

Prodigies 231

Chapter 231 Delicate Situation

Lin Xun!

When they saw that it was clearly Lin Xun, Wen Mingxiu, Qi Yunxiao, Yuan Shu and the others all looked bewildered. They had never thought that he would appear there.

Did he also come to visit the owner of Jade Leaf Pavilion?

Immediately, an uneasy expression spread across their faces as they remembered the bloody massacre that night.

Although that incident had long been suppressed, it was still undoubtedly a huge humiliation to the descendants of the rich and powerful families. It was impossible for them to remain calm when they saw Lin Xun again.

However, they had received a warning from the elders of their clan. They knew that Lin Xun wasn't a descendant of a poor family. On the contrary, he had a mysterious and powerful background and they mustn't provoke him.

As a result, even if they had various thoughts in their minds, they had to hold back and not make another mistake.

This was especially the case for Qi Yunxiao. A few days ago, he had suffered from another one of Lin Xun's schemes. When he saw Lin Xun, the source of great trouble, appear before him once again, he felt his scalp become numb and he grumbled inwardly, 'I just hope that he won't deliberately bring me trouble like he did that day...'

How would they dare to provoke Lin Xun? Rather, they would already be very grateful if Lin Xun didn't bring them trouble!

Lin Xun was equally surprised to see Wen Mingxiu and the others. He even wondered whether the old woman led him there to get revenge for Wen Mingxiu and the others.

Fortunately, what happened next made Lin Xun breathe a sigh of relief. He knew it wasn't a trap specially prepared for him.

The old woman exclaimed, "Do you know Lin Xun?"

Wen Mingxiu and the others exchanged glances with each other, looking awkward. Of course, they knew Lin Xun, but the reason for their acquaintance was too shameful and embarrassing. They would never tell anyone even if they were beaten to death. However, who would believe that they didn't know Lin Xun?

All the people present were no fools. They could tell that something was strange from their reaction upon seeing Lin Xun.

"Well..."

"We..."

Wen Mingxiu and the others hesitated.

Lin Xun said with a smile, "We do know each other from a minor conflict. But it's been resolved now and it's not a big deal."

The old woman nodded. She could tell that Lin Xun was telling the truth but she also knew that the matter wasn't as simple as he had said.

On the other side of the hall, an aristocratic clan descendant from the Forbidden City couldn't help asking, "Granny Feng, this is—?"

"The disciple of Master Xun from the Haze City Rune Master Association. I invited him to repair a musical instrument for Miss," Granny Feng casually responded.

Master Xun?

The aristocratic clan descendants were all taken aback. Then, they scrunched their brows in disapproval.

For people of their status, a rune master of the Rune Master Association was considered nothing, let alone his apprentice.

Wen Mingxiu and the others were equally taken aback by Lin Xun's introduction. When did Lin Xun become Master Xun's apprentice?

The aristocratic clans descendants in the Forbidden City might not know about Master Xun, but how would those in Haze City not be aware of Master Xun's reputation.

They were not only surprised but also utterly confused how Lin Xun had a sudden change of identity and became an apprentice of Master Xun.

That guy is too mysterious.

However, Lin Xun remained indifferent to their reactions like he didn't notice them. But when he ran his eyes across the hall, shock emerged within them when he saw the figure sitting in one of the seats.

Xie Yutang!

Why is he here?

He was dressed in a wide-sleeved luxurious azure robe with his hair rolled up in a bun. A blue sword with a pine pattern was strung around his back. Even if he just sat there, he exuded an ethereal bearing like an immortal descending upon the world.

Of course, Lin Xun would never forget him.

When a brute warrior was hunting down him and Xia Zhi in the Great Three Thousand Mountains, Xie Yutang was the one who rescued them.

Shua!

Almost at the same time, Xie Yutang glanced at him from afar. His gaze pierced Lin Xun's body like a sharp sword and made him jolt awake from his rambling thoughts.

"I seem to have met you before?" Xie Yutang said with knitted brows, shocking everyone in the hall.

Who was Xie Yutang? He could be said to be the one with the highest status among those present. But he seemed to be acquainted with Lin Xun. How would the others not be shocked?

Even Granny Feng was surprised, and a ruminative expression came to her face. She had only thought that Lin Xun was an apprentice of Master Xun and wasn't important. Who would have thought that all the youngsters of the rich and powerful families in Haze City recognized him and seemed to be afraid of him?

This only made Granny Feng a little surprised, but she didn't expect that even Xie Yutang seemed to know him. This is a little unusual!

Lin Xun took a deep breath and gave a cupped fist salute. "Yes, Young Master Xie is my savior. Around a year ago, it was Young Master Xie who rescued me from a brute warrior in the Great Three Thousand Mountains on the southwest border. Does Young Master Xie remember this incident?"

Xie Yutang thought for a moment and said, "Oh it's you." Immediately, he withdrew his gaze, his expression cold and indifferent.

The aristocratic clan descendants all laughed. They could tell that Xie Yutang was not related to Lin Xun in any way. He had even forgotten that he had rescued Lin Xun, which was enough to show that he attached no importance to Lin Xun.

In other words, Lin Xun wasn't any important figure.

The aristocratic clan descendants became more relaxed, and even started to look at Lin Xun with a sense of superiority.

As for Wen Mingxiu, Qi Yunxiao, Yuan Shu and the others, they also smiled, knowing that they had overthought the situation.

Lin Xun didn't mind. No matter what, Xie Yutang did rescue him and he had to acknowledge this favor.

As for being looked down upon by Xie Yutang, or being despised by many people present, he didn't care.

Granny Feng coldly watched on and then she said, "Little guy, wait here for a moment, I'll ask Miss to come out."

She turned her head and glanced at Xie Yutang. "Yutang, come with me."

With Xie Yutang, she turned around and walked out of the hall.

"Elder," Lin Xun suddenly cried out.

"What's the matter?" Granny Feng asked without turning her head around.

Everyone shifted their gazes to Lin Xun, wondering what he was going to do.

Who would have thought that Lin Xun asked a completely unexpected question, "Well, I just want to ask if I have a seat in this hall?"

The question took Granny Feng aback and then she snorted coldly, "The place is so big, you can just sit anywhere you want!"

She disappeared from the hall with Xie Yutang.

Lin Xun couldn't help but smile and surveyed the hall.

The others thought the question was very strange. Only he knew that his question wasn't strange at all but was even extremely important.

