

Prodigies 141

[Chapter 141: Red Lip Mark](#)

The quarterly assessment had come to an end. Six hundred students had participated in the assessment but more than half had been eliminated, leaving only 237 students.

In the end, the twelve campgrounds with the highest number of students eliminated were removed and had to be merged with the other eight campgrounds.

Among the eight campgrounds, only the 39th Campground had just twenty-seven students while the other seven campgrounds maintained thirty students.

This also meant that some familiar faces had left Lin Xun's side, but they were replaced by some unfamiliar faces.

For example, Xin Wenbin had already been eliminated in the last monthly assessment, and Wen Mingxu was eliminated in the quarterly assessment.

In short, Lin Xun, Shi Yu, Ning Meng, Qi Can, Li Qiu, and Mu Lengxin were the only students remaining from the original batch of students in the 39th Campground.

The others that made up the current 39th Campground, such as Gong Ming, Lei Xinyue, Di Jun, and Ye Xiaoqi, originally came from the 40th Campground.

In addition to them, new students had also joined the 39th Campground after the quarterly assessment.

Naturally, those who could pass the quarterly assessment wouldn't be weak. However, among the new students, one person had the focus of the entire 39th Campground—Li Duxing!

He had already built an impressive reputation for himself during the Blood Kill Camp training sessions and was regarded as on the same level as Bai Lingxi, Zhao Yin, and Zhangsun Hen!

Just like his name, Li Duxing was a loner and was extremely low-profile. He had no friends and was withdrawn and reclusive. But he was undoubtedly very powerful. *NOVELnext.com*

Many people were curious about Li Duxing's background and some had said that he came from the Cloud Tree Li Clan, one of the seven top aristocratic families in Zijing City of the empire.

Others claimed that he was from the Snow Mountain Li Clan in Binglan City, which was known as the snow capital, in the northern part of the empire.

Some even said that Li Duxing's background was more mysterious and that he was from an ancient country thousands of miles away from the Ziyao Empire.

But regardless of the rumors, Li Duxing's strength was unquestionable.

A youngster like him, who was always cloaked in a mysterious aura and kept a low profile, naturally increased the vigilance of many students in the 39th Campground when he suddenly joined.

Shi Yu, Ning Meng, and Qi Can, as well as Gong Ming, Lei Xinyue, and Di Jun all felt a hint of pressure when Li Duxing joined their campground.

The addition of another top student meant that their ranking in the 39th Campground would be threatened.

However, Li Duxing's arrival had helped Lin Xun because it had diverted the attention away from him. He was able to relax for a rare moment after suffering accusations and facing controversy as a result of achieving first place in the quarterly assessment.

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On the night of the quarterly assessment, Lin Xun sat comfortably as he leaned back on a chair in Old Mo's warehouse. No one would disturb him in the warehouse. Most importantly, he wouldn't hear accusations and the disbelieving voices from the outside world.

Lin Xun closed his eyes as he tried to comprehend the profound essence of the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture in his mind.

This aeth power cultivation art could be described in two words: wondrous and overbearing.

It was wondrous in that it was different from other cultivation arts. It wasn't a cultivation art that tackled cultivation from the inside out, but it mysteriously balanced both the inside and outside.

The most wondrous thing about it was that, according to it, the cultivator's body could act as a furnace. Their inside could refine their source and temper their foundation, and their outside could absorb the spirits in all directions.

In simple terms, the most unique aspect of this cultivation art was that it incorporated physical cultivation and aeth power cultivation at the same time!

It tempered the body from the outside to the inside.

It tempered qi from the inside to the outside.

Tempering physique and qi were two different ways of cultivation; however, they could complement each other, and many cultivators in the world practiced arts in both tempering physique and tempering qi.

The fact that the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture was a balance between the two was already unbelievable and wondrous.

The reason why it was overbearing was that it had demanding requirements for the cultivators. Cultivators not only were required to have an extremely strong physique but also needed to possess a foundation much stronger than that of ordinary people.

Only then would a cultivator be able to withstand the power acquired from practicing the cultivation art. Otherwise, the cultivator could be in danger of rupturing and dying.

This requirement alone could deter many cultivators from practicing it, but this wasn't a problem for Lin Xun. He even felt the cultivation art was tailor-made for him.

He could compete with eighth layer True Martial experts in terms of physical strength. Furthermore, his aeth power cultivation base was far superior to those of the ninth layer True Martial Stage cultivators.

“No wonder the rune battle realm—Thousand Heavy Wave Sea has such a huge tempering effect on the body. It turns out that it was in preparation for the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture. If I wasn’t able to pass it, it means that my physique and strength aren’t suitable to practice this cultivation art...”

Realization filled Lin Xun’s eyes. He realized that the Thousand Heavy Wave Sea was arranged in preparation for the cultivation of the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture.

If he couldn’t pass it then he wouldn’t be qualified to practice this cultivation art!

Lin Xun had made up his mind to practice the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture.

instead of the Yuan Holding Art from now on.

The Yuan Holding Art put a great emphasis on tranquility and calmness and had a mellow style. Previously, Lin Xun could only practice this gentle art because he was weak and frail, but he was completely different now. The result wouldn’t be as great if he were to continue to practice the Yuan Holding Art.

“Hey, guys, I’m back!”

Suddenly, a peal of charming and soft laughter resounded, and Xiaoman’s graceful and slender figure energetically rushed into the warehouse.

She was in high spirits and her beautiful and sexy face was glowing. An unconcealable brilliant smile bloomed on her full red lips, making her look indescribably beautiful.

“Come, little handsome guy, kiss me!”

Xiaoman rushed over to Lin Xun and cupped his face in her soft and smooth hands. Before Lin Xun could react, she had already pressed her red lips firmly on his face.

Lin Xun froze. Is this considered a forced kiss?

Before he could react, Xiaoman had already let go of his hands and her watery, bright eyes stared intently at Lin Xun. She giggled, “You did a beautiful job this time. I, your Big Sister, am very happy. This is your reward!”

“Big Sister, I want a reward too!” Old Mo had rushed over at some unknown time and had opened his arms wide as he stared lustfully at Xiaoman.

“Get lost. I want to vomit when I see your old face.” Xiaoman snapped and lashed out with a kick. Old Mo screamed in agony as he was sent flying.

“So unfair!” Old Mo grumbled.

Only then did Lin Xun awake from his daze and exclaimed. “Big Sister, you must have profited a lot from the bet since you’re so happy.”

Xiaoman snapped her fingers. “So smart! ! Not only did I gain face, but I also won a total of 49,000 points!”

Before Lin Xun could speak, Old Mo said strangely, "That much? Then does that mean you will be able to leave the Blood Kill Camp soon?"

Xiaoman nodded. Then, her face suddenly grew overcast as though she remembered something. "However, I won't be leaving just yet."

Her spirits fell and she hurried away without saying anything.

"Old Mo, what do the points have to do with leaving?" Lin Xun couldn't help asking.

Old Mo pondered for a moment and said vaguely, "You just need to know that instructors can regain their freedom when they earn enough points and they won't have to assume the responsibilities and obligations from the empire any more."

Lin Xun nodded, but he knew that the matter wasn't as simple as Old Mo had told him.

However, what surprised Lin Xun was that Xiaoke had unexpectedly shown up at the warehouse not long after Xiaoman left.

It's already late at night, what is Xiaoke doing here?

In the past, Xiaoke would never go there unless it was absolutely necessary to avoid bumping into Xiaoman.

"Tomorrow, at noon, the Blood Kill Camp will reward the top ten students in the quarterly assessment. Instructor Xu Sanqi will take you guys somewhere."

Xiaoke directly stated her purpose in coming but a strange expression came to her eyes when she looked at Lin Xun.

Lin Xun nodded while wondering what sort of reward he would get for ranking first.

"Old Mo, come with me. Chief Xu is looking for you." Xiaoke said to Old Mo.

"What is it about?" Old Mo looked bewildered and couldn't understand the situation.

"Just come with me."

Xiaoke didn't explain, and before she left, she went to stand in front of Lin Xun and stared at him with her clear and indifferent eyes. "Don't you feel disgusting?"

Lin Xun was startled. "Instructor, what did I do?"

Xiaoke turned around and didn't explain.

Only Old Mo seemed to notice something and he strode over to Lin Xun with a creepy face. He sneered, "Indeed very disgusting!"

He swaggered off and left Lin Xun standing there with a blank and perplexed look. Disgusting? What does she mean?

He inadvertently glanced at the smooth, shiny copper pillar beside him. Understanding dawned on his face and he smiled bitterly when he saw his reflection on the surface of the copper pillar.

It turned out that Xiaoman's kiss had left a striking red lip mark on his face.

"Is this considered an undeserved catastrophe?"

Lin Xun wiped away the lip mark on his face and helplessly sat down on a chair. Why would Xu Sanqi summon Old Mo over in the middle of the night?

Could it be related to the Flying Star Crossbow?

Lin Xun fell into deep thought. From the moment he had decided to help Old Mo to transform the aeth engine of the Violet Hero Battleship, he already knew that his knowledge in the art of runes would draw the attention of others.

This was exactly what he wanted because he wanted to prove himself. Furthermore, he could obtain more benefits from the Kill Blood Camp.

In truth, Lin Xun had indeed gained a lot of benefits these days. He was able to enjoy an endless supply of Lengning pills every day and he also received guidance from Xiaoman. Xiaoke had also personally trained him for a period.

In the entire Blood Kill Camp, only Lin Xun had received such special treatments.

However, Lin Xun was worried that the attention he had received would bring him unnecessary trouble in the long run.

For example, he was unsure why Xu Sanqi summoned Old Mo and whether or not it would affect him.

[Chapter 142: Prefectural Examination Certificate](#)

The granite hall had a solemn atmosphere.

It was already late at night, but Xu Sanqi, the middle-aged fatty, Xiaoman, and two other instructors were gathered together in the hall as though they were waiting for something.

When Xiaoke arrived with Old Mo, Xu Sanqi bluntly asked, "Old Mo, how are the improvements with the Violet Hero Battleship?"

Old Mo ran his eyes over the crowd and looked hesitant.

Xu Sanqi said, "There is no outsider here. You can be honest."

Old Mo thought about it and answered, "Actually, the improvements have been completed a few days ago. After the engine was replaced with a new aeth engine, the overall power of the Violet Hero Battleship has more than doubled compared to before."

A haughty look crossed Old Mo's thin and shriveled face the moment he mentioned what he was skilled at. "I am certain that the speed of the Violet Hero Battleship will also double after the improvement. It can shake off even Spirit Sea cultivators. Also, the six rune battle cannons that the Violet Hero Battleship is equipped with could threaten the lives of Spirit Sea cultivators!"

Everyone trembled and their eyes widened with shock. In the past, the Violet Hero Battleship couldn't pose a threat to Spirit Sea cultivators, so its current power with its new modifications had already proved that the improvements in the battleship were tremendous!

"The best thing is that people with only a Spirit Dipper cultivation base can perfectly control the battleship. All of you have participated in the war between the empire and the Magi Brute Race so you should know what this means." Old Mo's eyes were blazing.

Everyone was astounded again, and many couldn't maintain their composure. They, of course, knew what it meant. Even a Spirit Dipper cultivator could kill a Spirit Sea cultivator with the Violet Hero Battleship!

In a war, this meant it could kill even Spirit Sea cultivators-equivalent brute warriors of the Magi Brute Race!

"Amazing!" exclaimed an instructor.

He was called Dong Lu, and he had an imposing, iron-tower-like figure. Every inch of his muscles was rock hard. He exuded an oppressive aura from just standing there.

"How is the improved Violet Hero battleship's consumption of aeth crystals?" Xiaoke suddenly asked and many people nodded secretly.

The Violet Hero Battleship might be powerful, but its power came from aeth crystals, which meant the gains couldn't cover the loss as it consumed a huge amount of aeth crystals.

