

Prodigies 21

[Chapter 21: Endless Harvest](#)

Led by Zhou Zhong, a group of strong villagers left Feiyun Village and headed towards the distant mountains.

Lin Xun was among them. He had promised Zhou Zhong to exterminate the worms in his plantations when he returned from hunting if Zhou Zhong agreed to let him join the hunt.

Naturally, Zhou Zhong happily agreed.

Zhou Zhong's wife had caught a cold earlier and had only just recovered, but her body was still quite weak. She urgently needed to nourish her qi and blood.

Therefore, Zhou Zhong's main purpose in going into the mountains was to collect medicinal herbs with qi and blood replenishing properties. Hunting was only next in importance.

As an experienced hunter in Feiyun Village, Zhou Zhong was very well aware of the dangers in the mountains, and so he asked some strong villagers to join him even if he was just going to collect medicinal ingredients.

Zhou Zhong wasn't particularly worried about Lin Xun, who had insisted on participating. He had heard how Lin Xun defeated Lu Ting and knew Lin Xun was likely much stronger than all the villagers.

The group set off, and it took them at least an hour to reach the foot of the mountains even with Zhou Zhong leading the way.

As far as the eye could see were mountains piercing the clouds and towering into the sky. All of the mountains were shrouded in dense clouds from midway up.

The roar of beasts echoed faintly in the mountains, filling people with terror.

"Everyone, be careful. The ancient forest in the mountains is incredibly dangerous. Not only are there fierce beasts, but also disease-carrying insects. Follow me closely and don't run off by yourself."

Before the vast forest, Zhou Zhong gripped his bow and vigilantly scanned the surroundings. *NovElnext.Com*

The other villagers simultaneously drew their weapons with solemn expressions.

Although they all had strong bodies, they were only ordinary people and not cultivators. They had to be on constant alert in such a place.

After a thought, Lin Xun also took out his azure blade.

The group was ready. They stepped into the vast forest and soon disappeared.

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The forest was enormous with ancient trees towering into the sky. Their flourishing leaves and branches created a canopy, making the atmosphere dim and humid.

Vines as thick as a bucket hung all over the forest like pythons. Leaves were piled high on the ground with strange yet enchanting flowers and there were plants that were clearly extremely poisonous growing from them.

Zhou Zhong and the others tensed up as they cautiously moved forward. No one dared to utter a word in fear of attracting attacks from poisonous insects or beasts.

However, Lin Xun looked very relaxed and even had the mood to admire the scenery along the way. He occasionally crouched down to pick some flowers and plants.

“Lustrous Purple Flower, Jade Star Plant, Three-Leaf Silver Thread Vine, Scarlet Tail Bitter Root... I didn’t expect to find so many rune materials in this ancient forest.”

Lin Xun was enjoying his time in the mountains. As a rune apprentice, Lin Xun had handled various rune materials since young. Naturally, he could identify what was good and bad with one glance.

Taking advantage of his experience and sharp eyes, he spotted many rune materials along the way. Many of them could be used as medicine or refined into rune ink.

Of course, he could also sell them!

This was an unexpected surprise to Lin Xun. Unfortunately, it was difficult to exchange rune materials for some loose change in Feiyun Village, let alone fill up his stomach, as there was no market for them.

Lin Xun carried an animal skin sack, which was at least as long as an average person, so he wouldn’t have to worry about storing any rune materials he found.

When Zhou Zhong noticed that Lin Xun was picking flowers and plants from time to time along the way, he couldn’t help but ask, “Little Brother Lin Xun, what do you pick those things for?”

Zhou Zhong wasn’t the only one who had been curious as the other villagers had also found it perplexing.

Lin Xun didn’t try to conceal the value of the rune materials he found and explained each one to the villagers, making them look more confused.

However, their faces immediately lit up when they heard that such things could be sold for good money, and they all asked Lin Xun for advice to point them out.

Lin Xun readily agreed. Under Lin Xun’s guidance, the villagers began to search for rune materials along the way.

The saying ‘strength lies in numbers’ was indeed true. In less than the time it took to burn an incense stick, Lin Xun’s animal skin sack was already filled to the brim.

It was clear that the vast forest was full of various kinds of rune materials despite its remote and dangerous location.

Of course, if Lin Xun hadn’t come along with them, they wouldn’t know about the value of those flowers and plants.

While everyone was marching ahead in great spirits, Lin Xun abruptly halted and signaled everyone to stop.

Under the puzzled gazes of Zhou Zhong and others, Lin Xun suddenly grabbed the bow and arrow in Zhou Zhong's hand and climbed a nearby tree. Then he took a deep breath, drew the bow, and shot the sharp arrow into the distance.

The villagers didn't understand what happened, but they had a feeling that a fierce beast must be approaching!

All of a sudden, their nerves tightened and they were prepared to fight.

Roar—

In just a few breaths, a deafening beast roar resounded like thunder from a distance and drove the birds out of the forest.

"This is bad! It's a snow spotted leopard!"

Zhou Zhong's expression dramatically changed. Given his years of hunting experience, he could identify a snow spotted leopard from its cry!

Snow spotted leopards were as huge as an ox, had a pattern of dark spots on their snow-white fur, and were known for their vicious and cunning natures.

Lian Rufeng, the Village Guard Leader, had once encountered a snow spotted leopard's attack. Despite the fact that Lian Rufeng was already at the Inner Strengthening Stage, he still almost died under a ravaging snow spotted leopard's fangs. This clearly demonstrated the snow spotted leopard's power and ability.

As expected, the name snow spotted leopard made all the other villagers' complexions suddenly turn deathly pale. They tightened their grip around their weapons, looking extremely nervous.

They didn't think that the peaceful and pleasant atmosphere would be destroyed by a snow spotted leopard. The situation was too dangerous. The slightest carelessness could cost them their lives.

Shua!

All of a sudden, a snow-white figure sped through the forests like a lightning bolt towards Zhou Zhong. It was so swift that their eyes could only see a slight blur as it leapt into the air.

It was incredibly quick!

Even if Zhou Zhong was constantly on guard, he still would have reacted too slowly. He had only raised his blade halfway when the creature's ferocious jaws were close to snapping him up.

Just as Zhou Zhong was the slightest brink away from meeting death, the snow-white figure suddenly let out a pained roar and stiffened in the air before dropping to the ground.

It was only then that everyone could clearly see it was indeed a snow spotted leopard. However, it had an arrow skewered through its hind leg and blood trickling down from it.

Clearly, that arrow saved Zhou Zhong's life.

Roar—

However, before everyone recovered from the shock, the snow spotted leopard unleashed an enraged roar. Its ferocity clearly hadn't diminished as it leapt into the air again.

Like a signal of death, a stench assaulted their faces and made them draw back in fear and panic.

Shua!

Almost at the same time, an azure blade descended from above with a force capable of splitting Mount Hua and precisely slashed at the snow spotted leopard's neck from an angle.

Pu!

A fountain of blood splattered three feet high as the snow spotted leopard's head hurled into the air. The beast lost complete control of its entire body and crashed to the ground.

It died like that?

Zhou Zhong and others were utterly shaken with disbelief. It was a snow spotted leopard. Even Lian Rufeng, who possessed an Inner Strengthening Stage cultivation base, almost lost his life to a snow spotted leopard, yet it died instantly in a single strike!

While everyone was dumbstruck, Lin Xun came to the snow spotted leopard and thrust the tip of his short azure blade into the snow spotted leopard's chest. A jet of blood wildly gushed out. He took out another bag to collect the blood.

A snow spotted leopard was no ordinary beast. Its heart contained extremely abundant power, which had remarkable effects when used to concoct medicine or simply consumed as is.

It was only when the bag was filled that Lin Xun gave a hand signal and shook his head. "Everyone, snow spotted leopard's blood is good stuff and mustn't be wasted."

As though they had just awoken from a dream, Zhou Zhong and others scurried over and took out their water sacks.

"Little Brother Lin Xun, you're amazing. That's an adult snow spotted leopard. You can exchange its skin for ten copper coins in the Qingyang tribe. Snow spotted leopard's flesh is also very popular," exclaimed Zhou Zhong.

The others simultaneously nodded as they gazed at Lin Xun with admiration. A thirteen-year-old boy was able to kill an adult snow spotted leopard alone, which was something they could never imagine doing.

Lin Xun smiled. "Let's quickly remove the valuable parts of the snow spotted leopard. The smell of blood is too strong. I'm worried that it will soon attract other fierce beasts."

Zhou Zhong and others nodded in agreement and immediately acted together to dissect the snow spotted leopard's skin, flesh, bones and tendons. Then, they used the huge leaves of a rotten fish plant to wrap them up and put them away in the animal skin sack.

The rotten fish plant had a pungent smell and could mask the stench of blood. Thereby, they could prevent other beasts following them due to the smell of blood.

Soon, Lin Xun and his party set off again.

After that sudden attack, Zhou Zhong and others became even more cautious. They stopped collecting rune materials and fully concentrated on the surroundings as they moved forward.

Lin Xun was the same as before, except that he had become more picky and selective in what he picked up. He had no interest in rune materials with little value.

Most importantly, the animal skin bags they were carrying had limited space and so they had to discard some rune materials that were of little use.

After traveling in silence for a long while, Zhou Zhong suddenly knitted his brows and whispered, "Something is wrong. Usually, I would encounter seven or eight wild beast attacks in this forest. But this time, apart from encountering a snow spotted leopard, there's nothing else. It's very strange."

The other villagers nodded. The situation did seem unusual.

At that moment, Lin Xun seemed to have discovered something. He darted forward and suddenly halted behind a huge tree dozens of feet away.

Soon, Lin Xun's voice sounded, "Look, it seems someone has been here before us."

Zhou Zhong and others hurried over to see a lizard-like body covered with dark green scales lying on the ground behind the tree!

[Chapter 22: Lava Wolf](#)

It was a one-horned lizard!

Zhou Zhong and the others immediately identified the beast lying dead on the ground to be an adult one-horned lizard.

There were strict standards on how animals and beasts were categorized. They were divided into three types: wild beast, ferocious beast and savage beast.

For example, jackals, minks, foxes, and mongooses were only considered wild beasts. Although they were fierce, ordinary hunters could kill them.

Ferocious beasts included beasts such as tigers, leopards, wild boars, bulls and bears. Their vicious aggressiveness made them able to take on and even kill beginner cultivators.

Savage beasts were completely different in that they were all overlords in the mountains and possessed considerable intelligence. Even the weakest savage beast could easily kill first layer True Martial Stage cultivators, while the strongest could make even ninth layer True Martial Stage cultivators flee in terror.

The snow spotted leopard that Lin Xun and the others killed was precisely a savage beast.

However, compared with the one-horned lizard before them, the snow spotted leopard could only be regarded as an ordinary savage beast. The lizard, on the other hand, could take down cultivators of the fifth True Martial Stage!

In all the years that Zhou Zhong had hunted, he had never seen a one-horned lizard in person despite hearing about its terror many times.

Fortunately, the one-horned lizard was dead. Otherwise, everyone might have lost their lives there.

Lin Xun squatted down to examine the one-horned lizard's wounds.

It was as huge as a bull and had four pillar-like hooves. Dark green scales covered its entire body apart from the crescent moon shaped horn on its head. However, the horn had been cleanly sawn off and a hole that was still oozing blood was left.

Its throat had also been pierced, leaving a fist-sized hole. Given the clean edges of the hole and the position of the dead beast, Lin Xun speculated that a spear-like weapon instantly took the beast's life after it skewered through its throat!

Thinking of this, fear filled Lin Xun's heart. Someone who could kill an adult one-horned lizard in one strike had to possess the strength of at least the fifth True Martial Stage!

Could there be another strong cultivator in the mountains besides them?

"The one who killed this beast is much stronger than our Village Guard Leader, Lian Rufeng."