The reason for his question was very simple. In the hall, the seats on the left were occupied by Wen Mingxiu and the others, and the seats on the right were occupied by the aristocratic clan descendants. Although Xie Yutang's seat was vacant, it clearly didn't belong to him.

Therefore, there was no vacant seat except for the main seat.

Lin Xun didn't want to move sit with any of the two groups of people, but he also couldn't stand there foolishly. Wouldn't that be too awkward?

Therefore, he had to fight for a seat for himself. After all, he was invited to help. If he was left standing there without even a seat, he would have suspected that Granny Feng didn't invite him to help but to humiliate him.

Fortunately, Granny Feng's answer reassured Lin Xun that she had no intention of embarrassing him.

After this realization, Lin Xun calmly found a cushion from the side of the hall. He seated himself on the ground, took out a jug of wine and drank leisurely.

Everyone's expression became strange. This guy is not polite at all. Does he really think this place is his home?

Look at his lazy face. He has no manners at all. How would the owner of the residence feel when she sees him?

Those from aristocratic clans were particularly concerned about manners and etiquette, and so they couldn't help but look at Lin Xun with contempt.

Wen Mingxiu and the others looked a little better than them. They knew that Lin Xun was someone they couldn't provoke.

Someone couldn't help but ask with a frown, "Qi Yunxiao, we just arrived in Haze City, and we don't know the situation here. Why don't you tell us about this Master Xun?"

Qi Yunxiao looked at Lin Xun. He knew he had to summon the courage and briefly explain the matters about Master Xun.

The young man who asked the question was called Huang Jianxiong. He was from the Huang Clan of the Forbidden City, a low-level clan, and was currently sixteen years old.

After listening to Qi Yunxiao's brief introduction about Master Xun, Huang Jianxiong couldn't help but sneer, "Master Xun is so remarkable, but his apprentice is so vulgar and doesn't understand etiquette. It makes me wonder if Master Xun's character is as bad?"

The sentence was incredibly rude. It was worse than being pointed at and scolded. After all, who had ever criticized someone's master in front of their apprentices? Qi Yunxiao's heart sank. He didn't know how to respond because if he offended Lin Xun, the consequences would be equally serious!

At that moment, everyone in the hall noticed that the atmosphere had changed. The aristocratic clan descendants all looked at Lin Xun with contemptuous gazes.

On the other hand, Wen Mingxiu, Qi Yunxiao and the others were glued to the spot, terror-stricken. They didn't want to be swept into the storm because they knew that there would be serious consequences no matter which side they offended.

However, Lin Xun chuckled and took a sip of the wine. Then, he looked at Huang Jianxiong and shook his head with a smile. "You spew shit as soon as you open your mouth. Is this the etiquette that your parents taught you? If so, I wonder if your parents are like you..."

Bang!

Before he finished, Huang Jianxiong's face darkened and he smashed the table in front of him. "You want to die!"

Chapter 232 Mind-Piercing Blood Crossbow

Although Lin Xun was unaware of who Huang Jianxiong and the others were, he could tell that they had a remarkable background from the cautious and uneasy behavior of Wen Mingxiu and the others.

Additionally, not everyone was qualified to sit with Little Sword Lord Xie Yutang.

However, Lin Xun didn't care about their identities. Otherwise, he would not have chosen to fight a dozen of major forces in Haze City.

Strictly speaking, in Lin Xun's eyes, there was no difference between power and status, only the distinction between enemies and friends.

Therefore, Lin Xun chose to retaliate rudely in response to Huang Jianxiong impolite mocking.

However, Huang Jianxiong clearly had a bad temper. Lin Xun only said a few words but he had already snapped and smashed the table in fury.

Seeing Huang Jianxiong fly into a rage, Wen Mingxiu, Qi Yunxiao, Yuan Shu and the others trembled inwardly and their faces paled.

The aristocratic clan descendants around Huang Jianxiong sneered, looking at Lin Xun like they were looking at a dead man.

They all knew that Huang Jianxiong had an extremely violent temper. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been the first to mock Lin Xun.

However, they didn't expect Lin Xun to be so defensive and even dare to counterattack and humiliate Huang Jianxiong. They felt what Lin Xun was doing was no different from seeking death!

When had a rune master apprentice from Haze City ever dared to challenge them?

However, Lin Xun still wore a smile as he looked at Huang Jianxiong's livid face. "You get angry at the slightest disagreement. Your temper stinks as much as your mouth."

As he was speaking, he deliberately covered his nose with his hands, looking disgusted.

The veins on Huang Jianxiong's forehead popped and his anger skyrocketed. "You bastard. I am going to kill you today!"

He was about to act when a golden-robed youngster stopped him. "He's just a vulgar and ignorant guy. Why lower yourself? You are flattering him."

The golden-robed youngster raised his head and ran his eyes across the crowd, "Everyone, Haze City is your territory and now there is a rude guest provoking us. Are you going to sit back and watch?"

Wen Mingxiu and the others turned ashen-faced, complaining bitterly in their hearts. They didn't want to be swept into the storm but who would have thought they would be called out!?

What to do?

They exchanged glances with each other, looking hesitant.

The golden-robed youngster and the others turned cold and unfriendly.

Qi Yunxiao summoned the courage to explain, "Friends, it's not that I don't want to do anything, it's just...it's just that we are no match for Lin Xun..."

The fact that he had to admit that he was no match for Lin Xun in public was more agonizing than being killed. However, given the situation, he had no other choice.

Wen Mingxiu and the others also nodded in unison, looking aggrieved and helpless.

Huang Jianxiong and the others realized that something seemed wrong. It was very unusual that someone could suppress the descendants of the powerful forces in Haze City.

"Okay! Alright! It seems like this is how you treat guests. Fine, if you won't do anything, then don't blame me for being impolite!"

Huang Jianxiong laughed in anger, his voice filled with threat. Qi Yunxiao's and the others' faces blanched again. They felt so uncomfortable like they were sitting on thorns.

"Young Master Huang..."

Qi Yunxiao opened his mouth and tried to explain when Huang Jianxiong interrupted, "You don't need to say anything anymore. Sitting with you guys is an embarrassment to me!"

As he was speaking, he shot an ice-cold glare at Lin Xun. "If you kneel down and apologize now, I can leave your corpse with no parts missing!"

His words were arrogant and filled with killing intent!

At that moment, a glaring azure glow enveloped Huang Jianxiong's body. His eyes were razor-sharp like blades and his body released a tyrannical and terrifying aura.