Old Mo chuckled and said proudly, "Everyone, don't worry. The consumption of aeth crystals will only be less than before!"

Even Xu Sanqi couldn't sit still and had to exchange glances with the others. They saw the astonishment and excitement in each other's eyes.

"Is it costly to produce a Violet Hero battleship?" Xu Sanqi asked.

"It's the same as before, though the process is a little more troublesome than before. It used to take around half a month to make a Violet Hero Battleship but now it takes one month."

Old Mo thought for a moment and added, "However, it shouldn't be a huge problem to produce it on a large scale if it is handled by the group of rune masters at the Empire's Divine Workshop.

At this point, everyone understood that the newly developed Violet Hero Battleship was extraordinary and unique. Everyone's heart raced and their emotions surged.

The middle-aged fatty drew a deep breath and said solemnly, "From today on, there will be a new type of war weapon in the empire!"

Everyone nodded, and then someone suggested that Old Mo should be rewarded.

"Lin Xun is the one who deserves the credit," said Old Mo suddenly.

Lin Xun!

The mention of Lin Xun's name made everyone think of the terrifying power of the Flying Star Crossbow that was displayed in the quarterly assessment.

Everyone felt perturbed when that was combined with the improved power of the Violet Hero Battleship. How could a fourteen-year-old boy possess such an astonishing understanding of the art of runes?

What kind of person is his master?

"Old Mo, regarding Lin Xun's reward—can you ask him what he wants? We will agree to his request as long as it's possible for us."

Xu Sanqi then added in a resolute voice, "However, from today onwards, this matter can't be leaked to anyone else! No one can know that the design and idea of the Violet Hero Battleship and Flying Star Crossbow came from Lin Xun!"

Everyone was taken aback at first, but they soon understood that Xu Sanqi was doing so to protect Lin Xun.

"Of course. If anyone dares to leak it to anyone, then I, Xiaoman, will be the first to not let them off!" There was a rare look of seriousness in Xiaoman's bright eyes.

"Chief Xu, since that kid has such high mastery in the art of runes, I wonder if he could repair your rune armament Wolf Fang Moon."

Suddenly, the deep voice of the abnormally burly and mighty Dong Lu immediately attracted everyone's attention.

Xu Sanqi's heart quivered, but he shook his head and didn't mention the topic again. Instead, he took out a blank document and handed it to Xiaoke. "Before Lin Xun came to Blood Kill Camp, he had already passed the imperial district examination. The prefectural examinations ended a few days ago. Although Lin Xun wasn't able to participate in the examinations, I've entrusted a person to help him pass the prefectural examination in Qingfeng County. This is an admission certificate, pass it on to him."

Xiaoke exclaimed, "Chief Xu, you want him to take the imperial provincial examination after he leaves Blood Kill Camp?"

The others were also confused. Talents like Lin Xun were qualified for more important positions without having to participate in the imperial examinations. What Xu Sanqi had done was undoubtedly the same as wasting talent.

Xu Sanqi fell silent for a moment before he said, "Someone has already arranged Lin Xun's matter and there is nothing we can do."

Xiaoke couldn't help but ask, "Is it the Black Glory Sacred Hall?"

Everyone felt a chill in their hearts and their pupils shrank. They all knew how terrifying the Black Glory Sacred Hall was.

Xu Sanqi didn't answer her and just said calmly, "Our job is to train talents for the empire. As for the rest, it's not for us to worry about."

Everyone fell silent.

“Make some preparations. In one month, lead the students to the northern border of the empire. The training area that the empire has allocated to our Blood Kill Camp this time is the Demon Cloud Ridge on the northern border of the empire!” said Xu Sanqi in a low voice.

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Old Mo’s warehouse.

Lin Xun received the certificate for passing Qingfeng County’s prefectural examination. It wrote—

Name: Lin Xun.

Birthplace: Feiyun Village, Donglin City, Qingfeng County, southwest province of the empire.

Age: Fourteen years old.

Cultivation Level: Eighth Layer True Martial

Innate Talent: None.

Occupation: Rune Apprentice.

Examination Results: First-Class.

Examiner’s comment: Diligent and studious. An upright character. Recommend to participate in the imperial provincial examination.

Lin Xun smiled after a glance. He knew the certificate was real because it was stamped with the official Violet Glory Flower rune seal of the empire.

However, Lin Xun knew that Blood Kill Camp had to have obtained the certificate through a special connection.

Lin Xun couldn’t help but sigh. The imperial prefectural examination is an important event that attracts many cultivators hoping to leap over the dragon’s gate and rise to the top. But who would have thought that anyone could obtain a certificate without participation as long as they had connections.

This incident made Lin Xun realize more and more that the so-called rules were nothing but decorations for those with power.

“Kid, you don’t have any complaints about the matter regarding the Violet Hero Battleship and Flying Star Crossbow, right?” asked Old Mo.

“Of course I have complaints.” Lin Xun said with a smile. “Those were my ideas but you got all the credits. I feel so disappointed.”

Old Mo said awkwardly. “They did this to protect you...but if you don’t like it, I can go and reason with them now!”

Lin Xun quickly stopped him. “Don't, I’m just joking. Old Mo, don’t take it seriously.”

Old Mo still felt a little uncomfortable. He had absolutely no intention of taking Lin Xun's credit. "Xu Sanqi said that if you have any requests you can just tell him. He won't refuse."

This was the answer Lin Xun wanted most. He thought about it and said, "Old Mo, tell Instructor Xu Sanqi that I don't need anything. I just want a favor from him."

"Favor?" Old Mo looked surprised.

Lin Xun replied seriously, "Yes, a favor."

He didn't explain further, but Old Mo's eyes lit up with admiration like he had vaguely understood his intention. "Treasures are valuable, but favors are invaluable. Kid, you're very intelligent to see through this."

Lin Xun just smiled.

Xu Sanqi scrunched his eyebrows when he heard about Lin Xun's request. He was silent for a long while before he said coldly, "Tell that kid, a favor isn't a minor matter. I will only do favors within my powers and will not go against my heart or do any shady business."

Lin Xun smiled when he heard Xu Sanqi's response. As long as he agrees.

Old Mo couldn't help but ask, "What do you want?"

"I'm just preparing a retreat route for myself. I'm not entirely sure whether or not I will need to use the favor." Lin Xun leaned back on the chair, seeming deep in thought.

He thought of Xia Zhi. He thought of Mister Lu, who he didn't know was alive or dead. He thought about his purpose of coming to the Ziyao Empire.

Old Mo looked at Lin Xun and came to realize that the fourteen-year-old boy had many troubles and secrets that he didn't know about. *novel***nExt.coM**

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Early the next morning, Lin Xun returned to the 39th Campground.

The quarterly assessment had ended, and the camp had resumed the brutal, cruel, and abnormal training sessions.

When the morning training was over, a group of people marched to the 39th Campground in a mighty and aggressive manner, demanding to learn from Lin Xun. They wanted to see what kind of ability the student ranked first in the quarterly assessment had.

The group of people, which consisted of around a dozen people, came from different campgrounds, but they were clearly all extremely dissatisfied that Lin Xun got first place in the quarterly assessment.

The 39th Campground suddenly became very lively and noisy. Even students from the same campground as Lin Xun came to watch to see if Lin Xun would dare accept the challenges.

Lin Xun unhesitatingly refused. What a joke! You call this learning from each other? They clearly came to create trouble!

Chapter 143: Provocation

Under watchful eyes, no one expected Lin Xun to unhesitatingly refuse the challenges from the students of other campgrounds!

Isn't that too resolute?

Everyone was taken aback.

"What, are you scared? Or do you agree that you don't deserve the title of first place in the quarterly assessment?" someone sneered disdainfully.

"I didn't expect this. Lin Xun, I thought you were an extraordinary person. Who would have thought that you don't even dare to take the challenge? How disappointing."

"Lin Xun, if you don't want to fight, admit that you're not as good as the others in front of everyone and also that you're not qualified to be ranked first in the quarterly assessment!"

The students who came to challenge Lin Xun all started to mock and taunt him in different ways.

Even some students from the 39th Campground couldn't stand the harsh remarks, but Lin Xun remained calm and composed, which made many people at a loss for words.

Is that guy not even a little angry by the criticism and provocation?

However, regardless of the clamor and regardless of what the other students thought, Lin Xun seemed to have made up his mind to not fight.

In others' eyes, his unwavering refusal to accept the challenge was cowardly, and it would make the provokers even more audacious.

Ning Meng couldn't stand it anymore. He scrunched his brows and turned to ask Lin Xun, "How can you take it?"

Lin Xun said in surprise, "There isn't a rule in the camp that you have to agree to other people's requests for battle, isn't that right?"

Ning Meng was dumbstruck. "But...but don't you think it's humiliating?"

Lin Xun sighed, "How would I have time to play with them? Also, there's no benefit at all. Only an idiot would agree to their challenges."

Ning Meng stared at him blankly, "Don't you have any sense of shame? Or self-esteem?"

Lin Xun smiled. "What do you think?"

Ning Meng snapped, "How would I know what you're thinking?"

Lin Xun clasped his hands behind his back and said slowly, "Then don't interfere in the matter. Let them create a scene. The greater, the better."

A thought struck Ning Meng's mind. He sensed that Lin Xun had something planned. "Well, whatever you want. I'm not the one feeling embarrassed here."

On the other side, Shi Yu was watching with a smile. He whispered to Li Qiu beside him, "Have you ever seen Lin Xun suffer a loss?"

Li Qiu exclaimed in surprise, "I don't think so."

Li Qiu previously also felt a little frustrated that Lin Xun chose to retreat from the provocation of other campgrounds' students. He thought Lin Xun was too spineless and was not like a young cultivator.

However, after hearing what Shi Yu said, he realized that Lin Xun had indeed never suffered any losses.

With this in mind, Li Qiu's gaze slightly changed when he looked at Lin Xun again. Could that guy have something planned?

Gong Ming, Lei Xinyue, Ye Xiaoqi, and others were also watching in the distance. They wore different expressions but they all didn't say anything.

Qi Can and Mu Lengxin frowned at Lin Xun's action. That guy is making our 39th Campground lose face!

Quite a few students from the 39th Campground shared the same thought as Qi Can. They were all unhappy and ashamed of Lin Xun's actions.

Only Li Duxing turned around and left after watching for a while. It was as though such a lively scene couldn't capture his interest or attention.

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It was lunchtime. Instructor Xiaoke wasn't on the campground, so the lively scene didn't end quickly.

On the contrary, more and more students came to watch. Soon, an impenetrable crowd of people surrounded the front of the 39th Campground.

Most of the people assumed a disdainful expression and ridiculed Lin Xun when they saw him unwilling to accept the challenges. He's the first place in the quarterly assessment?

How humiliating!

Many people couldn't accept the fact that Lin Xun could be ranked first in the quarterly assessment. They were very suspicious of the ranking, finding it hard to believe that a nobody could suddenly beat Bai Lingxi, Zhao Yin, and others and achieved first place in the quarterly assessment.

Many people were convinced that Lin Xun had cheated!

It was because they had such a skeptical attitude that they became more and more suspicious that Lin Xun wasn't worthy of the first place title when they saw that he didn't dare to accept the challenges.

It was inevitable that they wanted to criticize and accuse Lin Xun.

A muscular youngster with a mole under his jaw shouted disdainfully, "Lin Xun, let me ask you one last time, do you dare to accept the challenge?"

The youngster was called Wang Wenyan and was from the 7th Campground. Among all the people present, he had the most arrogant attitude.

Only then did Lin Xun finally speak. He said with a smile, "Of course I dare to. Why wouldn't I? But if there isn't a wager, wouldn't the competition be a waste of time?"

Wang Wenyuan was taken aback. "What wager?"

