

The Prodigies War

Chapter 1281: Friend of Toady

Chapter 1281 Friend of Toady

This was deliberate teasing!

Everyone realized that from the beginning, Chi Lingxiao had deliberately teased Lin Xun. His intention might not be malevolent, but it definitely was bad.

“Why would I need a rest when I’m just dealing with a piece of trash like you?” Lin Xun’s eyes were ice-cold.

Trash!

A sudden hush fell over the audience when they heard that word.

In the Upper Nine Realms, who would dare to use that word to call someone who was ranked in the top ten of the Genius Gold Rankings?

This was tantamount to publicly insulting Chi Lingxiao!

As expected, Chi Lingxiao’s face turned cold and hostile, and his eyes blazed with terrifying light. “How dare you insult me?”

“Insult others and they will do the same. I called you rubbish, do you not agree?”

Lin Xun spoke indifferently, but the words struck terror into many people’s hearts.

Only then did they realize that Chi Lingxiao might be called a fierce character who did whatever he wanted and ignored all rules and laws.

But similarly, Demon God Lin was no pushover!

When it came to courage, he was well known throughout the entire Upper Nine Realms!

“Fellow cultivator Chi, I already reminded you not to go too far. Look, retribution is here now,” Lin Xue said indifferently.

Chi Lingxiao’s face turned dark.

“I also want to see what Demon God Lin is capable of for him to speak so arrogantly!”

Boom!

Chi Lingxiao soared into the sky, his fiery red hair dancing wildly in the air. Behind him, scenes of world destruction such as the six hell prisons collapsing and ghosts and gods perishing were projected.

This was the power of the Six Prisons World Destruction Art, a top secret cultivation art throughout the ages!

The sky roared and the earth rumbled, amplifying the frightening power of Chi Lingxiao like it could wipe out the entire world.

Shua!

Lin Xun got into a fighting stance, like an arched bow ready to fire. With a wide sweep of his hand, the Broken Blade shot across the sky.

Impermanence Slash!

Anyone who had watched the duel between Lin Xun and Yun Qingbai would notice that the power of Impermanence Slash had significantly increased, as though it had undergone a transformation!

Chi Lingxiao was startled at first, but just when he was about to fight back, a bone-piercing chill flooded him, as if a blade was pressed against his throat.

His expression dramatically changed. He realized the terrifying power of that slash and did not hesitate to unleash all his strength.

“Six Hells of Sorrows!”

With a violent roar, he threw his fist forward, and six hell prisons emerged to form a force capable of suppressing the universe.

Each hell prison presented a different scene and different kind of power. Assembled together, it was akin to opening the door to the six paths of reincarnation!

This was undoubtedly Chi Lingxiao’s ultimate killing move.

Everyone was chilled to the bone as if they had fallen into an ice cave. The art could deter even ghosts and gods.

But everyone’s jaws dropped when they saw the power of Lin Xun’s slash sweep away everything in its way and tear open the six prisons as it passed with an ear-splitting explosion.

Amidst the shower of sparks, Chi Lingxiao’s arm split with a bloody wound.

In disbelief, he repeatedly stroked the injury. “You actually wounded me...”

It was utterly silent.

Lin Xun not only wounded him, but this was also his first blow in the battle. He completely overpowered his opponent!

In the distance, the clear eyes of Holy Maiden Lin Xue suddenly narrowed. *Lin Xun has just survived the heavenly tribulation and his qi was very weak.*

Even so, he wounded Chi Lingxiao with a swing of his blade!

How strong has he become?

“Trash will always be trash, what gave you the guts to provoke and challenge me?” As Lin Xun’s knife-cold voice rang out, he charged forward with terrifying speed. He was clearly wounded and appeared to be in a miserable state, but when he attacked, a heavy and oppressive aura assaulted the faces of everyone nearby.

“Do you want to die?!” Chi Lingxiao raged, his hair standing up in anger, and endless dao light blazing around him like flames. He looked like the sun burning in the sky.

“The Blade of Six Purgatories!”

Then, six purgatories emerged in midair, spewing out waves of flaming blades to create a large-scale blade formation—majestic, dazzling and earthshaking.

Many cultivators reeled back in horror.

With an indifferent face, Lin Xun brought the Broken Blade up to meet the attack head-on.

Boom!

The collision between the two seemed to have caused a vast explosion. The airflow raged wildly and the space was flooded with an aura of chaos.

Wherever the blazing shockwaves swept through, everything was reduced to smithereens. Even the mountains of bones collapsed and turned into dust.

It was no doubt an earthshaking showdown at the overlord level.

Everyone stood transfixed in stupefaction. Chi Lingxiao was struck once again and blasted backwards through the air by the Broken Blade. Blood was spewing from his mouth and nostrils.

The only reason his body was kept intact was because his armor had neutralized the majority of the power of the blow.

But even so, he still suffered internal injuries.

“Why are you not saying anything, trash? Weren’t you very loud and arrogant just now?” Lin Xun’s voice became increasingly cold.

The worst thing when overcoming a heavenly tribulation was being disturbed by outside interference. He had no grudge with Chi Lingxiao, but the other cultivator still actively tried to distract him during it.

This was no longer as simple as offending and provoking him!

Therefore, Lin Xun did not hold back at all when attacking.

Chi Lingxiao seethed at being insulted and called a piece of trash, almost coughing up blood in rage. Ever since he had come into the world, he had been rising by stepping on the corpses of many talented geniuses. The mention of his name would make anyone turn pale. When had he ever been insulted like that?!

“Die!” Chi Lingxiao roared, erupting completely.

Bang!

But very quickly, he was defeated once again. Lin Xun’s punch broke his jaw and fractured several of his teeth. His cheeks were left swollen and bruised.

Everyone remembered what Lin Xun had just said: He would pull out Chi Lingxiao’s tongue and smash his mouth!

Holy Maiden Lin Xue could no longer remain calm.

She could already tell that Chi Lingxiao was inferior in terms of strength and was no match for Lin Xun.

As time went by, Lin Xun’s qi and aura was clearly recovering at an alarming rate, becoming more and more terrifying.

It was obvious that his weakened body after the tribulation was rapidly being restored, and his cultivation level was no longer at the third longevity tribulation!

“This time, Chi Lingxiao is going to suffer the consequences of his actions.” Holy Maiden Lin Xue sighed.

Sure enough, as soon as this thought came to her mind, Chi Lingxiao screamed in fury.

Blood was trickling down the sides of his swollen and red mouth. He had taken another hit, which crushed his jaw and smashed his face to almost the point of being unrecognizable.

This was perhaps why they said a loose tongue brings a lot of trouble.

Minutes ago, Chi Lingxiao was so arrogant and domineering and had no qualms speaking his mind when Lin Xun was challenging the tribulation.

But now, even the audience could not help but wince at his tragic appearance and could not bear to watch.

After all, he was an overlord-like figure in the top ten of the Genius Gold Rankings, yet he was being beaten to such a horrible state. It was indeed tragic.

It was foreseeable that when the news of this battle spread, Chi Lingxiao would become a well-known tragic figure.

The amazing strength that Lin Xun demonstrated made everyone think of the same thing: Was he really the person who chased down Yun Qingbai a few days ago?

Clang!

The Broken Blade was slashing through the air in the direction of Chi Lingxiao when someone cried out—

“Big Brother, please wait!”

Buzz!

The Broken Blade abruptly halted three inches away from the center of Chi Lingxiao’s eyebrows. The razor sharp light ray on its tip pierced the skin between his eyebrows and drew blood.

Imaginably, if the blade slashed downwards, Chi Lingxiao would definitely be split in half!

Chi Lingxiao was so frightened that his soul almost left his body, and his clothes were soaked with cold sweat. He felt like he had just escaped the jaws of death.

“Toady?”

Lin Xun raised his eyes to where the voice sounded from. There stood a young man in a green robe with a handsome and charming face. He was grinning at him, but there was a natural pervertedness in his appearance.

Who else would it be besides Toady?

Everyone else turned their heads to take a look at who could stop Lin Xun's ruthless killing with a few words.

Toady scurried forward and whispered, "Big Brother, please let him go this one time. That guy has been a close friend of mine since ancient times. He also has helped me a lot in searching for Ancient Buddha Son in the Upper Nine Realms."

They had not seen each other in over four years. Lin Xun was rather surprised and delighted to reunite with Toady here.

He gave Toady's pleading a thought and withdrew the Broken Blade with a clang.

"You won't be so lucky next time!"

He swept a glance over Chi Lingxiao, whose face was overcast, but he had already breathed an inward sigh of relief. When he looked at Lin Xun again, his eyes were swirling with extremely complicated emotions.

He never imagined that he would lose in such an ugly way. He did not even have the chance to counterattack!

Only when he actually faced off against Lin Xun did he understand his terror and power.

"Hahaha, kid, you got what you deserved! How many times have I told you that my big brother is no ordinary person? He is my big brother after all."

Chi Lingxiao was in such an embarrassing state with his mouth swollen and red. Toady clutched his belly while laughing maniacally, almost squeezing tears out his eyes.

In ancient times, the reason why he and Chi Lingxiao became friends was partly because they had a similar status, but more importantly they were birds of the same feather.

Chi Lingxiao was very arrogant, domineering, wild, and lawless, which matched very well with Toady, who was an extremely proud, conceited show off.

Their friendship was rooted in appreciation and understanding for one another.

After an eternity of silence, the friends were reunited a few years ago.

This was also the reason why Toady stopped Lin Xun from killing Chi Lingxiao.

"Hmph! I can't win against your big brother, but I can beat you with ease. Do you want to try?" Chi Lingxiao felt his face burning from being mocked by Toady.

"Let's go and talk inside Stupa Tower." Lin Xun glanced around and walked towards Stupa Tower.

Toady was about to follow him when he noticed Chi Lingxiao standing awkwardly. He went up to him and wrapped his arms around his shoulders, dragging him into the tower.

“My big brother is your big brother. There’s no shame in being beat by him. Come on, I’ll introduce you properly.”

Toady was very enthusiastic, while Chi Lingxiao was silent, but did not refuse.

“Fellow Cultivator Lin, can I join you all?” Holy Maiden Lin Xue suddenly spoke aloud, her voice as clear and pleasant as the sounds of nature. Merely standing there, she exuded unparalleled beauty and grace like a beautiful ice sculpture.

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Chapter 1282: Nothing to Hide

The request was a bit bold. After all, they had never met before and were no more than strangers.

But all cultivators present were secretly envious of Lin Xun.

In the Upper Nine Realms, Holy Maiden Lin Xue was a goddess-like existence, not just because of her breathtakingly beautiful appearance that made people feel inferior but also because her foundation and strength earned her a place in the top ten of the Genius Gold Rankings. Many heroes in the world had to bow their heads to her.

Moreover, she had a cold and detached personality that made it difficult for people to get close to her.

But she actually took the initiative to talk to Lin Xun. This rarely happened. How could the others not be jealous of him?

Lin Xun was obviously taken aback by her request. He turned around and asked, “Miss, can you give me a reason to agree?”

Many people rolled their eyes. *Demon God Lin, you are a well known figure in the world, but you are so insensitive and unromantic!*

Do you need a reason to agree to a request from such a stunning woman with extraordinary talent and elegance?

But many other people were secretly impressed. *He is so strong-willed and unyielding! Even a beauty can’t shake him at all!*

Holy Maiden Lin Xue was also taken aback by his question, and then she answered in a clear voice, "Fellow Cultivator Lin's name has been known to me for a long time, and I have been looking forward to meeting you. Is this a good enough reason?"

Lin Xun chuckled, "Then please come."

He could feel that Lin Xue had no hostile or bad intentions. If he refused, he would be too cold-hearted and unreasonable.

Seeing this, a thought struck the other cultivators and they talked over one another, "Fellow Daoist Lin, we also admire you very much, can you..."

"Don't even think about it!" Toady interrupted and cruelly refused their requests.

Everyone was speechless. *This is discrimination!*

But there was nothing they could do about it. Who would have the guts to break in forcefully?

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Stupa Tower spanned eighteen floors

"I didn't think you would still be running around and taking care of my affairs after all these years. Thank you for your hard work. Come on, let me toast to you."

