

“This is yours.”

While traveling onwards, the big black bird portioned some loot into a storage bag and tossed it over to Lin Xun.

“I don’t think you did anything.” Lin Xun shot a glare at the thieving bird.

“Hey, finders keepers. Do you not know this rule?”

The big black bird showed no politeness, impressing Lin Xun with his shamelessness.

“Don’t talk nonsense, hurry up and lead the way.”

Lin Xun checked the bag to find two sprigs of divine herbs and other rather rare materials. It seemed the big black bird was not too greedy after all.

Three days later.

Under the guidance of the big black bird, they came to a strange, ominous area.

Here, several mountains were connected together, but each peak was made of heaps of bones. As far as the eyes could see were alarming, winding mountains of bones.

“This is Stupa Land.”

The big black bird stretched out its claws to point into the distance. “In the center of Stupa Land is a Stupa Tower formed from piles of bones, standing at three thousand feet tall. It is called the Three Thousand Stupa.

“I’ve been here once before. The Stupa Tower is extremely mysterious, able to completely subdue the fiendish qi in this area. Otherwise, the multiple closely connected mountains of bones would have long given rise to strange creatures and turned the place into one filled with terrifying dangers.”

“So, the existence of this tower is a good thing?” asked Lin Xun.

“That’s correct. I reckon that the Three Thousand Stupa Tower was built by an almighty sage for the purpose of suppressing and sealing the aura in this land of great evil.” The big black bird suddenly removed the black pot on his back and with a slight shake of it, whacked the Ancient Buddha Son’s clone to the ground.

His nose was bruised and his face had swollen up, but he was still unconscious.

“Next, do we act according to our original plan?” asked the big black bird.

“Yes.” Lin Xun nodded.

Immediately, the two quietly walked away, and Lin Xun activated the Suanni Qi to conceal their presence.

Before long, Ancient Buddha Son's clone regained consciousness. When he opened his eyes, he was startled at first, and then he sprang up and his eyes darted around the surroundings.

Expressions flitted across his face, and it took him a while to regain his composure.

"That baldy is rather calm," muttered the big black bird.

Lin Xun was also a little surprised. He had to admit that Ancient Buddha Son's state of mind was indeed tough and strong. He remained unfazed even at such a time.

Suddenly, Ancient Buddha Son said aloud in a solemn and unusually calm voice, "Lin Xun, I know what you are planning. You just want me to lead you to my true body. Fine, since you want to die, I will of course fulfill your wish."

After saying that, he sped towards the mountains of piled bones in the distance.

He looked calm and composed, as if he had long known that Lin Xun would be hiding in the dark.

However, Lin Xun would not foolishly reveal himself. Under the shelter of Suanni Qi, he and the big black bird quietly followed after him.

"Do you see? This is Stupa Land. It was created by a Saint Buddha in the ancient era. Saving a life is more meritorious than building a seven-floor stupa. Additionally, the Saint Buddha had killed countless enemies to fight back invasions and attacks from the eight domains!" Ancient Buddha Son said indifferently. "The mountains of bones that you see are all remains of experts from the other eight domains. To the Ancient Wasteland Domain, their deaths are not to be regretted."

He constantly moved forward and never looked back once.

Before long, a unique bone mountain came into sight. Its uniqueness was due to the fact that it was made from a single skeleton!

The skeleton was enormous and lofty, stretching thousands of feet into the air like a kneeling giant.

Even after countless years, the giant skeleton still emitted an oppressive aura that assaulted passersby faces.

"That's the corpse of a Saint from the Giant Spirit Blood Clan in the Blood Demon Ancient Domain, who was killed by ultimate supreme power."

This was the first time Lin Xun heard of the name Blood Demon Ancient Domain.

Then, they came across another strange mountain, which was formed from a huge, thick and long coiling skeleton that looked like the body of a python dragon.

“This was left by a Saint from the Torch Dragon Lineage in the Absolute Yin Ancient Domain after being burned to death by a Saint Buddha using an azure lantern.”

Ancient Buddha Son’s clone seemed to know the origin and background of this area very well like the back of his hand.

This surprised both Lin Xun and the big black bird.

It should be noted that the Supreme Realm had only appeared a handful of times since ancient times, and it was only in this great age that sealed places such as the Stupa Brahma Land had broken their seals and presented them to the world.

How would Ancient Buddha Son know so many secrets?

“This is the corpse of a sword saint from the Great Luo Ancient Domain. His swordsmanship was unrivaled, and to kill him, the Saint Buddha ended up suffering irreparable injuries and finally passed away after creating the Three Thousand Stupa Tower.”

The Ancient Buddha Son’s clone came to a standstill, staring at a standing humanoid skeleton.

The spine was as straight as a sword, and every inch of its bones radiated the sharpness of a sword.

After endless years of corrosion, the spine had not bent even the slightest, nor had the intense sword qi in his body faded.

This was because this was the skeleton of a sword saint!

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## **The Prodigies War**

### **Chapter 1276: Tide of Murderous Intent**

Although the sword saint had fallen, their skeleton still stood proudly in the world, refusing to topple over.

The scene struck Lin Xun dumb.

But when he remembered that the sword saint originated from the Great Luo Ancient Domain, one of the other eight domains, he felt only respect and not a shred of awe or admiration!

Only by acknowledging the strength of one's opponent could one realize one's own shortcomings.

"What is that baldy planning by chattering non stop along the way?" muttered the big black bird, finding his actions suspicious.

"He is after all just a clone. It can't create any storm. Just watch his performance," Lin Xun reassured calmly.

Unexpectedly, Ancient Buddha Son spoke aloud.

"Lin Xun, are you surprised why I'm telling you all this?

"Actually, it's very simple. I just want to tell you that, in the eyes of Earth Treasury Temple, a heretic like you is no different from the cultivators of the eight domains.

"Years ago, countless enemies from the eight domains were buried here, and today, you will also be slain here."

Ancient Buddha Son's voice was righteous and calm.

If Lin Xun hadn't pulled the big black bird back, he would have already cursed out loud. *That baldy is crazy. If it wasn't for this operation, would he have survived until now?*

Before long, Ancient Buddha Son came to a standstill, pointing to the distance. "Look, that's the Three Thousand Stupa Tower, where the Saint Buddha passed away in the ancient era."

They turned to the direction his finger was pointing and saw a majestic and towering stupa tower standing between heaven and earth. It was built entirely out of bones and exhibited a pure white luster.

However, it was not a creepy or horrifying sight, and instead, radiated a sense of sacredness and solemnity.

Faintly, a Buddhist chant echoed like the ring of the morning bell.

The big black bird marveled, "This bloody place is a testimony to the greatly merciful and compassionate. The stupa is a tower built from supreme merits and virtues. The saint buddha must be a saint with great wisdom, great compassion and great ability."

Lin Xun was also surveying the surroundings. The Three Thousand Stupa Tower, formed from white bones, stood strongly in the world and suppressed all evil forces in the area. This seemingly chilling sight was filled with holiness and solemnity.