A tense atmosphere filled the hall.

“So, whether I apologize or not, you're going to kill me?” Lin Xun looked confused.

“Nonsense! This is already the lightest punishment. In normal times, you won't be able to die so easily!” Huang Jianxiong stated coldly.

Lin Xun didn't seem the slightest agitated as he said with a smile, “But have you forgotten that Granny Feng invited me here. Do you think Granny Feng would agree to me being killed?”

Many people frowned, thinking that Lin Xun dared to act so fearlessly because he had Granny Feng behind his back.

Huang Jianxiong was at first taken aback but then he sneered, “I didn't expect you to be more shameless than I thought. Do you really think that Granny Feng can save you?”

Lin Xun thought for a moment before he responded, “That depends on whether you dare to act or not.”

Huang Jianxiong's face instantly darkened. He couldn't control his anger anymore. He charged out, folding his fingers inwards like a dragon claw to grab onto Lin Xun.

Rumble!

A terrifying azure-colored qi wave gushed forth. It was fierce and terrifying as it crushed the air and produced explosive noise.

Hidden Dragon Claw!

It was one of the secret skills of the Huang Clan. It resembled a giant dragon claw protruding out from the clouds, and was unpredictable and powerful!

Many of the aristocratic clan descendants stared, astonished at Huang Jianxiong's actions. They had never thought that Huang Jianxiong would launch a killing move with his first attack. Clearly, he intended to kill Lin Xun in one blow.

On the opposite side, Wen Mingxiu and the others gasped sharply. The power generated from that claw made their hair stand on end. Although the aristocratic clan descendants such as Huang Jianxiong seemed incredibly arrogant, they were undeniably powerful.

The attack seemed slow, but it was incredibly fast. The second that Huang Jianxiong made his move, Lin Xun could already tell that he was at the Human Dipper Stage. However, he was clearly stronger than other cultivators of the same cultivation stage.

In particular, he had mastered an incredibly powerful and unique cultivation art. It could change the weather and it was full of oppressive power. It was no doubt extraordinary.

However, although it had a slight threatening power to Lin Xun, it wasn't deadly.

Lin Xun also made a move. He circulated his terrifying Spirit Dipper power and thrust his fist forward. It was simple, direct, swift, and had an unstoppable power.

It was akin to a compressed and condensed storm. It suddenly erupted, about to tear apart the sky and wreak havoc upon the world.

Boom!

The palm and the fist clashed in the air. Shock waves swept out and blasts of wind gushed across the hall, destroying all the furniture and sending dust whirl into the air.

Many people dodged and retreated to avoid being impacted.

It was just that their expressions changed when they looked at the source of the collision.

Lin Xun was standing motionless in the same place.

On the other hand, Huang Jianxiong had drawn back a few steps and his face was deathly pale. Even his breath had become disorderly.

That clash made him feel like a tremendous mountain had slammed into him. He almost couldn't withstand the force.

"Come again!"

Huang Jianxiong roared. His hair whipped about in the air as he repeatedly made grabbing motions in the air. Dazzling azure claws emerged one after another, blanketing the sky as they shrouded Lin Xun.

Chi—

The sound of air being torn apart constantly rang in the hall, making everyone turn pale.

Lin Xun didn't retreat but continued to advance. Every time he punched out, he instantaneously smashed an azure claw. In just a few seconds, he was already charging towards Huang Jianxiong in an unstoppable manner.

Boom!

Huang Jianxiong couldn't evade in time. The fist blasted him across the air and sent him smashing into a wall a dozen feet away. His bones almost all snapped and his expression dramatically changed.

All the aristocratic clan descendants couldn't believe their eyes.

Huang Jianxiong wasn't the strongest among them, but he was considered one of the most outstanding among his peers. He could effortlessly deal with a dozen ordinary Human Dipper cultivators.

They had thought that Huang Jianxiong could easily defeat a rune master apprentice. Who would have thought that Huang Jianxiong would be sent flying in one strike?!

This is too shocking. Could Lin Xun be a top master at the Human Dipper Stage?

Although Wen Mingxiu, Qi Yunxiao and the others already knew that Lin Xun possessed terrifying strength, the sight of Lin Xun suppressing Huang Jianxiong with just two punches still sent waves tumbling in their hearts.

"Ridiculous! I'm going to kill you—!"

As Huang Jianxiong roared, he charged forward again like a madman.

A sneer curled the corner of Lin Xun's lips. This guy still hasn't given up.

Then, his pupils rapidly shrank as he saw Huang Jianxiong bring out an eagle-beak shaped short crossbow that was as bright as blood.

Mind-Piercing Blood Crossbow!

Lin Xun's heart thudded.

Mind-Piercing Blood Crossbow!

Everyone else turned ashen-faced. They didn't think that Huang Jianxiong would bring out such a terrifying killing weapon in rage.

"Die!"

Huang Jianxiong grinned sinisterly and he pulled the trigger. The strong sense of shame he felt from being defeated by Lin Xun in front of everyone made him disregard everything.

Buzz—

Following a bizarre noise, thousands of needles as thin as a strand of ox hair glowed a blood-red hue as they shot towards Lin Xun.

The attack was too sudden and too fast. The needles completely shrouded the area, making it impossible for Lin Xun to evade.

Instantly, Lin Xun felt piercing pain all over his body. The blood-coloured needles pierced through his body and raced towards his mind-sea.

This was the terror of the Mind-Piercing Blood Crossbow. It didn't shoot out real arrows. Instead, it used mind-piercing needles that were produced through a unique secret method. Although the needles didn't look particularly remarkable and couldn't deal much damage to a cultivator's body, it could instantly pierce a cultivator's mind-sea and obliterate their spirit!

It was impossible to block such a sinister and terrifying killing weapon.

Pu— Pu— Pu—

The tiny fine needles constantly rushed towards Lin Xun's mind-sea, bringing him unimaginable piercing pain and causing his spirit to tremble.

At that extremely dangerous and critical moment, Lin Xun drew a deep breath and circulated the Star Cycle. The twenty-one spirit stars hanging in the mind-sea suddenly released a blaze of silvery light like a sun sprinkling light upon the world.

Lin Xun's action during his moment of panic had an unbelievable effect. The silvery brilliance instantly enveloped each of the mind-piercing needles and incinerated them like fire.

Chapter 233 Sword Pressed Against Throat

After leaving the main hall, Granny Feng took Xie Yutang into a quiet room.