Lin Xun was almost moved to tears when he learned that Toady, during the four years he was trapped at the bottom of Underworld River, had never given up searching for the whereabouts of Ancient Buddha Son to avenge him.

He raised his cup and toasted Toady!

"We are brothers; you are too polite." Toady returned the toast and downed the drink.

When he saw Lin Xun, was he not also overjoyed?

"It takes a fight for people to get to know each other well. If I offended you just now, I hope you will forgive me." Lin Xun raised his cup at Chi Lingxiao.

Before this, Chi Lingxiao was visibly uncomfortable and awkward like he was sitting on a bed of thorns. The arrogance and pride in his heart prevented him from facing Lin Xun properly.

At the same time, he could not hold his head high in front of Lin Xun after the tragic defeat.

But when Lin Xun took the initiative to apologize and toast to him, Chi Lingxiao stared at him blankly for a minute.

Only after a long while did he take a deep breath and raise his cup as a toast. “Brother Lin is straightforward and forgiving. It is I who should be apologizing.”

Lin Xun smiled.

The two chugged the alcohol.

“Hahaha, Big Brother, you might not know, but Chi Lingxiao was a famous demon king who always created chaos back then. I’ve known him for so long, but I have never seen him act so coy.” Toady burst out laughing.

“Toad, will you die if you don’t speak for a second?!” Chi Lingxiao snapped.

“I won’t die, but it will be very painful,” Toady answered seriously before he was in stitches again.

Today was a very good day for him.

Not only did he reunite with Lin Xun, but he also helped a close friend avert a crisis, and now he could sit and joke around with his close friends. The feeling...

...was bliss!

“You are all some of the most outstanding talents in the world. It is a great honor to meet you all. I also would like to raise this cup as a toast,” Holy Maiden Lin Xue said aloud, her voice as clear and soothing as a babbling brook, and more beautiful than the celestial sounds of nature.

Her jet black hair cascaded down her like a waterfall, her eyebrows were dark as ink, and her soft lips were a captivating red shade. Her clear and bright eyes crinkled in a faint smile, which dispelled the coldness all over her like a spring breeze.

Lightly holding the cup in her slender and fair hands, her every movement and gesture were alluring and graceful.

She was indeed worthy of being hailed as a goddess by countless heroes in the Upper Nine Realms.

Everyone raised their cups and drank to their heart’s content.

Suddenly, the atmosphere became much warmer and harmonious than before.

“Over the past few years, I have traveled all over the world and searched many areas in the Upper Nine Realms. I almost lost my life several times. Fortunately, I am finally reunited with my big brother.”

After three rounds of drinks, Toady was slightly tipsy and couldn't help but cry emotionally.

Only then did Lin Xun learn that, some time after he appeared in Kongzhe Mountain, Toady had come to the danger-ridden Stupa Brahma Land and became trapped in one of the dangerous places.

He had only escaped not long ago, so had been unaware that Lin Xun was still alive.

“Unfortunately, there is still no news whatsoever from that barbarian A'lu. I am really worried about that boorish guy...” Toady could not continue.

Lin Xun's heart also sank.

They had parted ways with A'lu in the Burning Immortal World because he wanted to search for the Ancient Land of All. Several years had passed since then, but they still hadn't heard anything from him to this day. How could Lin Xun and Toady not be worried?

“Brother Lin, given your current reputation in the Upper Nine Realms, if Brother A'lu knows that you are here, he will definitely come as soon as possible,” Chi Lingxiao said aloud, trying to ease the atmosphere.

Toady muttered, “That guy is looking for the Ancient Land of All. I have been all over the Upper Nine Realms all these years, but I have never heard of a place called the Ancient Land of All.”

“Ancient Land of All?” Holy Maiden Lin Xue said suddenly, “I have heard of it before.”

Lin Xun and Toady quickly turned to look at her.

“In the Thunder Jolt Realm lies a heaven-defying place that is comparable to the True Dragon's Lair, and it is called the Ancient Land of All.

“I only left the Thunder Jolt Realm not too long ago and I heard some reliable information. It is speculated that the seal of the Ancient Land of All has yet to completely fade and we will need to wait at least two years before we could enter and explore this mysterious place.” Holy Maiden Lin Xue did not conceal anything and told them everything she knew.

Toady frowned. “So, does this mean that the barbarian A'lu has not had the chance to enter it yet?”

Holy Maiden Lin Xue explained, “Not necessarily. The seal has loosened, but it has not completely faded. If one got a hold of some secrets about the Ancient Land of All, then it may not be impossible to enter it.”

After the conversation, Lin Xun and Toady both decided to wait a while and if they still heard no news about A’lu then they would personally make a trip to the Thunder Jolt Realm.

“There is one more thing that I hope to confirm with Brother Lin.” Holy Maiden Lin Xue’s clear eyes glowed with a hint of curiosity. “A few days ago, there were rumors everywhere that Brother Lin suppressed Yun Qingbai, who is first on the Genius Gold Rankings. I wonder if the rumors are true.”

Even a peerless figure such as Holy Maiden Lin Xue had been paying close attention to this matter, unable to figure out the accuracy of the rumors.

Chi Lingxiao, who was drinking with Toady, stopped and pricked up his ears.

“It is indeed true, but it is not as exaggerated as the rumors said. At that time...”

Lin Xun did not hide anything and gave them a condensed version of the event.

Even so, Holy Maiden Lin Xue and Chi Lingxiao spaced out in astonishment.

The news is true!

“Hey, if I had known about this earlier, how would I have dared to provoke Brother Lin?” Chi Lingxiao smiled wryly.

Everyone knew how terrifying Yun Qingbai was, but Lin Xun was able to chase him down!

Toady gave a thumbs-up. “Big brother, impressive!”

Lin Xun sighed helplessly, “No matter what, Yun Qingbai is indeed very powerful. I had an advantage over him at the time, but he still managed to escape...”

“Yun Qingbai is at the fifth longevity tribulation stage though. It’s already amazing that Brother Lin could force him to flee in panic.” Holy Maiden Lin Xue’s eyes glimmered. “What’s more, luck is also a kind of strength.”

Lin Xun laughed, “Speaking of luck, Yun Qingbai’s luck isn’t bad. At least he was able to escape even though I had exhausted all my means.”

Then, the topic shifted to Ancient Buddha Son. Everyone was aghast to learn that he had been brutally murdered by Yun Qingbai and had his innate power and talent seized.

Ancient Buddha Son, an ancient-era eccentric genius from the Earth Treasury Temple, was an incredibly mysterious and terrifying expert, but he was killed at the hands of Yun Qingbai. This news, once spread, would no doubt set off storms across the Upper Nine Realms.

And if the news spread beyond the Supreme Realm to the Ancient Wasteland Domain, it likely would be the beginning of conflict between the two ancient sects—the Omega Sword Sect and Earth Treasury Temple.

Chi Lingxiao could not help but ask, “Brother Lin, is there a feud between you and Yun Qingbai.”

“Yes, blood feud,” Lin Xun responded very calmly.

The expressions of Chi Lingxiao and Holy Maiden Lin Xue tensed. No one ever knew that there was a blood feud between Demon God Lin and Yun Qingbai!

“But...but everyone says that you and Yun Qingbai possess the same kind of grand dao power. How did...this feud start?” asked Chi Lingxiao.

“When I was born, my innate talent power was stolen by someone, and this someone was Yun Qingbai.” Lin Xun’s expression remained surprisingly calm.

This was the first time he had spoken out about the deepest secret buried in his heart!

In the past, he was not strong enough and his situation was worrying and bleak, so he had no choice but to suffer in silence and bury the hatred in his heart.

But now, times had changed.

He was no longer afraid of Yun Qingbai.

He wanted to make this secret known to the world through the mouths of Chi Lingxiao and Holy Maiden Lin Xue!

What would the world think when they learn that the unrivaled swordsman whom they either fear or admire was actually a despicable and shameless thief?

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The Prodigies War

Chapter 1283: Battle Sooner or Later

The next day, Chi Lingxiao and Holy Maiden Lin Xue said farewell and left.

Lin Xun resumed his training. The day before, he successfully passed the fourth longevity tribulation, the Seven Emotions Challenge, and ascended to the next cultivation level. As a result, his strength had been transformed once again.

This needed to be settled and stabilized.

Toady and the big black bird were observing and studying the ancient diagrams carved on the walls of the Three Thousand Stupa Tower.

Yun Qingbai had told them something true: Stupa Brahma Land might be riddled with dangers, but it concealed heaven-defying fortunes.

The Three Thousand Stupa Tower was created by a Saint Buddha in the ancient era, so its origin had to be extraordinary.

Ancient Buddha Son once lingered around to investigate the place. It was unknown whether or not he obtained any treasures before he met with disaster.

Yun Qingbai also trained here once and even disclosed that the treasures of the tower were concealed within the eighteen stone carvings on the eighteenth floor.

Regardless of whether this was true or not, there had to be a great secret within Three Thousand Stupa Tower!

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As time went by, a piece of news about Yun Qingbai began to spread throughout the Upper Nine Realms, astonishing and bewildering anyone who heard it.

“When Demon God Lin was just a newborn, his innate talent power was forcibly taken, and the attacker was Yun Qingbai!”

A tossed stone raised thousands of ripples. It was unknown how many uproars this news caused.

Yun Qingbai only achieved what he has because of the innate talent power he stole from Demon God Lin! Who would have imagined?

“No wonder that someone said a long time ago that Demon God Lin has mastered a grand dao power very similar to that of Yun Qingbai. It turns out there is such a secret story behind this!”

Many cultivators’ hearts pounded.

An innate power allowed Yun Qingbai to make triumphant progress and advance unstoppably on the cultivation path, becoming the most outstanding figure in the Upper Nine Realms.

What kind of terrifying innate power was that?

“I never thought that a dazzling unparalleled swordsman such as Yun Qingbai would do something so despicable. If this matter is true, he should be detested!”

Some people were outraged.

“Nonsense! This is a slander against Yun Qingbai. The slanderer must have a malicious motive!”

But there were fiercer refutes and more people refusing to believe the news.

Yun Qingbai had made a name for himself long ago. Before he came to the Supreme Realm, he was already regarded as the number one sword cultivator of the younger generation in the Ancient Wasteland Domain and also the strongest below the king stage. His reputation was known to all and had a real impact on people.

But now, a stream of negative news came out. How would the experts who respected and admired him believe it?

This was slander!

“Shameless. Who spread the news? They trampled on Yun Qingbai’s reputation in order to raise Lin Xun’s status. How shameless is that?”

“Young Master Yun is a god-like being, so how would he be so despicable as rumored? The news is definitely fake!”

Women who deeply admired Yun Qingbai were about to explode with rage when they heard the news. It was an insult to Yun Qingbai, and they could not tolerate it.

“It’s ridiculous. If Lin Xun was stripped of his innate power, then how would he still be alive? How would he possess the strength he has today? Anyone with a brain should realize how absurd the news is!”

Endless discussions and uproars broke out all over the Upper Nine Realms.

After all, it was sensational news that involved two famous figures who could turn the world upside down. One was the unparalleled overlord who dominated the Genius Gold Rankings, and the other was the invincible Demon God Lin.

Any snippet of news about one of the two was enough to capture the attention of the world, let alone this sensational news that featured them both.

But on the whole, the majority of people did not believe it!

In this world, there were many groundless accusations. It was hard to believe that someone as amazing as Yun Qingbai would do something so cruel and despicable.

But as the news fermented, some reliable facts also came through.

“The news came from Lin Xun himself, and Chi Lingxiao and Holy Maiden Lin Xue were witnesses to it!”

“Not long ago, Yun Qingbai was hunted down, and it was Lin Xun who was chasing him!”

“Ancient Buddha Son died in a disaster, and his innate power was seized just like Lin Xun’s when he was born. The culprit was none other than Yun Qingbai!”

When these verifiable facts came out, the entire Upper Nine Realms were shaken.

Both Chi Lingxiao and Holy Maiden Lin Xue were leading figures of their peers as well as overlord-like figures in the top ten of the Genius Gold Rankings.

The two had verified the news in person, so who could remain composed?

“Could it be true?”

Experts who refused to believe it at first started to waver.