It was indeed not something that extraordinary people could achieve.

The clone of Ancient Buddha Son suddenly came to a stop and fell silent.

His calm, ripple-less face took on a complicated expression.

“Hey, has the baldy discovered our plan and is refusing to find his true body?” asked the big black bird gravely.

When he came to the Stupa Brahma Land, he had already made a plan with Lin Xun to get rid of Ancient Buddha Son’s true body in the operation.

And his clone would play a key role in the operation.

“Wait a little longer,” Lin Xun said in a low voice.

“Lin Xun, do you think that good will be rewarded with good and evil with evil?”

After a long period of silence, Ancient Buddha Son’s clone spoke aloud. He did not look back and was still staring blankly at the Three Thousand Stupa Tower in the distance. His voice was a little deeper than before.

“In this world, those who do good suffer poverty and live a short life, while those who do evil enjoy glory and wealth and live long. This has always been the case since ancient times.

“In this world, those who kill and plunder wear belts of gold, while those who repair bridges and mend roads die without their bodies ever being found. Similarly, we cultivators use the excuse of seeking the great dao to act without scruples, not distinguishing between good and evil, between the clear and the murky.

“What do you think is good and what is evil?”

Lin Xun and the big black bird looked at each other, sensing that the clone of Ancient Buddha Son seemed to have become a different person ever since it arrived here.

“They say the net of heaven has large holes, but nothing escapes it. But we cultivators act against the heavens and kill and destroy anyone who obstructs our path. How can we talk about reward for the good and retribution for the evil?”

“In ancient times, Saint Monk Duji of Earth Treasury Temple once said that the law of heaven is bright and clear. All living beings can be deceived, but the mind and heart can’t be deceived. Karma is unavoidable and so is retribution.

“Unfortunately, it is futile. If you wish to distinguish between good and evil, then all living beings in this world have their evils. This is true for all beings, and for saints!

“The so-called transcending life with good and evil...”

Ancient Buddha Son abruptly stopped and pursed his lips.

The big black bird explained, “I understand, the baldy is in a confused state of mind! He practices the Good and Evil Transcension Sutra created by the Good and Evil Cleansing Buddha King, but he seems to have fallen into the obstacle of attachment to self!”

“In your opinion, how do you distinguish between good and evil?” Lin Xun asked curiously.

The big black bird sneered, “What is good? What is evil? Since ancient times, even the almighty sages have not been able to figure it out. What do you and I know? Don’t listen to the baldy’s nonsense. Saint Monk Duji once said that there is no good or evil in your actions, you only need to act with a clear conscience. As long as your conscience is clear that is enough.”

His words took Lin Xun aback.

Act with a clear conscience and as for good or evil, leave that for the future generations to judge!

The big black bird muttered in puzzlement, “It’s strange. The baldy is just a clone who is about to reunite with his true body. Why would he fall into a confused state of mind?”

Lin Xun also did not understand.

But they both had a feeling it was related to the arts that Ancient Buddha Son practiced.

“Lin Xun, you acquired the inheritance of Great Treasury Silent Scripture so you are a heretic that the Earth Treasury Temple must eliminate, but in your eyes, am I also a heretic?” asked the Ancient Buddha Son’s clone.

After that, he chuckled to himself, his face resuming its usual calm and unwavering expression. “Discussing Buddhist teachings with you is like casting pearls before swine. Forget about it.”

Then, he continued onwards.

Along the way, he did not say much.

The closer they got to the Three Thousand Stupa Tower, the stronger they felt the holiness and solemnity of the tower. The invisible aura that filled the air compelled them to feel awe.

However, the bloody corpses around the bottom of the stupa tower ruined the sacred atmosphere.

The corpses were of both male and female and all strewn in chaotic disarray. There were over hundreds of them, all of which had died recently as indicated by the fact they had yet to be completely decomposed.

Their faces were all twisted with expressions of fear, despair, bitterness, and unwillingness.

And they all died miserable and brutal deaths. None of the corpses was intact!

Lin Xun and the big black bird glanced at each other, and saw shock flash past each other's eyes.

*Could the bloody scene be the doing of the real Ancient Buddha Son?*

The stupa tower stood tall amidst the quiet and still surroundings. In addition to the sacred atmosphere, the air was pervaded by a chilling stench of blood.

The clone of Ancient Buddha Son paused for a moment before he continued onwards, becoming increasingly quiet.

At the bottom of the Stupa Tower, a door swung open.

Under the intent gazes of Lin Xun and the big black bird, the clone disappeared through the door.

"We're halfway there. When the clone merges back with the original body, the little tricks that I have planted on the clone will be triggered and then...hehehe, killing him will be as easy as slaughtering a chicken!"

The big black bird grinned sinisterly, full of excitement.

He did not rescue the clone of Ancient Buddha Son out of kindness, but instead because he wanted to use it to plot against Ancient Buddha Son!

"Are you not too evil and cunning?" Lin Xun glanced at him.

The big black bird hopped about in anger. “Don’t forget how the baldy schemed to trap us in the Underworld River. You were lucky to have only been trapped for four years. If not, do you think you would be able to stand here?”

Lin Xun immediately shut up.

The big black bird was right. Ancient Buddha Son had attacked him more than once!

“We are just letting him have a taste of his own medicine. This is not cunning or evil, but the inevitable way of karma.” The big black bird sighed, and then asked, “Are we just going to wait here?”

Lin Xun was about to answer him when a furious roar rang from Stupa Tower—

“You...”

That one word was brimmed with all sorts of emotions—surprise, fear, disbelief...

It ended abruptly!

The clone of Ancient Buddha Son!

Lin Xun and the big black bird looked at each other in dismay, feeling a chill in their hearts. Without any wavering, they rushed through the main door of Stupa Tower.

The tower was three thousand feet tall, with a stone staircase leading up to the top. The walls of every level were engraved with ancient simple diagrams as though recording secrets of the past.

However, most of them were indistinct and incomplete.

The azure lanterns hung on the stone pillar swayed slightly, the flames flickering and casting fleeting shadows on the walls.

Lin Xun and the big black bird had no time to investigate the walls, and just darted up the stone staircase, reaching the eighteenth floor in the blink of an eye.

This was the highest point of the tower. It was a huge empty space with eighteen mysterious diagrams engraved on the four walls.

In the center of the hall, frightening sword qi spread outwards, turning into a vortex and producing a forbidding aura that swallowed everything it touched.

Vaguely, a slender and tall figure in a sitting stance loomed. The threatening vortex of sword qi precisely came from that figure.

Next to it was a mutilated corpse riddled with sword wounds, eyes still wide open with anger. It was the clone of Ancient Buddha Son!

It had been less than ten breaths since the clone entered the tower, but it had already met with misfortune!

The pupils of both Lin Xun and the big black bird shrank, staring at the slender figure sitting cross-legged.

It was a young man in a jade-colored robe. He had big and bright eyes, thick and long black hair, and his back straighter than a sword.