The quiet room was simple but elegant, with a light screen spread across one side of the wall. The light screen clearly showed what was happening in the hall.

“Can you tell me what happened when you rescued Lin Xun?” asked Granny Feng.

Xie Yutang knitted his brows in deep thought and said, “Over a year ago, the empire star gazing platform Heavenly Seer deduced that a peerless treasure would appear in the Great Three Thousand Mountains so I went to search for it alone...”

He recounted how he rescued Lin Xun and Xia Zhi and he didn’t hide anything. He felt there was no need to conceal such a trivial matter.

“You mean a brute warrior was hunting down him and the little girl?” Granny Feng’s eyes glinted.

“Correct. I was also surprised at the time. I thought the brute warrior had appeared in the Great Three Thousand Mountains for the peerless treasure. But after thinking about it, I also find it very strange.”

Granny Feng nodded, a ruminative look crept to her face. “Based on your observations, is there anything unusual about Lin Xun?”

Xie Yutang shook his head, “At that time, he was very unremarkable. He was just at the second layer True Martial Stage and was no different from a country boy.”

Granny Feng seemed to have captured valuable information as a cold glint flashed in her eyes. “Around one year ago, he was at the second layer True Martial Stage, but he now possesses a cultivation base of the Human Dipper Stage. His speed of progress is unbelievable.”

Xie Yutang narrowed his eyes, realizing that something was indeed strange. Could I have saved a rare cultivation genius back then?

Immediately after that, he scrunched his brows in puzzlement. Even if Lin Xun was extremely talented in cultivation, he isn’t as remarkable as many people in the empire. But Granny Feng, a cultivation master, is so interested in him. This is more strange.

Xie Yutang couldn’t help but ask, “Granny Feng, could you have found something unusual about the kid?”

Granny Feng shifted her cloudy eyes to the light screen. As he watched the youngster drinking in the center of the hall by himself, an indescribably complex expression crossed her face. “It’s nothing. I just think the boy resembles someone I know.”

Xie Yutang frowned. He didn’t think that was the real reason.

Granny Feng shook her head. “It seems like I was thinking too much about this.”

Xie Yutang nodded and said nothing else.

He had no interest in Lin Xun as he was just an apprentice of a rune master in Haze City. Lin Xun was nothing special to Little Sword Lord Xie Yutang.

At that moment, the light screen clearly presented the conflict between Huang Jianxiong and Lin Xun, attracting the attention of Granny Feng and Xie Yutang.

The two didn't find it surprising. They had seen similar situations happen many times before. It was nothing more than a dispute between youngsters.

However, Lin Xun's strong response did surprise Granny Feng and Xie Yutang. They had never thought that the apprentice of Master Xun would have such courage.

When they heard that Wen Mingxiu and the others admit they were inferior to Lin Xun, they realized that Lin Xun wasn't just an ordinary apprentice of Master Xun. At least, in terms of strength.

Of course, the two still reckoned that Lin Xun would lose to Huang Jianxiong if a battle truly broke out.

After all, Huang Jianxiong was the son of a rich family, so his strength was unquestionable. At least, he was considered one of the best among the Human Dipper cultivators.

However, what happened next made Granny Feng and Xie Yutang widen their eyes in shock again. Lin Xun defeated Huang Jianxiong with just two punches!

"What a powerful fist art. It's clearly been thoroughly tempered through countless bloody battles. It has its own unique force!" remarked Granny Feng.

"Indeed. The fighting style is very unique. It seems to be somewhat similar to the training methods of Blood Kill Camp."

"It's simple, direct and capable of defeating enemies in one blow. It is impossible to develop such a fighting style without tempering it through countless bloody battles."

Granny Feng glanced at Xie Yutang in astonishment, "You also know about Blood Kill Camp?"

Xie Yutang nodded without saying anything.

At that moment, Granny Feng's face grew overcast, "Mind-Piercing Blood Crossbow! Huang Jianxiong has guts!"

.....

In the main hall.

The atmosphere was deathly silent, and only Huang Jianxiong was grinning sinisterly.

The aristocratic clan descendants all scrunched their brows while Wen Mingxiu and the others felt a chill in their hearts.

Mind-Piercing Blood Crossbow!

It was a famous killing weapon that the Divine Workshop made. It was known for its fierceness and power. However, it was a very rare weapon and not many had been produced due to its troublesome process and the precious and rare rune materials it required.

Such an aeth tool was worth at least ten thousand gold coins and it was so rare that it couldn't even be bought with money.

Who would have thought that Huang Jianxiong would ruthlessly bring out the Mind-Piercing Blood Crossbody during the dispute?

Lin Xun was standing upright in the same place. He seemed to be still alive, but everyone knew that Lin Xun's spirit would no doubt explode after the mind-piercing needles struck him. He was no different from dead!

Although Wen Mingxiu, Qi Yunxiao, Yuan Shu and the others hated Lin Xun to the bone, they weren't happy to see him killed in such a way, especially by an aristocratic clan descendant.

They thought about the warning from the elders of their clan a few days ago. They also thought about the mysterious black glory note.

However, for the aristocratic clan descendants from the Forbidden City, Lin Xun's death was insignificant. It was just that Huang Jianxiong's ruthlessness did surprise them.

Only Huang Jianxiong looked very content. Grinning sinisterly, he strode forward and stood beside Lin Xun. His sinister grin turned to a triumphant smile as he said, "If I don't kill a bastard like you then what about my face? It's ridiculous that you think you can suppress me with Granny Feng's name!"

As he was speaking, he swung his hand to slap Lin Xun's face. He wanted to humiliate Lin Xun further even after he died.

However, before his fingers had touched Lin Xun's face——

Lin Xun's eyes sprang open!

His dark and deep eyes were filled with a chilling indifference.

Huh?

Huang Jianxiong's countenance dramatically changed. He was about to withdraw his hand when he felt his wrist snap. He grimaced in pain.

Everyone's eyes widened in disbelief. Lin Xun didn't die after being struck by the mind-piercing needles?!

Then, Lin Xun lifted up Huang Jianxiong's body and slammed it to the ground.

Bang!

The ground quaked. Huang Jianxiong came into close contact with the solid floor. Blood spurted out from his nose and mouth and his body produced crackling noise. It was unknown how many bones he had broken.

Everyone trembled all over. From the sound, they knew how painful it was for Huang Jianxiong.