Lin Xun said casually, "If you wager one thousand Lengning Pills, I'll immediately take on your challenge, what do you say?"

One thousand Lengning Pills!

It was equivalent to twenty thousand silver coins, which was an unimaginable amount of money.

Even in Blood Kill Camp, one thousand Lengning Pills was the equivalent of 3,000 points!

"Did you deliberately pretend to not want to fight? Who could afford such a huge bet?" Wang Wenyuan threw a tantrum.

The others also frowned. They thought that Lin Xun was finally going to accept the challenges but he suddenly made such a ridiculous request. What was the difference between his request and refusing to fight?

What did 3,000 points mean?

Li Duxing, who had the highest score in the 39th Campground, only had 1,800 points!

Many people thought that Lin Xun's request was a pretense of not wanting to fight, and so they grew even more contemptuous of Lin Xun.

"Do you dare to take the bet?" Lin Xun smiled faintly.

"This isn't about whether or not I dare to! Even if I use up all my points, I don't have enough to exchange for one thousand Lengning Pills!" Wang Wenyuan raged. "You are clearly doing this deliberately!"

Lin Xun looked at him like he was looking at an idiot. "You might not be able to do it alone but you can borrow from other people. I will happily accept your challenge when you acquire one thousand Lengning Pills!"

"Brother Wang, since that guy has said so, I'll give you one hundred Lengning Pills!" Someone stood forward with a cold smile.

"I'll give you fifty!"

"I'll give you eighty!"

Many people couldn't stand Lin Xun and stood forward to support Wang Wenyuan. They believed that Lin Xun didn't want to fight and so he made a shameless and ridiculous request.

In just seconds, Wang Wenyuan had acquired one thousand Lengning Pills. From this, it was obvious how much the people hated Lin Xun.

"Lin Xun, we have enough wager now, what else do you have to say?" Many people clamored and smiled coldly.

Shi Yu, Ning Meng, and Li Qiu all had strange expressions. How would they still not understand what Lin Xun had planned?

He wanted to milk them dry!

Qi Can, Mou Lengxin, and other students from the 39th Campground didn't have such realization. Even if they did vaguely see something, they didn't believe that was what Lin Xun wanted.

"I'm curious to see if he dares to agree to the fight under such circumstances," chuckled Qi Can.

"In that case, it will be too rude if I refuse again."

Lin Xun swept his gaze across the crowd and said to Wang Wenyuan with a smile, "You really want to challenge me?"

"Of course..."

Before Wang Wenyuan could answer, someone interrupted him, "Wenyuan, let me do it."

A slim young man stepped forward, his long hair was a glistening gray and his eyes were sharp as an eagle's. Many people's eyes were immediately drawn to him.

"It's Xiao Kun from the 7th Campground! I heard that he's ranked in the top three in the 7th Campground and is just below Bai Lingxi and Yin Rufeng."

"He's also a tough person. He's from the ancient Xiao Clan and is one of the most outstanding well-known figures of his generation. Look at his gray hair. He clearly has mastered the Xiao Clan's secret ancestral art Howling Wind Killing Fist!"

"Xiao Kun is really strong. I heard that he would be ranked first if he was in other campgrounds."

"Yes, there are too many strong people in the 7th Campground. Bai Lingxi is already a mountain that no one can surpass."

There was a long clamor of discussion, and the crowd went wild with excitement at the appearance of Xiao Kun.

Ning Meng, Shi Yu, and the others couldn't help but frown. They didn't expect that Lin Xun's opponent would change. They had also heard about Xiao Kun and knew that he was undeniably strong and wasn't inferior to any of them.

If Lin Xun battled against him, it was hard to tell what the outcome of the battle would be.

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes, sizing up Xiao Kun. Then, he suddenly said, "You can fight against me if you want, but you have to have another one thousand Lengning Pills."

Everyone almost couldn't believe what they heard. Is Lin Xun afraid?! He made an even more ridiculous request!

"Despicable!" Wang Wenyuan thundered.

Lin Xun said irritably, "You changed people just before the battle started, and I just made a little request. You think this is despicable?" nOvelnext.com

“You...”

Wang Wenyuan was about to say something when Xiao Kun interrupted him with a wave of his hand. Xiao Kun fixed his eagle-like eyes on Lin Xun and said, “Okay, I agree to your request.”

Lin Xun smiled. “So straightforward!”

Xiao Kun said indifferently, “I hope that, when you lose, you will voluntarily give up on the title first place in the quarterly assessment and admit that you don’t deserve that honor.”

The atmosphere distantly turned heavy and an austere mood pervaded the space. Many people were secretly happy and they couldn't wait to see Xiao Kun teach Lin Xun a good lesson.

Lin Xun just lightly nodded his head.

Then, the warm smile faded from his handsome and elegant face and calmness spread across his sharp, angular features.

In his body, mighty aeth power was being circulated like a dragon awakening from a long slumber in the depths of an abyss.

[Chapter 144: Howling Wind Killing Fist](#)

In the center of the campground, a large area was cleared for Lin Xun and Xiao Kun, who were already standing opposite each other.

Students from the 39th Campground as well as other campgrounds fixed their eyes on the two.

The atmosphere was as tense as the string of a bow that had been drawn back.

Many people had full confidence in Xiao Kun. He was at the ninth layer True Martial Stage and already had the opportunity to break through to the Spirit Dipper Stage a few years ago. Furthermore, he was from the ancient Xiao Clan and had mastered a secret ancestral cultivation art.

In contrast, most people likely wouldn’t have heard of Lin Xun if he hadn’t achieved first place in the quarterly assessment.

More and more people were convinced that Lin Xun had cheated to get first place in the quarterly assessment. After all, he was only at the eighth layer True Martial Stage and was from an ordinary background.

The battle between Xiao Kun and Lin Xun might be able to confirm the truth!

Hu—

As Xiao Kun stood proudly in the battlefield, a terrifying storm of aeth power swept over his body, whipping his gray hair about. A contemptuous look came to his sharp eagle-like eyes.

Many people’s expressions changed. What a powerful imposing bearing!

Even Shi Yu, Ning Meng, and the others couldn’t help but assume a solemn expression. Xiao Kun was worthy of his reputation based on his bearing alone.

"I already suppressed you based on cultivation level. So, for fairness, I will let you attack first." Xiao Kun said indifferently, his eyes flashing like lightning and his imposing aura soaring to the sky.

"Then, I'll take your offer." Lin Xun smiled. He slammed his toe into the ground and charged toward Xiao Kun like an arrow released from the bowstring.

Boom!

Lin Xun balled his hand into a fist and simply slammed it forward. It split the air and set off a torrent of terrifying lightning-like aeth power.

It was obvious when an expert made a move. The punch exhibited vast, boundless courage and spirit that seemed capable of swallowing even a giant abyss.

"Oh! it's the Tiger Roar Echoing in the Mountain Forest of the Marching Army Fist. But from the looks of it, Lin Xun has reached the Perfect Realm in this art!" someone exclaimed.

"Hmph, the Marching Army Fist is just a basic fist art but he dares to use it to deal with Xiao Kun. He's so arrogant," remarked someone disdainfully.

"You're quite adept, but this fist art won't be enough!" Xiao Kun said indifferently as he folded his fingertips inwards to form a drill-like fist. Then he swung his arm and fiercely blasted his fist forward.

Hu—

A storm of aeth power suddenly formed around his drill-like fist as it tore through the air and produced shrill ghost-like howling.

Howling Wind Killing Fist—Storm Kill!

Many people's eyes widened with astonishment. It was the Xiao Clan's ancestral secret art: a unique but terrifying fist art. The fist howled like wind and destroyed the universe!

Storm Kill was akin to a storm gathering in a fist. The power it contained was unimaginably tyrannical.

Rumble—

The two fists collided, producing a deafening boom. Wind beated and whirled up sand and gravel within dozens of feet. A huge cloud of dust rose into the air.

Lin Xun drew back three steps, narrowing his eyes. This guy isn't ordinary! Caught off guard, Lin Xun almost suffered a loss from the killing fist attack.

"If you only have this little strength, you better admit defeat soon." Xiao Kun's figure was like a spear in the distance, exuding a threatening, fierce self-confidence.

Many people burst into cheers and applause. He was blasted away with one punch. With his skills, how can he be first in the quarterly assessment?

He must have cheated in the quarterly assessment!

Ning Meng and Shi Yu both frowned with worry. Based on that attack alone, Lin Xun indeed seemed weaker than Xiao Kun.

Qi Can, Mou Lengxin, and others were conflicted. If Lin Xun lost the battle, not only Lin Xun would lose face, but the reputation of the 39th Campground would be affected. They didn't want that to happen.

If Lin Xun won, they also wouldn't be happy. It couldn't be helped. They still had a deep grudge against Lin Xun.

Therefore, it was inevitable that they felt conflicted about the battle.

"The battle has only just started yet you are already so confident. It won't look good if you lose." Lin Xun drew a deep breath and chuckled.

"Is that right? I look forward to defeating you. Unfortunately, I don't see any hope in you." Xiao Kun said indifferently.

Boom!

Lin Xun no longer wasted time in saying anything. He just charged forward and he was still performing the Marching Army Fist. His moves were grand, simple, and direct.

It was a basic fist art that everyone was familiar with, but in Lin Xun's hand, it seemed capable of swallowing mountains and rivers and destroying everything in the way.

However, Xiao Kun wasn't inferior in the slightest, and perhaps, he was even more eye-catching than Lin Xun. The power of his Howling Wind Killing Fist was extremely sharp and had a terrifying tearing force. It was like a storm wreaking havoc and it was superior to the Marching Army Fist in both power and technique.

Rumble—

The two were locked in a fierce battle. Fists howled and whistled and shook the surroundings like lightning. Rock fragments rolled and swept everywhere and it was dark all around.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, it was obvious that Lin Xun was weaker and was faintly slowly showing signs of being suppressed. But strangely, Xiao Kun still couldn't defeat Lin Xun.

Many people were puzzled. Lin Xun was only at the eighth layer True Martial Stage yet he could last until now in a battle against Xiao Kun. It was very unusual.

Most importantly, Lin Xun had only used the Marching Army Fist, a widely known basic fist art in the empire. Yet, in Lin Xun's hand, the fist art had such astonishing effects against Xiao Kin's Howling Wind Killing Fist.

If Lin Xun was at the ninth layer True Martial Stage and possessed a fist art comparable to the Howling Wind Killing Fist, would the battle change?

It was hard to imagine.

As the battle progressed, the students from other campgrounds also sharply sensed the strange battle situation and couldn't help but frown.

Why is it like this?

How could someone like Xiao Kun not be able to do anything to a guy at the eighth layer True Martial Stage?

Is he holding back his strength?

Boom!

Suddenly, Xiao Kun snorted coldly and his body sprang up like a dragon. A dazzling vortex of lightning spun around his fist as he brought it down!

Howling Wind Killing Fist— Lightning Kill!

It was as though a dazzling bolt of lightning was striking down from the sky. The bright light blinded many people's eyes.

This was the ultimate move of the Howling Wind Killing Fist. Xiao Kun had clearly acknowledged Lin Xun's tenacity and strength since he was forced to resort to this move. He didn't dare to hold back his strength anymore.

Almost at the same time, Lin Xun's dark eyes flashed a resolute glint and his body was shrouded in rioting aeth power. They were like torrents of water circulating around his body.

Unexpectedly, he didn't retreat but stepped forward to meet the attack head-on!

He was still using the Marching Army Fist Art!

Boom!

An earthshaking explosion rang out. Lin Xun reeled back a dozen steps. His hair was in disarray and he looked but he seemed unwounded.

Xiao Kun had to retreat a few steps before he could steady his body. His expression changed when he looked at Lin Xun again.

He didn't expect Lin Xun to be more tenacious than he had imagined. His ultimate move could have defeated any other eighth layer True Martial cultivator.