His facial features were perfect, particularly his long shapely brows. Even if he was only sitting there casually, he was akin to a peerless sword that had been polished over thousands of years. He had a restrained bearing, not dazzling or showy, yet still induced fear into everyone!

Wisps of sword qi were rising from the pores all over his body, gathering together like a dreamy illusion and transforming into a giant vortex. The space wailed and crumbled around it.

*Shua!*

Sensing the gazes of Lin Xun and the big black bird, the young man snapped open his eyes.

A bolt of blinding lightning seemed to tear through eternal darkness, illuminating the world and seizing souls.

The big black bird was rooted to the spot, feathers standing on ends; he felt a bone-chilling pressure bearing down on him.

*That guy is terrifying!*

*But I am certain that he's not Ancient Buddha Son!*

At the same time, Lin Xun was also shocked into silence, and then, a slash of unparalleled brightness burst forth from his unfathomable abyss-like dark eyes.

The big black bird felt a gush of terrifying murderous intent spreading from Lin Xun like a tide!

The air whimpered, and the hall seemed to be flooded by an endless cold air current.

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# The Prodigies War

## Chapter 1277: First Exchange with Yun Qingbai!

On the eighteenth floor of Stupa Tower, murderous intent spread like cold air current and the air was pervaded by an austere atmosphere.

“So it’s you. I didn’t expect to see you here.”

The jade-robed young man raised his eyes, startled to see Lin Xun at first before his face resumed its usual cool indifference.

From the beginning to the end, sword qi whirled and roared around him like a vortex, as though he was the ruler of the sword, adding to his restrained self-confidence.

“This is the inevitable way of karma.” Lin Xun’s dark eyes flashed coldly.

He seemed to have become another person. His clothes whipped about his body and killing intent swept from him like an avalanche!

This was because the man standing before him was Yun Qingbai!

The unrivaled swordsman was regarded as the leading figure of the younger generation of the Omega Sword Sect and who once held the title of strongest below the king stage.

His name was known all over the world long ago; no one had not heard of it.

But to Lin Xun, Yun Qingbai only had one identity—

His enemy!

Their feud was steeped in blood and tears.

Over the years, Lin Xun had been searching nonstop. He escaped the mine prison, he passed Feiyun Village, he entered the Ziyao Empire, and he came to the Ancient Wasteland Domain...

He had gone through endless dangers and sufferings along the way, just to end this feud!

If he did not get revenge, then how could he be a man?

When he unexpectedly encountered Yun Qingbai on the eighteenth floor of the Three Thousand Stupa Tower, the hatred suppressed in the depths of his heart completely exploded like the lava of a volcano.

However, he maintained an extremely calm exterior and an unprecedentedly clear state of mind, while his energy, qi and spirit were being circulated.

You did not need any reason for revenge!

But Lin Xun would not let hatred cloud his mind.

He knew very well how powerful Yun Qingbai was. No matter whether it was before or now, he was regarded as an overlord-like character who controlled and led an era.

His strength was long known to all.

On the Genius Gold Rankings of the Upper Nine Realms, his position as number one was unshakable.

Therefore, if Lin Xun wanted to deal with someone like him, he had to treat him as a mortal enemy!

“Karma?” Yun Qingbai repeated indifferently, “I only believe in the sword in my heart, I never believe in karma. I, Yun Qingbai, have killed countless people since I embarked on the cultivation path. If there was karma, then how would I be allowed to live until now?”

“It’s not that there isn’t karma. But it has not come for you yet.”

Lin Xun’s expression was still calm and collected, but he had already gathered power to the palms of his hands. “But now, it is here.”

“Now that we’ve met, there is no rush to die. Why don’t we have a chat first? Speaking of which, this is our first proper meeting.”

Yun Qingbai’s eyes were calm, with an ultimate detached indifference.

He seemed very relaxed and leisurely sitting cross-legged on the ground, which gave the feeling of being unassailable.

The big black bird narrowed his eyes, which were constantly flashing.

He had heard of Yun Qingbai and knew about his power.

But he did not imagine that they would run into him when they originally came to kill Ancient Buddha Son.

“Where is Ancient Buddha Son, did you kill him?” asked the big black bird.

Yun Qingbai nodded casually. “He practices the Good and Evil Transcension Sutra. Over the years, he has killed countless fellow cultivators. He can be said to have committed a heinous sin.

“Of course, I am not that heroic and virtuous. I killed him only because I wanted to understand the path he was seeking.”

He described the murder in such an indifferent manner that even the big black bird could not help but shudder.

Ancient Buddha Son was from the Earth Treasury Temple and known for his strength, but Yun Qingbai not only killed him but also completely disregarded him!

“Why did you not leave after that?”

Lin Xun suddenly marched forward, his steps slow, but a mighty force was spreading outwards from him.

His black hair billowed around him, his cold eyes flashed like lightning, and his murderous intent was firmly locked on Yun Qingbai.

“Why would I need to leave here?” Yun Qingbai shrugged and gave no response to Lin Xun’s approach.

He glanced around. “Three Thousand Stupa Tower was left by the first Saint Buddha in the ancient era, and it conceals a great fortune. I reckon it is sealed within the eighteen dao diagrams engraved on the walls. I won’t leave until I unravel the secret.”

When Lin Xun and Big Black Bird entered the tower, they also noticed the eighteen stone carvings, but they had no time to investigate further.

Now, the big black bird could not help but take a look at it.

Lin Xun, on the other hand, never wavered once. He seemed to not hear and took another step forward, his murderous intent focusing only on Yun Qingbai like a waterfall.

Even if the sky collapsed or the earth crumbled, or everything became obliterated, nothing could distract his attention!

*Clang!*

The Broken Blade flashed in the air, as illusory as a feather, as dazzling as pure white light, and exuding an unrivaled sharpness.

“What a treasure!” Yun Qingbai’s eyes lit up as he assessed, “This blade must have an impressive origin. I can feel that its aura is not that simple.”

From beginning to end, Yun Qingbai’s reaction was exceptionally calm, but it was that calmness that made him unfathomable and impossible to figure out.

“Then how do you feel about me beheading you with this blade?” Lin Xun’s voice was emotionless.

His energy, qi and spirit had already been activated to their peak level, and he had prepared himself into a state of Extreme Absolute.

If he launched an attack, then it would be a thunderous one!

“You only have a cultivation level of the third longevity tribulation stage. Even if you possess heaven-defying strength, you are no match for me,” Yun Qingbai remarked nonchalantly. “Not long ago, by a lucky chance, I obtained some unspeakable blessings and ascended to the fifth longevity tribulation stage in one go. If I were to attack, then I could kill you within three sword strikes.”

His voice was still incredibly calm—a kind of invincible confidence, and his words were enough to stifle many people.

“Then, why don’t you attack?”

Lin Xun was unfazed, his expression unchanged from beginning to end.

He took another step forward, standing only nine feet away from Yun Qingbai!