“Seizing someone’s innate power and taking it as his own. Now that I think about it, all the enemies that Yun Qingbai has killed seem to have indeed suffered this fate...”

“Don’t forget that the mysterious grand dao power that Yun Qingbai mastered has devouring and plundering abilities. It is indeed possible for him to do that!”

Suddenly, Yun Qingbai’s powerful and inviolable image in everyone’s hearts was no longer as bright.

Additionally, many people felt chilled and started to fear Yun Qingbai!

Only two types of people who still did not believe the news.

One was his hardcore fans who blindly believed that he would never do something so despicable.

The others were disciples of the Omega Sword Sect!

This was easy to explain. After all, Yun Qingbai was a disciple of the Omega Sword Sect and a leading figure of the younger generation. How would his fellow junior and senior brothers and sisters believe the news?

“This is slander!”

“Demon God Lin is so low, shameless and sinister. He made up such malicious nonsense to slander Senior Brother Yun. He needs to be killed!”

“Lin Xun, our Omega Sword Sect can’t exist with you under the same sky!”

They desperately refuted the claims and vowed to settle this with Lin Xun the shameless liar.

In short, the entire Upper Nine Realms was completely stirred.

Everyone had a premonition that regardless of whether the news was true or not, Lin Xun and Yun Qingbai were destined to be mortal enemies from now on!

“Just wait, sooner or later, a fight to the death will break out between the two!” predicted someone predicted, and many people agreed.

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Stupa Land.

The area around the Three Thousand Stupa Tower became more and more busy.

This was a danger-ridden place, but following the news about the feud between Lin Xun and Yun Qingbai, many cultivators had come to investigate.

Unfortunately for them, Lin Xun had set up a dao rune forbidden array outside the tower.

Moreover, no one dared to break in due to his presence inside the tower.

This was absolute power!

In the Upper Nine Realms, everyone had heard of Lin Xun’s name. No one would dare to anger him as long as they had no grudges with him and were not stupid.

Although many cultivators had arrived at the Stupa Tower, not one person had come into contact with Lin Xun so far.

Their only option was to wait.

Meanwhile, in various areas across the Upper Nine Realms were cultivators from different sects and clans looking for and inquiring about Yun Qingbai's whereabouts.

Everyone could not wait to know how Yun Qingbai would react to the news.

The more observant people noticed that Yun Qingbai's number one position on the Genius Gold Rankings had remained unchanged.

But at the same time, some people also discovered that in the past years, Lin Xun's name had never once appeared on the Genius Gold Rankings!

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The outside world was ever-changing like the weather, but inside the tower, Lin Xun had already stabilized the power of the fourth longevity tribulation stage and was able to perfectly control it like his own hand.

"If I possessed this power when I ran into Yun Qingbai, then he would not have been able to escape..."

Lin Xun woke up from meditation, his eyes unfathomable and still.

The fourth longevity tribulation stage was the beginning to the six challenging tribulations. According to the classification of cultivation level in the Ancient Wasteland Domain, the fourth longevity tribulation stage was already considered the core force of the nine longevity tribulations.

However, the longevity tribulation stage of a Supreme King was different!

"With my current strength, if I go all out, I should be able to kill supreme figures at the fifth longevity tribulation stage," Lin Xun analyzed.

He subconsciously disregarded ordinary kings at the longevity tribulation stage.

They were not on the same path, so they could not be compared.

Given his current strength, he would have no problem killing ordinary kings at the seventh longevity tribulation stage.

Of course, this was just Lin Xun's analysis.

The specific situation would only be known in a real battle.

"I can start refining the Xiantian Clear Pearl."

A thought struck Lin Xun, and he closed his eyes again.

In his body, a clear bead around the size of a pigeon egg was floating above the dao seed, emitting wisps of chaos qi and thick dao light.

According to Xuan Kong, the Xiantian Clear Pearl was formed from the source power of the Xiantian Saint Treasure Tragic Death City!

Lin Xun could feel the wisps of alpha qi emitting from the pearl were indescribably mysterious and even had a restoring and improving effect on his cultivation, spirit, and state of mind.

This was because the qi was transformed from merit!

Lin Xun had thought of asking the big black bird if he knew about the origin of this object.

But his senior brother Xuan Kong had warned him that he must not let anyone know about the pearl, but he did not tell him the reason.

Buzz—

Without thinking too much, Lin Xun settled and focused his mind on refining the Xiantian Clear Pearl.

Immediately, he felt his mind quaking as though a grand and sacred ancient city was emerging in his mind!

The divine city was majestic with holy light flowing around it and filled with the aura of eternity. It stood between heaven and earth as though linking the human world with the land of the afterlife!

Cryptic ancient dao sounds echoed in his mind like the chanting of sages from ancient times.

Vaguely, Lin Xun seemed to see remnants of souls and spirits being led and gathered on the altar in the center of the divine city.

And then, they were released, liberated, and dispersed...

At the same time, as souls faded, wisps of alpha qi integrated into the walls, ground, and buildings of the city, turning the city more magnificent and glorious than ever. A divine aura permeated the world and illuminated the galaxy.

The city was called Tragic Death!

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The Prodigies War

Chapter 1284: Clowns

It took a long time for Lin Xun to recover from the amazing scene.

In his mind, various wonderful insights emerged, all related to the Saint Treasure Tragic Death City.

The most mysterious part of the city was that it could guide the lingering remnants of ghosts and souls and free them from the world, thereby gaining the power of merit from heaven.

Merit!

Similar to fate, karma, and destiny, it was an exceptionally illusionary, almost non-existent, mysterious force.

In the eyes of buddhist cultivators, saving a life was more meritorious than building a seven-floor pagoda. In fact, it was a means of accumulating the power of merit.

For daoists, the power of merit was just like the blessings of the great dao, just more beneficial to their cultivation.

For example, alpha qi was a manifestation of merit power, and it was very beneficial to one's cultivation, spirit, and state of mind.

Therefore, Tragic Death City, a Xiantian Saint Treasure that could accumulate merit power, was undoubtedly magical and mysterious.

It was a pity that Tragic Death City no longer existed and all that remained of it was its Xiantian source that turned into a Xiantian Clear Pearl.

In short, the Xiantian Clear Pearl was the core source power of Tragic Death City.

Buzz—

With this thought, Lin Xun began to refine the mysterious object.

One month, two months, three months...

Time quietly passed without him realizing.

Inside Stupa Tower, Toady and the big black bird were not just sitting around either. They had been studying and figuring out the secrets and mysteries of Three Thousand Stupa Tower.

After a long period of investigation, they both came to the same conclusion—

The tower had to contain great fortunes!

However, if they wanted to get their hands on them, they first needed an opportunity.

Now, they were determined to try various methods to seize this opportunity together.

.....

It took Lin Xun half a year to refine the Xiantian Clear Pearl!

The length of time surprised even Lin Xun, but the benefits were fortunately astonishing, so much so that it took Lin Xun quite a while before he could settle his excited emotions.

The inside of the Xiantian Clear Pearl was sealed with almost infinite merit power!

During the refinement, the Xiantian Clear Pearl provided an endless source of alpha qi, which had a nourishing-like effect on his body, mind, and spirit.

This fact alone already made it on par with some of the world's greatest cultivation treasures.

But its most amazing power had to be the fact that it had a natural restraining effect on the most powerful remnant spirits, souls, and apparitions!

If he could guide these ghostly beings and obtain merit power to store inside the Xiantian Clear Pearl then he could accelerate the transformation of this treasure!

He suspected that once a certain amount of merit power was accumulated, the Xiantian Clear Pearl would very likely re-transform into Tragic Death City.

“No wonder Senior Brother Xuan Kong specifically reminded me to not let others know about this item. It is indeed an incomparably rare treasure.

“It is both a cultivation treasure and a sacred object for obtaining merit. It trumps all other combat-type Saint Treasures... Although it is not in its complete form, as long as I don't give up, there is hope that this treasure can be transformed into Tragic Death City again!”

Lin Xun drew a deep breath, suppressing his emotions and excitement.

Was it worth spending half a year to refine the Xiantian Clear Pearl?

Absolutely!

Owning this treasure meant that he had the most effective means to obtain merit power, which had amazing and immeasurable effects on cultivation.

“Lin Xun, you’re finally up. Every day for the past six months, some stupid trash has come to provoke you, clamoring for you to come out of the tower.” The big black bird flapped his wings and glided over. “If you don’t go out, they’re probably going to try and break in!”

“They’re looking for me?” Lin Xun raised his brows.

“Yes, ever since everyone heard about the grudge between you and Yun Qingbai, the outside of the tower has become a gathering place. In the past half a year, you don’t know how noisy it has been here.” The big black bird explained, “Especially the disciples from Omega Sword Sect. They came here a few months ago and have been waiting for you ever since.”

Lin Xun nodded with understanding. The situation was within his prediction.

“If they want to wait, then let them wait.” Lin Xun said leisurely, “I have set up a Dao Rune Forbidden Array outside the tower, they can come and break in if they are not afraid of dying.”

Boom!

Suddenly, violent vibrations sounded outside the tower like an earthquake.

Then, a burst of excited cheers followed.

“This damn array is almost destroyed. Everyone, work harder!”

“Hmph, Lin Xun is a coward. He has been hiding behind that formation for half a year. Let’s tear it down and see how he can hide then!”

Chaotic yelling began to seep into the tower.

A cold expression crossed Lin Xun’s face. The Dao Rune Forbidden Array he set up blocked out sound waves.

But sounds had managed to seep through, which indicated that this array had been badly damaged and was about to be breached.

The big black bird cackled gloatingly, “Hahaha, those unafraid of death are indeed coming in!”

Lin Xun was speechless.

He had only just said that they could come in if they were not afraid of death and this happened right away. It felt like a slap in the face.

“I’ll go take a look.”

Lin Xun turned around and left while killing intent surged around him.

.....

Outside the tower, a group of Omega Sword Sect disciples were bombarding the Dao Rune Forbidden Array that protected the tower.

Pillars of light lashed down, roaring like thunder.

In the distance, Wen Zhongfeng, standing on a silver sword-shaped lotus platform, wore an indifferent expression. He was clad in a golden robe and exuded a sharp and fierce aura like a divine god.

In the Omega Sword Sect, the most dazzling person was no doubt Yun Qingbai, and few people knew Wen Zhongfeng's name.

But those who did knew that, compared to Yun Qingbai, Wen Zhongfeng might not be as famous, but his strength was absolutely terrifying. While not as terrifying or strong as Yun Qingbai, he was not far behind him.

Wen Zhongfeng was an ancient-era eccentric genius with both an amazing foundation and talent.

The reason he did not have a reputation that correlated with his ability was because Yun Qingbai completely overshadowed him. The world only knew about Yun Qingbai, but had no idea that there was a terrifying figure like Wen Zhongfeng in the Omega Sword Sect.

Several Omega Sword Sect disciples followed Wen Zhongfeng, making him look more extraordinary.

In the distance, countless eyes were watching closely.

In the past half a year, following the news about Lin Xun and Yun Qingbai, the tower had become like a vortex pulling people from all over the Upper Nine Realms.

The area surrounding the tower had become very lively.

Lin Xun had never shown his face in the past half a year, but that did not stop cultivators from all over the world coming to inquire information.

Of course, many cultivators had left impatiently, though more continued to come, turning the tower into a place of gathering storm.

Wen Zhongfeng and the other Omega Sword Sect disciples arrived two months ago.

Their goal was very simple. They couldn't stand the slander against Yun Qingbai and wanted to kill Lin Xun to end all negativity the incident had on Omega Sword Sect.

They had waited a long time and even repeatedly demanded Lin Xun to show himself, but unfortunately they still had not got what they wished for.

This left the Omega Sword Sect disciples with a lot of pent-up anger and nowhere to vent it.

It was only in recent days that Wen Zhongfeng decided not to wait any longer and launched an attack—destroy the rune array, storm the tower and slaughter Lin Xun!

Today, they finally had hopes of breaking the formation!

“As soon as the array is destroyed, follow me into the tower to kill that coward Lin Xun,” Wen Zhongfeng commanded.

Everyone else nodded.

Half a year ago, when news came out that Yun Qingbai was being hunted by Lin Xun, they were furious and subconsciously did not believe it at all.

To them, Lin Xun was no match for Yun Qingbai.