However, Lin Xun only drew back a dozen steps and didn't seem injured at all!

Gasps of exclamations broke out from the onlookers. They found it hard to believe that Lin Xun could have blocked that attack.

The exclamations made Xiao Kun look a little annoyed. He was at the pinnacle ninth layer True Martial Stage and he had performed his ancestral art—Howling Wind Killing Fist yet he still failed to defeat a guy at the eighth layer True Martial Stage. It was a huge humiliation to him.

"What, have you lost your confidence? Thinking about what you said just now, it is indeed ironic." Lin Xun chuckled, his brows sharp as blades and his dark eyes flashed like lightning. His words were full of mockery.

"Hmph!"

Xiao Kun snorted coldly. The imposing aura around him intensified as he lifted his head and roared skywards. A terrifying gale surged around him and murderous rage filled him.

He was like a storm while his fist was the eye of the storm. The shrill howling felt like a blade in everyone's ear. Many people became fretful and confused and almost unable to bear the force.

Rumble—

The two clashed again.

The battle had undoubtedly become more intense, dangerous, and ruthless. It was no different from a real battle.

Xiao Kun's bearing was incomparably imposing but Lin Xun was not inferior in any respect. He wasn't suppressed and always narrowly evaded Xiao Kun's ultimate killing moves.

Many onlookers' expressions changed once again. No one thought that Lin Xun would be so tenacious and strong.

The only thing that perhaps they felt glad about was that Lin Xun's present strength indeed wasn't worthy of first place in the quarterly assessment!

If Xiao Kun doesn't defeat Lin Xun soon, he will likely be defeated soon.

Unless a miracle happens!

But is that possible?

"Can Lin Xun reverse the situation?" Both Shi Yu and Ning Meng weren't sure. *NOVELnext.com*

If Lin Xun couldn't even beat Xiao Kun, he wouldn't be worthy of competing with Bai Lingxi, Zhao Yin, and other fierce people. It also indirectly proved that he wasn't worthy of first place in the quarterly assessment. As a consequence, Lin Xun would become ridiculed in the entire Blood Kill Camp.

That would be the worst result!

Clang!

Lin Xun suddenly drew the Jade Wave Blade and switched to a blade art, which immediately drew the attention of everyone.

However, in their eyes, Lin Xun's move was a sign that he was forced to a dead end and had to change his fighting style.

Many people's spirits were lifted.

Xiao Kun was no exception. He smiled coldly and turned his hand over. A short black spear appeared in his grip. He charged to meet Lin Xun head-on.

"Lin Xun, your struggle is futile. I advise you to admit defeat immediately, and perhaps you can save a little face!"

Xiao Kun roared, his voice quaking the world. As he clasped his spear, his figure was like a bolt of lightning and his gray hair danced wildly in the air. He simply resembled an invincible god.

[Chapter 145: Lingxi of the Bai Clan](#)

Boom!

Gripping his spear, Xiao Kun charged forward in an incomparably mighty manner. In his hand, the short black spear was akin to a swift bolt of black lightning, releasing terrifying power.

Many people were astonished. It was another top unique art, the Eagle Spear Art. Once activated, it was akin to an eagle soaring in the sky and had the power to tear apart the world.

However, Lin Xun didn't show a tinge of fear even under such an attack. The Rippling Jade Blade emitted a blinding glow as Lin Xun operated the Six Word Blade to its full majesty.

Sometimes it was wilful and unrestrained like a rain shower and strong gale. Sometimes it was gentle like a gurgling stream. Sometimes it could destroy everything in its way like a raging wave. Sometimes it froze the space over thousands of miles like snow engulfing everything.

It was changeable, formless, and unpredictable!

Compared to the battle of fists, the blade and spear showdown between Lin Xun and Xiao Kun was even more intense and fierce. One was graceful and swift and could both attack and defend, while the other was full of heart-shaking power.

The battle could be considered an extremely rare duel between cultivators in the True Martial Stage. Xiao Kun was a young talent and both his Howling Wind Killing Fist and Eagle Spear Art were secret ancestral arts with extremely destructive power.

In the past, Lin Xun might not have shown his true skills and had even been accused of cheating and criticized for being first in the quarterly assessment; however, the fact that he was on par with Xiao Kun despite being only at the eighth layer True Martial Stage surprised many people.

Bang!

The deafening collision sound was similar to two mountains clashing. It constantly generated terrifying shock waves of aeth power, forcing the nearby students to draw back again and again.

However, they were most shocked that Xiao Kun still hadn't defeated Lin Xun. Furthermore, Lin Xun was gradually turning the situation around and the battle seemed to be evenly matched!

Many students from other campgrounds realized that Lin Xun wasn't as ordinary as they had thought.

On the other hand, the 39th Campground students' expressions turned complicated.

Around a month ago, on the first day that Lin Xun broke through to the eighth layer True Martial Stage, he had defeated Wen Mingxiu, who had an outstanding score in the camp.

As time passed, Lin Xun grew stronger and stronger, and his score in the camp subsequently improved. He was already among the top scorers just before the quarterly assessment. No one knew what sort of level Lin Xun's strength had increased to.

Despite this, the vast majority of people still couldn't imagine how Lin Xun could have taken first place in the quarterly assessment!

It was like an unbelievable miracle, and it made many people suspicious of Lin Xun and believe that he had cheated.

Only when they saw that Lin Xun was evenly matched with Xiao Kun did they finally realize that Lin Xun had indeed become different from before!

The strength that he had shown was enough to compete with Ning Meng, Shi Yu, Qi Can, and Gong Ming!

"That guy improves so quickly. Perhaps it was a mistake to become his enemy..." muttered Mu Lengxin with a complicated expression.

"Oh, you think I'm wrong?" Qi Can's face darkened as he shot a cold glance at him.

"No, I'm just lamenting." Mu Lengxin hurriedly shook his head.

"Hmph, remember that guy is vindictive and we are like fire and water. So, don't think otherwise." Qi Can clearly warned.

Mu Leng fell silent.

"I didn't expect him to have grown so much stronger since last month's assessment." Lei Xinyue frowned as she felt an oppressive pressure from Lin Xun.

"He is originally very strong and his blade art is very unique. It is a true killing art. It is a pity that he is only at the True Martial Stage and can't display the blade art to its full ability."

Ye Xiaoqi narrowed his small eyes and a serious look crossed his chubby face. "I had fought against him in last month's assessment. It was also the first time that I saw a blade art comparable to my Ye Family's Embroidery Soul Blade Art. If there's an opportunity, I really want to fight him again to see whose blade art is stronger."

The other students, including Lei Xinyue and Di Jun, all felt a chill in their hearts. They didn't expect Ye Xiaoqi to regard Lin Xun so highly.

"He is indeed very powerful."

Gong Ming, who hadn't uttered a word, suddenly said aloud. "I have had a true battle with him. He was weaker than me at the time but his courage and fighting spirit are extremely strong. Even I was under great pressure then. Otherwise, our 40th Campground wouldn't have lost."

Gong Ming was one of the strongest in the 40th Campground so everyone was speechless when they heard his appraisal of Lin Xun. Their emotions tumbled like waves.

"Ugh, it's so infuriating to watch." Ning Meng fumed.

"Haha, I feel that, after this battle, everyone will realize that Lin Xun truly deserves his reputation." Shi Yu softly smiled, looking relaxed and leisurely.

“What do you mean?” Ning Meng said with a deep frown, “If he can’t beat Xiao Kun, who would believe that he actually won first place in the quarterly assessment?”

“Do you use your brain before you speak?” Shi Yu sneered. “Which one of us wasn’t fully equipped with aeth tools and armaments for the quarterly assessment? If the assessment was based on pure combat strength, who would have the confidence to kill a brute warrior?”

After a pause, he continued, “Smart people would have realized this. If Lin Xun had cheated, do you think the instructors in the camp couldn't tell?”

Ning Meng frowned. “But this battle with Xiao Kun is too infuriating. I would have beaten that guy till he begged for mercy if I was on the battlefield instead!”

Shi Yu said, “Regardless of what the outcome of the battle is, Xiao Kun can’t stop Lin Xun from rapidly improving.”

Ning Meng nodded.

They both knew that Lin Xun only lacked time.

When Lin Xun broke through to the ninth layer True Martial stage, he wouldn’t be inferior to any of the other top students, let alone Xiao Kun!

He had tremendous potential.

Xiao Kun had reached the pinnacle of the ninth layer True Martial Stage and held secret ancestral arts yet he still failed to suppress Lin Xun. Even if he won the battle in the end, it would be humiliating for him.

Anyone with a little intelligence would see this.

.....

The battle continued, and after the time it took to make a cup of tea, Xiao Kun was burning with anger. His face grew more and more overcast. He also knew that it was humiliating that he couldn’t defeat Lin Xun who was only at the eighth layer True Martial Stage.

Xiao Kun had thought that he could easily defeat Lin Xun with his higher cultivation level. He thought he could win even by wearing down Lin Xun. Who would have thought that...

Lin Xun still hasn’t shown any signs of weakness!

How is that possible?

Don’t tell me he already possesses strength beyond the ninth layer True Martial despite only being at the eighth layer True Martial?

As the battle progressed, Xiao Kun was most terrified when he sensed that Lin Xun not only had abundant aeth power, but it also was pure and strong and of a much higher grade than his!

Otherwise, Xiao Kun could have easily suppressed Lin Xun with just his absolute strength and wouldn’t need to activate any unique or secret arts!

It was unbelievable that an eighth layer True Martial student had such a solid cultivation foundation and high-grade aeth power.

At this point of the battle, Xiao Kun began to panic. How would the battle turn out if Lin Xun was at the ninth layer True Martial Stage?

He didn't dare to imagine!

.....

The atmosphere gradually changed, and many people realized that Xiao Kun was in a troubling situation.

On the contrary, Lin Xun, who they had doubted, showed astonishing tenacious power as the battle progressed.

Many people found it hard to accept the situation.

Suddenly, an indifferent and ethereal voice resounded across the battlefield—

“There is no need to continue the battle, Xiao Kun, you can step down.”

As the voice echoed, everyone's vision blurred before a graceful figure emerged on the battlefield.

Shua!

A beautiful, fair hand gently gripped Xiao Kun's black spear and with a slight flick, Xiao Kun was uncontrollably sent flying.

At the same time, Lin Xun felt his blade had frozen and a terrifying force pulled him to one side.

Who is it?

Xiao Kun and Lin Xun were both startled. They immediately cast their gaze to the beautiful figure that suddenly appeared on the battlefield.

Everyone else also subconsciously shifted their gaze that way.

It was a girl around 14 to 15 year of age. Her long black hair flowed down her slender back and waist like a waterfall. Her beautiful brows curved like the crescent moon and her nose was perfectly straight. Her lips were soft and smooth like a ripe cherry and her fair, oval face looked ethereal and delicate.

Standing casually, she exuded an unworldly, graceful and pure aura. She was a celestial beauty superior to all mortal beings.

Bai Lingxi!

Her name immediately emerged In everyone's mind. Everyone felt surprised and ashamed.

It was as though they weren't facing a young girl but an ethereal fairy untainted by a speck of dust. The atmosphere was still for a rare moment.

Xiao Kun was originally annoyed that the battle was interrupted but his anger immediately dissipated when he saw it was Bai Lingxi. A tinge of bitterness remained on his face.

Lin Xun couldn't help but frown when Bai Lingxi appeared. He had seen Xia Zhi's incomparably stunning beauty so Bai Lingxi's ethereal beauty didn't elicit much of a reaction from him.

"Miss, do you know that our honor is on the line in this battle? What you have done is too much." Lin Xun said rudely with a serious frown.

Many people's expressions turned strange. What honor? Aren't you fighting for the 2,000 Lengning Pills?

Also, the battle hasn't ended and Xiao Kun might not lose. That guy is too arrogant!