Yun Qingbai said indifferently, “I’m just curious. From what I know, anyone who was stripped of their innate talent has no chance of surviving. But you are the only one who has broken this norm, so I can’t bear to kill you so quickly.”

“As far as I know, Yun Qingbai always kills decisively and never drags it out unnecessarily. Why would you talk so much nonsense this time?”

Lin Xun came to stop, his slim and tall figure like a spear piercing the sky.

“Do you think I don’t dare to?” Yun Qingbai sighed and suddenly rose to his feet.

It was as though a divine sword sealed in the depths of an abyss of the great emptiness had broken free and emerged in the world!

He was indescribably fierce, confident, superior, dazzling and sharp!

Any other opponent likely would have been scared out of their wits and collapsed before the battle began.

This was because his presence was beyond terrifying!

However, a sneer curled the corners of Lin Xun's lips. "Stop pretending!"

*Shua!*

As his voice rang out, Broken Blade was already slashing across the air.

Impermanence Slash!

The power of this slash could no longer be described in words. It was so fast that it could not be captured, and it was so fierce that it was unbelievable!

It was as though a ray of light was tearing apart chaos!

The mystery and secrets contained within that blade slash had reached an astonishing and earthshaking level. Yazi's Rage, Sacred Combat Arts, Extreme Absolute, Star Annihilation Heaven Devourer...

That blade slash was a full-power unleash of Lin Xun's strongest attacks!

Time seemed to have frozen.

Yun Qingbai, who stood up with a terrifying aura, narrowed his eyes, and a serious look replaced the superior indifference on his face.

The slash was an indescribable surprise!

It was hard to imagine that the newborn who was at death's door back then would have achieved so much on the cultivation path.

Unfortunately—

*Clang!*

A deafening and earth-shattering collision shook the entire hall.

On the nearby wall, the eighteen stone carvings glowed simultaneously, forming an invisible mysterious force to dispel and resist the shockwaves of the blow.

As for the big black bird, with a miserable shriek, its body was smashed into the wall.

*Bang!*

At the same time, Yun Qingbai was blasted across the air, staggering back over dozens of feet, and he was trembling imperceptibly.

His eyes glinted like the sharp edge of a sword as they locked on Lin Xun. “Unfortunately, there is still nothing you can do about me.”

However, Lin Xun smiled. “You just killed the clone of Ancient Buddha Son and swallowed all his talents. You likely have not had time to fully digest since then, am I right?”

Yun Qingbai narrowed his eyes imperceptibly and his expression turned solemn, as if he had just rediscovered Lin Xun. “You also grasped the Devouring Grand Dao, so it’s nothing special that you can see through me. Unfortunately, even so, you are still no match for me.”

*Clang!*

Broken Blade produced a clear cry and struck once again.

Lin Xun no longer wanted to waste time talking to Yun Qingbai.

“Slash!”

At the same time, a sword slashed through the air, emitting a formidable aura and projecting infinite phenomena. It was launched by Yun Qingbai!

The sword intent rushed up to the sky like it was unstoppable!

*Clang!*

The two collided with a piercing explosion. The sky split with multiple cracks, and the earth shattered. It was as though doomsday had come.

One could imagine how terrifying the clash was.

*Ta Ta Ta...*

Yun Qingbai reeled back several steps, seemingly in a terrible state, but was unscathed.

He said calmly, “What you just said is correct. If I were not refining the talent of Ancient Buddha Son, then I would not waste time talking to someone like you who should have died at birth.”

Lin Xun strode forward, as magnificent and imposing as a rainbow. Broken Blade flew out again at an astonishing speed.

*Bang! Bang! Bang!*

In the ensuing battle, Yun Qingbai was repeatedly knocked back. Although he was unscathed, his qi and aura tumbled wildly and his face paled a little.

However, his expression remained calm and indifferent, as though completely unaffected.

“Big Black, now!” roared Lin Xun.

“Do you plan to attack together?”

Yun Qingbai’s eyes flashed with contempt.

“Bao!”

Cryptic noise suddenly came from the big black bird’s mouth like some sort of secret ancient incantations.

*Pu!*

As though struck by lightning, Yun Qingbai’s chest heaved violently, and he coughed up a mouthful of blood.

Meanwhile, Broken Blade sped downwards!

*Pu!*

Although Yun Qingbai escaped in time, the sharp edge still brushed his back and left a straight bone-deep cut. Blood would not stop pouring out from the wound!

But terrifyingly, even after suffering such a heavy blow, Yun Qingbai still maintained his usual calm and indifferent exterior and his speed was still surprisingly fast.

*Shua!*

With a flash, he fled.

“You ruined everything! Next time, I’ll make you disappear into ashes!”

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## The Prodigies War

### Chapter 1278: Battle Across Mountains and Valleys

Before Yun Qingbai's voice faded, he had already vanished from sight.

*Shua!*

Almost at the same time, Lin Xun leapt onto the back of the big black bird and commanded, "Chase!"

The big black bird rolled his eyes. *This bastard is treating me like his horse and but he was not a steed...*

But he also knew that an opportunity flew by quickly, so they must not have any delay, disappearing in an instant like a black lightning.

When it came to speed and escaping skills, he put even Lin Xun to shame.

As soon as they came out of Stupa Tower, Lin Xun spotted Yun Qingbai's fleeing figure shuttling in and out of the bone mountains in the distance. His speed was terrifying.

"Faster!"

Lin Xun's black eyes were as fierce as lightning. If he missed this good chance to kill Yun Qingbai, then he might never have another one again.

*Boom!*

In midair, long after the big black bird sped past, a long and narrow gap split the void with an ear-splitting, explosive noise.

The speed of light was faster than the speed of sound.

Although the big black bird's speed could not be compared with teleportation, it was not much different.

Very quickly, they were closing in on Yun Qingbai!

*Shua!*

Lin Xun, who had long been accumulating strength and ready to strike, took action without any hesitation. The Broken Blade slashed through the air once again.

Silent Emptiness Slash!

Among the Heavenly Yuan Six Slashes, the destructive power of the Silent Emptiness Slash might not be as strong as the Birth Destruction Slash or the Impermanence Slash, but it was unquestionably the fastest.

With a *pff*, a jet of blood shot out from Yun Qingbai, and he was left with a bone-deep scar on his shoulder.

However, he never looked back once, nor was his speed affected. On the contrary, he fled faster and faster as though unaware of the injury.

What a chilling sight!

His state of mind had to be incredibly steady and tenacious. Even when escaping, he showed not a flicker of panic.

Moreover, rays of sword light circulated him like fish roaming around in a protective stance.

They were akin to the wings of a bright and sharp sword!

*Bang!*

When the Broken Blade slashed out again, the rays of sword light began to swirl like whirlpools and with unceasing sounds of collision, countered the power of the Broken Blade little by little.

Most unbelievably, the impact propelled Yun Qingbai further away and accelerated his speed.