Of course, now that they were facing Lin Xun, who had shaken the entire Upper Nine Realms, they would not let down their guards. Otherwise, they would not have waited outside the tower for two months.

But no matter how they clamored, insulted Lin Xun, and challenged him to a battle, he never showed up, and that only escalated their fury.

Does the mighty Demon God Lin not even dare to accept the challenge?

The news that came out half a year ago can't be true then, right?

In truth, the experts paying close attention to the matter also had the same doubt.

Lin Xun had been hiding in Stupa Tower for half a year, accepting all sorts of insults and provocation. Was he be afraid?

Or perhaps, the news that spread throughout the world half a year ago was false. Otherwise, how would he still be hiding while being besieged?

It should be noted that Demon God Lin rose to fame for his courage. When had he ever been so cowardly as now?

“Once this array is destroyed, the truth will be revealed!”

Everyone stood in anticipation, because they could tell that the forbidden array in front of the tower was about to shatter!

Boom!

Suddenly, an ear-splitting rumble stung everyone’s ear.

A shower of light filled the sky and the shaky Dao Rune Forbidden Array was still standing, but the Omega Sword Sect disciples who besieged the tower all toppled backwards, crying out in alarm.

The scene immediately attracted everyone’s attention.

Everyone saw a tall and handsome silhouette walking out from the forbidden array.

His jet black hair draped over his shoulders, his eyes cold and unfathomable, and his aura was as transcendent as that of an immortal. Who else would it be but Lin Xun?

After hiding for half a year, he finally appeared in front of everyone!

There was a low commotion within the crowd.

However, everyone looked down on Lin Xun a little, because he only came out after being forced. If the array was not on the verge of being destroyed, he likely would still be hiding like a coward!

Wen Zhongfeng and other Omega Sword Sect disciples were taken aback at first before their faces lit up with wild joy. *The guy who misled the public with his lies and used despicable means to slander Yun Qingbai has finally appeared!*

Their gazes turned cold and murderous.

The anger accumulated in their hearts over the past months was stirred up. They were itching to act.

“Yun Qingbai didn’t come, but a group of clowns came instead. Stupid idiots are indeed unafraid of death.”

Amid the restless and tense atmosphere, Lin Xun leisurely strode out of the array. His voice was calm yet resounded throughout the area.

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The Prodigies War

Chapter 1285: Killing as Easily as Taking a Stroll

Clowns?

Wen Zhongfeng’s and the others’ gazes grew increasingly frosty. They had made ample preparation and even mobilized such a huge force. However, they never imagined that Lin Xun, who was hiding like a turtle in its shell, would dare to make such a rude remark!

Someone bellowed, "Lin Xun, do you know who you're talking to? "

Several experts, who were secretly observing, gasped. Although Wen Zhongfeng wasn’t as famous, he was still a formidable individual who was top ten on the Genius Gold Rankings.

If it wasn’t for Yun Qingbai, someone as strong as Wen Zhongfeng would have been called the leader of the Omega Sword Sect’s younger generation!

Yet, he was being viewed as a clown by Lin Xun...

Plop!

It was then that something horrifying occurred. Without any hint of movement from Lin Xun, the Omega Sword Sect disciple who berated him suddenly collapsed and died on the spot.

"Anyone who becomes an enemy of my master will be executed without mercy!"

Little Silver appeared wearing a cold and cruel expression.

Silence engulfed the area as everyone’s eyes nearly popped from their sockets in shock at how he had killed without any warning whatsoever.

Those Omega Sword Sect disciples inwardly shivered as their expressions changed slightly. How could any of them have anticipated something like this happening in this situation?

When Yun Qingbai was in charge, who in the Upper Nine Realms would dare to provoke their Omega Sword Sect?

"You're very ballsy!"

Wen Zhongfeng's expression darkened as his voice turned frighteningly icy.

"You're a group of fools. Think about it; even Yun Qingbai hasn't come, yet you guys have decided to rush here to die. In terms of courage, I am nowhere as bold as you guys."

Lin Xun's expression was indifferent.

An angry woman exclaimed in a shrill voice, "Senior Brother Wen, he's too arrogant and feels himself to be above the law. There is no need to waste words on him. We should act now and kill him immediately!"

Plop!

This time, Lin Xun moved at a speed that made it seem as if he was teleporting and crushed the woman's neck with a light flick of his finger!

"What a stupid woman. Everyone in the world knows that I'm hiding in Stupa Tower. How can Yun Qingbai not be aware of this? Do none of you find it strange that he hasn't come here in the past six months?"

By the time his voice rang out, Lin Xun had already returned to his original location.

Everyone felt an inexplicable chill in their hearts, causing their gazes to change when they looked at Lin Xun again.

Especially after what Lin Xun had said. It suddenly dawned upon them that if that news was fake, why didn't Yun Qingbai make any moves against Lin Xun?

Yun Qingbai was the undisputed number one who lorded over the Genius Gold Rankings and was akin to an invincible existence. Given his usual *modus operandi*, how could he possibly have spared Lin Xun?

"What a joke. Why would we need Junior Brother Yun to deal with the likes of you?"

Wen Zhongfeng's voice grew increasingly frosty as he stepped forward. He was completely enraged after seeing two of his fellow disciples killed.

A terrifying and boundless murderous intent spread from him like a storm, causing the surrounding land to tremble.

The other Omega Sword Sect disciples were invigorated by this sight. They swiftly summoned their treasures and locked onto Lin Xun with their murderous intent.

However, there was no sadness or anger to be seen in Lin Xun's eyes. He was calm and unfazed.

"Kill him!"

With a loud shout, Wen Zhongfeng's aura erupted. Sword qi shone like a brilliant divine sun as it rushed forth with killing intent.

Wen Zhongfeng was undoubtedly a powerhouse. His cultivation had reached the perfect fourth longevity tribulation stage so he was one of the few overlord-tier titans in the Upper Nine Realms.

His sword qi was fierce, blazing, and domineering. The pressure alone overwhelmed the spectators, causing countless people's expressions to change as their souls throbbed in fear.

In the face of the attack, however, Lin Xun vanished from the spot.

Plop!

Another disciple of the Omega Sword Sect was killed a split second later as hot blood gushed from his throat like a waterfall.

He looked stunned even in death because he hadn't even attacked yet.

"You damned bastard!"

Agitation swept across the area. Wen Zhongfeng was especially furious, and his killing intent went berserk.

"Kill him!"

The Omega Sword Sect disciples saw red as they rushed forward.

On the other hand, Lin Xun had a composed expression and appeared completely oblivious to everything. Although his strangely ethereal figure seemed slow, it was actually extremely fast.

All that was left behind were afterimages that rapidly popped like bubbles!

Plop!

An expert nearly cried out in excitement when his fierce sword qi slashed Lin Xun, only to realize to his horror that it was merely an afterimage.

Crap!

His heart thumped loudly, and his vision went dark. His neck was broken, and even his spirit had been scattered.

In the distance, the spectators felt a strong chill as if they had fallen into an ice cave.

Lin Xun seemed to be leisurely strolling through the battlefield, yet none of the attacks were able to even touch him!

Whenever he passed, only corpses were left behind.

"Lin Xun, do you dare to fight with me?!"

Wen Zhongfeng's eyes bulged from their sockets. He felt as if his breath was burning and was nearly about to explode.

Plop!

Before the words fully rang out, another disciple was killed amidst a splatter of blood that dyed the air in a red haze.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun had already disappeared without a trace!

From afar, he seemed to be everywhere on the battlefield, making it impossible to identify which was the real body.

It was because his speed had reached an astonishing level!

About twenty Omega Sword Sect disciples had come to the Stupa Tower, but six had already been killed moments after the battle began.

Each of the six individuals was a top longevity tribulation stage expert who could take charge of a section of disciples.

Under Lin Xun's onslaught, however, they resembled livestock that could be slaughtered at will!

The incomparably bloody scenes left several experts stupefied. Only after personally witnessing it did they truly understand how terrifying Demon God Lin was. It was something that could never be explained by common sense.

Plop! Plop! Plop!

Corpses fell to the ground one after another. Even in death, their expressions were frozen in anger, frustration, and the refusal to accept reality.

Did they wish to die?

Of course not!

It was only because they had grossly underestimated Lin Xun!

Although Lin Xun had been focused on absorbing the Xiantian Clear Pearl for the past six months, he had also absorbed an unknown amount of alpha qi in the process that caused constant growth in his cultivation, spirit, and mind.

Moreover, with the three primordial spirit clones cultivated from the Big Divine Meditation Art, he could also study martial dao and grand dao power while absorbing the Xiantian Clear Pearl.

Presently, even the three grand dao powers of Immortality, Tai Chi, and Star Annihilation Heaven Devourer had all reached the perfect Dao Law level, and it was only a matter of time before they achieved breakthroughs.

In the area of martial dao, he had mastered twenty percent of No Return!

Twenty percent might sound low, but its power would more than shock the heavens and make ghosts and gods cry!

It must also be noted that he had only mastered ten percent of No Return when he had faced Yun Qingbai previously.

In fact, it probably wouldn't be difficult for it to kill formidable experts a cultivation stage higher, let alone longevity tribulation stage titans!

As such, it could be said that Wen Zhongfeng and the others had come at a terrible time and deserved such misfortune.

They thought they were prepared, but failed to realize that Lin Xun was already completely different than half a year ago!

Of course, the most fundamental reason for this was that they refused to believe Yun Qingbai had tried to escape from Lin Xun...

This naturally led to them underestimating the opponent, which made them look extremely stupid and ignorant to Lin Xun.

"Lin Xun! You coward! Why don't you face me?!"

Wen Zhongfeng screamed until his voice turned hoarse. His face was hideously distorted due to madness and the burning rage within him.

How could it feel good to watch his fellow disciples being slaughtered one by one?

Unfortunately, Lin Xun ignored him from start to end.

"AHH!"

Finally, one of the remaining disciples could no longer endure horrifying scenes. His will to fight was crushed by fear as he maniacally shrieked and fled.

Humans were beings of emotions and desire.

Who could sit and do nothing in the face of death?

Plop!

The Broken Blade flew out, lightly swung at the fleeing figure, and severed him in half at the waist. Blood spurted into the sky and rained down.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun didn't even glance in that direction.

The secretly watching experts fought the intense urge to vomit. The sight of such cruelty and gore made them tremble like leaves.

It was horrifying!

The outside world had been waiting for Lin Xun to appear for the past six months. In fact, they even began to suspect that he was hiding in the Stupa Tower out of fear and did not dare to face the repercussions in the outside world.

Only now did people begin to realize that it wasn't that he was afraid, but he simply didn't care about whatever others were saying!

The dragon in the sky will naturally pay no heed to the clamoring ants on the ground. Unless the ants stupidly tried to pluck the dragon's whiskers!

Shrieks, agonized wails, and panicked screams mixed with the sound of splattering blood and corpses falling to the ground, creating a scene that could have originated from hell itself.

It was a hair-raising and ghastly sight!

"Lin Xun! You..."

Wen Zhongfeng hadn't stopped roaring since the beginning only to suddenly stop at this moment.

Because he was the only one left!

Lin Xun looked at him from afar and began walking toward him.

Wen Zhongfeng's heart violently shuddered as a basin of cold water was poured over his anger and hatred, causing him to return to his senses.

Only then did a certain problem dawn upon him. If he was strong enough to stop Lin Xun, why did he need to roar for Lin Xun to face him?

At the end of the day, he wasn't as strong as Lin Xun!

Wasn't all of his earlier shouting nothing more than a display of powerlessness and helplessness?

Thud! Thud! Thud!

Lin Xun's footsteps weren't hurried or loud but they were able to clearly reach everyone's ears amidst the deathly silent atmosphere like a bell from hell.

Wen Zhongfeng's expression fluctuated indeterminately. As Lin Xun approached step by step, an oppressive pressure surged toward him, making it difficult to breathe.

Wen Zhongfeng had never felt the threat of death so clearly and strongly before. It felt like a sharp blade that was being pressed on his temple!

He subconsciously took a step back.

Although it was but a single step, the implication was earth-shaking! It signified that Wen Zhongfeng was already afraid before they could exchange blows!