The onlookers were most infuriated by what Lin Xun said to Bai Lingxi. They felt that Lin Xun didn't have any gentlemanly manners and that he was disrespecting Bai Lingxi!

[Chapter 146: Selecting a Reward](#)

Bai Lingxi was not only very beautiful and graceful but she was also remarkable at cultivation. In addition, she possessed the extremely rare innate talent Eternal Shining Stars.

Furthermore, she was the eldest granddaughter of Marquis Jinghai and came from a very prestigious family. Based on her background, it wasn't an exaggeration to say she was the pride of heaven.

Many people adored and admired Bai Lingxi in Blood Kill Camp, and many equally outstanding young masters had been trying to win her heart.

No one dared to be disrespectful to a goddess-like maiden.

However, Lin Xun questioned Bai Lingxi and criticized her for meddling in their business. This angered many people and they thought he was treating Bai Lingxi with disrespect.

Even Shi Yu's gaze turned strange and he muttered to himself. He's poking a hornet's nest!

Why do they say that beauty can lead to disasters?

Because a beautiful woman always receives endless love and pursuit, and that comes with all sorts of troubles.

Someone couldn't help but thunder, "How dare you!"

"Your rudeness is unbearable. Hurry up and apologize to Miss Lingxi or I won't spare you!"

Many people followed his example and shouted at Lin Xun like they were Bai Lingxi's guardians.

Lin Xun turned a deaf ear to all the yelling. He felt indignant that he was so close to defeating Xiao Kun but Bai Lingxi suddenly appeared and ruined everything. It would be more strange if he was in a good mood.

As for the furious clamor from the people around him, he just treated it as dogs barking.

However, to everyone's surprise, Bai Lingxi didn't show a tinge of anger from Lin Xun's questioning. She simply said indifferently, "You won. I will tell Xiao Kun to give you the Lengning Pills he lost."

Xiao Kun was stupefied and a little reluctant to do so. But when his eyes came into contact with Bai Lingxi's ethereal and calm eyes, he suppressed himself from saying anything.

Bai Lingxi's action won praise and applause from many people. What does gracious beauty mean?

This is exactly what it is!

In comparison, Lin Xun's face is extremely ugly!

Lin Xun didn't feel the same way as the other people. Although Bai Lingxi's decision surprised him, he still said with a deep frown, "Besides this, that guy also owes me one thousand Lengning Pills." He pointed to Wang Wenyuan.

Wang Wenyuan's face darkened. This guy is pushing his luck. Does he really think he won?

Bai Lingxi nodded. "He will also give them to you."

Surprised, Lin Xun said with a smile, "Oh, not bad. You are a nice girl who can distinguish between right and wrong. I misunderstood you. Please don't take it to heart."

Everyone felt stifled anger. He is so arrogant! Many people almost couldn't stop themselves from charging forward to beat up Lin Xun.

However, Bai Lingxi still had an unworldly elegance as she suddenly looked at Lin Xun and said, "I will personally challenge you when you break through to the ninth layer True Martial Stage."

Before Lin Xun agreed, she turned around and gracefully left.

Lin Xun sighed inwardly. As I thought, that girl isn't easy to deceive. By appearing at such a time, she not only saved Xiao Kun's face but also won many hearts. Then, she threw a challenge at me and made me have to agree.

However, Lin Xun wasn't afraid. Bai Lingxi might possess unimaginably terrifying strength but I believe that I won't be inferior to her when I reach the ninth layer True Martial Stage!

.....

Uproar broke out.

Who would have thought that Bai Lingxi would suddenly appear and end the battle between Lin Xun and Xiao Kun.

Xiao Kun lost?

No.

It was just that Bai Lingxi declared the outcome of the battle. Perhaps not everyone was convinced of the result and accepted it, but since Xiao Kun didn't say anything, they had no choice but to agree.

However, uproar and commotion broke out when Bai Lingxi issued Lin Xun a formal challenge. It was a huge surprise to everyone.

Something like this rarely happened!

Some people thought that Bai Lingxi did that to help Xiao Kun regain face and to quell Lin Xun's arrogance.

Other people thought that Bai Lingxi believed that she could have a fair fight with Lin Xun then and she did that because Lin Xun had been incredibly rude and disrespectful to her.

However, although there were many speculations about the reason for her action, many people were full of anticipation about that day. They couldn't wait to see Bai Lingxi trample the clown Lin Xun.

.....

Soon, the battle between Lin Xun and Xiao Kun had spread throughout the entire Blood Kill Camp. Although Xiao Kun had lost, many people thought otherwise.

After all, no one was sure who would win if Bai Lingxi hadn't interfered.

However, Lin Xun's tenacity and strength still attracted a lot of attention. It was very unusual for a youngster at the eight layer True Martial Stage to be evenly matched with a top figure like Xiao Kun.

For this reason, fewer people questioned whether Lin Xun deserved first place in the quarterly assessment.

In other words, the battle with Xiao Kun had resolved a lot of the criticism and skeptical remarks that Lin Xun had been receiving.

Bai Lingxi's battle challenge to Lin Xun also gathered a lot of attention. Given her identity and background, many people couldn't help but speculate what her purpose was for doing so.

Regardless of how the outside world was discussing the matter, at least, Lin Xun had become a celebrity figure in the 39th Campground. Some people detested him, some were jealous, some were envious, and some admired him.

After all, Lin Xun was no doubt the most well-known student in the 39th Campground!*NovelNext.com*

.....

Shortly after the battle ended, Lin Xun was summoned. He left the 39th Campground and Xu Sanqi guided him to a mysterious sealed underground space.

The area wasn't particularly huge but the walls were all embedded with luminous moonlight stones and rows of jade stone shelves adorned the area. They were stored with various books, medicinal pills, aeth tools, aeth ingredients and rare treasures. The place turned out to be a treasure trove!

"There are medicinal pills, cultivation arts, aeth tools, and various items that aid cultivation. Putting aside their value, they are still high-quality treasures rarely seen in the world. You came first in the quarterly assessment so you get to choose one."

Xu Sanqi spoke in his usual concise and blunt manner.

Lin Xun nodded, stepped forward, and carefully examined the items. The many cultivation arts caught his eyes first.

Jade Spirit Art, Violet Sky Art, Invincible Blood Spirit Art, Lightning Astral Battle Art, Spirit Refining Void Art...Each one was mysterious and profound and indeed couldn't be bought on the market in the outside world.

Lin Xun flipped through each one. After a short moment, he shook his head. They were indeed top cultivation arts but were a little underwhelming compared to the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture.

Then, Lin Xun examined the bottles of pills. Will Shaping Azure Spirit Pill, Seven Apertures Pill, Nine Precious Snow Ginseng Pill, Violet-Blue Jade Heaven Pill.

During the process, Xu Sanqi quietly watched without saying a word.

However, when he saw Lin Xun scan the various pills and then shift his gaze to the rune materials, he couldn't help but frown. "Lin Xun, sometimes when there are too many choices, you should choose what is most suitable for yourself and not the most valuable."

"I understand."

He continued to check out the items until he examined everything in the treasure trove. In the end, he couldn't choose anything.

"What exactly do you want?" Xu Sanqi's voice was cold like he was annoyed by Lin Xun's actions.

Lin Xun turned his head around and said to Xu Sanqi with a smile, "Instructor Xu, I have heard from Old Mo that your rune armament Wolf Fang Moon is damaged and you have been able to repair it for years. I have heard the specific details from Old Mo. It actually isn't difficult to repair."

Xu Sanqi's heart fluttered. He fixed his razor-sharp eyes on Lin Xun, confirming the truthfulness of his words.

Other people would have frozen when they made contact with Xu Sanqi's gaze but Lin Xun acted as if it was nothing. With a smile, he pointed to some rune materials in the treasure. "I just had a look at the treasures and I happened to notice that some of them are key to repairing the Wolf Fang Moon. However, you are still missing another three."

Xu Sanqi couldn't help but ask, "Which three?"

Lin Xun casually said, "The vine heart of the thousand-year-old ghost-eyed vine, the fangs of the abyss demon wolf, and a bottle of blood-gold spirit spring water, which can only be found in the earth's core."

Xu Sanqi narrowed his eyes slightly. He had also heard of those three rune materials but they were all treasures rarely seen on the market.

Even with his power, he wouldn't be able to acquire them in a short time.

After a long silence, Xu Sanqi asked, "Are you absolutely sure that the Wolf Fang Moon can be completely repaired if those three materials are found?"

"I am only offering some of my thoughts. I believe Old Mo can definitely do it though." Lin Xun said seriously.

Xu Sanqi fell silent again. It seemed that this matter had a huge impact on him and he had to think about it carefully.

After a moment, Xu Sanqi said expressionlessly, "I see. Choose your reward first."

Lin Xun smiled and casually brought out a bottle that was labeled with Violet-Blue Jade Heaven Pill. "I've already chosen it. This is it."

Xu Sanqi didn't say anything else. He just turned around and left with Lin Xun.

Although he didn't respond much to Lin Xun's words, Lin Xun knew that if Xu Sanqi really regarded the Wolf Fang Moon as his life, as Old Mo had said, he wouldn't ignore his suggestion.

.....

That night, when Lin Xun returned to Old Mo's warehouse, he received a total of two thousand Lengning Pills which were worth forty thousand silver coins or two hundred gold coins.

Even in Blood Kill Camp, that number of Lengning Pills could only be exchanged with 6,000 points.

It was obvious that Xiao Kun, Wang Wenyuan, and other students who came to provoke Lin Xun had to pay a huge price.

Leaning back on a chair, Lin Xun fell into deep thought. "A bottle of Violet-Blue Jade Heaven Pill and two thousand Lengning Pills should be enough to help me break through to the ninth layer True Martial Stage, right?"

[Chapter 147: Changes with Treasure Box](#)

Lin Xun sat cross-legged as a road map of the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture emerged clearly in his mind.

After confirming that there were no mistakes, Lin Xun consumed ten Lengning Pills in one mouthful. He held his breath in concentration and began training.

This was his first time practicing this art so he didn't dare to be careless or negligent.

Very soon, Lin Xun's body started to quiver and the aeth power in his body felt like a volcano erupting. Dragged by an overbearing and terrifying devouring force, it roamed around his body along a unique circulation route.

Rumble!

The surging aeth power was akin to raging waves as it endlessly circulated around his body along the meridians and acupuncture points. The power in every inch of his muscle, bone, blood and flesh felt awakened as it constantly pulsed around his body.

Inside his body was aeth power galloping like a wild horse that had broken loose from its reins and roaring like a giant dragon.

Outside his body was qi, erupting like molten lava and resonating with every inch of his muscle, vein, bone, and blood in a unique way.

At that moment, every part of Lin Xun's body, inside and outside, was completely activated and was undergoing a new method of cultivation.

From afar, his body resembled a huge abyss. Terrifying storms were surging on the inside and the outside was frantically devouring energy from all sides!

This was the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture, a rare art that involved both body tempering and qi tempering. It was a mysterious and domineering art that Lin Xun had received from the Omega Secret Realm.

In less than the time it took to make a cup of tea, Lin Xun could feel that the power of the ten Lengning Pills he had consumed had been completely used up. He wasn't even close to halfway through his training!

Previously, he at most used up ten Lengning Pills in one night of training, but the power refined and absorbed from those pills was far from enough to practice the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture.

Without any hesitation, Lin Xun swallowed another ten Lengning Pills.

Rumble!

Both inside and outside his body, power was surging like a great river, bubbling like a volcano erupting. Lin Xun felt his body ache all over, and he almost couldn't withstand the impact of the power.

His body felt like a twisted steel bar and every inch of his skin, muscles, and bones were under constant tempering. If he hadn't trained his body to an extremely strong state, he likely wouldn't be able to bear such a unique cultivation method.

This was the power of the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture. It was domineering and mysterious. It transformed the inside of a body into a furnace and swallowed energy from the outside world. It was completely different from orthodox cultivation methods.