However, Lin Xun sharply sensed Yun Qingbai had trembled from the force. Obviously, his situation was not pleasant at all!

*Bang! Bang! Bang!*

Lin Xun tried to follow up with another blow, only to be repeatedly blocked by the dense whirlpool of sword qi.

Even if he tore down one, a new whirlpool of sword qi would take its place like it would never end.

With one party fleeing and the other giving chase, they left the Stupa Tower area and left the Stupa Brahma Land...

In the sky, the sword qi left behind a long trail like a streak of rainbow, and clouds popped like bubbles wherever it passed.

And behind it, the big black bird was relentlessly chasing after it like a flash of black lightning!

“That’s—?”

“What a frightening aura! Only a longevity giant would possess such powers!”

“Who is dueling up there?”

Countless experts were alarmed and broke into an uproar. However, when they looked up into the sky, the shadows of both parties were long gone.

Only visible cracks remained where the two sped past. The lingering aura made many people turn ashen-faced.

“Why do I feel that the aura belongs to Yun Qingbai?”

Some sharp-sighted experts could not help but gasp out loud, bewildered by their discovery.

“Impossible! Yun Qingbai is now the strongest in the Upper Nine Realms. He made it onto the number one spot of the Genius Gold Rankings a few years ago, and no one has been able to shake his position to this day. Who in the world would be chasing after and trying to kill him?”

Many people did not believe it.

Yun Qingbai was an undefeatable legend; his presence filled anyone with despair!

Rumor had it that, not long ago, Yun Qingbai had broken through to the fifth longevity tribulation stage. He was like a divine being!

Based on that, who else would have the ability to force him to flee for his life?

This was ridiculous!

Regardless, the chase still caused a huge sensation. Many people’s eyes almost popped out of their sockets.

.....

“Faster!” Lin Xun urged.

The big black bird had already pushed himself to his limit, so exhausted that foam gathered at his mouth, but he still endured it.

He knew that Lin Xun had to catch up to Yun Qingbai no matter what.

“Slash!”

Before long, Lin Xun drew a deep breath and launched another attack.

*Bang!*

In the distance, Yun Qingbai staggered to the side, and the whirlpool of sword qi around him swayed violently as though it was barely able to hold up.

Lin Xun perked up.

“Yun Qingbai, you’re a successor from the Omega Sword Sect, but you don’t dare to fight me like a man!” Lin Xun yelled.

Yun Qingbai’s face was still calm, only tinged with a slightly livid color, but his aura was pulsing around him.

In the end, he inhaled deeply and controlled himself.

He knew that with his current state, he would not be able to unleash his full power.

It was frustrating to even think about it. Ever since he embarked on his cultivation path, when had he ever been defeated? Every time he fought, he utterly crushed and overpowered his opponents. When had he ever been relentlessly chased down like this?

Moreover, he had been wounded!

He had not experienced such feelings of shame and humiliation in a long, long time!

He felt his luck this year must be bad to have suffered such a predicament.

He never imagined that, after killing the clone of Ancient Buddha Son, and before he could devour and refine his innate talent, Lin Xun would suddenly appear in front of him. He could barely spare the energy to fight.

Otherwise, given his pride and conceitedness, would he have engaged in conversation with an insignificant ant in his eyes?

Would he have been wounded and forced to flee?

Even now, Yun Qingbai still could not figure out how the big black bird wounded him internally by muttering a strange chant.

But no matter what...

He was filled with hatred!

He was filled with indescribable hatred!

Over the years, he had detached himself from the world and wholeheartedly sought the dao. He was devoted to cultivation because among his peers, no one was worthy of his time.

But his experience today made him hate Lin Xun to the core!

“What a joke! You’re just taking advantage of my situation. Do you dare to fight me fairly and squarely?” he uttered coldly.

His voice was still indifferent and filled with absolute confidence, but also tinged with disdain for Lin Xun.

But those words only deepened the murderous intent in Lin Xun’s dark eyes. “Take advantage of your situation? Back when you killed members of my Lin Clan, have you thought about fairness? When you took my Origin Aeth Artery, did you do it fairly?”

*Boom!*

Lin Xun launched into attack before he finished speaking.

Blazing brightly, the Broken Blade sped downwards at an unexpected angle and with a *pff*, took off Yun Qingbai’s right arm!

If he hadn’t dodged in time, then it would have been his head severed instead!

Yun Qingbai only grunted in a muffled voice and said nothing else, but his handsome face was livid.

He had a proud and conceited personality, and his cultivation mind was extremely tenacious and strong. Otherwise, he would not have been able to achieve what he had today.

However, this did not mean he had no temper!

Everything that happened today was the greatest shame and embarrassment to him. For the first time in his life, he was about to go berserk.

He said nothing else.

*Once I escape, I swear I am going to retaliate tenfold, a hundredfold in the future!*

.....

The pursuit had been ongoing for three hours.

They crossed mountains and rivers, fought across the high altitude of the sky and passed thousands of miles.

They also set off countless commotions and uproars along the way.

The big black bird was gasping for breath and on the brink of exhaustion.

Lin Xun was not much better. He had administered several strikes and each one was with full power.

Now, he had depleted his physical strength.

But Yun Qingbai's condition was the worst of them all!

His clothes were torn and soaked with bright red blood, and bloody scars criss-crossed his slender body like a web.

Even one of his arms had been severed.

If anyone else sustained such horrible injuries, they likely would not be alive anymore.

This showed how terrifying and difficult to deal with Yun Qingbai was.

If Lin Xun allowed an opponent like him to escape, then he did not know when he would have another chance to kill him.

"Look, you are barely holding on." Yun Qingbai suddenly spoke aloud, his voice calm as always.

Lin Xun inhaled deeply, a cold light flashing in his black eyes.

The next moment, his index finger pointed upwards like a sword, and all the power in him roared to the sword finger like a tide.

An indescribable aura of terror quietly spread outwards.

This side of the world seemed to be quaking and wailing!

*Shua!*

The sword finger jabbed in midair.

A slash of sword qi flooded the universe instantly, cutting through the longitude and latitude. It seemed to contain endless mysteries but was also imbued with a sense of simplicity like returning to nature.

In the distance, Yun Qingbai's face blanched, and he struggled to maintain his calm.

He sensed imminent danger!

The slash of sword qi was incomparably sharp, unrestrained and powerful. Even ghosts and demons would dart to one side at the sight of the sword. It seemed capable of splitting apart heaven and earth.

The sword was called No Escape!

*This is bad.*

As an unrivaled swordsman, Yun Qingbai's mastery in swordsmanship had long reached an earthshaking level. How would he not sense the terror of the sword?

Without hesitation, he gritted his teeth and activated his own life-protection means.

*Clang!*

A scabbard drifted into the air, glowing a deep golden shade. A red rope was twisted around it and a tear stain was marked on its surface.

As soon as the scabbard appeared, a faint sigh was echoing within it.

*Boom!*

At the same time, Lin Xun's sword qi was coming down fast, but the scabbard bloomed with splendid light and amazingly blocked the sword.