"Nonsense! I, a lofty young master, should be the one killing you!"

Huang Jianxiong screamed, his voice full of malice.

At that moment, Lin Xun was completely infuriated. On the outside, his face was calm and indifferent, but murderous intent was surging wildly in his heart.

If he hadn't coincidentally activated the Little Divine Meditation Art to counter the effect of the mind-piercing needles, the consequences would have been disastrous.

In other words, this was the first time during this dispute that Lin Xun felt his life under threat. Lin Xun wouldn't show mercy to someone who wanted to kill him!

Bang!

Lin Xun grabbed his opponent's body and hurled him to the ground once again. Huang Jianxiong let out another anguished scream. His entire body twitched violently. Foam gathered around his mouth and his eyes rolled up to his head. He immediately fell unconscious.

Lin Xun was about to continue when many of the aristocratic clan descendants roared, "Stop!"

However, Lin Xun ignored them all. He again lifted up Huang Jianxiong's body. Huang Jianxiong's life would be in danger if Lin Xun struck again.

Ashen-faced, many aristocratic clan descendants rushed over to stop him.

Even Wen Mingxiu, Qi Yunxiao and others felt their scalps numb. They couldn't sit still. The consequences would be equally serious for them if Huang Jianxiong, an aristocratic clan descendant, died!

Shua!

At that critical moment, an azure-robed figure appeared out of thin air with a flash. At the same time, the tip of an azure sword was only one inch away from pressing into Lin Xun's throat.

The tip of the sword was as blue as the ocean and filled with bright and pure qi. Although the tip of the sword was motionless, goosebumps spread across Lin Xun's throat.

Lin Xun didn't dare to move.

He looked at the person in front of him. It was Xie Yutang!

Xie Yutang's face had a cold indifference and there seemed to be wisps of sword light roaming in his eyes. He exuded a terrifying imposing bearing like a peerless sword towering into the sky.

"Let him go." Xie Yutang's voice was incredibly calm yet contained unquestionable authority.

Lin Xun had no doubt that Xie Yutang would pierce his throat if he dared to disobey.

Everyone in the hall breathed a sigh of relief. The aristocratic clan descendants were even more relaxed. When they looked at Lin Xun, hatred and contempt filled their eyes.

Lin Xun silently stared at Xie Yutang, his jet-black eyes calm and tranquil. No one knew what sort of anger and hatred were swirling inside them.

In the end, Lin Xun suddenly smiled and said, "Fine, I'll do it. You saved my life back then and I must repay this favor."

As he was speaking, he tossed away the unconscious Huang Jianxiong.

Xie Yutang uttered coldly, "Remember, since I can save you, I can also kill you. I hope you don't try to challenge my limit. If a little insignificant ant bites off more than he can chew, he will bring fatal disasters to himself!"

He sheathed his sword, turned around, and returned to his seat without taking another glance at Lin Xun.

Lin Xun smiled and then he seated himself like nothing had happened. He stroked his throat and saw a bead of crimson blood on his fingertips.

It was a wound caused by Xie Yutang's sword qi. Although it had only pierced his skin and he didn't feel any pain, in his eyes, the bead of blood was incredibly glaring.

He put his finger to his lips and licked it. The blood spread across the tip of his tongue like a mark being engraved in the bottom of his heart. Lin Xun would never forget that feeling in his life!

Chapter 234 Peerless Beauty

Lin Xun's behavior was very abnormal. He didn't seem angry, indignant, bitter, terrified or helpless. He sat there calmly like nothing had happened.

But the more he was like that, the more that Wen Mingxiu, Qi Yunxiao, Yuan Shu and the others felt uneasy. They knew very well how terrifying a person like Lin Xun was. The bloody massacre that night already proved that Lin Xun was absolutely not someone who liked to suffer a loss!

What is he thinking now? Just now, he luckily survived under the Mind-piercing Blood Crossbow, but Little Sword Lord Xie Yutang threatened him with a sword to his throat. How would he not hold a grudge?

However, in the eyes of the aristocratic clan descendants from Forbidden City, Lin Xun's arrogance seemed to have completely faded. He was a tiger with his teeth pulled out.

They couldn't help but smile coldly. A little trash of Haze City dares to go against us? How ridiculous.

Granny Feng walked into the hall. Her face was devoid of expression and she didn't show her stance in the slightest towards what happened.

Only when she saw Huang Jianxiong lying unconscious on the ground did a look of disgust flashed across her cloudy eyes. "Take him away. Since he attached no importance to me, then don't let him step into this place again in the future."

She had expressed her stance with just a few words. Many of the aristocratic clan descendants' expressions altered subtly. Then, they relaxed.

This was normal. No matter what happened, Granny Feng invited Lin Xun to the residence but Huang Jianxiong disrespected Granny Feng and attacked Lin Xun. How would Granny Feng not feel like she had lost face?

"Granny Feng, don't be angry. I'll immediately take him away."

A young man rushed forward and came to the unconscious Huang Jianxiong, but his expression dramatically changed when he inspected Huang Jianxiong's injury. He cried out, "Seventh Young Master Huang's sea of qi is destroyed!"

Sea of qi destroyed!

Everyone was aghast. If it was true, it meant that Huang Jianxiong's cultivation foundation was completely destroyed and he wouldn't be able to cultivate again!

With a swoosh, Granny Feng came to stand in front of Huang Jianxiong and she probed him with her walking stick. After a moment, she lifted her head and glanced at Lin Xun. "A little ruthless."

Everyone was certain that it was indeed true. Their gazes changed again when they looked at Lin Xun again.

An aristocratic clan descendant slammed the table. "Ridiculous, that boy is so vicious. We must kill him to avenge Seventh Young Master Huang!"

The others agreed, glaring at Lin Xun with unfriendly gazes. Huang Jianxiong's cultivation was destroyed before their eyes. If his family wanted to pursue the matter further, they also would be affected.

Most importantly, they were all standing on the same side. Since a youngster of Haze City had destroyed their comrade's cultivation base, this was a provocation to them all!

However, Wen Mingxiu, Qi Yunxiao, Yuan Shu and the others couldn't help but inhale sharply. No wonder Lin Xun remained so calm. It turns out that he had wrecked Huang Jianxiong's cultivation!

He...is so vicious!

Does he not know that he would offend the aristocratic clan behind Huang Jianxiong?

Even Xie Yutang was frowning. He couldn't maintain calm and swept a cold look over Lin Xun.