Before long, Lin Xun had already used up the second batch of Lengning Pills and he had to swallow another ten.

Fortunately, he had won two thousand Lengning Pills from his duel with Xiao Kun. Otherwise, the usual amount of ten Lengning Pills that he previously consumed every day wouldn't be near enough to support his training.

As time passed, a layer of mist began to cloak his body, a phenomenon only seen when a cultivator had practiced an art to the ultimate state.

The phenomenon lasted the entire time it took for an incense stick to burn. Lin Xun's eyes suddenly snapped open and the surging aura gradually came to a still around him.

Hu—

He exhaled a stream of arrow-like qi. Faintly, it produced a thunderstorm-like noise and split the air.

“This cultivation art is really marvelous beyond imagination, but it’s a little too domineering...” marveled Lin Xun as he felt the body of qi around him.

He knew very well that he wouldn’t be able to bear such a domineering way of cultivation if his body hadn’t grown stronger.

However, although the cultivation art was extremely domineering, its result was evident. Lin Xun could clearly sense that his aeth power grade had risen once again despite little changes to his cultivation level.

Bright, translucent and sparkling, the wisps of aeth power in his body were like amber flashing glints of azure.

It was a sign that his aeth power was even stronger and more terrifying!

Lin Xun finally realized that not only did the four aeth power vortexes in his four heart acupuncture points helped temper his aeth power, but the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture also had an unbelievable effect at tempering aeth power.

This was no doubt an exciting discovery. At least, it proved that the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture was superior to the Yuan Holding Art that he previously practiced.

The only thing that troubled Lin Xun was that the cultivation of the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture consumed too many medicinal pills. He already required more aeth power supplements compared to his peers due to the four aeth power vortexes in his body. But now, the daily practice of the Mystery Grotto Devour Wilderness Scripture required the consumption of at least thirty Lengning Pills.

That amount of Lengning Pills equaled six hundred silver coins!

In other words, if Lin Xun continued to practice in such a way, he would have to spend at least six hundred silver coins every day. It was an unimaginably enormous amount. Even people from wealthy backgrounds would find it difficult to afford such spending in the long term.

“When I leave Blood Kill Camp, my priority will be to make money!”

Lin Xun made a decision.

.....

His days in Blood Kill Camp went back to his old usual routine. He did nothing else besides training. The days were fulfilling but very dull.

Ten days passed by in the blink of an eye.

The students were all notified that, in half a month, everyone from the eight campgrounds in Blood Kill Camp would set off and participate in an assessment—battlefield training!

The battlefield was a real battlefield on the northern frontier of the empire. It was known as the Demon Cloud Ridge and many magi brute warriors were distributed throughout its depths.

The assessment involved entering the northern frontier of the empire and participating in the war in Demon Cloud Ridge as ordinary empire soldiers!

The more military merit a student earned, the higher their assessment score. Those with low military merit would be at risk of being eliminated.

The battlefield training was a real-life and death situation. Every student would be in danger of losing their life.

Some people looked forward to the assessment but the majority was afraid. Even if the training sessions in the camp were pervertedly brutal, there was no life threatening danger.

It was a different situation on the battlefield. People could lose their lives with the slightest carelessness.

Lin Xun also received the notice of the assessment. He didn't think much about it, but he wouldn't lower his guard. He maintained a very steady state of mind.

That night, Lin Xun was practicing when Xiaoke suddenly came and took him away.

When he arrived at the central campground, he saw that not only was Xu Sanqi present, but Old Mo was also there. *NOVELnext.cOm*

Could it be that it's time to repair Wolf Fang Moon? A thought struck Lin Xun's mind.

More than ten days ago, he had mentioned the matter to Xu Sanqi, but he wasn't sure when Xu Sanqi would come to ask him for help.

Lin Xun had guessed wrong. Xu Sanqi pointed to the table and said, "Is this your storage ring?"

Lin Xun looked up and saw a black storage ring on the table. It was indeed his. He nodded and said, "Yes, that's correct."

Suddenly, Old Mo said anxiously, "Lin Xun, what the hell is hidden in your storage ring? Why would it release such strange powers?"

Lin Xun looked bewildered. He couldn't help but step forward and carefully examine the storage ring. Sure enough, he sensed wisps of cryptic and violent power seeping out from the storage ring. It appeared extremely weak but it had a terrifying oppressive effect on one's spirit.

Lin Xun's eyes widened in shock. "Old Mo, when did this start?"

"Just now." Xu Sanqi frowned. "Don't you know what's inside your own stuff?"

Old Mo and Xiaoke stared at Lin Xun, which made him look even more baffled. He could only recall that the Skybreaker Blade, a rune brush, and some gold coins and aeth materials were housed inside the storage ring. There weren't any strange items besides those.

"Why don't I open it and take a look?" asked Lin Xun.

Xu Sanqi exchanged a glance with Old Mo before he said, "Alright but be careful."

Lin Xun nodded. He stepped forward and gently brushed his finger across the storage ring. He immediately figured out the source of the wave of cryptic and violent energy!

It was from a bronze box with an ancient and old-fashioned exterior. The four corners were each marked with a different pattern: clouds, mountains, strange beasts, and the sun and moon. The box was covered with many mysterious runes and each one released strange and chilling energies.

The power of rune restriction!

However, the rune restrictions around the bronze box appeared damaged and the bronze box was on the verge of shattering as if the power sealed inside couldn't be suppressed much longer.

Lin Xun remembered that he obtained the bronze box after he killed Liu Yukun. A Golden Flame Beast was chasing Liu Yukun in the Great Three Thousand Mountains but because of some changes, Lin Xun had to kill him.

Liu Yukun was the son of Liu Wujun, the southwest province governor of the empire, and so Lin Xun decided to destroy all Liu Yukun's items to avoid retaliation. All except the bronze box.

Lin Xun had previously attempted to open the box but he gave up when he saw the rune restrictions around it.

He couldn't figure out the secret to the rune restrictions. Even a rune master would feel at a loss on what to do.

However, Lin Xun had never expected the bronze box to undergo such a change. Could it be that the treasure concealed inside is about to break the seal?

Seeing the bewildered look on Lin Xun's face, Old Mo couldn't help asking, "What is inside it?"

"It's just a bronze box of unknown origin."

Lin Xun was taking the box out from the storage ring when it underwent a strange change upon contact with the air!

The bronze box exploded with a loud boom and a blinding shaft of fiery light shot out, striking Lin Xun in the chest.

Lin Xun couldn't react in time. He just felt like a mountain was slamming into his body and pain shooting throughout his body. The recoil blasted him uncontrollably across the air.

[Chapter 148: Jiujiu Chirps](#)

The intense pain shot through Lin Xun's body and it made him feel as though everything had darkened before him. He almost lost consciousness and he couldn't help but inhale sharply.

"Chirp chirp—" A soft baby voice sounded.

Lin Xun lowered his head, and to his surprise, it was a little monster who slammed into his chest!

Its body was glowing with a fiery golden light. Its eyes, nose, and ears were all round. Even its body was as round as a ball.

It had only facial features and no neck or limbs. The only word it could be described with was—round.

At that moment, its crystal clear black eyes were staring curiously at Lin Xun as it made chirping noises from its little round mouth.

Lin Xun's eyes widened. What the heck is that?

Who could imagine that a little thing was sealed inside the mysterious bronze box?

"That's—"

Xu Sanqi, Old Mo, and Xiaoke also gathered around and stared at the little monster in bewilderment. Clearly, they also didn't think that such a tiny thing was the one releasing cryptic waves of energy inside the bronze box.

"It seems to have a similar aura to the Golden Flame Beast but its appearance is completely different. Look at its shape and the flowing golden light around it. It's so beautiful." Old Mo marveled.

"There doesn't seem to be a beast like it recorded in the All-Beast Record. It's really strange." Xu Sanqi frowned. He sharply sensed a violent and chilling aura coming from the little monster. He found it very unusual.

"Lin Xun, do you know about its background?" Xiaoke raised her eyes and looked at Lin Xun.

Lin Xun rubbed his sore chest and said with a grimace, "I only know that the bronze box came from a Golden Flame Beast. But I didn't know that little thing was sealed in the box."

The little thing seemed to think that Lin Xun was talking to it and so it chirped happily again.

Then, its soft and round body bounced up and it curled up in Lin Xun's arms. It looked comfortable and relaxed like a child snuggling up to his mother.

Lin Xun couldn't help but stroke the little thing. It felt soft, elastic, and very comfortable as if his hand was sunk into a cotton ball.

The little thing chirped again and seemed to really enjoy Lin Xun's caress.

Fortunately, the dangerous aura around it had faded after it sent Lin Xun flying with a body slam. Lin Xun didn't have to worry.

"Golden Flame Beast?" Xiaoke said ruminatively, "Is it the one that appeared in the Great Three Thousand Mountains last year? I heard that Little Sword Lord Xie Yutang from Qinglu Academy killed the beast. Why would you have the bronze box?"

Lin Xun shuddered inwardly as he realized that he had said something that he shouldn't have.

He said in puzzlement, "I only remember that the bronze box was already taken away before the Golden Flame Beast was killed and I happened to get it."

Xiaoke wanted to question him further when Xu Sanqi interrupted. "Let's deal with that matter later. We should first find out what the little thing is."

Old Mo said thoughtfully, "The little thing indeed has a similar aura to the Golden Flame Beast. But it doesn't resemble a true Golden Flame Beast. Perhaps it is an offspring of a beast that we haven't heard about."

Old Mo was a well-read and knowledgeable rune master, so Xu Sanqi and Xiaoke were surprised that he didn't know about the little thing's background.

"Should we test it?" Old Mo suddenly asked Lin Xun.

"How do we test it?" A feeling of unease rose in Lin Xun's heart as he found that Old Mo's expression had turned a little strange.

"It's very simple."

As expected, a gleam of excitement appeared in Old Mo's eyes as he stared intently at the little thing snuggling in Lin Xun's arms. He spoke rapidly, "Just like how rune masters dissect beast corpses. You can remove its skin, take out its bones, draw its blood, examine its spirit, and even gouge out its eyes. Perhaps you can find some special uses. Oh right, there's also its little head. You can break it open to see if it has a different structure inside to other beasts..."

The more he talked, the more excited he was. His saliva splattered everywhere and his hands danced about in the air. "Think about it, this is a beast that no one has ever seen before. Its body parts could perhaps be made into rune materials never seen before in the world! Perhaps it can create a new type of rune ink!"

Lin Xun's expression changed before Old Mo had finished. He felt the little thing trembling and constantly chirping in his arms as though it sensed danger.

Xu Sanqi couldn't help frowning, but he knew that rune masters all had such a quirk. They were full of excitement when they discovered a new species. It was as though they had discovered a new world.

Surprisingly, Xiaoke was the first who couldn't stand Old Mo. She lashed at him with a whip-like kick and sent him flying.

"Perverted! Cruel! How can you do that to such a cute little thing?" Xiaoke coldly scolded.

Old Mo lamented bitterly, "Woman, that little thing looks stupid and cute but who knows whether or not it will become dangerous in the future? If we don't find out more about it now, it will be too late to regret it in the future!"

He got up, walked over to Lin Xun, and stared at the little thing with a fanatical look. "For the safety of everyone. Give this little thing to me."

"No!" Lin Xun and Xiaoke firmly refused.

"Chirp—" The little thing stared back at Old Mo and grinned.

In the end, Xu Sanqi made a decision. "It belongs to Lin Xun. He can decide what to do with it."

Lin Xun breathed a sigh of relief and Xiaoke's expression became much gentler. Lin Xun felt a little uncomfortable. Xiaoke has always seemed cold and indifferent. She wouldn't really like the silly and cute little thing, right?*nOvelnExt.com*

"However, if that little thing poses a threat to the camp's safety, I will kill it right away!" Xu Sanqi added, sending a chill down Lin Xun's heart.