Yun Qingbai breathed a sigh of relief.

But the next second, his expression drastically changed. The scabbard was blasted away with a boom, and the mighty sword qi fiercely advanced...

"So aggressive!"

Suddenly, the aura around Yun Qingbai soared in power, and he completely unleashed his strength, ignoring his internal injuries.

An streak of unparalleled sword intent swept out from his sword.

*Boom!*

The two sword qi clashed head on and sent a shudder through the universe, as though it was being wiped out.

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# The Prodigies War

## Chapter 1279: Seven Emotions Challenge

Mountains, rocks, vegetation, lakes, rivers...all turned to nothing amidst the quaking and rumbling.

Space was crumbling and the earth was collapsing with countless shockingly wide cracks. It was as if an unprecedented earthquake had wreaked havoc across the area within a radius of thousands of miles.

Shards of sword qi, filled with terrifyingly cold murderous energy, were still floating in the void. It still hadn't dissipated after a long time.

Amidst smoke and dust, Lin Xun coughed out loud, glanced around, and his heart sank.

"Am I dead?" The big black bird popped up.

"No."

Lin Xun recalled the final exchange. When the sword qi collided, Yun Qingbai blocked the blow but he was still hit hard and his body shattered.

Faintly, Lin Xun saw him turn to a ray of illusory light and disappear without a trace.

"Almost!" The big black bird sighed with disappointment.

"I didn't have high hopes." Lin Xun was very calm because he knew someone like Yun Qingbai was not easy to kill.

They were only able to force him to abandon everything, make a run for it, and badly wound him because they caught him off guard.

"However, he has sustained serious injuries this time and even if he recovers, it will take a long, long time." Lin Xun exhaled.

He was exhausted.

He won by a narrow margin in this battle, but it made him realize that if he were to face off against Yun Qingbai in his peak state, the outcome might be entirely different.

The reason for that being that his cultivation was two levels below Yun Qingbai!

If they were at the same cultivation level, Lin Xun had absolute confidence that he could kill him!

“Should we chase after him?” asked the big black bird.

Lin Xun shook his head. They had lost their chance to kill him. Once a shrewd and skilful character like Yun Qingbai escaped, it would be near impossible to find him again.

“Let’s go back to the Stupa Tower.” Lin Xun decided.

He needed to digest the battle, especially to accurately evaluate Yun Qingbai’s current strength.

“Okay.” The big black bird nodded.

He also knew that Lin Xun had a huge advantage in the battle.

Namely, when they ran into Yun Qingbai, he was at the critical moment of refining the innate talent and power of Ancient Buddha Son, making him unable to draw upon his full strength.

Secondly, Yun Qingbai never imagined that the clone of Ancient Buddha Son had been placed under a mysterious spell by the big black bird.

This was done with the intention of targeting the true form of Ancient Buddha Son, so that when he merged with the power of his clone, he would run into a disaster.

Who would have thought that the real body of Ancient Buddha Son had already been killed by Yun Qingbai? Because he swallowed the innate power of the clone, he indirectly received the big gift they originally prepared for Ancient Buddha Son.

This was precisely the reason why Yun Qingbai had coughed up blood and been wounded badly when the big black bird uttered a secret chant in the Stupa Tower.

In short, a series of combined coincidences pushed Yun Qingbai into an extremely passive and distressing situation, forcing him to flee.

If it was a head-on confrontation, the big black bird also reckoned that Lin Xun had little chance of killing his enemy.

But this might change in the future.

Yun Qingbai was heavily injured and had only a faint breath of life left. During his recovery period, if Lin Xun managed to seize the time to make a breakthrough, he could completely transform his strength!

.....

Half a day later.

Lin Xun and the big black bird returned to Stupa Tower.

Fighting back his sleepiness and fatigue, Lin Xun arranged a dao rune forbidden array around the tower and went into closed-door cultivation.

After all the running about, the big black bird was so exhausted that he retired to sleep in his big black pot.

“Yun Qingbai, the number one on the Genius Golden rankings, is being hunted by Demon God Lin!”

In the outside world, similar news spread like a storm, causing a sensation in Root Mountain Realm and very quickly shaking the entire Upper Nine Realms.

It also set off great disturbances!

Someone marveled, “After four years of silence, as soon as Demon God Lin emerged in the world, he defeated Underworld Son and then suppressed Ancient Buddha Son. And now, he forced Yun Qingbai to flee for his life!”

“Doesn’t this prove that Lin Xun is already worthy of being at the top of the Genius Golden Rankings? But he is only at the third longevity tribulation, isn’t he?” someone exclaimed in astonishment.

“This can’t be true! Yun Qingbai is invincible. Like the sun in the sky, shining upon the universe. How can a firefly like Lin Xun compete with him in terms of brilliance?” scoffed someone, refusing to believe in the news.

“Where are the people of Omega Sword Sect? Why are they not coming forward to explain this matter? Could it really be true that Yun Qingbai is being chased down by Demon God Lin?”

The news stirred up many heated discussions across the Upper Nine Realms.

Regardless of whether the news was true or not, it massively boosted Lin Xun’s reputation and catapulted him to fame. No one in the world wasn’t aware of his name.

.....

In the Abysmal Water Realm, there was an isolated island in a black sea.

“Ah—!”

A roar filled with anger and hatred resounded like a rolling thunder.

The sea violently quaked and raged with hundred-foot waves, and the fierce beasts lurking in the depths of the sea were all terror-stricken and fled in panic.

Only after a long while did the voice fade.

On the isolated island, Yun Qingbai sat slumped on the ground, hair disheveled, breathing labored, face terrifyingly livid, and eyes bloodshot.

Upon a closer look, his body was like cracked porcelain, covered with numerous horrible, bloody scars.

The extent of the injuries was far beyond Yun Qingbai's imagination!

The impact of being interrupted from refining the innate power and talent of Ancient Buddha Son damaged his dao foundation.

Moreover, the secret spell of the big black bird inflicted severe internal injuries to him to the point of damaging his cultivation!

Worst of all, when he clashed with Lin Xun's sword qi, he failed to block the blow with even his sword arts that he had always been most proud of. Consequently, that shattered his body and severely damaged his spirit!

How could the prideful and arrogant Yun Qingbai swallow this defeat?

Ever since he started cultivating, he had won every battle and advanced triumphantly on the cultivation path. When had he ever suffered such failure?

It was the greatest shame!

Only after a long moment did Yun Qingbai manage to calm his emotions, and his mind returned to its usual resolute and steady state.

His swordsmanship would not be struck down like that.

To be able to rise above his peers and now dominate the top of the Genius Gold Rankings, he was not an ordinary genius.

His talent, mind, talent and foundation were all among the strongest in the world. If he failed to recover from this one setback in his life, then he was not Yun Qingbai!

"The day I return is the day your soul will be gone from this world..." Muttering, Yun Qingbai donned an indifferent expression, but his brows were surrounded by killing intent.