He also didn't expect that Lin Xun's attack would be so ruthless. To Huang Jianxiong, his cultivation being destroyed was worse than death.

Lin Xun turned to Granny Feng and said, "Elder, I'm here to help you solve a problem and not to die. Do you think I did something wrong just now?"

His voice was terrifyingly calm, without a ripple of emotion.

Granny Feng was silent for a moment and then she waved her hand dismissively. "The matter ends here. Take Huang Jianxiong away!"

A frightening cold glint flashed in her cloudy eyes and frightening oppressive power exuded from her body. She was akin to a volcano about to erupt.

Even the air in the entire hall wailed before falling into still silence.

Many people's expressions changed, and no one dared to utter a word. They all knew that Granny Feng was enraged.

Under such circumstances, even Xie Yutang remained silent.

"Kid, come with me." Granny Feng uttered as she walked out of the hall.

Lin Xun immediately stood up. He cast a contemptuous glance over the aristocratic clan descendants before he turned around and left.

His silent mocking was simply the greatest provocation. All the aristocratic clan descendants' faces darkened. They hated the fact that they couldn't tear Lin Xun to millions of pieces.

Wen Mingxiu, Qi Yunxiao, Yuan Shu and the others couldn't help but admire Lin Xun's courage.

"Qi Yunxiao, let's take this time to talk about Lin Xun," said an aristocratic clan descendant, expressionlessly.

Qi Yunxiao's body stiffened and he sighed inwardly. As expected, the aristocratic clan descendants wouldn't let Lin Xun off so easily after suffering such a huge loss.

.....

As Lin Xun followed Granny Feng, he couldn't help but sigh. I'm still too weak, otherwise...who would dare to bully me today?

The title of Master Xun's apprentice was enough to deter ordinary people from touching him.

But the title meant nothing to people like Xie Yutang, and it, naturally, couldn't offer him any protection.

Ultimately, everything depended on true strength!

"I have seen many young people like you in my life. They are equally arrogant and do not know how to bow their heads, but most of them suffered misfortune in this cruel world."

While leading the way in front, Granny Feng said slowly and somewhat emotionally, "If it weren't for the fact that you were invited by me, do you think you would still be alive?"

It was unknown what Lin Xun was thinking but the corners of his lips curled upwards in an imperceptible arc. "I can only say that I am sure that I will still be alive. As for them...I'm not sure if they can leave there alive."

Granny Feng came to an abrupt halt, turned her head and glanced at Lin Xun, "Are you sure?"

Lin Xun said indifferently, "There's no point talking about it. You would only know if it actually happened."

Granny Feng fixed her cloudy eyes on the handsome youngster before her. Only after a moment did she sneer coldly, "Young man, talk less in the future, so as not to bring trouble to yourself."

Lin Xun shrugged and didn't respond.

Not long after that, Granny Feng brought Lin Xun to a small quiet courtyard. Lush green plants, beautiful flowers and ancient jagged trees were grown throughout the courtyard. It was as beautiful as a painting.

A stone table was set up in the center of the small courtyard, and someone was already waiting there.

It was an azure-robed man with red lips and pearly white teeth. He was very handsome and exuded a regal bearing.

Hearing the footsteps, the man in azure robe immediately turned his head. Lin Xun also looked over at the same time and they both exclaimed in surprise, "It's you?"

Lin Xun remembered that he had met the azure-robed man in front of the rune transmission light screen the other day. The man had left a deep impression on him because he possessed an Ancient Law Ocarina.

He never thought they would meet each other again.

Wait!

Suddenly, Lin Xun remembered that Granny Feng mentioned that the Miss of her family wanted an aeth tool repaired. Could it be...

Lin Xun took a closer look at the man, and sure enough, he found that the azure-robed man didn't have an Adam's apple. She was clearly a woman disguised as a man!

Aware of Lin Xun's shocked gaze, the woman smiled slightly and blinked at Lin Xun, as if she was saying, Oh you found out.

"Miss, do you know this person?" A wary look flashed in Granny Feng's eyes.

She had found out that Lin Xun didn't seem like an ordinary rune master's apprentice. This was obvious from the reactions of Wen Mingxiu and other rich young masters of Haze City. Now, even the Miss of her family seemed to know Lin Xun. Someone didn't seem right.

Granny Feng had to be vigilant about the matters that concerned the young miss of her family.

The azure-robed maiden rose to her feet and said with a smile. "Granny, you might not know but I met this young master when I snuck out to shop with Ying'er the other day. It was him who suggested me to ask Master Xun to repair the Ancient Law Ocarina."

Her voice changed massively. It was ethereal and clear like a stream flowing in a tranquil valley. It was indescribably pleasant to the ear.

Her voice was too mesmerizing.

"Oh, I see." Granny Feng remembered that Ying'er had mentioned a bad guy they encountered a few days ago. It turned out she was talking about Lin Xun.

"Granny, why did you bring this young master here? Could it be that he...he is Master Xun?" asked the azure-robed maiden.

She was breathtakingly pretty. Her eyebrows and eyes were charming, and her skin was fair and soft. Although she was disguised as a man, her heavenly sweet voice gave a different kind of beauty.

That kind of beauty was like a pure lotus flower. It wasn't showy or flashy, but graceful and pure. It made people feel very comfortable

In truth, her appearance wasn't unparalleled, but she had a unique elegance about her with her temperament, voice and mannerism.

Lin Xun introduced himself, "Miss, you misunderstood, I am Lin Xun, Master Xun's apprentice."

The maiden in azure robe was taken aback for a moment and then she smiled, "Young Master Lin Xun, I am Liu Qingyan. You can call me Yan'er."

Lin Xun nodded, but then his heart trembled. He was struck by a flash of realization. "Liu Qingyan? Which Liu Qingyan?"

Liu Qingyan blinked, smiling brightly. "Young Master, is there another Liu Qingyan in this world?"

Lin Xun finally confirmed that the woman disguised as a man before him was actually Liu Qingyan, the legendary art cultivator who shook the empire and made many people go crazy!

Liu Qingyan's fame in the empire was like the sun at noon. She had an unimaginable number of fans.

In many people's eyes, Liu Qingyan was as dazzling as a goddess!

Lin Xun just didn't think he would meet this legendary unrivaled woman at such a time.

Chapter 235

For just a split second, Lin Xun felt a chill run down his spine. He immediately noticed Granny Feng cast an imperceptible glance at him as though she was warning him.