.....

Deep in the night.

Old Mo's warehouse.

Lin Xun was sitting down on a chair and pressing Jiujiu's soft and round body into various shapes like he was kneading dough.

It was sometimes twirled around like a twisted donut and sometimes pulled flat and long. It had amazing elasticity.

Jiujiu wasn't the least annoyed. Instead, it made cheerful chirps. They were like the groans that people made during a massage. Lin Xun also found it really fun to knead it.

This little guy is really too mysterious. It's like a little ball and its whole body glows like golden fire, but it is soft and comfortable upon touch.

Swoosh—

Jiujiu fell to the ground and then bounced up again. Then, Lin Xun flung it into a wall and it rebounded.

Jiujiu constant chirps spread in the night like the bell of a desert camel.

Xiaoke sat with her chin propped in her hand as she quietly watched. A rare gentleness came to her usual cold and calm face.

She hadn't uttered a word but the fact that she followed Lin Xun to Old Mo's warehouse and stayed so long late in the night was already very unusual.

Perhaps, she really liked Jiujiu.

At first, Lin Xun found it strange, but he paid little attention to it in the end.

"I wonder what this little thing's background is. It looks stupid and cute but I don't know what it will turn into in the future." Lin Xun lifted Jiujiu up and studied its features. The more he looked at it, the more he felt it didn't seem like the descendant of a fierce beast. It looked more like a silly little pet.

Lin Xun couldn't help pinching its stomach. With a swoosh, a jet of flame shot out from Jiujiu's mouth like a bolt of lightning.

With a rumble, a deep bottomless hole was split open into the ground and a terrifying, blazing aura incinerated the stones around.

Lin Xun's heart trembled. He couldn't help but feel aghast. Who would have thought that Jiujiu could spit fire and had such terrifying powers?!

The power of that jet of fire was at least equivalent to the full-strength attack of a ninth layer True Martial cultivator!

Xiaoke sprang to her feet and stared at the hole blasted into the ground. Clearly, she was also a little shocked.

Jiujiu had a wide-eyed innocent look as it rolled its round, ball-like body in Lin Xun's palm and laughed simple-mindedly.

"I already told you that the little thing looks innocent but is actually extremely dangerous. There is danger lurking inside its body and it will perhaps break out one day," mumbled Old Mo.

"If you dare touch it, I will cripple you." Xiaoke shot an indifferent look at Old Mo, and despite her speaking calmly, Old Mo's body stiffened and he couldn't help but smile bitterly.

"Hey, it seems to be hungry..."

Lin Xun felt a pain in his fingertip and he looked down to see Jiujiu biting it like it was sucking milk.

Xiaoke said, "Wait a moment," and rushed out of Old Mo's warehouse.

In just a moment, Xiaoke returned with a giant blue-horned wolf. She tossed it to the ground with a bang and said, "We have been keeping this female wolf after it was captured because she was pregnant. She only gave birth a few days ago. It should have enough milk."

Carrying Jiujiu, Lin Xun quickly went to find the source of milk.

Unexpectedly, the giant blue-horned wolf roared in terror and frantically struggled like it sensed danger.

Huh?

Lin Xun, Xiaoke, and Old Mo narrowed their eyes at the same time as they realized Jiujiu was the problem.

"Chirp—" It looked confused and uninterested at the giant blue-horned wolf.

"Maybe we can feed it some aeth fruits and vegetables," suggested Old Mo.

Xiaoke nodded and hurriedly left with the frightened giant blue-horned wolf.

That night, Jiujiu tried all kinds of aeth fruits and vegetables with Xiaoke's help but found nothing it liked.

It didn't even take a bite of anything.

Xiaoke scrunched her brows while Lin Xun looked a little annoyed. He slapped Jiujiu's soft buttocks and said, "You are tormenting me to death."

Jiujiu pitifully opened its eyes wide like it had been wronged.

"Haha, what a picky little thing. Here, do you want to try an aeth crystal?" Old Mo teased Jiujiu with a rock-hard aeth crystal.

Xiaoke's eyes widened and she was about to snap when Jiujiu flashed past her with a swoosh and snatched the aeth crystal in Old Mo's hand. It swallowed the aeth crystal into its round belly in a mouthful.

Old Mo cried out like a pig being slaughtered, "No—!"

[Chapter 149: Dark Current Comes](#)

Aeth crystals were very valuable and contained extremely tremendous and pure spirit qi. They had always been regarded as important strategic materials in the empire.

An ordinary palm-sized aeth crystal was worth ten silver coins!

The aeth crystal that Old Mo brought out was different from an ordinary aeth crystal. It was a high-grade aeth crystal. It was as clear as a diamond and it had a pale blue luster. Generally, it was used as an aeth power source for battleships.

High-grade aeth crystals were more terrifying in that even one was worth five gold coins.

In other words, high-grade aeth crystals were worth fifty times more than ordinary aeth crystals!

However, the little thing swallowed such an expensive high-grade aeth crystal in the blink of an eye. Old Mo couldn't help but howl like mad.

He sped forward to try to take it back, but Jiujiu dodged to one side and rushed into Lin Xun's arms.

It immediately looked at Old Mo with an innocent face.

Old Mo threw into a rage and roared, "Lin Xun, tell that little thing to spit out my aeth crystal. It's very precious. Don't let that little thing ruin it!"

Lin Xun shrugged helplessly. "It can spew flames. Why don't you try to tell it to spit it out yourself?"

Old Mo was taken aback. He glanced at the hole blasted into the ground and frantically shook his head. Don't joke around. It's too dangerous.

"Alright, Old Mo, you gave it to Jiujiu. Don't tell me you regret it?" Xiaoke said with a frown.

"No, yes...that...ahh..." Old Mo felt like weeping but no tears came forth. He couldn't even speak properly. It was too late to regret it.

Lin Xun felt a little bad for him. He watched as Jiujiu lay lazily in his arms and gave a loud burp like it was full. It closed its eyes comfortably and fell asleep, blowing little bubbles in the corner of its mouth.

"It seems like there's nothing I can do now," said Lin Xun helplessly.

Old Mo was completely dumbstruck. That little thing has such good digestion. How can it digest a high-grade aeth crystal in the blink of an eye?

"Seems like it feeds on aeth crystals," Xiaoke said thoughtfully.

Lin Xun looked surprised but then a bad feeling surged up in his heart. If this little things feeds on aeth crystals, I can't afford to raise it even if I kill myself!

“Instructor Xiaoke, why don’t—I give you Jiujiu?” Lin Xun asked hesitantly.

Xiaoke was at first taken aback but then she frowned deeply. “Jiujiu clearly likes you a lot. It already treats you like family. How can you cruelly abandon it?”

Lin Xun smiled wryly.

Old Mo finally felt much better. He was no longer gloomy and going crazy. He grinned, “I can’t wait to see how many aeth crystals you have to feed it every day”

Lin Xun felt a headache coming on.

Xiaoke said, “Alright, how about this? I will make some time to come see Jiujiu. If I find out that you and Old Mo don’t take good care of it...”

Her gaze grew sharp and an oppressive force made Lin Xun’s and Old Mo’s countenances uncontrollably change.

“Remember it,” Xiaoke said, turned around, and left.

Lin Xun and Old Mo exchanged a glance, pitying each other.

.....

For the following few days, Lin Xun did what he usually did with one slight difference: Jiujiu was always around him.

The little guy was silly and simple-minded. It saw Lin Xun as its family and always stuck close to Lin Xun when he returned to Old Mo’s warehouse after training. It would joyfully roll around in Lin Xun’s arms.

At first, Lin Xun found it slightly uncomfortable but he soon got used to it. But what gave him a headache was that Jiujiu indeed lived on aeth crystals

Every three days, it had to consume a high-grade aeth crystal. Its speed of spending was almost catching up to Lin Xun’s.

Fortunately, Lin Xun had Xiaoke’s help in Blood Kill Camp so he didn’t have to worry too much about this matter.

However, Lin Xun found it strange that he had never seen Xiaoman ever since the quarterly assessment. It was as though she had vanished.

He had asked Old Mo but the old man also didn’t know where she had gone.

Time flew by and only five days remained until the students had to travel to the Demon Cloud Ridge to participate in the battlefield assessment.

On that day, just as Lin Xun had completed his daily training, he heard a peal of familiar, charming laughter on his way to Old Mo’s warehouse.

Lin Xun lit up with joy. Xiaoman is back!

As he thought, as he stepped into the warehouse, he saw Xiaoman hugging Jiujiu and giggling. She constantly kneaded Jiujiu's soft and round body like it was the most fun toy in the world. She was having so much fun that even her eyes seemed to be smiling.

"Big Sister, you're back." Lin Xun walked over with a smile.

Xiaoman acknowledged him with a nod and didn't even glance at him. She was still playing with and teasing Jiujiu.

Lin Xun was speechless. Why is Instructor Xiaoke like this, and now Xiaoman is the same? What is so good about Jiujiu? Why does everyone like it so much?

"Are you jealous of its treatment?" Old Mo came over with an envious expression. His eyes were intently staring at Jiujiu buried in Xiaoman's full chest. He hated the fact that he wasn't there instead.

"Old Mo, do you think I would be jealous of a little beast?"

Only then did Jiujiu notice Lin Xun and break away from Xiaoman's chest with a swoosh. It pounced into Lin Xun's arms and chirped joyfully.

Lin Xun suddenly smiled and said to Old Mo, "Look, this little guy is better than you. At least, it doesn't lust for beauty!"

"The little guy is hundreds of times better than both of you," exclaimed Xiaoman, her bright eyes sparkling. *NOVELNEXT.COM*

Bang!

Suddenly, a tremendous force suddenly pushed the huge warehouse door open. A gust of wind swept in and a chilling air filled the warehouse.

"Xu Sanqi, I didn't come to fight with you. I'm just here to take two people away. Why do you have to be so unwelcoming?"

A deep voice resounded. The voice contained an indescribable demonic power that could reach the depths of one's soul and send a chill down one's spine.

Following the voice, a slender figure walked in huge strides. It was a graceful middle-aged man dressed in a tall hat and an ancient wide-sleeved robe.

He was handsome but his eyes flashed a cold glint as they opened and closed. They seemed capable of stealing one's soul. The atmosphere instantly turned deathly still and silent upon his arrival. Even the wind subsided as though it was afraid.

Xu Sanqi's slender spear-like figure was standing beside the man. Unlike his usual stony demeanor, his brows were deeply furrowed and his rock-hard face was overcast.

Lin Xun, Xiaoman, and Old Mo felt a chill in their hearts when they saw the two. Even Jiujiu had buried itself inside Lin Xun's clothes like it had sensed danger.

"Well, this must be Master Mo."

The graceful man's entrance was like a sovereign descending upon the world. He exuded a contemptuous bearing like he controlled the mountains and rivers. Immediately, he fixed his lightning-like gaze on Old Mo.

Old Mo's expression dramatically changed and his body trembled uncontrollably like he was fighting some sort of fear.

Lin Xun and Xiaoman didn't dare to move an inch. The two were of a different cultivation level but they both felt an incomparably terrifying oppressive force. It was as though they had fallen into a vast ocean and were in danger of drowning.

It was too terrifying!

It was an invisible imposing bearing, but the fact that it had such a terrifying impact on them demonstrated how powerful the graceful man was.

It was then that Xu Sanqi suddenly stepped forward and stood in front of everyone else. He lifted his head and faced the graceful man. "Xin Rutie, this is Blood Kill Camp. It isn't a place for you to behave wildly."

Only then did Lin Xun and the others felt their bodies lighten and the oppressive force faded like the tide. But fear once again filled their eyes when they made eye contact with the graceful man.