.....

A few days later.

Lin Xun woke up from meditation, his eyes clear and tranquil.

After defeating Yun Qingbai, though he did not manage to kill him, the experience transformed his state of mind.

After all, he won in his first confrontation with Yun Qingbai!

Although there was an element of luck, luck was also a type of strength!

He predicted, “In fewer than three days, I will make a breakthrough.”

In truth, back when he was at Tragic Death Land, his cultivation had already reached the state of perfection, and he only needed an opportunity to ascend to the next cultivation level.

He had a strong feeling that he was close to a breakthrough.

*Shua!*

Three days later, he appeared above the Three Thousand Stupa Tower.

As his aura spread outwards, black tribulation clouds rolled across like a tide, producing a terrifying atmosphere that would induce fear in anyone.

He stood tall overhead, his black hair fluttering and his expression calm as never before.

The nine longevity tribulations were divided into the three calamitous tribulations and six challenging tribulations.

He had already overcome the first three calamitous tribulations in one go, and now, he was about to face the fourth longevity tribulation, also known as the Seven Emotions Challenge!

All living beings possessed seven emotions and six desires.

The seven emotions referred to joy, anger, anxiety, thought, sorrow, fear, and fright, which reflected the state of mind and affected a cultivator’s cultivation.

The fourth longevity tribulation was precisely the tribulation of seven emotions!

*Rumble—*

The sky dimmed, the earth dulled, and everything fell into a state of silence. The depths of the tribulation clouds obscured the sun, and the sky growled with thunder.

Then, magnificent lightning flashed down like whips, emitting an earthshaking destructive power and plunging the world into chaos.

But in Lin Xun's black eyes, there was not a ripple of emotion.

*Kacha!*

A blinding bolt of lightning tore through the sky like a spear as it struck down with an ear-splitting sound.

At the same time, Lin Xun, who was motionless, suddenly raised his head and met it head-on!

"Someone is undergoing tribulation!"

On a mountain of bones, a tall figure narrowed their eyes and peered into the distance.

There, tribulations clouds roiled, thunder raged, and lightning danced wildly. It was like the coming of doomsday.

"Seven Emotions Challenge! But this tribulation is terrifying. I have never seen one in my life. It seems like a fierce, heaven-defying character is making a breakthrough!"

The tall figure had long, fiery-red hair, sharp eyes, and an imposing and tyrannical bearing.

When he noticed the scene, with a flash, he sped towards the area where the heavenly tribulation was striking down.

"Huh?"

At the same time, in front of the Sword Saint skeleton standing like a pillar between heaven and earth, a woman bathed in ice and snow raised her head and looked into the distance.

"That's where the Three Thousand Stupa Tower is. Someone actually chose to challenge a tribulation there. Are they not afraid of being targeted?"

The woman wore a blue dress that highlighted her slender and graceful figure. Her long silvery hair billowed like a waterfall around her stunningly beautiful face.

She thought for a minute before her figure fluttered away like a fairy in the snow.

“What a magnificent scene!”

“Go, let’s go take a look.”

Cultivators across different areas of Stupa Land were alarmed one after another. Their eyes flickered up, and they all rushed towards the Three Thousand Stupa Tower.

Cultivators often choose a safe place to overcome a tribulation to prevent others from interfering and putting them in danger.

However, someone was actually bold enough to choose the danger-ridden Stupa Brahma Land to overcome the longevity tribulation. How would this not attract attention?

Lin Xun was unaware of all this. He was focused on defying and conquering heaven, his black hair whipping about and dao light surging around his body!

Arrows of dazzling lightning flashed down, providing the perfect backdrop to his divine being-like silhouette. It was a breathtaking spectacle!

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## The Prodigies War

### Chapter 1280: The Arrogant Chi Lingxiao

The Stupa Tower was constructed from bones and stood three thousand feet tall like a pillar between heaven and earth.

Above it, the sky was choked by thick tribulation clouds, interrupted by only deafening claps of thunder and dazzling flashes of lightning. It unleashed such destructive power that it filled the area within a radius of thousands of miles with a terrifying, hair-raising atmosphere.

Lin Xun was battling among it, bathed in lightning and glowing dazzlingly like a divine being.

“It’s Demon God Lin!” someone exclaimed.

Cultivators neared the scene one after another, but when they realized that the cultivator overcoming tribulation was a famed heaven-defying character, they were all flabbergasted.

“It’s him...he is only now challenging the fourth longevity tribulation. How can he be compared with Yun Qingbai?”

The fiery-red haired man also came. He had a powerful and intimidating presence, especially with his imposing and built figure.

With a bewildered expression, he sized up Lin Xun who was challenging the fourth longevity tribulation.

*Huh?*

Suddenly, as though he sensed something, his eyes darted to the other side.

A graceful woman was bathed in illusory snow and ice. Her breathtakingly beautiful face was like the moon in the sky, and it had a detached indifference and was as pure as jade.

The woman also looked over with her clear eyes.

Their eyes met and they both recognized each other.

Chi Lingxiao!

Holy Maiden Lin Xue!

Then, they withdrew their gaze and ignored each other.

At the same time, there was a low commotion in the crowd. Many cultivators recognized Chi Lingxiao and Holy Maiden Lin Xue and couldn't stop their countenance from changing.

In the present Upper Nine Realms, those able to make it onto the Genius Gold Rankings were considered giants.

Those able to rank in the top ten of the Genius Gold Rankings were said to be overlords, influential figures with astonishing aptitude, talent, and luck.

Chi Lingxiao and Holy Maiden Lin Xue were among the top ten of the Genius Golden Rankings!

Over the years, the rankings on the Genius Gold Rankings had changed every once in a while, but neither Chi Lingxiao nor Holy Maiden Lin Xue had ever fallen out of the top ten.

This achievement was enough to prove their frightening strength, and it was no wonder that their presence caused a commotion in the crowd.

“Lin Xue, there are rumors everywhere that Lin Xun made Yun Qingbai flee for his life, do you believe it?” Chi Lingxiao suddenly asked aloud. His deep voice had an aggressiveness and overbearingness that reached the heart.

He was like an overlord descending upon the world, always domineering and never displayed any flaws.

“Why don’t you go and ask him?” Holy Maiden Lin Xue’s voice was clear and bone-piercingly cold.

Chi Lingxiao chuckled, his eyes gleaming with a divine light as he cast a glance over at Lin Xun who was undergoing tribulation. “It’s pointless to ask him. After all, a verbal statement can’t be taken as proof. There’s only one way to know.”

Everyone pricked up their ears.

“Are you going to take action?” asked Holy Maiden Lin Xue thoughtfully.

Chi Lingxiao’s smile deepened, and he laughed in a more unrestrained manner. “No one knows me better than Holy Maiden Lin Xue. Yes, this is a rare opportunity, and of course I will not miss out on it!”

Many people felt a chill.

Everyone knew that ever since Chi Lingxiao came into the Ancient Wasteland Domain, he had taken down top figures among his peers one after another.