The stark contrast of how he had been clamoring for Lin Xun to fight him again and again earlier compared to his current appearance stunned the spectators.

Had Demon God Lin become so powerful that he could suppress a peerless fighter like Wen Zhongfeng who was ranked top ten in the Genius Gold Rankings with presence alone?

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The Prodigies War

Chapter 1286: Time Passes Everyone

Wen Zhongfeng's face immediately turned to the same shade as a pig's liver. He almost wished he could die instead of facing such embarrassment.

He had retreated!

Although it was a single step, there was no need to say anything else because it proved that he was afraid.

Wen Zhongfeng bellowed, "I will kill you!"

He had gone crazy and refused to accept the reality of what had just transpired.

Or rather, it felt so shameful that it made him lose his rationality.

Swish!

A streak of beautiful and peerless sword qi swept forth like a rainbow.

However, his resistance was destined to be futile.

If Wen Zhongfeng maintained his peak condition, Lin Xun would probably have gone through some trouble to deal with him.

However, an irrational Wen Zhongfeng didn't pose any threat.

In mere moments, Wen Zhongfeng was killed by the Impermanence Slash executed by the Broken Blade, which beheaded him and destroyed his primordial spirit.

The entire place was deathly silent, and everyone was dumbfounded.

The group of Omega Sword Sect elites were wiped out one after another by Lin Xun. Even the ancient-era genius, Wen Zhongfeng, who was ranked top ten in the Genius Gold Rankings, was slain!

It was an outcome that no one could have predicted.

At this moment, a single thought surfaced in everyone's minds as they gazed at Lin Xun's untouched figure.

Was there anyone left who could stop Demon God Lin in the Upper Nine Realms?

.....

On that same day, news of the battle spread and caused a huge stir in the Upper Nine Realms!

"The Omega Sword Sect is finished..."

Several great factions sighed at the news.

Due to Yun Qingbai's existence, the Omega Sword Sect had been akin to an untouchable overlord. No one, regardless of status, had dared to oppose or even offend them.

However, things were now very different!

"After half a year, Lin Xun appeared again and slaughtered the Omega Sword Sect experts with overwhelming strength."

Some people wondered, "Meanwhile, Yun Qingbai still hasn't shown himself. Will he continue to remain silent if he hears the news?"

After all, it was very unusual for someone like Yun Qingbai to tolerate such humiliation.

While the outside world was in an uproar, the area around the Stupa Tower became a forbidden area that no one dared to approach again.

It was because everyone knew that Lin Xun was quietly cultivating in the Three Thousand Stupa Tower.

Moreover, he wasn't afraid to let everyone know that he was there. It was as if he was waiting for Yun Qingbai to come!

It was an arrogant attitude that was frightening to think about.

To everyone's surprise, however, Yun Qingbai still didn't appear as time continued to pass...

"His injuries are so severe that he probably wouldn't dare to immediately come to find me even if he recovers. After all, he will not tolerate a second defeat."

Only Lin Xun knew that no one should expect Yun Qingbai to stage a comeback for the time being.

In fact, Lin Xun was certain that Yun Qingbai would only reappear after he was amply prepared.

When that happened, the duel between him and Yun Qingbai wouldn't be far off!

.....

Those secluded deep in the mountains wouldn't know when spring would come again.

The flow of time wouldn't change for cultivators or the common people.

As the saying went: time passes everyone and all of us are nothing but a fleeting passerby to it.

A year had passed since Lin Xun killed Wen Zhongfeng.

Over this period, the atmosphere in the Upper Nine Realms grew increasingly turbulent with bloody and cruel battles and competition occurring at every corner of the domain.

Even hegemon-like factions would fall amidst the flames and smoke of battle.

Originally obscure figures also suddenly rose like comets, drawing the attention of the Upper Nine Realms.

Some would cry, some would laugh, some would be disappointed, and some would be pleased. All kinds of happiness, sadness, love, hatred, and other emotions were always present in the Upper Nine Realms.

Some enjoyed success while others were plagued by failure.

Over the year, the top hundred rankers of the Genius Gold Rankings changed at a jaw-dropping speed that was dizzying to watch.

Only Yun Qingbai's first-place position remained untouched.

Likewise, Lin Xun's name never appeared on the Genius Gold Rankings.

In fact, there was no news of him at all for the past year because he remained secluded in the Stupa Tower.

It was the seventh year since the Supreme Realm descended upon the Ancient Wasteland Domain, which meant that this entire affair would be over in less than three years.

.....

Wind and rain darkened the sky over the bones that were piled up high like mountains.

Over the course of the year, the Stupa Land regained its previous peace and tranquility.

After all, the Stupa Brahma Land was filled with grave danger and an unsettling air. It wasn't a place that just anyone could linger in for long.

The deafening sounds of a fierce battle echoed across the air.

Peerless sword qi wove together in the sky. It ripped apart the fabric of space like a ferocious bull and caused the weather to fall into turmoil.

The snow-white Broken Blade darted through the air as it fought against the dreadful sword qi.

If one were to look closely, they would also discover a handsome young man amidst the chaos, his black hair flapping around him as he revealed a determined expression.

He shone brightly as radiant dao light flowed around him while a mighty abyss that seemed capable of swallowing the eight barrens floated behind him.

It was none other than Lin Xun.

His opponent was a human-shaped skeleton whose posture was as straight as a sword. Every inch of bone on its body was imprinted with sharp sword-will.

Whenever Lin Xun rushed forward in an attempt to destroy the skeleton, a wave of sword qi that could cover the sky would sweep out!

It was the skeleton of a Sword Saint!

Ancient Buddha Son's clone had once mentioned the existence of a Sword Saint's remains in the Great Luo Ancient Domain. In the ancient era, a Saint Buddha suffered serious injuries from killing the Sword Saint and ultimately died while constructing the Three Thousand Stupa Tower.

This made it easy to imagine how powerful the Sword Saint skeleton was when it was alive.

Despite the countless years that had passed, the skeleton's spine was still straight as ever while the sword qi imprinted onto its bones had yet to be completely erased!

However, the Sword Saint skeleton had now been reduced to a mere training tool for Lin Xun...

Rumble!

A hint of trembling was finally visible in the Sword Saint skeleton as if it was about to topple over.

Shiing!

At the same time, Lin Xun put away the Broken Blade and silently pondered, "It will take at most three months to take down the Sword Saint Skeleton and absorb the power imprinted upon it..."

Lin Xun's cultivation had progressed by leaps and bounds over the past year.

He had overcome the fifth longevity tribulation, the six desires tribulation, and had reached the perfect fifth longevity tribulation stage.

His combat power had also undergone a radical transformation.

As for his grand dao cultivation, the various grand daos he mastered had reached the perfect Dao Law stage!

Even his spirit cultivation had attained the spirit flower convergence stage. However, he was unable to ascend to the next level due to the limitations of his cultivation.

The level above the spirit flower convergence stage was known as the divine wandering stage and belonged to the realm of the Saint stage. It was currently too early for Lin Xun to delve into the mysteries of such power.

Even so, Lin Xun's spirit strength still transcended everyone else in the longevity stages!

It was mainly because of his triple primordial spirits that made him fundamentally different from others.

In addition, there was also the evolution of his martial dao power.

More than a year ago, through Saint-King Xuan Kong's guidance, Lin Xun had managed to achieve the Divine Connection State.

At present, he was capable of almost effortlessly executing the Nine Heavenshaking Destructions Art, the Tribulation Dragon Nine Transformations, the Heavenly Yuan Six Slashes, and the Great Diffusion Void Breaker Finger!

In terms of mastery, it would be equivalent to reaching the elementary level of the Divine Connection State.

The main reason he had managed to achieve such rapid growth in so many areas was due to the Xiantian Clear Pearl.

It was undoubtedly a Saint-tier cultivation treasure that allowed Lin Xun to save copious amounts of effort and energy in his cultivation.

Phew~

Lin Xun deeply exhaled a breath of turbid air. Just as he was about to leave, an almost transparent figure suddenly arrived.

"Master, I have overcome the second longevity tribulation stage!"

It was Little Silver. However, his usually callous expression was currently beaming with excitement and joy.

Little Silver's progress over the past year had also been nothing short of miraculous.

Although he was inferior to Lin Xun in terms of cultivation, it must also be noted that he was the first God Devourer Insect to attain the Supreme King stage.

Coupled with his terrifying innate talent, it was now possible for him to kill experts a cultivation level higher than himself.

Even the present Lin Xun couldn't let his guard down against Little Silver's ambush.

"Not bad, not bad at all."

Lin Xun was very pleased. In the beginning, he had spent a lot of time and effort searching and collecting treasures for Little Silver to evolve.

However, this was no longer necessary because Little Silver had recently gained the ability to grow on his own.

His path was also unique and could only be paved by himself.

Lin Xun couldn't help much at this juncture even if he wished to.

Little Silver asked, "Master, when are we leaving this place?"

"Soon. You'll have to wait a little longer."

Lin Xun led Little Silver back to the Three Thousand Stupa Tower while replying.

Crazed laughter rang out the moment they stepped into the tower.

"Hahahaha, the heavens have not forsaken me! I've finally managed to catch a hint of the secret within these eighteen stone murals!"

It was Toady's voice.

Lin Xun felt invigorated and couldn't help but inwardly sigh in relief. After more than a year of studying, Toady and the big black bird had determined that the great blessing of the Three Thousand Stupa Tower was hidden in the eighteen stone murals.

However, today was the first time he had heard good news from Toady!

It must be noted that Toady was a descendant of the three-legged golden toad lineage and was born with the ability to recognize and identify all kinds of things. The big black bird wasn't ordinary either and knew many incredible secrets.

Despite this, it had taken them more than a year to discover a trace of the secret. This showed just how deeply concealed the blessing was.

It was impossible to fathom how much work Toady and the big black bird had invested in this venture.

Lin Xun hurriedly walked up to the eighteenth floor where he found Toady and the big black bird excitedly staring at a stone mural on the wall with glowing eyes.

They looked like desperate and horny men who had just found a beauty emerging from the bath.

Lin Xun walked over and curiously asked, "What have you guys discovered?"

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The Prodigies War

Chapter 1287: Destroying Karmic Obstacles

Eighteen different stone murals decorated the walls. They depicted various things such as scenes from the mortal realm, the subjugation of monsters and demons, a river of stars reversing, and the mass destruction of mountains and rivers...

Every mural seemed filled with unfathomable wonder.

Lin Xun had also studied them but had failed to find any hints of the secrets they held.

Toady's golden pupils glowed as he gushed, "Lin Xun, perfect timing! This king can confidently tell you that these stone murals contain a secret art inheritance."

He pointed to one of the murals and said, "Look at this mural. The mountains and rivers are being destroyed while a river of stars is being reversed. It presents a scene of destruction and the end of the world, However, its true secret isn't hidden in the picture but in the carvings!"

He began tracing the lines of the mural with a finger to illustrate his point.

Lin Xun's heart soon began trembling in excitement. The outline traced by Toady seemed to form a line of ancient words.

"If killing is regarded as the Stupa's heart, why not return to the dust with everything else!"

It sounded like a Buddhist verse that contained a sensation of grandness.

"Do you see it too? But if it were that simple, how could it have taken me and the black birdie more than a year to decipher?"

Toady displayed a smug look as spittle flew from his mouth, "These words are written in the ancient era Mahayana Sanskrit. When their strokes are disassembled one by one, they will form a natural dao pattern.

"A dao pattern that manifests the grand dao and is imprinted with its aura!"

Toady began to draw in the air as he spoke. "Come and observe them again as I spread these dao patterns out."

Lin Xun sent out his spirit sense and compared the mural with the trajectory flowing from Toady's fingertip. A marvelous scene immediately followed.

Divine Saint Buddha light emerged from the mural and transformed into a walking figure. Wherever the figure walked, mountains and rivers were destroyed, a river of stars was reversed, and everything else disintegrated into nothingness.

At the same time, a grand and solemn Sanskrit chant echoed: If killing is regarded as the Stupa's heart, why not return to the dust with everything else?!

As the voice echoed, the carvings on the mural gathered together to form golden Buddhist texts that flowed with sacred light.

Lin Xun's heart violently shook as he sensed an extremely mystical inheritance aura from the Buddhist texts.