The graceful man known as Xin Rutie smiled faintly, showing his pearly white teeth. "Thirteen years ago, you were no match for me. But now...your Wolf Fang Moon is already damaged. Do you think you can win against me?"

"You want to try?"

Xu Sanqi's eyes flashed coldly like a blade and his bearing suddenly changed. A chilling murderous intent surged around him, forcing the surrounding air to whimper and wail.

Xin Rutie was silent for a moment, then he suddenly threw his head back and laughed loudly. "Old man, I haven't seen you in years but your temper is still as bad. If I didn't have an important matter to deal with, I really would want to test my strength against yours. I want to see whether your Wolf Fang Moon is more powerful or my Treasure Bottle Seal!"

Treasure Bottle Seal!

Xu Sanqi narrowed his eyes. "No wonder you're so fearless today. Did the old man from the Divine Workshop help you make it?"

Xin Rutie smiled. "It's a secret."

Then, he scrunched his brows and said, "Move aside. I am ordered to only take away Master Mo and a youngster called Lin Xun. I'm not here to fight with you."

Lin Xun's heart trembled violently. He had never thought he would be involved in this matter!

Even Xiaoman looked surprised. But then, her pretty face grew overcast as though she had guessed something.

“Give me a reason.” Xu Sanqi said, his voice coldly and unyielding.

Xin Rutie said ruminatively, “The Empire’s Divine Workshop needs talents like them.”

Xu Sanqi’s eyes suddenly shot out a cold glint. “You already know?”

Xin Rutie chuckled. “Xu Sanqi, you know that Blood Kill Camp works for the empire. It is not your private territory. You think you can hide what happens here?”

Xu Sanqi’s face was overcast with a fierce frown as he said in a loud resolute voice, “Regardless, I can’t agree to your request.”

As though that predicted Xu Sanqi would respond in such a way, Xin Rutie brought out a mysterious violet token. “You should understand what this token means. Are you really going to disobey an order?”

Xu Sanqi finally couldn’t keep his composure when he saw the token. His expression changed indefinitely and he fell silent.

The atmosphere became tense and stifling.

Lin Xun looked confused. He vaguely guessed something, but he wasn’t entirely sure.

On the other hand, Xiaoman’s and Old Mo’s faces grew grave. They had understood Xin Rutie’s purpose in coming.

“Old man, the interests of the empire are above everything else. You should know this already. Now, please step aside!”

Xin Rutie put away the token and drew a deep breath. His expression turned solemn, imposing, and extremely threatening.

Chapter 150 Sprout Roots

Boom!

A terrifying imposing aura was crashing down on Xu Sanqi like a landslide.

Xu Sanqi suddenly sneered and slammed out his fist. It was a simple punch but Xie Rutie’s expression altered subtly and he brought his palm up to block it.

Who would have thought that Xu Sanqi would lean his body slightly forward and just as his right fist struck Xie Rutie’s palm, he threw out his left arm and pounded Xie Rutie’s shoulder like a hammer.

Xin Rutie swayed violently and his face turned ashen. In the end, he couldn’t help but stumble back one step.

“You!”

Xin Rutie was livid. He was about to strike back when Xu Sanqi retracted his imposing manner and stood aside. He said coldly, “What? You really want to fight?”

Xin Rutie glowered at Xu Sanqi for a long moment before he said with a smile. “Old man, you are still the same. You never like to lose.”

Xu Sanqi's face was devoid of emotion when he said, "I don't dare to go against the orders of the empire but I can only let you take Old Mo. Lin Xun has to stay here!"

Lin Xun scrunched his brows, unsure why Xu Sanqi had changed his stance.

Xiaoman's expression changed again. She wanted to say something but seemed hesitant.

Old Mo laughed loudly. "It doesn't matter. I have spent long enough time in this hell. It's pretty good that I can return to the empire's Divine Workshop."

Xin Rutie swept a glance over Xu Sanqi and said, "The order I received is to bring them both back!"

Xu Sanqi said coldly, "You came here because you heard about the new Violet Hero battleship and the Flying Star Crossbow. I can tell you that Old Mo produced those two treasures and they have little to do with Lin Xun."

Only then did Lin Xun realize the source of the problem. Everything turned out to be caused by the Violet Hero Battleship and the Flying Star Crossbow!

His emotions turned complicated. What is this? A person's talent brings about danger due to others' greed.

From one glance, he could tell that Xin Rutie had an extraordinary background and was clearly an influential person in the empire. Yet he was ordered to personally come to Blood Kill Camp to carry out an order. From this, it was obvious that the empire attached great importance to this matter.

Logically speaking, it should be a good thing for Old Mo and Lin Xun. But the expressions on the faces of Xu Sanqi, Xiaoman, and Old Mo clearly indicated that the matter wasn't that simple.

Xin Rutie snorted. He clearly didn't believe it and he had no intention of changing his attitude and stance. He said bluntly, "Whether or not it is related to that boy, I will find out after I bring him back to Zijing City."

He inadvertently glanced at Lin Xun and it immediately made the qi freeze around Lin Xun and his hair stand on end. Lin Xun felt like an ancient savage beast was watching him and was choosing someone to devour.

How terrifying is Xin Rutie's cultivation level?

Lin Xun couldn't guess.

But the more it was like that, the heavier his heart felt. The consequences of being watched by such an important person were unpredictable.

"If you want to take him away, you might as well kill me right now!" Old Mo said suddenly. His wrinkly and thin face bore a look of determination.

At that moment, Old Mo was completely different from usual. His creepy look was gone and he emitted a calm, heroic and fearless aura.

Lin Xun's heart trembled and swirled with a vortex of complex emotions. Scenes of the time he spent with Old Mo flashed across his mind, each one clear and vivid.

Threatened with the life of a rune master, Xin Rutie realized the situation was a little tricky. He scrunched his brows and said coldly, "Master Mo, do you know that you are going against the orders of the empire?"

"Enough!"

Xu Sanqi drew a deep breath and said coldly, "I will take all responsibility. If you still don't agree, perhaps we have no choice but to settle it with a match."

Xin Rutie's face darkened and the atmosphere grew tenser and tenser, making it difficult to even breathe.

"Alright, good! Xu Sanqi, since you're so courageous, let's wait and see how the important figures in Zijing City view this matter!"

Xin Rutie coldly left those words before he turned around.

Just as he reached the warehouse door, he suddenly turned his head. "Before dawn tomorrow, I hope Master Mo will willingly leave with me. If something happens, Blood Kill Camp might be closed like before."

Before his voice faded, he had already disappeared into the night.

There was a long moment of silence in the warehouse. Xu Sanqi didn't say a word like he was deep in thought while Xiaoman seemed to have lost her soul.

Old Mo looked a lot more relaxed in comparison. He clapped Lin Xun on the shoulder and reassured, "Kid, don't worry too much. I'm not leaving forever. Also, they won't dare to do anything to me because I hold the secret to transforming the Violet Hero Battleships."

He grinned proudly. "On the contrary, they would treat me like a master. Beautiful women, money, status, honor...I can get whatever I want!"

Lin Xun stared blankly at Old Mo's smiling face. It was only after a long moment that he could say in a serious voice, "Old Mo, your acting is too fake. I'm not reassured at all."

Old Mo's expression stiffened and he smiled bitterly. "Then what else do you want me to say?"

Lin Xun drew a deep breath and said firmly, "Regardless of who gave the orders to take you away, I will personally make them pay for it one day!"

Old Mo was visibly moved; the corners of his lips quivered but he didn't say a word. Finally, he just patted Lin Xun on the shoulder and smiled in gratitude.

Xu Sanqi suddenly turned his head around and said, "This isn't the worst result. Even if Xin Rutie didn't come, other people will come sooner or later."

Old Mo nodded. "Chief Xu is right. It's impossible to conceal the secret of the Violet Hero Battleship. Such a war weapon should be handed over to the Divine Workshop because only then would it have the greatest use."

Seeing that Old Mo understood, Xu Sanqi nodded. "Tomorrow morning, I will personally see you off."

Xu Sanqi turned around and left.

Old Mo stood in a daze for a long while. He eventually shook his head and said, "I need to prepare some things." He darted into a room in the depths of the warehouse.

Lin Xun knew that Old Mo didn't want to say anything more in case it would create more misunderstandings and make him worry.

"That old man..." Lin Xun sighed, feeling complicated.

Old Mo is pretty nice. He has been like an old friend to me all this time but he is suddenly forced to leave yet I couldn't do anything to change it. Helplessness and powerlessness filled Lin Xun's heart to the point that it was suffocating. He felt horrible.

"Old Mo's departure has nothing to do with you. Why did you make that decision?" Xiaoman asked him softly.

"It does!"

Lin Xun didn't hesitate. "If it wasn't for me, the Violet Hero Battleship wouldn't have been successfully transformed and the Flying Star Crossbow wouldn't have appeared in the world. If those two things hadn't happened, do you think there would still be today's incident?"

Xiaoman was about to say something when Lin Xun interrupted her. "I don't care about the interests of the empire. I only care that Old Mo will be taken away and I will get justice for him!"

Looking at Lin Xun's sharp and handsome face, seeing his determined and calm expression, and listening to his powerful words, Xiaoman suddenly realized that the young man in front of her already had the courage to shoulder everything himself.

He had the mind and bearing that only real men had!

.....

The next day. Early in the morning, the sky was still dark.

An imperial intermediate-level falcon battleship rumbled and was about to take off.

In front of the battleship, Xin Rutie stood with his hands behind his back, his expression imposing and cold. An imperceptible sneer flashed across the corners of his lips when he saw Xu Sanqi personally escorting Old Mo.

"Master Mo, please!" *NovelNext.com*

Xin Rutie stood aside and invited Old Mo onto the battleship.

"Thank you." Old Mo nodded absentmindedly as he boarded, but he couldn't help but turn his head around to take another glance. It was pitch black and nothing could be seen.

He couldn't help but laugh at himself. He no longer hesitated, and his figure quickly disappeared into the battleship.

“Old man, you should know that you have already gone against the will of the upper levels of the empire by refusing to bring the young man called Lin Xun. The consequence won’t be light.” As Old Mo’s figure disappeared, Xin Rutie turned his head and looked indifferently at Xu Sanqi. “I hope we will still have a chance to battle. Farewell.”

He was about to leave when Xu Sanqi suddenly said, “Do you know who sent Lin Xun to Blood Kill Camp?”

Xin Rutie halted his footsteps and snorted, “What, you want to scare me with the power behind that kid? Ridiculous! I represent the will of the empire. Who would I fear angering in the entire world?”

Sneering, he strode into the battleship.

Just as he reached the door of the battleship, Xu Sanqi’s voice rang out, “The will of the empire mustn’t be shaken, but I know a cart driver who will never change his attitude because of the will of the empire.”

Xin Rutie was taken aback. He seemed to remember something as his face abruptly changed. He spun around but Xu Sanqi was no longer there.

“Could it be that person from the Black Glory Sacred Hall?”

As he headed into the battleship, he felt a little unsettled. He kept thinking about the cart driver that Xu Sanqi mentioned. A cart driver that the empire can’t control...There is only one person in the entire empire!

Could it be that person?

Xin Rutie’s face was shrouded in a haze of gloom. He hated Xu Sanqi for telling him that just before leaving. How hateful!

Rumble—

The falcon battleship soared into the sky, pierced the sky, crushed the clouds, and quickly disappeared into the vast sky.

Dawn broke and a ray of light tore apart the eternal night like a bolt of lightning, illuminating the world.

In the camp, Lin Xun silently retracted his gaze and turned around.

The early morning light bathed the slender and handsome figure, casting an illusory glow on him. But no one knew what was on his mind.

On the other side, Xiaoman faintly sighed as she watched the youngster disappear. She cast her mind back to Lin Xun’s powerful words that night, and a thought uncontrollably emerged in her mind—

Some hatred is the same as fate, an inadvertent twist will make it sprout root.