Zhou Zhong and others gasped in astonishment.

Lin Xun made a prompt decision and urged, "We should leave now."

"Leave now?"

Zhou Zhong and others seemed taken aback.

"If my guess is correct, that cultivator is very powerful and we are no match against them. The cultivator must have a certain purpose to appear in this ancient forest, and if we run into the cultivator, it's hard to guarantee that nothing will happen."

Lin Xun said casually, "Of course, the cultivator might not want to make things difficult for us, but to be on the safe side, we better leave as soon as possible."

Zhou Zhong and others understood and quickly agreed.

Before leaving, Lin Xun and the others dissected the one-horned lizard's corpse and stored its body parts into their animal skin sack.

All parts of the one-horned lizard were considered treasures, especially its scales. Ordinary blades and swords couldn't penetrate them, so they were most suitable as armor-crafting materials. The scales could be sold for good money.

In addition, its tendons, bones, flesh and blood had great nourishing properties, and its teeth and claws were ideal materials for making weapons.

It was just a pity that the most valuable horn had already been taken.

However, Lin Xun and others were already very satisfied with their harvest. It was already an unexpected surprise to come across a one-horned lizard's corpse.

Zhou Zhong did not need to search for the medicinal ingredients he set off to find because, compared to any herbal ingredient he could find in the mountains, the one-horned lizard's blood and flesh had superior qi- and blood-nourishing properties.

Everyone traveled back along the same path without stopping.

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While Lin Xun and others were leaving, a rumble echoed from the depths of the ancient forest, followed by towering trees being set ablaze and crashing to the ground.

A tremendous wolf as red as fire bolted by so quickly that if anyone was still there, they would only see a blurred image. It barged through everything without even bothering to evade any obstacles in front of it and tore down trees along the way like it was on a rampage.

If Lin Xun was there, he no doubt would recognize the lava wolf!

It was a savage beast with great intelligence. It swallowed the essence of the sun and moon for its cultivation and could easily kill experts of the ninth True Martial Stage!

However, the giant lava wolf looked terrified, as though it was being chased by an even more terrifying enemy.

Clang!

Suddenly, a silver light flashed across the sky like a star and tore through the air at unimaginable speed before vanishing without a trace.

Roar—

The giant lava wolf charging at full speed unleashed an incomparably tragic roar before its tremendous body collapsed on the ground. The flames that shrouded its entire body incinerated all trees within a ten meter radius and charred the ground.

The roar quickly faded and the lava wolf was already dead before it hit the ground. If someone looked closely, they would see that a ten foot long bone spear had pierced through its back and ruthlessly nailed its body to the ground.

Immediately after, a little figure strode out from the depths of the forest. It was a girl who looked to be around six to seven years old.

Her long black hair draped over her shoulders like a shawl and a dress made of old animal skins was wrapped around her slender body. Her feet were fair and bare. She looked like the descendant of a barbarian tribe.

Her pure and fair face was stunning and delicate. Her dark eyes curved like the crescent moon and her every movement exuded an ethereal charm that didn't match her age.

She came straight over to the giant lava wolf, and her little slender figure looked even smaller next to the giant lava wolf.

She stepped on the giant lava wolf's back, stretched out her jade-like hand, and with a slight moment and a splatter of blood, removed the long bone spear dripping with blood.

The bone spear was entirely white and exuded threads of silvery light as if it was filled with stars. It added an even more mysterious aura to the six to seven-year-old girl.

The little girl was clearly the one who killed the giant wolf.

How shocked would other cultivators be if they saw this scene?

The little girl leaned over and searched the giant lava wolf's wound. She quickly retrieved a fiery red crystal that was the size of a pigeon egg.

The girl couldn't help but grin widely when she saw the crystal. That brief smile was like a blooming flower bud after the rain, and it was so beautiful that it made the world appear dim in comparison.

The girl planned to leave after acquiring the fire crystal, but something made her furrow her dark and straight eyebrows. She narrowed her eyes as she gazed into the depths of the forest.

She faintly sensed a unique aura far away that made her spirit feel strange.

The feeling wasn't repulsion or hatred, but a kind of longing and joy. It was very bizarre because she had never felt anything similar before. While she stood there in a daze, puzzlement filled her clear and deep crescent moon shaped eyes.

Dong!

Suddenly, the sky and ground quaked as the ancient forest rumbled. The beasts throughout the forest crouched down trembling.

Snapping out of her thoughts, the girl abruptly turned her head and saw a ten foot tall figure coming her way.

It was a majestic and burly black bear, but it moved like a little hill. The trees collapsed and the ground shook as it approached her.

"Yiyi Yaya."

As though she had thought of something, the little girl motioned her hands and made a strange sound.

The black bear halted its steps, but shook its head, seemingly in refusal.

The little girl looked disappointed, but she clenched her teeth, leaped up and darted like a bullet in the opposite direction.

But soon, a huge paw lifted her into the air. It clutched her so tightly that she couldn't budge at all.

"Yiyi Yaya."

The little girl yelled, but the black bear ignored her, and headed towards the depths of the forest.

The little girl sat down in disappointment in the bear's paw as she gazed at a place that seemed to move farther and farther away with her little face full of confusion.

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On the way back from the forest, a tragic and thunderous roar rang from the deepest part of the forest, terrifying Lin Xun and his party, and their faces paled accordingly.

"Lava wolf!"

"Heavens! Don't tell me the cultivator who killed the one-horned lizard has now killed a giant lava wolf?"

"That cultivator must be at least at the Spirit Dipper Stage; otherwise it would be impossible to do so!"

"Spirit Dipper Stage? Impossible, I heard that there is no Spirit Dipper cultivator even in the Qingyang tribe."

"The noises are coming from the direction where we were going to go. Luckily, we didn't go there." *ovelnext.com*

Everyone was in an uproar and utterly shocked by this development.

Lin Xun also felt like he had dodged a bullet. If he had rashly gone there, he might have been killed. However, he couldn't help but be curious about who killed the one-horned lizard and lava wolf. 'Where did the cultivator come from?'

"Let's leave this terrifying place as soon as possible. Today's operation is too abnormal. We shouldn't stay any longer." Zhou Zhong said with worry. The others naturally did not object.

After the time it took to burn an incense stick, Lin Xun and the others walked out of the ancient forest and saw the blazing sun hanging high in the clear sky. It was already past noon.

"The harvest this time isn't small!"

"Let's go! Let's quickly get back to the village. We have such a great harvest this time, we should share with the others and celebrate together."

"Haha, you guys just can't wait to show off."

"So what? I'm so glad I'm still alive. This is the first time in my life that I brought home the corpses of a snow spotted leopard and a one-horned lizard. They aren't something everyone has the chance to encounter!"

Zhou Zhong and others were clearly relieved to leave the dark and dangerous forest. Their faces beamed when they looked at the stuffed sacks on their backs.

Lin Xun turned around, staring quietly at the forest in the distance. He muttered to himself, "What could be hidden there that could attract an expert powerful enough to kill a giant lava wolf? I have to come back and explore that place again when I get the chance!"

Lin Xun shook his head to stop himself from thinking about it and followed Zhou Zhong and the others into Feiyun Village.

[Chapter 23: Snatch Treasures](#)

When Lin Xun and the others returned to Feiyun Village with their bags stuffed with what they harvested, it immediately caused a huge sensation.

Snow spotted leopard!

One-horned lizard!

Many villagers had never seen such savage beasts and so they couldn't help crowding around them.

Zhou Zhong and the others were also very proud of their gains. They had hunted for many years and had killed many wild beasts, but it was their first time bringing a savage beast body home. It was easy to imagine their level of happiness.

Lin Xun's courtyard was piled with his goods, including various types of rune materials.

But the most eye-catching among them were the skin, bones, flesh and blood of the snow spotted leopard and one-horned lizard.

All of the villagers were filled with amazement and envy when they saw his harvest.

Although there were cultivators in the villagers such as Lian Rufeng, who was a third layer True Martial Stage expert, no one had ever hunted down a savage beast like the snow spotted leopard, let alone a one-horned lizard.

The villagers' looks towards Lin Xun changed dramatically when they heard he killed the snow spotted leopard alone.

A thirteen-year-old boy killed an adult snow spotted leopard by himself!

This was like a legendary story to the villagers and they couldn't help but gain respect and awe for Lin Xun.

"Zhou Zhong, you've gathered so many treasures. What do you plan to do with them?" someone suddenly asked.

Lin Xun, Zhou Zhong and the others had already discussed what to do with the collected rune materials. A small portion would be kept for Lin Xun's own use and the rest would be sold or exchanged for other supplies with the Qingyang tribe.

As for the two savage beasts, the snow spotted leopard and one-horned lizard, their parts would be kept for the village and wouldn't be exchanged.

After all, it wasn't easy to obtain such treasures. Who would have the heart to sell them?

Zhou Zhong cast a glance at Lin Xun and seeing that the boy was smiling and nodding, he straightened himself and said, "Everyone, Little Brother Lin Xun and I have discussed this already. Although we were the ones who brought back the snow spotted leopard and one-horned lizard, we are all villagers of this

village and are as close as real siblings. Therefore, everyone will be given a share of the two savage beasts' blood and flesh."

All of the villagers broke into cheers of joy. They had never thought something so good would happen.

It should be said that although they were all villagers of Feiyun Village, each family owned their own properties. No one had ever brought out something so rare, such as the two savage beasts, to share with others like Lin Xun did.

"Hahaha, since that's the case, we will each take a share of the snow spotted leopard's skin and blood and the one-horned lizard's scales!"

Suddenly, the crowd parted and Lu Ting stormed through as he cast greedy looks at the snow spotted leopard and one-horned lizard.

Behind Lu Ting was Qian Qi, who looked slim and fierce. He coldly scanned around with his arms folded, but his eyes blazed with excitement as they swept across the harvest.

Suddenly, the atmosphere became tense, and many people knitted their brows together in a frown.

The things that Lu Ting was eyeing were the most valuable parts of the snow spotted leopard and one-horned lizard. The way he demanded them directly naturally drew disgust from the villagers.

Even Zhou Zhong's expression wasn't particularly friendly. He had said very clearly that he would share the blood and flesh of the two beasts and not other parts.

Lu Ting didn't seem to notice other people's gazes. He stepped forward and was about to take what he wanted.

Zhou Zhong couldn't stand it anymore and snapped, "Stop! These aren't yours!"

Lu Ting frowned, his face ferocious. "Idiot, you're not a cultivator, how would you use such treasures? They can only fully show its value in my hands."

While speaking, he arrogantly and aggressively grabbed a piece of the snow spotted leopard skin.

Clang!

An azure blade flashed in front of Lu Ting, causing him to freeze and his facial muscles twitched. He straightened his body and looked ahead to see Lin Xun standing in front with eyes filled with fury. "Do you want a fight?"

Before his voice faded, Qian Qi strolled over from a distance with his arms folded. His expression was unpleasantly cold.

The atmosphere immediately tensed further.

Lin Xun smiled. "I killed those beasts. Have I agreed to you taking some?"

Although smiling, he firmly pointed the short azure blade at Lu Ting.

"Yes, these are Little Brother Lin Xun's spoils."

“Lu Ting, you’ve gone too far.”

An intense discussion broke out.

The villagers had treated Lin Xun as part of them ever since he helped them exterminate worms in their fields. They wouldn’t watch Lu Ting bully him and do nothing.

Lu Ting’s face darkened as he shouted violently, “Shut up! What right do you have to intervene? If Big Brother Lian Rufeng and I hadn’t guarded the village, you would have died long ago! But you dare help an outsider instead of me. Do you not want to live anymore!”

The villagers’ faces blanched, but they were inwardly shocked and furious. However, they had to admit that they had indeed depended on Lu Ting to transport goods to the Qingyang tribe in exchange for the supplies they needed to live.