He couldn't help but smile inwardly. Isn't the old woman too worried? Does she think that I would eat Liu Qingyan?

Even though he had such a thought in his mind, he said aloud, "Apologies, I was just a little surprised. I didn't expect a legendary figure would suddenly appear in front of me."

A hint of a smile came to Liu Qingyan's lips. She had seen many youngsters like Lin Xun, and some were even more rude than he was when they met her.

However, compared to them, Lin Xun's eyes remained clear and calm from beginning to end. He showed not a hint of admiration, fanaticism, or even obsession like the others. Liu Qingyan admired him for that.

Liu Qingyan gestured to Lin Xun to sit down and personally poured him a cup of tea. "Young Master, when I saw you a few days ago, you suggested that I find Master Xun. Does that mean your master has confidence in repairing the Ancient Law Ocarina?"

"I will need to take a look first to know." Lin Xun said after a thought.

Liu Qingyan quickly brought out an old-fashioned dark-purple wooden box and opened it. Housed inside was a teardrop-shaped item around the size of a palm.

It was indeed an Ancient Law Ocarina. It was shrouded in an azure-jade glow and had nine tone holes in total. Even just sitting in the box, it exuded a time-honored aura.

"Young Master, please take a look."

With a solemn face, Liu Qingyan carefully picked up the Ancient Law Ocarina and handed it to Lin Xun.

This was one of the rarest treasures in the world. It had almost vanished with time, so it was incredibly hard to find one in the world. Anyone else wouldn't be able to recognize it, but Lin Xun was very familiar with it because he had heard Mister Lu play it many times when he was a child. It produced an incredibly unique sound and so it was engraved in Lin Xun's memory.

When Lin Xun laid eyes on Liu Qingyan's Ancient Law Ocarina, he unconsciously thought of Mister Lu and sank into deep melancholy.

He held the item in his hand and expertly placed his right index finger on the hole closest to the mouthpiece. Then, he gently tapped the nine holes of the Ancient Law Ocarina. Wisps of sound—heavy, high-pitched, clear, melodious, obscure—all came rushing out and reverberated in the air.

Liu Qingyan's bright eyes lit up. The tapping action alone showed that Lin Xun was an expert and had a deep understanding of the Ancient Law Ocarina.

Granny Feng was just as astonished as she was. She looked at Lin Xun ruminatively. She had never thought that the person she invited there would actually understand such a rare musical instrument.

This dispelled many doubts in her mind. If even the apprentice knew the thing so well, Master Xun surely wouldn't be worse than his apprentice.

If Granny Feng knew that the so-called Master Xun was Lin Xun, how would she feel?

Lin Xun didn't notice her strange gaze. He put the ocarina to his ear and listened closely. Vaguely, Mister Lu's voice and smile emerged in his mind.

It was a snowy night. Mister Lu sat alone on the mountain near the mine prison, drinking alone with a wine jar in his arms.

When he felt tipsy, he took out the Ancient Law Ocarina that he always carried with him and he called over Lin Xun, who was only seven years old at the time. He didn't say a word and just blew into the Ancient Law Ocarina.

The tune, lonely and empty, drifted with the snow. It gave off an indescribable loneliness and sense of melancholy. Unknowingly, Lin Xun, who was only seven at the time, started sobbing with tears falling. It was the first time he had felt the taste of loneliness.

At the end of the tune, Mister Lu lifted up Lin Xun for the first time in his life. He put him down in front of him, looked into his eyes and said softly, "Remember this tune. This is the last trace your mother left."

Since then, Lin Xun had deeply remembered the Ancient Law Ocarina and had recalled Mister Lu's words.

It was only after a long moment did Lin Xun wake up from his thoughts. When he raised his head, he saw Liu Qingyan staring at him with a smile.

Lin Xun froze, knowing that he had lost self control. Liu Qingyan most likely noticed it since any art cultivator able to play the Ancient Law Ocarina no doubt had an intelligent mind.

Liu Qingyan was no doubt very outstanding, otherwise she wouldn't have the achievements she had.

"You seem to have something on your mind?" Liu Qingyan asked in a soft voice.

Lin Xun nodded and then changed the topic. "Your Ancient Law Ocarina is indeed damaged. All music in the world consists of the five notes, Do Re Mi So La. Only the Ancient Law Ocarina is extremely unique and can produce nine different tones..."

When it concerned the repair of the Ancient Law Ocarina, Liu Qingyan became extremely serious. She was like a dedicated student listening intently.

Granny Feng couldn't help but study Lin Xun.

She had accompanied Liu Qingyan to almost everywhere of the empire and had visited countless rune masters, from rune grandmasters in the Divine Workshop to masters living a secluded life in the mountains, but no one had been able to repair the Ancient Law Ocarina.

The repair of the Ancient Law Ocarina had been troubling Liu Qingyan for a long time. Granny Feng's heart ached when she saw her like that. She had originally given up hope of fixing Liu Qingyan's problem, but who would have thought that a youngster in Haze City would bring them a glimmer of hope. Granny Feng couldn't help but feel emotional.

Lin Xun's appearance was clearly a delightful surprise to her. This was obvious from her serious and earnest look and the glow of excitement on her face. She was like a little girl at that moment.

"One of your Ancient Law Ocarina's notes is damaged. This note is called 'Xu', and the sound is like wind blowing in the abyss of an empty valley. It seems insignificant, but it is actually the core spirit of the Ancient Law Ocarina. Only with its presence can the other eight notes resonate with one another and produce completely different tunes when played," Lin Xun explained in a serious voice.

He was simply repeating Mister Lu's analysis of the Ancient Law Ocarina. He remembered that Mister Lu had also attempted to create a new Ancient Law Ocarina by himself in the past.

However, regardless of how hard Mister Lu tried, the crafted Ancient Law Ocarina still had some imperfections.

Mister Lu had invested a lot of time and effort into the Ancient Law Ocarina in order to correct those flaws. Although he did successfully fix them in the end, he still wasn't completely satisfied with the sound it produced. In the end, he destroyed his creation.

Fortunately, although Mister Lu had failed despite his efforts, Lin Xun had learned a lot from the process of making the Ancient Law Ocarina.

Liu Qingyan's Ancient Law Ocarina was a perfect item passed down from endless years. Its damage was completely different from the newly created Ancient Law Ocarina, so its problems could be resolved.

"Then with your ability...No, your master's ability, can he repair it?"