"This is only one part of the inheritance."

Toady withdrew his finger, and the mural instantly returned to its original appearance.

"Now look at this mural. It contains a different secret that requires you to reflect the pattern with your mind and use your spirit to deduce the number of cycles within...

"This mural is also different; its secret needs to be deciphered with one's grand dao power..."

Toady rambled on, explaining each one to Lin Xun.

In short, the secrets concealed within the eighteen murals were all different and needed to be deciphered using different methods.

It made his head swim as he inwardly gasped in amazement.

This was too complicated!

If he were in Toady's and the big black bird's place, he probably wouldn't have been able to decipher the secrets of all eighteen stone murals in only a year.

"Presently, the big black bird is deciphering the remaining three murals. If no surprises occur, we'll be able to unravel the heaven-defying blessing within three months!"

Toady was in high spirits and was filled with anticipation.

Lin Xun shifted his gaze and saw the big black bird standing in front of a mural as if it was mesmerized. It was so focused that it was oblivious to everything else.

In fact, it had not even noticed him conversing with Toady.

Toady said, "By the way, the alpha qi has been used up so you'll have to collect more for us."

Lin Xun tossed a sealed jade bottle to Toady. "I foresaw that this would occur. Here, take it."

Toady chuckled. There were no pleasantries needed, and he kept the bottle.

They had been staying inside the Stupa Tower for the past year and had long used up their king-grade and divine herbs. Hence, they fully relied on Lin Xun to collect alpha qi for them.

This was the plight of longevity stage experts. The higher the cultivation, the more energy they required to cultivate. Without sufficient resources, their cultivation would forever be stuck and be unable to progress.

However, Lin Xun wasn't worried about this issue at present because he could obtain endless alpha qi in Stupa Brahma Land as long as he wished to!

.....

Stupa Brahma Land contained numerous danger zones such as the Land of Tragic Death and Stupa Land.

There were also several strange and ominous zones within it.

Over the past year, Lin Xun had traveled all over Stupa Brahma Land to collect cultivation resources and alpha qi.

The Devil Shatter Cave was located under a murky white bone river in Stupa Brahma Land.

The cave was filled with extremely terrifying Magnetic Extreme Yin Qi. Mournful demonic hissing and howling would echo from the cave every night, causing anyone who heard it to shudder in fear.

To other cultivators, it was an evil place that they would not dare easily approach.

To Lin Xun, however, it was an excellent place to collect alpha qi.

Whoosh!

One day, Lin Xun arrived from above as the Broken Blade flew out from him. The murky bone river was parted with a loud boom, revealing a giant, gorge-like hole.

Jet-black Magnetic Extreme Yin Qi rose from the hole like steam, emitting a terrifying aura. Spirits, grudges, and ghosts could be seen within, appearing ferocious and menacing as they hissed and shrieked.

However, these evil things immediately fled in alarm and fear when Lin Xun circulated the Great Treasury Silent Scripture and emitted holy Buddhist light.

"Doh!"

Lin Xun performed the purification art and made a grabbing motion. A pitch-black alms bowl rose into the air and began spinning, causing the evil spirits to be sucked into it without being able to resist.

It looked like a whale swallowing water!

In mere moments, all of the evil spirits were sucked in.

Gurgle~

Lin Xun channeled Buddhist power and purified the evil spirits in the bowl, leaving wisps of pure alpha qi behind.

"The amount is decreasing more and more..."

Lin Xun put away the bowl. He knew that it was time to find a new place to harvest alpha qi.

For the past year, he had visited Demon Shatter Cave every once in a while to collect alpha qi.

However, it now appeared that there weren't many residual spirits and grudges left in the Demon Shatter Cave.

Whoosh!

Lin Xun didn't waste any more time and departed.

After leaving Demon Shatter Cave, Lin Xun visited the other ominous zones he had already explored to harvest alpha qi.

Hmm?

Just as Lin Xun was about to return to Stupa Land, he suddenly sensed something and peered into the distance.

A snow-white bird was fast approaching like a streak of light. Before it even landed, it said in a respectful voice, "Young Master Lin, my master, Miss Lin Xue, has something to tell you."

It was a white-browed dragon sparrow; an extremely rare species that possessed a sliver of dragon blood and possessed extraordinary talent.

Lin Xun asked, "What does Miss Lin Xue want with me?"

"My master said that in half a year, the seal on the Ancient Land of All in the Thunder Jolt Realm will be fully removed. If Young Master Lin is interested in going, please bring this token to the Thunder Jolt Realm at the appointed time and shatter it, then my master will come to guide you."

The white-browed dragon sparrow spread out its wings and handed a pale green jade token to Lin Xun.

Lin Xun kept the jade token and said, "Thanks. Go back and tell your master that I'll be there at the appointed time."

Swish!

The white-browed dragon sparrow spread its wings and flew away. It soon disappeared into the distance like a lightning bolt.

"Six months? That should be enough..."

After a brief moment of contemplation, Lin Xun returned to Stupa Land.

.....

Three months later.

Boom!

Amidst the falling peerless blazing sword qi, the Sword Saint skeleton collapsed to the ground with a loud boom and turned into ashes.

In the distance, Lin Xun's expression was calm while slivers of intimidating divine light rose from his eyes like steam.

His mastery of the sword art left by Battle Emperor Mo Yang had already reached fifty percent!

With it, he could shoot a blast of sword qi that could seize luck itself and shake the heavens and earth.

On the same day, Lin Xun welcomed the sixth longevity tribulation, the karmic obstacles.

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Tribulation clouds descended like waves of the sea, covering the entire sky above Stupa Land. Heavenly might filled the entire area, creating an oppressive atmosphere.

Thunderbolts soon descended, drawing long, snaking arcs across the sky as they danced between heaven and earth, turning numerous bone mounds to dust.

The karmic obstacles were viewed as fetters and retributions that hindered the path of cultivation.

Every cultivator had karmic obstacles of their own.

Hatred, aversions, addictions...and certain experiences would at times become a sort of karmic obstacle and invisible shackles that took root deep in one's subconscious.

The sixth longevity tribulation was directed at the karmic obstacles of the cultivator.

These karmic obstacles could be likened to hidden tumors; if they were not destroyed, it would be difficult to achieve true inner peace and ascertain one's path!

It took seven days and seven nights and overcoming numerous great terrors and dangers before Lin Xun finally triumphed over the tribulation and killed his karmic obstacles!

There wasn't much to say about the process although it was worth mentioning that it made Lin Xun realize he had accumulated many more karmic obstacles than he had anticipated over the years.

These invisible dangers had remained unseen even by himself.

For example, his hatred toward Yun Qingbai, his guilt toward Zhao Jingxuan, his worries about A'lu...all kinds of things could become karmic obstacles.

Now, Lin Xun had overcome them and the heavenly tribulation, allowing him to attain inner equilibrium and ascertain his path!

It wasn't abandonment or forgetting them. Instead, he had severed the karmic obstacles such that they would no longer affect his future cultivation.

After passing the tribulation, Lin Xun spent a few more days stabilizing his cultivation before becoming a proper sixth longevity tribulation Supreme King expert!

Just two years ago, he had only been at the fourth longevity tribulation stage...

Although it wasn't overly shocking for someone to overcome two longevity tribulations over two years, it wasn't slow either.

The best part was that Lin Xun's every step was extremely firm and solid. With regards to foundation, almost no one among his peers would be able to match him!

Lin Xun's eyes glimmered as he fell into thought, "I wonder what level my combat power is at in the Upper Nine Realms..."

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The Prodigies War

Chapter 1288: When My Dao Was Proven, I Realized the Suffering of All Beings

After the Yun Qingbai pursuit two years ago, Lin Xun faced and overcame the fourth longevity tribulation, the seven emotions, causing his cultivation to advance by leaps and bounds.

Over the next two years, he overcame the fifth longevity tribulation, the six desires, and the sixth longevity tribulation, the karmic obstacles.

If contrasted with his previous progress, the growth rate of Lin Xun's battle power had undoubtedly attained an unprecedented peak.

It was the power of accumulated preparation!

On the one hand, it was related to the various opportunities and blessings he had acquired in the Upper Nine Realms. On the other hand, it was also inextricably linked to his cultivation path.

Lin Xun had built up an overly strong and astonishing foundation that enabled swift and rapid cultivation progress.

Clang!

The Broken Blade grew increasingly illusory as it flew through the air. Its sharp aura tore open small cracks in the surrounding space, causing it to emit light suction noises.

Meanwhile, cryptic dao patterns emerged on it, releasing a sacred, holy charm that would amaze the entirety of time.

Over the past two years, the Broken Blade had clearly risen in quality after being tempered with various divine materials in the furnace made from All-Wonder Dao Fire.

Although the Broken Blade was originally a spirit weapon, as long as Lin Xun continued to nurture and temper it as a Supreme King Weapon, it would inevitably become his life-bound Saint weapon if he one day became a Saint expert!

The only problem was that the Broken Blade was incomplete. Hence, it might not be so simple for it to transform into a Saint weapon.

It was worth mentioning that besides the All-Wonder Dao Flame, Lin Xun had also obtained five other Alpha Dao Flames in the underground tomb.

Two years ago, Lin Xun had given Toady the Golden Blaze Dao Flame that had taken the form of a golden lamp.

The big black bird had also been gifted the Dustless Dao Flame which had taken the form of a white book.

As for the Eternal Silent Dao Flame which had taken the form of a black ruler and the Purple Brilliance Dao Flame which had taken the form of a purple painting, Lin Xun planned to give them to Xia Zhi and Zhao Jingxuan respectively.

Finally, the Five Aggregates Dao Flame was reserved for A'lu.

.....

"Big brother, come quickly!"

Inside the Stupa Tower, Toady excitedly shouted, "It's done, we've finally succeeded!"

Lin Xun was momentarily stunned before he swiftly kept the Broken Blade and rose to his feet. Upon reaching the 18th floor of the Stupa Tower, he found that the eighteen murals had disappeared.

Instead, golden Buddhist characters were flowing in the air. The sacred words shone brightly as peaceful light sprinkled from them.

Lin Xun felt a prickling pain in his eyes as he was seemingly transported to a holy land and was immersed in a Zen-like state.

"This..."

Lin Xun was overwhelmed by the sensation.

"It's the greatest blessing that was hidden in Stupa Brahma Land!"

Toady placed his hands on his waist and smiled radiantly, clearly oozing with happiness.

"Look at this line of Buddhist text. It is a genuine manifestation of the grand dao. From what I can deduce, the Saint Buddha from the ancient-era must have been a supreme figure who possessed unmatched wisdom and could look down upon the heavens!"

The big black bird emotionally sighed.

It spent almost every waking moment deciphering the eighteen stone murals with Toady for more than two years.

Now that their secrets had finally been unveiled, it was naturally feeling overwhelmed by all kinds of emotions.

The big black bird suddenly asked a strange question, "Do you know what this line means?"

Toady's laughter abruptly stopped. The corners of his mouth twitched as an odd expression appeared on his face.

Lin Xun was taken aback. "What do you mean? Isn't it an inheritance?"

Toady pointed at the shining golden Buddhist characters and softly read, "When my dao was proven, I realized the suffering of all beings!"

The simple sentence shook Lin Xun's heart and soul. To think that a dao-proven Saint Buddha would be thinking about the suffering of all beings upon his enlightenment!

Such boundless compassion touched Lin Xun and made him feel admiration and respect.

His admiration deepened as he recalled the numerous bone mounds in Stupa Land that had formed from the remains of enemies from the eight regions that the ancient-era Saint Buddha had subdued.

"Why are those old bastards from Kṣitigarbha Temple[1] so different from that Saint Buddha despite all being Buddhist cultivators?"

The big black bird sneered. His words were filled with mockery toward Kṣitigarbha Temple.

Toady began to explain to Lin Xun, "The Saint Buddha left behind ten supreme inheritance secret arts which are hidden in each line of Buddhist text. You only need to open your mind and heart to these Buddhist texts and you'll be able to sense the inheritance within them. "

"Remember, you can only pick one. Old Blacky there was greedy previously and tried to obtain all of the inheritances. In the end, his spirit suffered a backlash, and he nearly succumbed to cultivation deviation."