But in the past few years, Lu Ting and the others had brought back fewer and fewer supplies, and that had long sparked dissatisfaction and complaints among the villagers.

Unfortunately, the villagers had to suppress their anger and tolerate them because they still needed Lu Ting and the others to go to the Qingyang tribe to exchange for supplies to survive.

Seeing that no one objected, Lu Ting grinned triumphantly, but his expression darkened when he looked at Lin Xun.

“Boy, give me a straightforward answer, are you going to give me it or not?” Lu Ting evidently spoke in a threatening tone.

Qian Qi also stared at Lin Xun, his gaze cold and terrifying.

He originally didn’t plan to tear into Lin Xun’s face in the village so as not to arouse public anger, but when he saw the snow spotted leopard and one-horned lizard, he couldn’t suppress his greed anymore and didn’t care about anything else.

If Lin Xun dared to refuse to back down, Qian Qi didn’t mind teaching him a lesson in front of everyone!

Lin Xun naturally noticed Qian Qi’s unfriendly gaze, and couldn’t help but sneer inwardly. ‘These two are too arrogant. They even dare to snatch things so confidently and rightfully.’

“You want it? It’s easy, beat me first!”

Lin Xun uttered casually, his expression relaxed and calm, and a hint of a smile played on his lips.

“You want to die!”

Lu Ting smiled sinisterly and shot an imperceptible furtive glance at Qian Qi. However, Qian Qi understood thoroughly and strolled forward, blocking Lin Xun’s way of retreat.

Seeing this, the villagers all fumed about how shameless and arrogant Lu Ting and Qian Qi were acting.

Worried by this development, Zhou Zhong asked Lin Xun in a quiet voice, “How about...we just give them some?”

What he intended to say was the saying 'a wise man knows when to escape from an unfavorable situation to avoid loss'. For the sake of his own life, Lin Xun should just tolerate them.

Lin Xun said in a resolute voice, "There is absolutely no room for negotiation on this matter."

"Good! Since that's the case..."

A loud voice rang as the village chief's tall and burly figure appeared in the courtyard.

Xiao Tianren's appearance stirred the villagers like they saw their supporting pillar. Lin Xun's lips also curled in an imperceptible smile.

Lin Xun would have chosen to tolerate them at any other time and then find another chance to settle the matter.

However, it was different this time. Lin Xun dared to go up against Lu Ting and Qian Qi because he predicted that Xiao Tianren wouldn't sit and do nothing.

Xiao Tianren's appearance made Lu Ting and Qian Qi frown for a brief moment, but they soon returned to normal. Clearly, they attached no importance to Xiao Tianren.

Xiao Tianren wore an imposing expression as he swept his gaze over Lu Ting and Qian Qi. He then spoke in a deep voice, "You two have the guts to dare snatch others' properties in the village! Do you think I, the village chief, do not exist?!"

After a pause, Xiao Tianren continued sternly, "You dare to snatch Lin Xun's stuff today, then are you going to snatch someone else's stuff tomorrow?"

All the villagers' hearts trembled. 'Yes, Lu Ting is too arrogant, what if he snatched our stuff in the future?'

Suddenly, all the villagers looked at Lu Ting with the same bitter hatred.

Lu Ting frowned, inwardly infuriated. He pointed to Xiao Tianren and snapped, "Old man Xiao, we have respected you all these years but you won't give us any face!?"

That one sentence made Xiao Tianren's expression change.

Lin Xun snorted in his heart. 'Lu Ting is really an idiot. His actions will only make the villagers disgust him even more.'

"Fine, let's leave it. We made a mistake. Let's go." Qian Qi suddenly interrupted and pulled Lu Ting away.

"What are you doing? Do you not want any snow spotted leopard skin? Do you not want the one-horned lizard's scales? They can make top quality armor!" Lu Ting yelled as he resisted, but Qian Qi firmly dragged him away.

Xiao Tianren's expression still didn't look too good, but he evidently was relieved. Seeing that all the villagers were looking at him, he didn't want them to worry and waved dismissively. "Good, everyone's good. Go now."

Everyone knew they shouldn't stay any longer and left one after another. In the end, only Lin Xun, Xiao Tianren and Zhou Zhong remained.

Without any outsiders around, Xiao Tianren suddenly sighed, "I didn't think they would be so arrogant."

Lin Xun smiled and gave an irrelevant response, "Qian Qi is a smart person. He knew he couldn't get anything after you arrived."

Xiao Tianren shook his head. "This is only temporary. Since they didn't get what they wanted, they likely will find another opportunity."

Lin Xun nodded, pondered for a moment and asked, "Uncle Xiao, what if they suddenly disappeared one day?"

The meaning behind his words was that if he had the chance to kill Lu Ting and Qian Qi, would you, the village chief, object?

Seeing Lin Xun's clear and calm eyes, Xiao Tianren's eyelids twitched. It was only after a long moment that he answered unwaveringly, "It's best for them to disappear. Their disappearance would only be beneficial to the villagers in Feiyun Village!" **nOveLNext.Com**

Lin Xun immediately smiled. That was the exact answer he wanted to hear.

[Chapter 24: The Art of the Six Word Blade](#)

It was midday, and the sun burned fiercely, but the conversation between Xiao Tianren and Lin Xun made Zhou Zhong's body go cold and tremble with fear.

How could he not tell that Lin Xun intended to kill Lu Ting and Qian Qi?

In recent years, Lu Ting, Qian Qi and other village guards had joined Lian Rufeng in taking the village's properties, and that had already sparked complaints in the village.

However, they were all from the same village. Most importantly, if the villagers wanted to survive, they still needed Lian Rufeng and others to travel to the Qingyang tribe to exchange for supplies. Who would carry out that task for Feiyun Village if they died?

However, Zhou Zhong was also aware that Lian Rufeng and the others had changed. They were even more arrogant than before and thought all of the other villagers were beneath them. If they were allowed to do as they please, the consequences to the villagers would be unimaginable.

After pondering over it, Zhou Zhong finally sighed inwardly. 'Since the village chief has come to this decision, he must have his reasons.'

After some further small talk, Xiao Tianren hurried away.

Zhou Zhong also had no intention of staying longer. After dividing the harvest with Lin Xun, he asked some strong villagers to distribute them to every household in the village.

Of course, Lu Ting and Qian Qi were the only ones without a share, and no one objected to that. After all, they had gone too far this time.

.....

An iron pot was set up in the middle of a courtyard. The fire blazed and the pot glowed red as the essence and blood of the snow spotted leopard bubbled inside, sending trails of smoke into the air.

Standing by the pot, Lin Xun quickly tossed in rune materials: blood clotting herb, common spirit flower, vermilion-purple fruit...

Each one already had the properties of strengthening the muscles and bones and refining the flesh and blood but their combination with the blood of snow spotted leopard produced the most optimal effect.

This was a means of extracting rune materials.

A rune master must possess the ability to identify rune materials as well as extract rune ink.

Lin Xun had been learning from Mister Lu since young. He had memorized the medicinal properties, uses and effects of various rune materials very well. However, he wasn't trying to extract rune ink but extract their essences for his own cultivation.

A full hour had passed.

The various rune materials in the iron pot had completely integrated with the snow spotted leopard's essence and blood and turned into a thick, dark-red slurry.

It was called the Aeth Refining Decoction.

Lin Xun took out a water sack and carefully poured the slurry inside and put it away safely. He smiled in relief.

The slurry had great beneficial effects including strengthening the muscles and bones and refining the flesh and blood. This had the end result of toughening the consumer's body.

Glug—

Lin Xun poured himself a bowl of slurry and gulped it all down in one mouthful. A billow of warmth roamed to all his limbs and bones.

Taking this opportunity, Lin Xun practised the Marching Army Fist Art once again in the courtyard. Wind blasted from his fist as his body moved vigorously and nimbly.

He continued to perform maneuvers in the courtyard, whipping up clouds of dust, and even creating mini explosions in the air.

Soon, Lin Xun's blood and qi bubbled in his body and steam rose from the crown of his head. His body burned like a furnace. He felt every muscle burning with inexhaustible energy and felt no trace of fatigue.

Enough time passed to burn an incense stick.

Lin Xun's spine twisted and turned like a dragon as he suddenly charged forward and his fist roared like a raging sea.

Bang!

A hole was blasted into the huge azure rock in the middle of the courtyard. Fragments from the impact pelted the wall like rainwater.

The seventh move of the Marching Army Fist— Raging Sea Devastates the Mountain!

In the past, Lin Xun could never bring out the true power of this move due to the damage in his four heart acupuncture points.

However, he not only achieved it now, but his expression also seemed relaxed and his breathing remained the same like it didn't require much energy.*nOveINExt.cOm*

On the one hand, it was because the original damage to his four heart acupuncture points was a blessing in disguise. Four Aeth Power Vortexes had now formed in his four heart acupuncture points. As a result, when he performed the Marching Army Fist, he noticed that his aeth power was no longer sluggish like before. Additionally, the grade of his aeth power had also improved.

On the other hand, his body had begun to change, becoming much stronger. Additionally, he had consumed the Aeth Refining Decoction, which had begun to produce its body refining effect. Thereby, it assisted him in displaying the real power of the Raging Sea Devastates the Mountain!

Lin Xun couldn't be happier about the drastic changes that happened over the past few days.

Without any hesitation, his figure suddenly flashed and his fist changed. His eyes flashed like lightning and in the blink of an eye, he seemed to transform into a haughty general with years of experience on the battlefield.

Boom!

His fist blasted through the air with majestic and imposing force, resembling a mighty dragon. It was filled with terrifying murderous power that made even the air ripple and scatter.

The eighth move of the Marching Army Fist Art— Fight Bloody Battles On All Directions!

Lin Xun felt the power contained in that punch as he stood still. Although he panted a little, his eyes were unusually bright.

Finally, he could bring out the power of the eight moves of the Marching Army Fist.

Lin Xun drew a deep breath and his eyes resumed its usual calmness. "I could kill Lu Ting with one punch when I see him!"

He had absolute confidence in this. Although Lin Xun's cultivation had stagnated at the Inner Strengthening Stage for over two years, it only consolidated his aeth power more. Additionally, the further refinement from the four Aeth Power Vortexes raised his aeth power grade by another level and his fighting strength doubled as a result.

Given his current state, he would be a laughingstock if he couldn't defeat Lu Ting with ease.

"Qian Qi..."

Lin Xun's eyes glinted coldly as he thought of that fierce and ruthless man. 'He is an expert of the third layer True Martial Stage, I must pay utmost attention when I face him.'

.....

At night, Lin Xun cooked up a pot of snow spotted leopard meat with aeth grains, quickly demolished it, and returned to practicing in his room.

He knew very well that Lu Ting and Qian Qi already viewed him as a thorn in their side. Even if they wouldn't kill him, they wouldn't let him off easily.

Lin Xun wasn't the type who would resign himself to fate. Since he had decided to eliminate the two troublemakers, he would do everything he could to achieve it.

Lin Xun had mastered very few battle techniques. Among them, the majority were taught by Mister Lu, such as the Marching Army Fist and the Six Word Blade.

The Matching Army Fist was a basic fist art widely known throughout the Ziyao Empire, and Lin Xun had now fully grasped it.

The Six Word Blade was a blade art divided into six moves: 'split', 'coil', 'rotate', 'shake', 'stab' and 'strip', and each had its own mystery.

Mister Lu taught Lin Xun the blade art to improve the speed at which Lin Xun dissected rune materials but he didn't mention the origins of the blade art. After all, remarkable knife skills were required to extract complex rune materials.

However, ever since Lin Xun started cultivating, he found that the technique wasn't only used to dissect rune materials, but it was also clearly a technique with terrifying destructive power.