After entering the Supreme Realm, at least hundreds of talented geniuses had died in his hands!

As for other people who died in his hands, there were too many to be counted.

It was no exaggeration to say that he was a maniac killer! He was aggressive and domineering and always did whatever he wanted!

Now, he wanted to target Lin Xun. How could the others not be shocked?

“You likely will have your nose rubbed in dirt,” Holy Maiden Lin Xue uttered coldly. She was like ice but her grace and beauty were unparalleled.

“Hahaha.” Chi Lingxiao threw his head back and laughed skywards. “Lin Xun can’t stop me!”

His voice was powerful and resounding!

Whoever was as strong as him would likely have developed an invincible belief in his ability. Who would he be afraid of?

If Lin Xun was indeed a formidable opponent, then that would be fine. But if he did not live up to his fame, then Chi Lingxiao would not mind taking care of him.

The reason?

Did he need a reason to kill?

This was Chi Lingxiao. He was domineering, overbearing, arrogant, but also exceptionally strong. Otherwise, given his nature and temper, he likely would have gotten himself into trouble long ago.

Lin Xue said indifferently, "I just want to advise you to not do something stupid. Do you not remember what happened to Underworld Son and the Ancient Buddha Son? You should know the consequences of taking action."

Sharpness flashed in Chi Lingxiao's eyes. "I know you are trying to spur me on."

*Boom!*

He suddenly rose into the air and roared, "Lin Xun, quickly end the tribulation, I'm waiting to have a showdown with you!"

His voice reverberated throughout the area and made everyone's expression change.

Demon God Lin was undergoing a tribulation and might meet with catastrophe with one wrong move, but Chi Lingxiao chose this moment to challenge him. This was no doubt an act of sabotage!

The Seven Emotions Challenge tested one's state of mind and fluctuation of emotions.

If Demon God Lin was distracted, then how would it end well for him?

In the distance, thunderstorms raged endlessly. Lin Xun looked to be in misery struggling within it, as if he could not hold on much longer.

It was unknown whether it was caused by Chi Lingxiao's interference.

"Do you think that's going too far?" Lin Xue glanced at Chi Lingxiao.

"This is a tribulation! Since he chose to undergo the tribulation here, he should have expected and prepared for external interference. He can't blame anyone."

Chi Lingxiao smiled brightly. "What's more, if he can't even endure such interference, he might as well be struck to death by lightning."

Everyone exclaimed to themselves. *So crazy, he really is too crazy. He always does whatever he wants without the slightest scruple.*

Lin Xue said nothing else.

Although she could not stand Chi Lingxiao's behavior, she would not stand up for Lin Xun. After all, she had never met Lin Xun, and they were nothing more than strangers.

She would not offend Chi Lingxiao just to help Lin Xun get out of trouble.

"Lin Xun, do you hear me? Reply if you do. Of course, even if you don't agree, I will still take action later!" Chi Lingxiao yelled again.

Everyone gasped. If they were Lin Xun, they would never behave like Chi Lingxiao!

Under the lightning tribulation, Lin Xun was dripping with blood with his skin torn and flesh mangled. He appeared to be in a very terrible state.

His tribulations were different from that of other cultivators. It was more terrifying and abnormal than the previous every time.

He also knew that this was related to the path he pursued so he was already mentally prepared.

Even so, he still found it extremely difficult and dangerous. He had withstood unprecedented pressure to be able to survive to this point.

At that moment, Chi Lingxiao's brazen and provocative voice irritated Lin Xun like the chattering call of a crow.

"Don't worry, I will pull out your tongue and crush your mouth later!" His voice was like ice.

But because he had to talk, it diverted his attention from the tribulation for a second and caused him to be struck by lightning again, falling from midair.

Chi Lingxiao burst out laughing, "Okay, you must not die. Otherwise, you will become a laughing stock of the world."

Everyone sighed. Chi Lingxiao's actions were tantamount to completely offending Lin Xun.

However, everyone knew that, even if Lin Xun ascended to the fourth longevity tribulation stage, it would still be extremely difficult for him to defeat Chi Lingxiao, who had long reached this cultivation level!

Moreover, Chi Lingxiao was ranked higher than Underworld Son on the Genius Golden Rankings!

"Why isn't it over yet? Are you too weak? Or is the lightning tribulation too strong for you?"

After a while, Chi Lingxiao lost his patience. “Hurry up, my time is precious, I don’t want to waste it on you.”

When a lightning tribulation struck, no one dared to get close to it, lest they get caught in the tribulation and suffer serious consequences, ranging from severe injuries to being completely obliterated.

This was also the reason why Lin Xun dared to challenge the tribulation so openly.

Since ancient times, who ever dared to sneak attack someone challenging a longevity tribulation?

It was no different from seeking death.

Of course, it was possible to distract or interfere the challenger or even sabotage them from afar with secret weapons.

However, cultivators often made preparations in advance and generally would be rarely disturbed by interference.

Similarly, it was rare to find secret weapons that could ruin a cultivator’s chance of overcoming the tribulation.

However, Lin Xun was undergoing the Seven Emotions Challenge, which directly affected his mood, emotions, and mental state, and so Chi Lingxiao’s noise disturbance had a miraculous effect!

This was why everyone thought that while Chi Lingxiao looked honorable and upright, in fact he was extremely cunning and underhanded.

“Can you actually do it?” Chi Lingxiao shouted again.

Some cultivators could not stand it anymore. The way he targeted Lin Xun was too obvious!

*Boom!*

At that moment, Lin Xun suddenly jerked out of the rolling tribulation clouds, and with a punch, smashed the lightning bolts in all directions!

Instantly, the heavenly tribulation subsided, leaving only bright flashes of light across the sky bathing Lin Xun.

His clothes were torn, his flesh were stained with blood, his hair was disheveled, and he looked extremely tragic.

However, his expression was surprisingly calm, and in his dark unfathomable eyes flashed a chilling murderous intent.

Hu—

He inhaled deeply, feeling the tremendous changes in his body of qi and settling his heart in his chest.

He passed!

The entire audience was shaken. This tribulation was absolutely unparalleled and eye-opening.

After passing the tribulation, Lin Xun had successfully broken through to the fourth longevity stage and his strength was destined to undergo significant improvement!

However, everyone was not amazed for too long because they followed Lin Xun's gaze to look at Chi Lingxiao in the distance.

They anticipated a great battle!

Many cultivators also found Chi Lingxiao's blatant provocative behavior just now unbearable.

"Were you not in a hurry? Come on then!" Lin Xun thundered, his voice cold and filled with killing intent.

He did not know who Chi Lingxiao was, but even if he did, he would not care.

"Do you not want to take a break? I don't want to take advantage of your situation. When I win, they would say I had an unfair advantage in the duel and that would taint my reputation," Chi Lingxiao said leisurely.

Everyone was speechless. *When you provoked him and interfered in his tribulation, were you also not taking advantage of his situation?*

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