The big black bird couldn't help but blush in embarrassment.

"I obtained an inheritance that tempers the spirit called Sakya View while Old Blacky obtained an inheritance that refines the mind called Formless Vacuum Sutra."

Toady quickly said, "Regretfully, regardless of who obtains them, these inheritances can only be received and can't be taught to others."

This meant that neither Toady nor Old Blacky could impart the inheritances to others.

Lin Xun nodded. He took a deep breath, sat down, and relaxed as his senses surged into the floating golden Buddhist text in the air.

In an instant, a magnificent sound akin to the morning bells and drums rang out.

Lin Xun felt a tremor in his soul as he "saw" an infinitely large Buddha figure sitting amidst the stars. The figure was surrounded by millions of light rays and gave off endless brightness like the legendary lord of the heavens.

Even the stars looked as tiny as dust particles before him!

However, when Lin Xun tried to take a closer look, the Buddha phantasm disappeared as if it had never existed in the first place.

Next, ten golden Buddhist scriptures appeared and slowly unfurled, revealing lines of glowing words within them.

The words seemed to soar on the scrolls like dragons and spread their wings like phoenixes. They overflowed with Zenness and charm, appearing mystical and ethereal.

There was no need for Lin Xun to figure anything out. When his senses moved toward them, information immediately appeared in his mind.

"Prajna Wonder Sutra; cultivates the Prajna and refines wonder qi. Cultivates an inner world that can connect directly to one's dao..."

Lin Xun's heart shuddered in amazement.

A sutra like this was most definitely personally written by a Saint expert. There was no doubt that this Prajna Wonder Sutra would be an extraordinary art.

"Observe the Immeasurable Truth; cultivates the Immeasurable Glaze Body, practice the secrets of heaven and earth, grasp the intent of subduing dragons and tigers, and perform the furious Bodhisattva..."

What a terrifying body cultivation art!

Lin Xun felt a strong impulse to obtain this inheritance.

After all, his qi cultivation and spirit cultivation were already on the Supreme Path while his body cultivation had yet to come into contact with it.

Lin Xun usually wasn't tempted by other body cultivation arts because of the amazing Nine Pure Saint Body Art he had obtained in the Deva Secret Domain.

However, how could he possibly ignore the Observe the Immeasurable Truth inheritance that was clearly an inconceivably incredible body cultivation art?

After a little contemplation, Lin Xun restrained his desire.

Since he already had the Nine Pure Saint Body Art, it would be kind of a waste to obtain another body cultivation art.

Moreover, he wasn't a pure body cultivator like A'lu and didn't have the aspiration of becoming a Saint through body cultivation.

"Nirvana Lotus Seal Technique..."

"True Acala Art..."

"Sakya View..."

"Gaya Elephant Toss..."

Lin Xun flipped through them one by one. Although he couldn't view their essence, he could understand their various functions.

Even with his high standards, Lin Xun felt that these ten inheritances were first-rate supreme secret arts that would be fiercely fought over by Saint experts if leaked to the outside world!

It wouldn't be extreme to claim that anyone who obtained any one of them would have the potential to start a sect of their own.

Although these ten inheritances were so deeply tempting that they made his heart flutter...he didn't urgently need any of them!

He could randomly choose one as it would be no different from obtaining an amazing blessing but he somehow couldn't bring himself to do so.

After calming down, Lin Xun realized that although such a heaven-defying opportunity might make other cultivators go crazy, he didn't need any of them.

His mindset became different when he looked at the ten Buddhist scriptures again. There was no longer any desire in his eyes which were now clear and bright.

In cultivation, it was important to know when to accept or reject something.

Lin Xun's principle was simple. He would use whatever there was if it would benefit his cultivation path. However, if something was useless to him, he would rather not have it!

Because such things would eventually become shackles that would bog him down!

This was also known as external hindrances.

If external things could be employed, they would become your own.

If they weighed you down instead, you would fall into the trap of being hindered by external things!

In the end, Lin Xun sighed softly and decided to give up on the opportunity.

He wasn't being magnanimous. Instead, he understood that he couldn't impart the inheritances to others anyway.

In addition, since there was a possibility of it hindering his path, it would be better to give up on it!

The moment this decision was made, Lin Xun felt his mindset being elevated to a new level.

Opportunity and blessings were often irresistible and the more heaven-defying they were, the harder it was to reject them.

Since the beginning of time, how many people could remain calm while decisively rejecting such opportunities?

If others knew, they would undoubtedly laugh at how foolish Lin Xun was being.

However, he didn't have any regrets.

His path was different from everyone else's. To walk a path that had never been walked before, one must closely hold on to one's individuality and dao heart!

The second Lin Xun gave up, a solemn and peaceful voice rang out in his head, "Excellent, thou can be regarded as one of our peers!"

The words seemed to vibrate through every fiber of his being.

Lin Xun was startled. When he looked up, he found that the ten golden Buddhist scriptures had undergone an unbelievable transformation.

1. Another name for Earth Treasury Temple 地宝殿

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The Prodigies War

Chapter 1289: Shaohao

To Lin Xun's astonishment, the ten Buddhist scriptures that each represented an unrivaled inheritance melted into golden liquid and transformed into a golden Buddhist shrine!

The Buddhist shrine bore an uncanny resemblance to the Three Thousand Stupa Tower but was only a foot tall. It was entirely golden as if it was made from divine gold, and a drizzle of peaceful light sprinkled from it.

A heart was enshrined inside the shrine!

The pure and clear heart was pure and clear and shone blindingly like a ball of light.

Thump thump thump!

The moment Lin Xun gazed upon the heart, it seemed to come alive with a powerful, thunder-like rhythm as a horrifying pressure burst from it.

An infinitely large Buddha silhouette that could fill the cosmos once again filled his vision.

This time, however, Lin Xun clearly sensed the Buddha silhouette giving him a slight nod as it said, "My Buddhist name is Xingjia, greetings Dao Friend!"

Lin Xun's heart violently shuddered. When he looked again, there was no longer any trace of the Buddha silhouette.

It made him recall Battle Emperor Mo Yang who had also addressed him in the same manner. She believed he was a 'fellow traveler' on the cultivation path. Hence, there was no difference in seniority between them and they could refer to each other as Dao Friends!

It was also then that Lin Xun realized the weight of the words 'Dao Friend' in the eyes of these supreme powerhouses!

In the journey of seeking the dao, fellow travelers could be regarded as friends!

Evidently, Saint Buddha Xingjia also regarded him as a companion like Battle Emperor Mo Yang!

Hence why he had addressed Lin Xun as a 'Dao Friend!'

The one-foot-tall Buddha shrine withdrew its aura, becoming plain and unremarkable.

Inside the shrine, the crystalline heart was sealed under a thick layer of Buddhist runes.

"I leave my life-killing Stupa heart to break open life and death with thou!"

A majestic voice echoed in Lin Xun's mind.

With that, the Buddhist shrine descended into Lin Xun's arms, and he immediately understood its value.

In a life-or-death situation, he could unseal the shrine and use the power of the life-killing Stupa heart to strengthen himself and break out of the predicament!

.....

Inside the Stupa Tower, the lines of golden Buddhist text disappeared along with the eighteen murals.

However, upon learning that Lin Xun had turned down the opportunity to obtain one of the inheritances, both Toady and the big black bird widened their eyes and stared at him as if he were an idiot.

"Are you actually stupid? Old Blacky and I toiled on this project for more than a year and finally unlocked the heaven-defying blessing only for you to...turn it down?"

Toady looked exasperated.

"Idiot, what an idiot."

The big black bird also lamented.

"What do you guys know?" Lin Xun replied in a light-hearted manner. He was certain that they would immediately go crazy with jealousy if he showed them the Buddhist niche!

"Why do I get the feeling that he obtained some kind of unimaginable benefit?"

Toady felt deeply suspicious. Having known him for so long, he refused to believe that Lin Xun was someone who would spit out the meat that had already entered his mouth.

"I'm also very suspicious."

The big black bird suspiciously eyed Lin Xun.

"Stop talking nonsense, we should get going."

Lin Xun hurriedly changed the topic.

"It's indeed time to go. Damn it, I can't believe this wasted more than a year of this king's time and energy. I wonder what the Upper Nine Realms have become nowadays."

Toady immediately grew impatient.

They had already spent almost two years in the Stupa Tower.

Two years might be insignificant in the outside world, but in the Upper Nine Realms, many things could happen in two years!

After all, it was a place filled with countless opportunities and where the most talented geniuses of this era vied for supremacy. Innumerable rising stars had appeared from time to time ever since the Supreme Realm descended.

As such, the current Upper Nine Realms was certain to be completely different from two years ago.

The big black bird suddenly asked, "Are we no longer waiting for Yun Qingbai?"

It knew that besides honing his cultivation and improving his battle prowess, Lin Xun's main goal was to wait for Yun Qingbai!

"Nope."

Lin Xun shook his head. Waiting was equivalent to being passive.

Rather than killing Yun Qingbai, he was more concerned about A'lu's whereabouts.

Less than two months remained until the appointment with Saintess Lin Xue. If things went as expected, the seal covering the Ancient Land of All in the Thunder Jolt Realm would soon disappear.

However, it was still imperative to first locate A'lu.

Lin Xun and the others left Stupa Brahma Land that very day and headed to the Thunder Jolt Realm.

.....

Half a month later.

Lin Xun and his group appeared in the Thunder Jolt Realm.

Unlike the Mythic Fire Realm and the Root Mountain Realm, the Thunder Jolt Realm was filled with berserk thunder qi.

The rocks, grass, trees, and even the rivers and lakes were filled with thunder qi. Moreover, thunderstorms would gather every night and fill the night with dazzling lightning that tore apart the darkness and danced in the skies like silver snakes.

It was a place that cultivators would not dare to traverse until their cultivation had reached the King stage.

"The rankings have changed again. The top spot has once more been taken by that expert called Shaohao!"

A group of experts gathered in front of the Thunder Jolt Battle Tablet and were excitedly discussing the recent ranking changes.

A peculiar battle tablet was present in each of the Upper Nine Realms. It was through these battle tablets' tests that cultivators could find out if they were qualified for the Genius Gold Rankings and what ranking they could obtain.

It was possible to undergo the test at any of the nine battle tablets.

"Shaohao? He's rumored to be a remarkable and extremely low-profile ancient-era genius. It was only a year ago that he finally challenged the battle tablet and reached the top on his first try, pushing Yun Qingbai down the rankings! It was an event that shook the entire Upper Nine Realms!"

"He's definitely a frightening individual. Who could have anticipated that someone so amazing would hold back for so many years only to astonish everyone overnight?"

"Have you guys noticed that the woman called Ruowu in second place is also extremely terrifying? For the past year, she and Shaohao have been constantly tussling over first place. The details of their clashes alone would amaze anyone."

"Fairy Ruowu! That's a legendary existence!"

"It's a pity that Yun Qingbai has remained silent despite being pushed to third place. Could he be in secluded cultivation?"

"It's not just Yun Qingbai. Demon God Lin hasn't been sighted for a long time as well. Nowadays, the most dazzling individuals in the Upper Nine Realms are the ancient-era geniuses such as Shaohao, Ruowu, Yuan Fatian, and Bai Longting!"

"Sigh, those ancient-era geniuses again. Except for Yun Qingbai, every other person among the top ten of the Genius Gold Rankings is an ancient-era genius. Are the heaven prides of our generation incapable of matching those from the ancient era?"

"It's a pity that the Demon God Lin has never challenged the Genius Gold Rankings. Given his combat capabilities, he should be able to clinch one of the top ten spots, right?"

"Hehe, that might have been the case two years ago. Haven't you noticed that most of the top thirty rankers are formidable individuals who rose to fame over the past two years? It will be tough for Demon God Lin to break into the top ten!"

The crowd of experts didn't notice Lin Xun suddenly appear amidst them while they were engaged in discussion.

Toady winked and teased, "Heh, people are looking down on you after two years of absence."

Lin Xun dismissed him with a laugh and thoughtfully said, "Speaking of which, it might be hard to believe but I met the current top ranker, Shaohao, long ago when I entered the Ancient Wasteland Domain."

He couldn't help but recall the time when he was at Fallen Star Peak in the West Infinity World.