For example, even the 'split' move in the Six Word Blade consisted of seventeen different types of splitting, such as heavy splitting, side splitting, straight splitting, hidden splitting...and so on. Each one targeted an enemy's vital parts, and was incredibly precise and ruthless.

Given Lin Xun's current skill, although he had the Six Word Blade art, he hadn't fully comprehended the mystery and essence of each move yet. He could only be said to be at the beginner level.

Even so, the blade art's power could not be underestimated.

For example, Lin Xun had split Lu Ting's whip in one slash using the 'heavy splitting' move the other day. Its destructive power could easily be extrapolated from that.

Lin Xun had long suspected that the Six Word Blade had an impressive origin and wasn't an ordinary technique. Unfortunately, Mister Lu had never explained it to him.

In short, the Marching Army Fist and the Six Word Blade art were the combat techniques that Lin Xun had grasped and they were more than enough to deal with ordinary opponents.

What Lin Xun valued more was his cultivation base. A cultivator's cultivation base was the basis of their fighting strength. For example, regardless of how long a practitioner practised the Marching Army Fist Art or how proficient they were in it, it would have no destructive power without a solid cultivation base.

Only with the support of a cultivation base could a person's fighting strength be fully displayed.

Rumble~

Stream-like aeth power repeatedly circulated in Lin Xun's body. His mind was clear and peaceful without the slightest ripple.

After consuming the flesh and blood of the snow spotted leopard and the aeth grains, he had circulated his aeth power eighteen times around his body. Lin Xun's aeth power, which had halved after refinement, began to show signs of growth.

Lin Xun even sensed signs of advancement!

This undoubtedly proved that he had gotten rid of his bad luck of being unable to cultivate after obtaining the Omega Secret-Realm and was now starting a new life of cultivation.

"Within seven days, I will breakthrough!"

Lin Xun's eyes glistened with confidence in the dark house. If he could break through within that period, Qian Qi wouldn't be a problem for him.

In the evening, after Lin Xun circulated his aeth power, he continued to comprehend the Little Divine Meditation Art by visualizing the stars and refining his spirit.

Dawn was breaking, and even though he hadn't slept all night, Lin Xun was full of energy and didn't have a hint of tiredness. Instead, his six senses, vision, hearing, smell, taste, touch and consciousness, became more sensitive than before.

He could hear the breeze ruffling the willow leaves outside the window, silkworms squirming on the ground, dew rolling off leaves, butterflies beating their wings and the whoosh of air currents...The various sounds of nature formed a scene full of life.

It was so unique and so clear as it reflected in his mind and made Lin Xun a lot more relaxed and peaceful.

Lin Xun had never used his six senses to perceive the world in such a subtle way.

This was precisely the effect of strengthening his spirit from practicing the [Little Divine Meditation Art].

Spirit!

It was a treasure of cultivation. It involved the person's understanding and wisdom. It was indescribably mysterious. Even the most powerful cultivators of the Heaven Ascension Stage could only explore and understand it little by little.

Lin Xun, who was only at the second layer True Martial Stage and had just started his cultivation, had already begun to touch upon the mystery of spirit!

[Chapter 25: Burial Ground](#)

Bang!

The cup smashed to the ground and shattered into pieces.

Lu Ting's expression was dark and unpleasant when he said through gritted teeth, "Qian Qi, why did you stop me? Given our strength, we could have easily killed that little trash, don't you agree?"

Qian Qi scrunched his brows. "Xiao Tianren and others were around. Do you think they would just let us kill him?"

Lu Ting snorted. "None of those guys know any martial arts. So what if they all charge out to help that little trash? I can deal with them all alone!"

Qian Qi frowned even more deeply. 'This guy is so stupid. If we anger Xiao Tianren and the others, who would grow aeth grains for us?'

Qian Qi couldn't be bothered to explain anymore and he said directly, "Don't forget what I told you last time. In a few days, Lin Xun will go to Sun Mazi's aeth fields more than twenty miles away from the village to exterminate worms!"

Lu Ting was quiet for a moment but he still felt a little bitter. In the end, he grumbled, "Fine! Then I'll wait a few more days."

Qian Qi smiled slightly and said leisurely, "At that time, the treasures from the snow spotted leopard and one-horned lizard will belong to us."

Lu Ting's heart blazed and his expression grew fierce and sinister. 'Little trash, I'll let you live for a few more days!'

.....

In the next few days, apart from helping villagers exterminate worms in their plantations, Lin Xun spent all his time on his cultivation.

Lin Xun made use of every little moment to comprehend the Little Divine Meditation Art, and practiced the Yuan Holding Art, Marching Army Fist Art and Six Word Blade.

Although a huge fraction of the flesh and blood from the snow spotted leopard and one-horned lizard he hunted was distributed to the villagers, the remaining was enough to last Lin Xun for at least ten days.

The two beasts' flesh and blood had significantly accelerated Lin Xun's cultivation speed. He even encountered an opportunity to break through to the third layer True Martial Stage, which he decided to delay temporarily.

The presence of the four Aeth Power Vortexes in his four heart acupuncture points made it appear that the amount of aeth power in his body had reduced, but it had only improved its grade by four-fold and increased its purity level!

Lin Xun felt that he should wait until the aeth power within his body was refined to its peak state before making a breakthrough.

His reason for doing so was very simple—he wanted to go further on the cultivation road in the future!

The more solid a cultivator's foundation was, the smoother the road was in the future. This had been the indisputable truth since ancient times.

However, only very few people in history could achieve this because not everyone possessed the Aeth Power Vortex to refine their aeth power like Lin Xun did.

A cultivator's foundation had long been decided by their constitution and couldn't be changed. Therefore, it was impossible to create a stronger foundation.

In the early morning, Lin Xun woke up from meditation. His breathing was deep and long and his body was flowing with energy and aeth power.

"I will breakthrough either tomorrow or the day after tomorrow!"

Lin Xun inhaled deeply like a whale drawing in water. The air flowed into his mouth like a swift current and irrigated every limb and bone in his body before escaping from his nose as a puff of turbid vapor.

This was a sign that he was breaking through the third layer True Martial Stage, the Organ Opening Stage.

The Organ Opening Stage represented the opening of the five organ dwellings, which corresponded to each of the five elements. If a person could smooth their arteries and veins that led to the five organs and draw aeth power there, it would be considered as taking a huge step on their cultivation path.

The 'exhaling of the old and accepting the new' prepared the cultivator for 'Organ Opening' by removing the impurities from the body and drawing aeth power to the five internal organs. In the process, the cultivator's entire body, including qi, life force and aeth force would undergo changes.

Lin Xun exited his room and practised the Marching Army Fist Art and the Six Word Blade under the sun. He then quickly rinsed himself and left home.

He had made plans to help Sun Mazi with his fields, which were twenty miles away from Feiyun Village, so he had to set off early in order to get there before noon.

On the way there, villagers enthusiastically greeted Lin Xun, and he also politely nodded back with a smile.

After the time and effort he invested in the past few days, Lin Xun had been accepted into the village and was very respected by everyone.

"Uncle Lin Xun, when will you teach us martial arts?" shouted a little kid.

"Soon, probably in the next few days."

Lin Xun smiled and patted the child's head. Then, he left the village with Sun Mazi, who was waiting in the distance.

Sun Mazi's family field was the only plantation still left to be treated. Once Lin Xun had exterminated the worms in those fields, he would have time to teach the children martial arts.

Sun Mazi was an honest and wooden middle-aged man. The older man didn't utter a word on the way there.

It took more than an hour for them to arrive at the two thousand odd square meters of plantations near Fiery Smoke Mountain.

Lin Xun couldn't help but take a closer look at Fiery Smoke Mountain when he arrived.

Standing at hundreds of feet tall, the mountain looked majestic and dangerous. The rocks on the mountain were bare, unlike the green rocks on nearby mountains. Instead, they were a reddish flame-like color and extremely eye-catching.

More than a hundred years ago, a cultivator from the eastern side of the Ziyao Empire spotted a little ore vein when he passed Fiery Smoke Mountain and it turned out to contain an abundant amount of Feiyun Fire Copper.

This was where Feiying Village got its name.

Since then, time had passed and circumstances had changed. When the ore vein was fully excavated and the influential figures left, the remaining group of slaves was left to fend for themselves.

The villagers living in Feiyun Village were all descendants of those abandoned slaves.

Lin Xun had heard Xiao Tianren mention the village's origin in the past so he couldn't help but stare a little longer when he saw Fiery Smoke Mountain.

From his understanding, all of the places that contained Feiyun Fire Copper ore veins were all extremely favorable geographical locations and should be further explored!

'If there's a chance, I must take a look for myself. If the guys who excavated the mine back then failed to notice something even more valuable, I can take advantage of that.' An idea flashed across Lin Xun's mind.

Without further delay, Lin Xun deftly took out the required tools, walked into the depths of the aeth fields and began to draw the Light Drawing Rune.

Sun Mazi waited near the fields.

"The little trash is here! Let's act now!"

At the foot of Fiery Smoke Mountain, not far from the fields, was Lu Ting hiding behind a boulder, his face contorted in an excited grin.

"Wait a little longer. His aeth power will be exhausted after drawing runes and that's the best time to kill him."

Qian Qi wore a calm and solemn expression. He was an extremely cautious person.

"Given our strengths, do you think we can't deal with a piece of trash at the second layer True Martial Stage?" asked Lu Ting, sounding a little annoyed.

"It's best to be cautious."

Qian Qi was not moved at all.

Helpless, Lu Ting glowered with anger. He couldn't understand why Qian Qi, a third layer True Martial Stage cultivator, would think so highly of Lin Xun.

Soon, a buzz rang from the fields and a beam of golden light shot into the sky.

It was the Light Drawing Rune displaying its effect. Qian Qi couldn't help but sigh at the sight. "Given the kid's ability, if he didn't go against us, he could have been useful to Big Brother Lian Rufeng. What a pity..."

"Don't cry crocodile tears!" Lu Ting spat disdainfully.

Qian Qi smiled without retorting. He got up and strode towards the fields. "Let's go, it's harvest time."

"At last!"

Lu Ting had been waiting impatiently. He sprang up and charged over like a bloodthirsty bull with a giant shining hammer in his hand.

.....

The Light Drawing Rune displayed its magical effect and exterminated the worms within seconds.

Lin Xun didn't even need to look to know what would be the result. He turned around and walked out of the field, but he came to realize that Sun Mazi was gone.

Huh?

Lin Xun's eyes darted around the surroundings, and while puzzlement filled his heart, he saw two figures speeding towards him from a distance.

One was slim and fierce-looking and held a spear in his hand. The other was tall and burly, and wore a sinister expression while wielding a giant hammer.

They were Qian Qi and Lu Ting!

They had clearly come with malicious intentions. However, Lin Xun remained calm and collected. He had already predicted that Lu Ting and Qian Qi would come to give him trouble. He just didn't expect it to be that soon.

Sun Mazi's sudden disappearance made Lin Xun realize that he had colluded with Lu Ting and Qian Qi.

No one was nearby and he was far from Feiyun Village, making it impossible to seek help. It was indeed a good place to kill.

Lin Xun knew Qian Qi was the brains behind this operation because Lu Ting was, well, a stupid boar, aggressive and hot-headed. He would never be able to plan something so meticulously.

Lin Xun simply stood there quietly as he watched Lu Ting and Qian Qi approach. His expression was calm and a hint of a smile played on his lips.

"You two finally came." Lin Xun suddenly spoke.

Both Lu Ting and Qian Qi were taken aback. They thought the sudden change of situation would make Lin Xun panic and flee, but they didn't expect him to stand there calmly, as if he was waiting for them to arrive.*nOveINExt.cOm*

“Stop pretending, let’s see who will save you now!” Lu Ting roared. Lin Xun’s calm demeanor made him even more annoyed.

Qian Qi was also a little surprised by Lin Xun's composure, but his eyes were still cold and razor-sharp. ‘No matter what tricks he is playing, he will die today!’

“The place you picked isn’t bad. I had worried over the best place to eliminate you two without any witnesses. Unexpectedly, you dug your own graves. You made it a lot easier for me.”

Lin Xun drew the short azure blade strapped at his waist with a cheery smile on his face and his bearing abruptly changed at that very moment.

[Chapter 26: Disposing Corpses](#)

Lin Xun’s brows suddenly seemed to be as fierce as sharp blades and his eyes shined like lightning!

He seemed to have become another person, exuding an imposing yet calm aura, which seemed completely at odds with his identity of a thirteen year old youngster.

Shua!

Without the slightest hesitation, Lin Xun launched his attack. His figure flashed and the azure blade in his grip slashed through the air, aiming directly for Qian Qi’s head.

Under such conditions, there was no room for him to flee. It was best to actively launch an attack.

The blade cut through the air with a rip, creating a sonic boom that stung everyone’s eardrum. In that instant, the blade resembled a flowing waterfall and exploded with forcefulness

Buzz!

Reacting swiftly, Qian Qi brought his iron spear up to meet the attack head-on. The tip flashed a ray of cold light. His movements were quick, skillful and ruthless.

He had followed Lian Rufeng to deliver goods between Feiyun Village and the Qingyang Tribe for years. He had not only fought fierce beasts, but also many robbers. And as a result, he had developed strong combat experience.

Naturally, Lin Xun’s sudden attack couldn’t catch him off guard.

Lu Ting was similar to Qian Qi in that he had many battle experiences, even if he was reckless. He couldn’t help but sneer when he saw Lin Xun daringly point his weapon at Qian Qi. ‘What a fool. No normal person would want to face Qian Qi in these circumstances.’

After all, even if there seemed to be only one level of difference between the second and third layer True Martial Stage, there was a world of difference in strengths!

However, what surprised Lu Ting was that Lin Xun suddenly slammed his toes on the ground and turned direction just as he was about to face Qian Qi. He suddenly seemed to change his target and came charging towards him!

Shua!

The azure blade moved at lightning speed. Sharp and fierce as the wind, it was precisely the 'stabbing' move of the Six Word Blade!

The attacker slyly caught the enemy off guard with a surprise attack

The stabbing move was unpredictable and impossible to guard against. It contained enough force and speed for a one-shot kill.

Lu Ting's pupils rapidly shrank. He only just realized that Lin Xun had made a feint and his target wasn't Qian Qi!

Lu Ting roared as he swung up his giant hammer to shield his body. At the same time, he frantically drew back in hopes of evading the attack.

However, how would Lin Xun miss such a good opportunity? His azure blade suddenly switched from the 'stab' move to the 'coil' move.

Strands of silk shot from the blade as if it had a bunch of spring silkworms in it, clinging to Lu Ting's giant hammer like a magnet!

Boom!

The blade appeared soft and gentle but an unparalleled force gushed out upon contact with the giant hammer. Lu Ting's arm shook and crackled until he dropped the giant hammer to the ground.

As though a raging bull had knocked him over, Lu Ting bled from his mouth and nose while he was sent flying across tens of meters. But before he could even scream in pain, he passed out.

After succeeding in one attack, Lin Xun didn't glance at Lu Ting again. He shifted his body and narrowly evaded Qian Qi, who was charging over from the side.

"Lu Ting!"

Qian Qi's face grew overcast and troubled as he trembled inwardly. Lin Xun's series of movements was completed in the blink of an eye, like a falcon swooping down on a hare. It was so fast that even he couldn't do anything to help out.

Qian Qi also didn't expect Lin Xun to be so cunning to change targets halfway. The boy's true objective had never been him, but Lu Ting instead!

Lu Ting also didn't put up a good performance. He was defeated in one strike!

"What a cunning little thing!"

Qian Qi's voice was icy and full of murderous intent as he stared at Lin Xun with razor sharp eyes. He was clearly enraged.

As though unaware of the other man's bloodlust, Lin Xun simply smiled, raised his blade and charged over.

He couldn't bother to say anything. After getting rid of Lu Ting, he had one less obstacle, and so he could fully concentrate on dealing with Qian Qi, a cultivator of the third True Martial Stage.

Shua! Shua! Shua!

The azure blade constantly waved around in the air, sometimes as light as a dancing butterfly, sometimes as heavy as a mountain, sometimes as powerful as a landslide, and sometimes as quick as a lightning. The Six Word Blade was displayed in its full majesty.

It could be called as quick as an angered dragon and as powerful as an avalanche! It gave Qian Qi no chance to even breathe.

Qian Qi practiced the Sparrowhawk Spear, which was known for its ruthlessness and its ability to kill as easily as splitting bamboo. Additionally, he was at the Organ Opening Stage and undoubtedly possessed remarkable combat strength.

He could suppress and kill ordinary second layer True Martial Stage experts in seconds!

However, Lin Xun had suppressed Qian Qi to the point that he was forced to constantly retreat and was unable to strike back.

With his shrewd eyes, Qian Qi could tell that Lin Xun's blade was unusually powerful!

The boy's unusually powerful blade technique wouldn't ordinarily be an issue because his superiority in cultivation levels gave him an upper hand against Lin Xun. However, unexpectedly, Lin Xun's strength was in no way inferior to his!

How was that possible?

How could a thirteen-year-old boy at the second layer True Martial Stage possess such strong aeth power?

Shocked and outraged, Qian Qi realized he had still underestimated the youngster despite his cautiousness.

He had often traveled to the Qingyang tribe in recent years and had heard about many young talented cultivators who appeared to possess a weak cultivation base but could take on opponents at a superior cultivation level!

Such young heroes were only seen once in a hundred years. Even if the Qingyang Tribe had a population of around 8,000, only a few had such talent and strength.

Could Lin Xun be one of those geniuses?

Although Qian Qi forced himself to remain calm, puzzlement surged in his mind.

He originally thought that Lin Xun was just a rune apprentice and nothing to be feared. It was when Lu Ting repeatedly lost to Lin Xun that he finally began to pay attention to Lin Xun.

However, it was only after they exchanged blows that he woke up to the reality that he had truly underestimated Lin Xun's strength.

'This isn't good!'

Kacha!

Suddenly, his arm throbbed with pain and his iron spear was sliced into two!

'Not good!'

Qian Qi was finally fully snapped out of his thoughts. His complexion became ashen and he didn't dare to make wild conjectures anymore. With a shrill scream, he twisted around and fled for his life!

He was completely horrified. His broken spear made him realize that he was no match for Lin Xun. If he didn't take the chance to flee, there might not be another.

Qian Qi had made a decision. Once he escaped, he would report the incident to Lian Rufeng in the Qingyang tribe. Lin Xun was too terrifying!

However, just as Qian Qi turned around, Lin Xun unhesitatingly hurled his azure blade.

Wu!

The short blade whistled across the air, producing screeches similar to a hungry ghost. The speed was unbelievable. The next second, with a loud boom, the blade pierced into Qian Qi's back and knocked him to the ground. Blood gushed everywhere.

Qian Qi let out a tragic wail as he pushed himself up. His face was contorted with pain and fear. Lin Xun rushed over and knocked him to the ground with a kick. Then, he yanked out his azure blade on Qian Qi's back and slashed his neck!

From the start to the end of the skirmish Lin Xun had wasted no time. His movements were experienced and skillful.

Qian Qi's eyes almost popped out their sockets but he refused to turn his head to look at Lin Xun. In the end, he tumbled to the ground and lost his life.

Blood flowed from Qian Qi's throat and stained the ground a tragic red.

Lin Xun remained undisturbed. After confirming that Qian Qi was indeed dead, he turned around and came to Lu Ting in the distance. He thrust his blade down, piercing the older man's heart.
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Lu Ting and Qian Qi were both killed within minutes.

Lin Xun let out a long sigh as he stared at Lu Ting's corpse in a daze.

No one knew that this was his first time killing. It was understandable for him to be a little nervous.

In order to make himself less apprehensive, Lin Xun had been crazily training a few days ago. He knew he would have to face Lu Ting and Qian Qi one day, and he also didn't forget to prepare various tactics and means.

Perfect preparation, after all, was sometimes the beginning of creating a miracle.

Lin Xun wasn't trying to create a miracle. He did everything just to kill Lu Ting and Qian Qi.

It was just that he didn't realize that Qian Qi and Lu Ting weren't as strong as he had thought.

That was right. He wasn't surprised that he suppressed Lu Ting in one strike, but he was shocked by the lack of pressure he felt when he was up against Qian Qi, a third layer True Martial Stage expert!

Not only that, but as the battle continued, he also realized Qian Qi posed no threat to him.

Lin Xun originally thought that Qian Qi was deliberately pretending to be weak. He only came to realize that Qian Qi wasn't that good when he killed the other man.

'What is going on?'

Lin Xun couldn't understand what had happened.

He had actually prepared other means to kill Qian Qi. This even included a possibility that it'd be a bitter fight to the death. Who would have thought that he would easily win with just his strength alone?

"It seems that he's just an ordinary person."

Lin Xun drew a deep breath, laughing at himself a little. He had been anxious about the battle for days. In the end, he had made a huge fuss over such a minor thing.

Lin Xun blamed Qian Qi for underestimating himself.

Although Qian Qi wasn't an influential figure of the third True Martial Stage, he was still a ruthless fellow with substantial battle experience.

However, Lin Xun didn't realize that the Aeth Power Vortexes had long strengthened his cultivation base. His Aeth Power was not just pure and solid, its grade had been raised by four times.

Additionally, his diligent practice and consumption of the flesh and blood of snow spotted leopard and one-horned lizard helped temper both the inside and outside of his body.

With the help of the Six Word Blade and other unique cultivation arts, it was logical that he managed to kill Qian Qi easily.

Without thinking about this any more, Lin Xun scanned the surroundings and finally focussed on the Fiery Smoke Mountain in the distance.

He had heard that there was a mine in the hinterland of Fiery Smoke Mountain. Although it had been abandoned, it provided a good place to dispose of corpses.

Lin Xun carried the bodies of Lu Ting and Qian Qi to the foot of Fiery Smoke Mountain and found the abandoned mine.

[Chapter 27: Blood Red Bats](#)

Lin Xun had no idea that Qian Qi and Lu Ting had planned to dispose of his body in the same abandoned mine after killing him.

However, they were the ones who suffered in the end. They likely had never thought this would be the ultimate outcome when they were still alive.

The abandoned mine was incredibly deep with no end in sight.

After checking around, Lin Xun carried the bodies of Qian Qi and Lu Ting in.

The mine was dark and consisted of a network of twists and turns. The rugged and crimson walls clearly showed the many excavated places.

A Feiyun Fire Copper vein ore was discovered more than a hundred years ago and all of the Feiyun Fire Copper had likely been cleanly extracted given the mine's abandoned state.

However, Lin Xun didn't come for any leftover ore. After navigating around the twists and turns of the mine, he paused in front of a pit.

After tossing the corpses of Lu Ting and Qian Qi into the pit, Lin Xun didn't immediately leave. Instead, he continued to explore along the mine.

However, the deeper he went, the wetter and colder he felt, and the quieter the atmosphere. The dark environment made his hair stand on end.

Zhi—

Suddenly, a sharp whistle followed by a line of flames shot out from the depths of the mine, piercing the darkness and dazzling his eyes.

'As expected!'

The sudden noise didn't surprise Lin Xun. Instead, a smile curled the corners of his lips.

Pu!

He flicked his wrist and the blade's tip flashed. The line of flames roaring in front of him split apart. It popped and crackled as it fell to the ground like a shower of flames.

Lin Xun leaned forward to see that it was a bat, except its head had been severed.

The bat looked extremely hideous with protruding fangs, bulging eyes and bright red wings that seemed to be formed from blood.