Back then, the Young Master of the Astral Imperial Clan, Shaohao, had been slumbering within the Constellation Egg while protected by a Saint-grade array.

Although his conversation with Shaohao had been brief, he left a strong impression on Lin Xun as someone with a big heart, charisma, and huge ambitions.

Shaohao was someone who was destined to become famous when he finally appeared in the world!

Lin Xun's thoughts were now proven. When Shaohao appeared, he immediately became number one on the Genius Gold Rankings and shot to stardom overnight in the Upper Nine Realms!

Even Lin Xun couldn't help but marvel at such a feat.

Toady's and the big black bird's eyes widened upon learning Shaohao's origins from Lin Xun

"Heh, the Astral Imperial Clan was one of the first hegemony in the ancient era. They lorded over more than a thousand factions and were definitely a faction that deserved the title of Imperial Clan."

Toady's reaction consisted of conflicted amazement.

"Hmph, any clan that can call themselves an Imperial Clan naturally can't be ordinary. At the very least, it proves that a true Emperor expert had been born from their clan! "

"Unfortunately, as far as I know, the Astral Imperial Clan suffered a sudden catastrophe in the ancient era and was almost wiped out in a single year. Any history or records about them are nearly impossible to find nowadays!"

From the big black bird's reaction, he did not seem to have any good feelings toward the Imperial Clans.

The big black bird's and Toady's expressions soon turned solemn as they warned Lin Xun to be extra careful because Shaohao was absolutely a terrifying existence if he was truly a descendant of the Astral Imperial Clan and even its Young Master.

"My first impression of him was pretty good. I feel that it will be best if we can be friends."

Speaking of which, Little Silver, the God Devourer Insect King, was also the Guardian God Insect of the Astral Imperial Clan!

Lin Xun suddenly asked, "Right, have you guys ever heard of the Jiang Emperor Clan?"

He recalled that Senior Brother Xuan Kong had handed him a green bamboo leaf-shaped jade pendant and asked him to return it if he encountered anyone from the Jiang Emperor Clan in the future and tell them it belonged to Jiang Xingque.

"Nope."

The big black bird and Toady shook their heads in unison, indicating that they didn't know much despite being born in the ancient era.

The Emperor Clans in particular were something from the very beginning of the ancient era. By the time they were born, it was already several tens of thousands of years later.

This surprised Lin Xun. He instantly realized that if Shaohao was indeed the Young Master of the Astral Imperial Clan, wouldn't that mean that he had been born in the early days of the ancient era?

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The Prodigies War

Chapter 1290: Thunder Zone

Toady suddenly remarked, "In my opinion, Ruowu isn't simple either."

Someone had mentioned earlier that she possessed a mysterious ice coffin containing a star map, which had immediately drawn Toady's attention.

The big black bird gave its two cents, "In the ancient era, the pure-blooded Vermillion Bird was a terrifying clan that could stand shoulder to shoulder with the likes of the True Dragon, Immortal Phoenix, White Tiger, and Black Tortoise Clans. If those rumors about her background are true, it would indeed be very astonishing."

Lin Xun recalled the time when he first attempted to cross the Boundary River. He had seen a giant silver-white bear and a dragon turtle while trying to obtain a soul source.

The dragon turtle had been carrying a ten-foot-long ice coffin that was surrounded by wisps of sacred starlight. Various carvings of flowers, birds, insects, fish, the sun, the

moon, mountains, rivers, and ancestral sacrifices had been engraved onto the coffin which exuded a mysterious and timeless aura.

However, the most heart-palpitating part of the coffin was the star map on its lid that depicted a vast and boundless cosmos!

The most absurd part of the entire affair was that both the giant silver-white bear and the dragon turtle carrying the ice coffin had trembled in fear and hurriedly fled at the sight of him while screaming 'old lunatic' and 'old lunatic's aura...'

Presently, upon learning that Fairy Ruowu, who was ranked second on the Genius Golden Rankings, owned a mysterious ice coffin, Lin Xun couldn't help but wonder if she was the 'object' that was being protected by the giant silver-white bear and the dragon turtle.

"In my opinion, Yuan Fatian shouldn't be underestimated either. He's rumored to be a descendant of the extremely terrifying Snubbed-Nose Monkey lineage, who are said to have herculean strength and can chase away ghosts and gods!"

"Agreed, he's known to be an overbearing individual who acts with reckless abandon, and his body cultivation has reached the sixth longevity tribulation stage. He can also transform into a 10,000-foot-tall golden body that can move mountains and split the sea with overwhelming might."

"I heard that this Yuan Fatian practices a heaven-defying body cultivation inheritance of mysterious origins called the Nine Pure Saint Body Art..."

A discussion in the distance again caught Lin Xun's attention.

Nine Pure Saint Body Art!

From its name, Lin Xun deduced that Yuan Fatian must be the Little Young Master who had been slumbering in the Five Elements Holy Island of Return Dominion and was watched over by an old Saint stage ape!

Lin Xun raised an eyebrow. "So he has also arrived at the Upper Nine Realms and is now one of the top ten rankers on the Genius Golden Rankings..."

He suddenly recalled that the Nine Pure Saint Body Art was a Saint Scripture that recorded body cultivation secrets related to the Saint stage.

Hence, there must be some kind of great secret that allowed Yuan Fatian to practice it before reaching the Saint stage!

Lin Xun inwardly said, "If the opportunity comes, I would like to spar with him to see if I can glean some insights into his secrets..."

"The outside world has changed so much in the past two years."

Toady sighed. "It's sad that even a bunch of random people can become famous when there are no heroes. Fortunately, this king is back. In the future, this king's name shall be sung in all of the Upper Nine Realms!"

"Heh heh." The big black bird nearly spat in disdain. It was repulsed by Toady's self-absorbed character.

Toady ignored the big black bird's reaction as he looked at Lin Xun and said, "Oh, that's right, are you going to attempt the test?"

Lin Xun was taken aback. Soon after, he shook his head. "Forget it."

It wasn't that he didn't want to but becoming too famous now would only lead to more trouble.

He didn't wish to be watched by others wherever he went.

People like Shaohao, Ruowu, and Yuan Fatian were currently the focal point of the entire Upper Nine Realms, which meant that they would inevitably be watched by countless gazes.

This was the effect of fame and reputation, of which the pros and cons would be evaluated differently from individual to individual.

For someone like Lin Xun, there was no shortage of such opportunities to make a name for himself.

Of course, he didn't mind showing his strength when necessary to deter some of the more narrow-minded people.

"What about you?"

Lin Xun was puzzled because Toady was someone who loved the limelight.

Toady calmly answered, "In this king's eyes, only the title of number one is worthy of me. Unfortunately, this king doesn't wish to take it just yet."

The big black bird taunted, "Bullshit, it's not that you don't wish to but because you don't dare to. You're worried that you won't even rank among the top hundred if you attempt the test, which will be quite disgraceful."

"Thieving bird, are you asking to die?"

Angered, Toady raised his foot to try and kick the big black bird.

"Heh heh."

The big black bird spread its wings and abruptly took off into the air. It laughed fearlessly and displayed a mocking expression that nearly made Toady go crazy with rage.

With regards to the ability to pull hate, the big black bird and A'lu were definitely on par. Both of them were more than capable of being vulgar and despicable.

Someone shrieked, "Eh, isn't that big black bird somewhat familiar?"

Lin Xun instantly realized that he was about to be recognized. He immediately gestured at the big black bird and Toady before he hurriedly departed.

"That's Demon God Lin!"

Not long after they left, someone said, "He has once again appeared after two years."

"Demon God Lin?" I can't believe he's left Stupa Brahma Land. Is he also here for the blessing in the Ancient Land of All?"

Several people grew curious.

"If so, he's arrived a step too late. Everyone knows that the emperor's mound that has been sealed for thousands of years in the Ancient Land of All has been surrounded by numerous experts and ordinary experts wouldn't even dare to approach!"

"Yeah, I've heard that Underworld Son, Bai Longting, and other formidable experts have been spotted among the experts camping in the vicinity of the emperor's mound."

The Ancient Land of All had finally revealed its true face recently. No one could have expected that it would turn out to be the mound of an Emperor expert!

The revelation had caused a huge stir and resulted in countless experts rushing over.

The frightening part, however, was that people were constantly being killed every day in the vicinity of the emperor's mound. No one knew how many experts had died already.

Even some of the more famous experts had regretfully lost their lives.

As such, experts who knew about this and felt they weren't sufficiently strong didn't dare to approach for fear of getting swept up in the carnage.

"Two years ago, Demon God Lin slaughtered the Omega Sword Sect disciples with overwhelming power. I wonder how big of a storm he'll cause this time around."

Some people grew expectant.

Someone sneered, "Don't overestimate him. The vicinity of the mound is filled with countless powerful experts. It's like a giant trap that will make anyone who falls into it suffer."

.....

The Ancient Land of All was relatively easy to locate in the Thunder Jolt Realm.

Along the way, Lin Xun managed to gather more information about it.

He was a little surprised to find out that the Ancient Land of All had been fully unsealed not long ago.

Moreover, countless experts were currently rushing to the emperor's mound that had been unearthed in the Ancient Land of All!

"The mound of an Emperor expert? That was impossible. Only terrifying individuals who had transcended the Saint stage could attain the Emperor stage. How could such a horrifying existence have died here?"

Both Toady and the big black bird were also bewildered by the news.

Emperor experts were the most supreme existences that had far exceeded the Saint stage. They could lord over all Saint experts, and their titles alone were enough to intimidate everyone for a long time.

Such existences were considered eternal and shared a lifespan with time itself. Unless they encountered an unpredictable and monstrous catastrophe, it was almost impossible for them to be eroded by time.

That was why an emperor's mound...was simply absurd!

"Regardless of whether this emperor's mound is real, I'm more concerned about whether A'lu is in the Ancient Land of All."

Lin Xun frowned.

The situation wasn't optimistic. With the seal disappearing earlier than anticipated and the emperor's mound being surrounded by numerous experts, there would most certainly be trouble when they arrived.

Two days later.

Thunder rumbled endlessly across the land like the ever rising and falling tide.

A raging torrent of lightning could be seen in the distance. Resplendent lightning wildly danced between heaven and earth, exuding an aura that seemed capable of bringing an end to the world.

Not even a single blade of grass could be found. The land was stained with lightning qi and even sparks were visible in the air. It was a sight that would make anyone's scalp turn numb.

To make things worse, the deeper one ventured the more terrifying the thunder power grew, and it even began to take on various forms that flickered and rushed about.

It was as if they had arrived at the land of thunder and lightning!

Even Lin Xun and the others couldn't help but gasp at the sight. It was definitely a dangerous place!

The Ancient Land of All was located in the deepest depths of this area.

Just as they were about to enter, Lin Xun and the others discovered a white rainbow-like road that seemed to extend into the depths of the thunder zone. It was akin to a bridge that was somehow separate from the world of lightning and thunder.

This made Lin Xun and the others breathe a sigh of relief. Without such a path, they honestly wouldn't dare to take a single step into the thunder zone.

The thunder and lightning here were akin to a storm that filled heaven and earth. The destructive aura of the zone could slay even ghosts and gods, and it was no different from a natural disaster!

The big black bird said, "These paths definitely weren't here previously. It was probably after the seal was lifted that they appeared to grant cultivators the opportunity to enter."

Toady nodded in agreement.

"Let's head over. When we arrive at the Ancient Land of All, I'll contact Holy Maiden Lin Xue to see if we can get any updates from her on the situation."

Lin Xun made his decision.

He led Toady and the big black bird to the white rainbow-like path.

Crackle! Rumble!

Thunder and lightning relentlessly poured from the sky as if seeking to destroy the world and bring about eternal despair.

However, when they neared the white rainbow-like path, they were erased by an invisible layer of restriction power.

This made Lin Xun and the others feel a little more at ease. Despite this, they didn't dare to be negligent and remained alert.

There was thunder and lightning as far as the eye could see. It was impossible to tell how much land they covered and where they originated from.

Moreover, the deeper one went, the denser the power of thunder became.

As they ventured deeper in, Lin Xun and the others were surprised to see the silhouettes of what appeared to be thunder spirits appearing and drifting about amidst the churning lightning...

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