This was a blood red bat!

Lin Xun had read an ancient book in Mister Lu's library called 'The Record of All Spirits' when he was a child and had come across a record about the blood red bats.

This beast was a strange species. It was nocturnal and fed solely on blood. It passed venom into its victim's bloodstream through a bite and, without timely treatment, the victim would die within three days.

However, Lin Xun wasn't too concerned because according to 'The Record of All Spirits', there would definitely be Blood Essence Sand where blood red bats were sighted!

Blood Essence Sand was actually the teeth shed from blood red bats. Every three years, the bats would smash their fangs into rocks to destroy them for a new set to grow after a month of rest.

For cultivators, Blood Essence Sand was a valuable rune material. It could be used as medicine or as rune ink, but its greatest value lied in its ability to cleanse bones and refine essences!

Blood Essence Sand could increase a cultivator's chance of successfully breaking through to the Essence Refining Stage, the fifth layer True Martial Stage, by at least 20%!

Therefore, Blood Essence Sand was regarded as an extremely valuable rune material.

Lin Xun was already tempted to come when he learned about the existence of a Feiyun Fire Copper mine in Feiyun Village because he knew very well that blood red bats were attracted to places where Feiyun Fire Copper were found. The natural environment of Feiyun Fire Copper formed a natural protection for blood red bats.

It was because of this that Lin Xun wanted to explore the mine, but he wasn't sure whether the people back then had also discovered this secret.

However, seeing that a blood red bat had knocked into his hand, he was certain that there was an abundant amount of Blood Essence Sand hidden in the mine's depths! NOVELNEXT.COM

After thinking about this, Lin Xun increased his pace.

Blood Essence Sand was extremely precious and could be sold for a good price. Even a little could fetch him a considerable fortune.

Since Lin Xun was currently penniless, it was impossible for him to enter the Ziyao Empire through normal channels.

For his cultivation path and to progress further along in the art of runes, he desperately needed to make some money.

It couldn't be helped. Cultivation required money and runes also required huge financial support.

There was a saying that every rune master was born from the accumulation of gold and silver mountains.

This was no exaggeration since the engraving of runes required rune brushes, rune inks and vessels. Each one was indispensable. Rune ink was the most expensive of them all because it was made from the extraction of a variety of rune materials. The higher the grade of a rune, the higher the requirements for rune ink. Consequently, the requirements for the various rune materials needed to create the rune ink also wouldn't be low.

Moreover, great attention also needed to be paid to the rune brush and vessel. Thus, the engraving of runes couldn't be done without money.

Additionally, it was common to fail when attempting to engrave runes. Consequently, a huge chunk of money would be wasted as a result. No rune master could have a perfect success rate.

Therefore, in addition to talent and aptitude, a huge amount of money was required to become a rune master.

Lin Xun couldn't do without money if he wanted to progress further in the art of runes.

Of course, if he truly became a rune master one day, he could make money with no difficulty.

There was also an old saying in the world: the smell of money lingered between every rune master's fingertips because the runes they engraved could be sold for crazy, sky-high prices!

Lin Xun had started to learn the art of runes from Mister Lu from a young age. How would he not understand this reasoning?

In order to have a sliver of a chance of becoming a true rune master, he needed to crazily work at three things: making a whole bunch of money, study runes, and practice carving runes!

When he became a true rune master, wealth, status and fame would come easily!

In Lin Xun's view, engraving runes was his survival skill. It was only when Mister Lu was around that he was guaranteed to have the money and materials required on his cultivation path.

He wasn't a young master from a wealthy family who didn't have to worry about money, nor was he a descendant of a noble who had various cultivation resources at his fingertips. He came to Ziyao Empire alone, penniless, and had no one to depend on except himself.

.....

As he moved deeper into the mine, more bats rushed out. Fortunately, they possessed little attacking power despite their vicious appearances, and Lin Xun easily dealt with them.

Pu—

Along the way, except from the dull noises made during the killing of the blood red bats, only the sounds of Lin Xun's footsteps echoed in the mine.

However, as time went by, the number of bats soared. They sometimes attacked in groups like a shower of flames. Lin Xun had to be on full alert and he constantly swung his azure blade.

Speaking of which, the azure blade was a self-defense weapon that Mister Lu had gifted him when he was a child. It was constructed from several rare rune materials. It was just a pity that Mister Lu couldn't engrave it with runes.

Therefore, despite the azure blade's incomparable sharpness, it wasn't a graded treasure and could only be regarded as an ordinary tool.

The sign that symbolized whether a treasure was graded was whether it was engraved with runes!

Treasures marked with runes were called aeth tools.

According to their power, aeth tools were divided into four major grades: human, earth, heaven, and pure sun. Furthermore, each grade was divided into lower, middle, upper, and top levels.

Generally speaking, only those with a cultivation base above the Spirit Dipper Stage could exert the full power of an aeth tool.

Lin Xun only possessed the strength of the second layer True Martial Stage and so he couldn't bring out an aeth tool's true power even if he held one.

However, although the azure blade wasn't graded and was only regarded as an ordinary tool, its power was extraordinary. After all, it was constructed from various rare rune materials.

Lin Xun called the blade the Skybreaker Blade to symbolize that he would one day break the sky.

Clasping the blade, Lin Xun continued forward. But he was shocked to find that the mine had no end.

He had been navigating inside for more than an hour and had traveled at least tens of miles.

The deeper he went, the darker it became, and only the dark red glow reflected on the walls of both sides helped Lin Xun to just barely see ahead.

All of this greatly affected his eyesight, and even slowed his reaction when facing the blood red bats' attack.

Later, Lin Xun gave up on spotting the bats with his eyes. He held his breath in deep concentration and began to perceive the danger around him with his mind and consciousness.

This was no different to fighting with his eyes closed.

At first, Lin Xun wasn't quite used to it and bats almost bit his vital body parts several times. However, he soon grew accustomed to such a method of fighting and the killing of bats became easier and smoother.

Additionally, Lin Xun gained a deeper understanding of martial arts through using his perception in a real battle. He began to grasp some of the more obscure and mysterious aspects of the Six Word Blade that he had yet to comprehend.

Shua! Shua! Shua!

The blade light fluttered like a rainbow in the darkness as it beheaded the blood red bats one by one.

Lin Xun was immersed in comprehending the Six Word Blade and had completely forgotten the passage of time. His mind was completely empty and free.

Under such conditions, the movements of his blade became more and more skilful and he was beginning to exhibit the true essence of the blade art.

Fortunately, Lin Xun's spirit had significantly improved after learning the Little Divine Meditation Art and his perception of the surroundings became much clearer.

If other cultivators of the second layer True Martial Stage attempted to fight without using their eyes, they would have been instantly killed and their bodies riddled with bat bites.

After an unknown period of time, Lin Xun suddenly felt his perception was empty. His eyes snapped open suddenly as he awoke. Looking around, he saw that he had reached the end of the mine.

At the end of the mine stood a huge rocky wall that clearly hadn't been mined.

Scanning around, Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. The ground was piled with decomposing corpses and bones!

Chapter 28 Dumbstruck

The heaps of bones on the ground made a chilling sight.

From the clothes around the skeletons, Lin Xun could tell they were the slaves captured to mine.

Lin Xun crouched on the ground and picked up a bone that had a trace of dark-red on it to investigate. He confirmed they had died from the blood red bat poisoning.

Thinking about what he saw along the way, Lin Xun felt a little distressed. The slaves were ordinary people, so how could they survive the bat's attack?

Without getting too emotional, Lin Xun further searched around, and as he expected, spotted several beehive-like caves.

Those were blood red bat nests. Lin Xun stepped forward and, without much effort, could see heaps of white fang fragments in each nest like grains of sand.

That was the Blood Essence Sand. The fragments were as small as a grain of sand and were snowy white. They emitted an icy cold air in his hand.

Pa!

Lin Xun picked up one Blood Essence Sand fragment and squeezed it between his fingers. The translucent white shell cracked and leaked out a trickle of the bright fiery liquid.

Lin Xun couldn't control his excitement. There were no less than one thousand nests and each one was piled with Blood Essence Sand. He would amass a fortune, if he hoarded them all!

Without any hesitation, Lin Xun acted. He tore pieces of clothing from the skeletons into rags and effortlessly finagled them into a bag and began to collect Blood Essence Sand.

In less than the time it took to drink a cup of tea, all of the Blood Essence Sand was gathered. Lin Xun's bag had become much heavier, weighing at least two and a half kilos!

Lin Xun smiled. He wouldn't have to worry about money anymore with the bag of Blood Essence Sand.

Just as Lin Xun was about to leave, he inadvertently glanced around and a rocky wall at the end of the mine caught his attention. He gasped.

He quickly moved towards the rocky wall and knocked a few times. Then, as though he remembered something, he gripped the Sky Breaking Blade and made a slash across the wall.

Suddenly, rock fragments tumbled down to reveal a four-finger wide crevice.

Lin Xun wiped his finger over the rock dust on the crevice, twirled it between his index finger and thumb and faint heat spread out from his fingertips.

Lin Xun's eyes lit up. He continued to chisel a hole through the wall with his blade, until it was one foot deep and a faint glimmer of red dazzled his eyes.

Lin Xun beamed with joy again and after digging another half a foot in, he removed a mottled red stone.

The fist-sized stone was rugged on the outside but the fiery redness in the middle was incredibly striking.

Lin Xun swiftly raised his blade and chiseled the stone into small pieces. Soon, only a thumb-sized Fire Copper ore was left in his palm!

The Fire Copper seemed to be shrouded in a beautiful bright red mist, and even if it was only the size of a thumb, it weighed as much as four kilos!

As expected!

The Fire Copper ore in the mine hadn't been completely excavated!

Lin Xun grinned. From one glance, he noticed the wall looked a little dry, unlike the cold and humid environment it was in.

That abnormality sparked his suspicion and so he started to excavate the wall. He soon found what he had speculated.

What an unexpected surprise!

Feiyun Fire Copper was a superb rune material for making weapons. Together with extremely fine steel, it could be used to forge razor sharp weapons that were hard and flexible at the same time. Additionally, such a weapon could exhibit even greater power if engraved with a fire-attribute rune!

In terms of value, although Feiyun Fire Copper wasn't as precious as Blood Essence Sand, it was more desirable among cultivators!

"Blood Essence Sand, a Feiyun Fire Copper ore vein..."

Lin Xun drew a deep breath to calm himself down. He decided to not continue to dig for Feiyun Fire Copper, and instead he traveled back along the mine.

He knew it was unrealistic to think he could mine all the Feiyun Fire Copper alone.

Therefore, he should discuss the matter with Village Chief Xiao Tianren first.

Lin Xun wasn't a greedy person. Since he now resided in Feiyun Village and had received many favors from Xiao Tianren, he should look to pay them back.

.....

It wasn't until the afternoon that Lin Xun hauled the sack of Blood Essence Sand back to the village alone.

However, as soon as he showed up at the village entrance, a little kid playing nearby yelled and darted towards the village.

“He’s back! Uncle Lin Xun is back! He’s not dead!”

The young and soft voice was filled with surprise.

Lin Xun was first taken aback. He then quickened his steps in puzzlement. However, it didn’t take long before he saw a group of people rushing out to greet him.

It was Xiao Tianren and the other villagers. In the middle of the group was Sun Mazi, who had been tied up by Zhou Zhong and the others, and was being escorted like a prisoner.

Lin Xun instantly understood what happened. He stepped forward and smiled at Xiao Tianren. “Uncle Xiao.”

Xiao Tianren originally had an expression filled with deep concern and worry but the sight of Lin Xun returning safe and sound made him breathe a huge sigh of relief. He smiled and said, “Is the problem dealt with?”

Lin Xun nodded with a smile. He knew Xiao Tianren was asking about Qian Qi and Lu Ting.

Xiao Tianren let out a long sigh and vigorously patted Lin Xun on the shoulder. “Good! Well done, well done.”

Seeing that scene, how would the other villagers not understand that Qian Qi and Lu Ting were never going to return?

Suddenly, their eyes brimmed with astonishment and disbelief as they gazed at Lin Xun. ‘Qian Qi is a third True Martial Stage cultivator yet he was no match for Lin Xun?’

‘This is too shocking.’

Xiao Tianren suddenly pointed to Sun Mazi who was tied up and asked, “Sun Mazi has already admitted to what happened. How do you plan on dealing with him?”

Sun Mazi’s face was bruised and swollen, and he looked incredibly miserable as he cried out in tears, “I was forced to do it. Qian Qi threatened to kill my only three-year-old child if I didn’t comply. I...I had no other choice.”

In the end, he started bawling.

Many villagers couldn’t bear to see him in such a state. Sun Mazi was an honest man. It was impossible for him to plot to harm Lin Xun without Qian Qi and Lu Ting coercing him.

Lin Xun swept his gaze over everyone’s expression and understood their thinking. He smiled. “This matter has nothing to do with Big Brother Sun. He was forced to do it. Uncle Xiao, can you please let him go?”

Xiao Tianren also secretly breathed a sigh of relief. He immediately signaled the others to release Sun Mazi after he saw that Lin Xun didn’t intend to pursue the matter.

“Thank you, thank you Little Brother Lin Xun!”

Sun Mazi was so moved that he didn't know what to do. He was about to kneel down and kowtow when Lin Xun stopped and comforted him.

"Okay, Lin Xun has safely returned. Everyone should go back to what they were doing."

Xiao Tianren waved his hand.

.....

In the courtyard of Lin Xun's home.

Lin Xun recounted that day's events while eating, but he made no mention of the Feiyun Fire Copper mine.

Xiao Tianren couldn't help feeling emotional and a little shocked when he learned about everything that had happened and saw the thirteen-year-old boy simply concentrating on his meal.

Qian Qi had traveled north and south and had considerable battle experience. He was an expert second only to Lian Rufeng, but Lin Xun, who was weaker than him in terms of cultivation level, managed to kill him!

Just how strong was Lin Xun's battle power?

Most importantly, Qian Qi wasn't the only one there at the time. Lu Ting was around too. However Lin Xun still fought off a joint attack. It was easy to imagine how strong Lin Xun was from this fact alone.

Could he be considered a so-called genius in the cultivation world?

Xiao Tianren felt like his worldview had been shaken and was unable to calm down for a good while.

He couldn't believe this unless he confirmed it with Lin Xun.

"Uncle Xiao, I had an unexpected harvest in the abandoned mine in Fiery Smoke Mountain."

After the meal, Lin Xun brought over the sack nearby, and with a crash, poured out a heap of Blood Essence Sand on the table. Each one glistened white like grains of sand polished into crescent moons.

Xiao Tianren uttered in confusion. "This is?"

Lin Xun looked a little stunned, but he soon understood that Xiao Tianren had no knowledge of Blood Essence Sand. He patiently explained, "These are Blood Essence Sand, the fangs shed from blood red bats. They are extremely high-value rune materials..."

Xiao Tianren indeed had no knowledge of Blood Essence Sand, but he had heard about blood red bats. He couldn't help gasping, "You encountered blood red bats?"

In Xiao Tianren's memory, they were bloodthirsty monsters that killed many slaves working in the Feiyun Fire Copper mine!

The blood red bats' nests were the reason why no villager had ever been willing to get near the abandoned mine all these years.

Lin Xun smiled and said, "Don't worry, Uncle Xiao, those bloodthirsty monsters have all been exterminated."

Exterminated?

Xiao Tianren's body trembled all over and he looked dumbfounded. It was only after a long while that he forced a smile and explained, "Please excuse my response, what happened today has shocked me too much."

Lin Xun also understood that although Xiao Tianren was the village chief, he was just an ordinary person. In his eyes, blood red bats were no different to demons.

After calming down, Xiao Tianren said, "Hurry, put away the Blood Essence Sand. You are now the only cultivator in Feiyun Village. The others will just waste these treasures." **nOvElNext.COM**

Xiao Tianren's words proved that he no longer regarded Lian Rufeng and others as his people.

At the same time, the fact that Xiao Tianren did so also proved that he really cared for Lin Xun. If other people learned about the Blood Essence Sand's value, they likely would want a share.

But Xiao Tianren didn't. This meant that he saw Lin Xun as one of his own.

Lin Xun did not refuse, and because of Xiao Tianren's words, he made up his mind.

"Uncle Xiao, there is actually another happy event..."

While speaking, Lin Xun took out the thumb-sized piece of Feiyun Fire Copper. "I found an unmined Feiyun Fire Copper ore vein."

Pu!

Tea spurted out Xiao Tianren's mouth. His jaw dropped.

Today had given him too many unexpected surprises...

[Chapter 29: Open the Five Element Dwellings](#)

After his initial shock, Xiao Tianren felt his heart bubble with joy. He knew what an unmined Feiyun Fire Copper mine symbolized.

He knew well what sort of astonishing changes it could bring to the entire Feiyun Village!

Feiyun Village had nothing of value and had to live off from selling and exchanging aeth grains for meager living supplies. They had only just barely solved the problem of food and clothing shortage in the village.

But if the villagers sold Feiyun Fire Copper, they would no doubt become wealthy and wouldn't have to worry about making a living anymore.

Additionally, after securing abundant materials, the children in the village could attend school, learn to read, and even embark on the path of true cultivation. They could seek success in prosperous cities, unlike their parents who had to grow up in poverty in a remote place!

“Uncle Xiao, I want to ask you to invite all the villagers to mine the Feiyun Fire Copper together. Everyone will have a share of what we make from selling the ores,” Lin Xun proposed quickly.

Xiao Tianren’s cheeks flushed and he seemed to quiver with emotion. It was only after a good while that he could clench his teeth and respond, “No! You discovered the ore vein. It belongs to you. I can call on the entire village to help you mine the ore but you only need to pay them for the work!”

Lin Xun shook his head, “The wealth originally belongs to the Feiyun Village. I just happened to discover it. I absolutely can’t monopolize it alone. Otherwise, I would rather not have the fortune that the ores will fetch.”

His tone was calm but resolute.

Xiao Tianren stared blankly at Lin Xun for a long time before he could utter, “Do...do...you know what a Feiyun Fire Copper mine is worth?”

He picked up the thumb-sized Feiyun Fire Copper on the table. “Even a small piece like this could get thirty imperial copper coins more than one hundred years ago! Now, you can get even more if you sell this in the city!”

He suddenly inhaled sharply. “This is the market price from more than one hundred years ago. It’s worth a lot more now. Are...you really sure you want to do this?”

Although the value of a Feiyun Fire Copper surprised Lin Xun a little, he still unwaveringly nodded. “I’ve decided.”

He was an orphan raised by Mister Lu since he was young.

At the age of thirteen, the mine prison he had lived in all his life was destroyed and he had no idea where Mister Lu went or if he was still alive. After that, he came to the Ziyao Empire’s territory alone.

Feiyun Village was his first home in the Ziyao Empire, and Village Chief Xiao Tianren and the villagers treated him as one of their people.

In such a situation, how could Lin Xun mind them taking a share of the wealth from the Feiyun Fire Copper mine?

Compared to mere worldly possessions, Lin Xun valued more the kindness that the villagers in Feiyun Village had given him!

.....

At that point, Xiao Tianren no longer regarded Lin Xun as a junior. No ordinary adult had a mindset comparable to Lin Xun’s, even if he was only thirteen years old.

Moreover, Lin Xun not only was a rune apprentice proficient in engraving runes, but he was also a cultivator strong in combat!

Xiao Tianren compared him with Lian Rufeng. If the other man had been the one who had discovered the Feiyun Fire Copper mine, it was highly unlikely that the villagers would see a single copper of profit from it!

The huge contrast between Lin Xun and Lian Rufeng made Xiao Tianren admire and even respect Lin Xun.

It wasn't easy to make him, an old man who had lived most of his life already, respect a thirteen-year-old boy.

Xiao Tianren didn't try to dissuade Lin Xun anymore. After Lin Xun made his decision, he began thinking about how to mobilize the villagers to dig the Feiyun Fire Copper.

Lin Xun suddenly said aloud, "Uncle Xiao, there's no need to hurry. We should get rid of the hidden issue in the village before we announce this matter."

Issue?

Xiao Tianren was a little alarmed at first but he immediately understood what Lin Xun meant and his face assumed a solemn expression. Indeed, if he considered the fact that Lin Xun had killed Lu Ting and Qian Qi, Lian Rufeng would definitely not be willing to leave the matter like so when he and his people returned.

This was obvious. *novelnext.com*

The existence of Lian Rufeng and his people was a serious threat to the entire Feiyun Village.

A few days ago, Xiao Tianren had already realized that Lian Rufeng and others were plotting something detrimental to Feiyun Village.

If Xiao Tianren waited for them to return to the village then not only Lin Xun would be in danger, but even all of the villagers would also suffer!

Xiao Tianren scrunched his eyebrows. "Lin Xun, what do you think we should do?"

As someone who possessed a cultivation base of the fourth layer True Martial Stage, Lian Rufeng was incredibly powerful. Moreover, a group of bodyguards constantly followed him. The villagers were simply no match for him.

Lin Xun asked quietly, "Uncle Xiao, I want to know what the villagers think of Lian Rufeng. After all, Lian Rufeng and his people are also members of the village. If we really plan to deal with them, we have to consider the other villagers' opinions."

This was indeed a problem. Although the behavior of Lian Rufeng and the others was increasingly outrageous and they even secretly pocketed a lot of the village's earnings, the villagers still needed their help in transporting goods to the Qingyang tribe. Otherwise, they wouldn't be able to survive.

In other words, the villagers had no choice but to rely on Lian Rufeng and his people in order to live!

This was the reason why Lian Rufeng and the others had dared to be so arrogant and audacious.

Xiao Tianren thought the question over, but in the end he couldn't hide his disgust. "In recent years, Lian Rufeng and the others have brought back less and less materials, which made the villagers increasingly resent them. However, the villagers had to swallow their hatred and anger to continue to live."

Xiao Tianren couldn't help but sigh. "Most importantly, everyone is worried if Lian Rufeng was gone, who would help them exchange for supplies with the Qingyang tribe?"

Lin Xun felt a lot more relieved. He smiled. "That's easy. Once we get rid of Lian Rufeng and the others, I will help the village solve the problem of living supplies!"

Xiao Tianren perked up. "Lin Xun, you want to deal with Lian Rufeng and the others? How confident are you in succeeding?"

Lin Xun didn't answer and just smiled. "Uncle Xiao, leave this matter to me. You don't have to worry about it anymore."

Lin Xun's calm smile on his pretty and fair face and his indescribable confidence under the sunlight had unconsciously infected Xiao Tianren. The hesitation in his heart was instantly wiped away and he said unwaveringly, "Then it's decided!"

.....

That night, Lin Xun sat alone at his desk, lost in thought, as he gazed at the stars outside the window.

His cultivation had progressed without hindrance ever since the damage within his body was dealt with. Additionally, after obtaining the Omega Secret Realm, he had full confidence in his future cultivation.

Since that was the case, it seemed that he had no other reason to stay in Feiyun Village anymore.

"After I deal with the villagers' problems, I can continue on my journey...Mister Lu, who was the one who took my Origin Aeth Artery? Where are they hiding in the Ziyao Empire now?"

Lin Xun knew for a long time that he was an orphan. He had originally thought that he would never find out who his parents were but Mister Lu's words suggested to him that he would learn about his parents if he found out who took his Origin Aeth Artery.

Of course, Lin Xun wasn't particularly interested in finding his parents. He only wanted to know why his Origin Aeth Artery was taken away!

He almost lost his life as a result of this, and even if he managed to survive, it almost caused him to be unable to cultivate. How could Lin Xun not bear a deep grudge?

He vowed to get revenge!

Even without Mister Lu's instructions, he had to find out for himself!

'Why?'

'Why did you take away the Origin Aeth Artery that belonged to me?'

Pondering quietly, Lin Xun suddenly drew a deep breath to suppress his hatred. Having grown up in a dark and bloody mine prison, he knew that revenge was never an easy task.

From what Mister Lu had told him, his enemy seemed to be in the Ziyao Empire, but it still wouldn't be easy to get revenge.

How huge was the Ziyao Empire? What was his enemy's name? What was his strength and cultivation level?

Lin Xun didn't know anything about his enemy.

But he wasn't in a hurry. He knew that one day he would achieve his goal if he worked hard!

Of course, he not only needed to survive in the Ziyao Empire first, but also become powerful!

.....

After getting rid of Qian Qi and Lu Ting, Lin Xun's life returned to its usual normal and peaceful state. Besides teaching martial arts to the children in the village, he spent the rest of his time on his own cultivation.

Three days later.

All the Aeth grains in the village had matured and the villagers joyfully harvested them day and night.

On that day, Lin Xun finally made a breakthrough in his cultivation after more than two years and he reached the True Martial third layer, the Organ Opening Stage.

His breakthrough didn't happen deliberately. Instead, it was a natural breakthrough, like a cup naturally overflowing with water as it was filled.

That natural breakthrough proved that Lin Xun had developed a solid foundation that surpassed others and was out of the ordinary.

The Organ Opening Stage symbolized the opening of channels that led to the five organs. Each of the five major internal organs of the human body corresponded to one of the five elements - the liver to wood, the heart to fire, the spleen to earth, the lung to metal, and the kidney to water.

Therefore, this layer was also known as the Five Elements Opening Stage.

At this stage, a cultivator's aeth power could circulate and cleanse the five organs, as well as nourish the meridians.

Aeth power could circulate the body nine times in the Qi Drawing Stage.

The Inner Strengthening Stage allowed aeth power to circulate the body eighteen times.

The Organ Opening allowed aeth power to circulate the body thirty-six times!

The number of aeth power cycles signified the aeth power's strength and its destructive force.

Regardless, Lin Xun had finally made a breakthrough in his cultivation after two years!

Lin Xun felt he had regained a new life. He knew that as long as he continued to progress, one day he could break the sky, shake the universe and open the gate of stars like the mysterious mighty figure!

[Chapter 30: Realms of Martial Arts](#)

The training grounds in the center of Feiyun Village.

The first rays of dawn cracked over the eastern horizon. A fresh breeze was blowing. A group of children looked incredibly serious as they diligently practiced the Marching Army Fist, their movements looking orderly and skilled.

The children were much more proficient in the Marching Army Fist compared to before. They had a great opening and closing stance and their punches had much greater force!

Supervising them on the sides, Lin Xun nodded approvingly.

In the past, the children's Marching Army Fist was disorganized and confused, and they had neglected a lot of skills that allowed them to generate power. If they had continued to practice in that way, they, no doubt, would have gone astray.

It was completely different now. After Lin Xun had guided and corrected them one by one, the children began to grasp the mystery of the Marching Army Fist.

Lin Xun wondered if Lian Rufeng and other guards even properly taught the children martial arts.

Otherwise, how would they fail to spot the mistakes in the children's Marching Army Fist?

Four children were sitting meditating in a cross-legged posture on the other side of the training grounds. Among them was Ying Hao's son, Ying Liu'er.

The four were around seven to eight years old, but they had demonstrated more aptitude for martial arts than the other children. Additionally, they had a good grasp and control of their qi and could draw qi into their bodies. With frequent training, they could soon join the ranks of true cultivators.

Lin Xun wasn't selfish and even taught them the [Yuan Holding Art] one by one. He also generously shared the meat of the snow spotted leopard and one-horned lizard with them to help strengthen their bodies and replenish their aeth power.

He did this in consideration of Feiyun Village's future.

Lin Xun knew that there would be no guards left in Feiyun Village if Lian Rufeng and the others were gone.

Lin Xun couldn't possibly stay in Feiyun Village forever and so he urgently needed to find some people to protect the village in replacement of Lian Rufeng and others.

Ying Liu'er and the other three were the seedlings that Lin Xun chose.

Lin Xun planned to impart all his cultivation knowledge to them before leaving the village. However, they had to rely on themselves in the future.

Lin Xun didn't just stand there when he supervised the children's martial arts practice. Wielding an azure wooden blade, he sharpened his skills of the Six Word Blade. He did this by not using any aeth power and relied on his physical strength alone

Shua!

A tiny willow leaf fluttered down and was sliced into two as the blade flashed.

The cutting of a leaf might seem ordinary and could be done by almost all cultivators, but upon a closer look, one would notice the willow leaf didn't split in a simple manner.

The blade had slashed along a curved vein in the leaf. The split wasn't straight!

In other words, not only was Lin Xun's blade as fast as lightning, it accurately split a willow leaf along its vein.

The willow leaf was tiny but Li Xun was able to slice it at lightning speed and only by using the strength of his wrist. Other powerful cultivators would likely heap praises on him if they saw his performance.

This was because his skill was at the Elemental Realm!

Martial arts were divided into four realms: Inkling, Elemental, Precise, and Perfect.

For example, a cultivator who could perform each move of the Marching Army First was considered to be at the Inkling Realm.

Practice made perfect. When a practitioner began to comprehend the essence of each move, they had reached the Elemental Realm.

On that basis, only when a cultivator could precisely exhibit the move's essence could they be said to be at the Precise Realm.

As for the Perfect Realm, it symbolized when a cultivator fully understood all mysteries of an art, such as the Marching Army Fist Art, and was able to fully exhibit its power.

Once someone reached that realm, their every motion and movement was as natural and effortless as flowing water.

These were the four great realms of all combat arts.

Lin Xun had refined the Marching Army Fist to the Precise Realm and was only one step away from the Perfect Realm.

This was normal. After all, the Marching Army Fist was a basic fist art and had few requirements for the cultivator. However, regardless of how simple the fist art was, it wasn't easy to reach the Perfect Realm.

It required deep understanding.

After all, the cultivators in the world all had different personalities and different aeth powers and thus each would exhibit a different style of Marching Army Fist. The cultivator needed to figure out their own style in order to reach the Perfect Realm.

However, most cultivators in the world wouldn't waste time on a basic cultivation art since it only had limited powers and wasn't worth the effort.

However, the Marching Army Fist was the only fist art that Lin Xun had grasped and so he had no other choice but to spend more time in refining it.

In his opinion, even the most basic fist art could exhibit unimaginable power if refined to the Perfect Realm.

After all, advanced cultivation arts were like iron swords and basic cultivation arts were like wooden swords. Wooden swords undoubtedly weren't as powerful as iron swords.

However, this depended on whose hand the weapon was in!

In the hands of a master, even a wooden sword could kill, whereas the sharpest iron sword would be useless in the hands of an ordinary person.

To reach the Perfect Realm of the Marching Army Fist required understanding and it couldn't be rushed. Recently, Lin Xun had put most of his attention into practising the Six Word Blade.

The Six Word Blade was indeed a unique and unimaginably powerful art. However, it was more difficult to practice than other arts.

Even though Lin Xun managed to reach the Elemental Realm, he was still far from the Precise Realm, let alone Perfect.

The long battle with the blood red bats had helped Lin Xun reach the Elemental Realm in the Six Word Blade. Otherwise, without such an experience, it would have been impossible for Lin Xun to do so.

It made Lin Xun realize that it didn't matter how much he practiced on his own. A cultivator could only comprehend the essence of an art through actual combat. After all, battle experience had to be earned and couldn't be obtained from books alone; a true warrior was through blood and tears.

"I should find an opportunity to explore the mountains again. It would be great if I encounter some beasts to hone my blade skills..."

An idea flashed across Lin Xun's mind.

Real-life combat not only allowed a cultivator to practice their martial arts, but also improved their perseverance, courage and experience. A cultivator without combat experience was unlikely to progress far on the cultivation path!

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After seven days of hard work, all the aeth grains in Feiyun Village had been harvested. From a rough estimate, the grains weighed at least three hundred kilos in total.

Despite the harvest being smaller than that in previous years, the villagers were still very satisfied.*nOvelnext.COM*

They knew that they were already very fortunate to harvest that much after the insect infestation.

Every household in the village gifted Lin Xun with many aeth grains to thank him for exterminating the worms. In total, he had received around fifty kilos.

In the past, the harvested aeth grains were transported thousands of miles away to the Qingyang tribe in exchange for living supplies.

However, no one planned to do so this time. The villagers understood that Village Chief Xiao Tianren had made a decision, and even if they were worried whether or not Lin Xun could succeed, they had no objection.

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The quiet and peaceful days continued. Before they knew it, nearly a month had passed since the death of Lu Ting and Qian Qi.

Other than teaching the children martial arts, Lin Xun spent all his time on cultivation.

After a period of training, Lin Xun's Organ Opening Stage had become extremely solid and his fighting strength had doubled to what it was before.

If he were to face Qian Qi again, he could easily kill him with one slash.

He also made significant progress in the Little Divine Meditation Art. His spirit had grown more and more powerful and he was only one step away from successfully lighting a star in his sea of consciousness.

Even if he hadn't quite succeeded, he enjoyed great benefits from the growth of his spirit. At least, he didn't feel any fatigue even if he had only slept for three hours that day. As a result, Lin Xun gained a lot of spare time.

Moreover, as his spirit grew, it became easier for him to comprehend the Six Word Blade. Lin Xun was overjoyed with these unexpected changes. He became even more aware that the Little Divine Meditation Art was out of the ordinary.

In addition to strengthening his cultivation base and refining his cultivation arts, he didn't forget to set aside some time every day to practice the art of runes, such as improving his brush power and brush skills as well as the speed of engraving runes.

His only disappointment was that he still lacked a good rune brush after the dark gray brush had vanished with the ancient book.

Otherwise, given the amount of rune materials he had collected, he could easily extract quality rune ink from them and engrave true runes.

If he couldn't engrave runes, he couldn't deduce his level in the art of runes and how far away he was from becoming a true rune master.

However, Lin Xun was in no hurry because he knew it was impossible to complete the training in the art of runes overnight. It needed consistent practice and study. There was absolutely no shortcut.

Of course, Lin Xun was already very satisfied knowing that his cultivation base, martial arts, art of runes, and spirit cultivation were improving in a good way.

It was just that as time went by, the villagers felt increasingly worried. They couldn't remain as calm as Lin Xun because they knew that Lian Rufeng and his people would soon return to Feiyun Village.

The villagers felt incredibly tense and uneasy. Although there was a miserable and gloomy atmosphere, it was nothing compared to what it was like in the past.

Lin Xun had no power to change anything. Whatever that was going to come would come and what they needed to do was think about how to deal with it when it did.

In the early morning, after washing up, Lin Xun carried a huge bone bow and a bag of arrows, strapped a sharp blade to his waist, and left the village.

In the past month, he had long consumed all the flesh and blood of the snow spotted leopard and one-horned lizard. It was difficult to satisfy his hunger with aeth grains alone.

Therefore, to fill his stomach and for his cultivation in the future, Lin Xun had decided to make another trip to the ancient forest in the mountains.

Lin Xun traveled alone and didn't bring Zhou Zhong or the other hunters with him.

He did that for their safety because they had almost run into a lava wolf last time had it not been for Lin Xun's sharp senses. The consequences would be dire if that had occurred.

Of course, Lin Xun had no way of knowing that a mysterious little girl had already killed the lava wolf that he saw as a huge threat...