Liu Qingyan clutched the corner of her sleeve tightly, her eyes sparkling with hope and nervousness. It was as though Lin Xun's words could decide her life.

Even her anxious and hopeful look was charming and would move the heart of anyone. This was Liu Qingyan. Her frown, her smile, and everything about her had a unique beauty and charm.

At that moment, Granny Feng swept a cold glance over him, as if she was saying, oy, don't you dare say he can't!

Although Lin Xun didn't like Granny Feng's aggressive and threatening attitude, Liu Qingyan's anxious and hopeful face melted his heart. He cleared his throat with a cough and said seriously, "This matter isn't difficult but also isn't simple."

Granny Feng glared at Lin Xun like she had seen through his little tricks. "Kid, if you have any requirements, just say it. If I lose my patience, don't blame me for resorting to violence!"

Liu Qingyan said in worry, "Granny, if you use violence, Yan'er will be angry."

Granny Feng felt helpless. "Fine, fine, Granny will promise you to not use violence." As she was speaking, she swept another glance at Lin Xun.

It was a silent threat.

Lin Xun smiled slightly, seemingly unaware of her threat. "Miss Yan'er, the reason why it's difficult is because it takes a lot of time and energy to repair it. I'm afraid that it can't be repaired in a short time."

Liu Qingyan breathed a sigh of relief. "As long as it can be repaired, it doesn't matter if it takes a little time."

Lin Xun nodded. "That's good."

Liu Qingyan lit up with joy. "So, Young Master, do you promise to help me repair the Ancient Law Ocarina? If that's the case, I will pay you any amount you want!"

Granny Feng's heart thudded. Silly girl. He hasn't even stated his conditions yet you already agreed. He's going to take advantage of you !

Granny Feng interrupted, "Kid, tell me about your conditions."

She fixed her cloudy eyes on Lin Xun as though she was saying, 'If you dare make a ridiculous request, you won't be able to walk out of here alive.'

Lin Xun coughed again and said with a smile, "Miss Yan'er, don't worry and leave the matter to me. As for the conditions..."

Granny Feng's eyes narrowed, glinting fiercely.

"I will discuss it with Granny Feng," Lin Xun continued.

Granny Feng breathed a sigh of relief. This kid is tactful.

A bright smile bloomed across Liu Qingyan's face like a flower in the rain. "Then, please can you follow Granny."

Lin Xun got up and said goodbye.

Liu Qingyan suddenly bit her cherry-red lips and asked, "Young Master, if...if you don't mind, can you let me watch the repair process?"

"No!"

Granny Feng and Lin Xun answered at the same time. Both were taken aback but both were also satisfied with each other's response.

Lin Xun was worried that Liu Qingyan would see through his identity as Master Xun.

Granny Feng was worried about Liu Qingyan's safety. What if that kid Lin Xun decided to kidnap her?

Their unanimous objection made Liu Qingyan sigh in disappointment. Her expression would make anyone take pity on her.

What was a peerless beauty?

She was the epitome of one!

Chapter 236 Talk Cheerfully

After saying farewell to Liu Qingyan and leaving the quiet little courtyard, Granny Feng coldly warned, "Little guy, I advise you not to have any other thoughts on Miss. Otherwise I won't spare you!"

Lin Xun said helplessly, "Granny Feng, you invited me here. If you don't believe me, why did you invite me?"

Granny Feng's gaze turned chilling. "You know that I'm not talking about that!"

Lin Xun was dumbfounded. "Don't tell me you think I like Miss Yan'er?"

Granny Feng uttered coldly, "There are many youngsters in the world who adore Miss, and I don't mind if you're one of them, but I have to tell you that you have made a huge mistake if you think you can make Miss fall for you by repairing the Ancient Law Ocarina."

Lin Xun sighed inwardly. The old woman looks like a wise person but once Liu Qingyan is involved, she turns into a mother tiger protecting her cub.

"As your junior, I will keep that in mind." Lin Xun couldn't be bothered to say anything more.

Although Liu Qingyan had unrivaled charisma, elegance and talent, Granny Feng had underestimated Lin Xun if she thought he wanted to possess her.

"Hmph, I'm glad you understand. I have lost count of the number of youngsters who tried to win Yan'er heart over the years but all returned in disappointment. Many of which are talented geniuses superior to you in terms of background, status, and cultivation. If they are not good enough, I believe that you should understand the gap between you and Yan'er. Smart people won't try to bite off more than they can chew," Granny Feng said slowly, a hint of pride in her voice.

Lin Xun felt somewhat uncomfortable. He said indifferently, "Granny Feng, I came to repair the Ancient Law Ocarina and not to discuss marriage with you. If you don't trust me then it's better for us to go our separate ways. Let's treat it as if nothing happened today then, okay?"

Granny Feng narrowed her eyes, staring coldly at Lin Xun. She noticed that Lin Xun was extremely calm and did not shrink back at all.

In the end, Granny Feng just coldly snorted.

Lin Xun could tell that, regardless of how strong Granny Feng was or what identity she had, she wouldn't dare to touch him before he had repaired the Ancient Law Ocarina.

Lin Xun said bluntly, "Granny Feng, the repair of the Ancient Law Ocarina requires some extremely rare rune materials. I will make a list of them now. If you can prepare them as soon as possible, then I can start the repairs as soon as possible."

As Lin Xun was speaking, he took out a brush and paper and listed the names of several rune materials. He handed the list to Granny Feng.

Granny Feng only briefly glanced at the list but her face immediately stiffened. Even given her well-trained state of mind, she couldn't control her anger. "Kid, your appetite is too big. Aren't you afraid of being too full to the point of bursting to death?"

The rune materials included: Underworld Fire Lamp Grass, Azure Crystal Water, and Nine-Cycle Underground Iron...

Each one was extremely rare and precious with an astonishing value. Some were even treasures that couldn't be found on the market.

For example, the Underworld Fire Lamp Grass was a rune material only born in the extremely cold northern territories. Not only that, they were often guarded by terrifying beasts. Only a great Heaven Ascension cultivator would be able to collect them!

However, there were a dozen rare rune materials like the Underworld Fire Lamp Grass!

Anyone would wonder if Lin Xun was deliberately making things difficult or making ridiculous demands.

After all, the total value of all the rune materials on the list was sky-high, beyond an ordinary person's imagination!

Lin Xun said calmly, "Does Granny Feng think that a musical instrument that is almost extinct like the Ancient Law Ocarina can be easily repaired?"

Granny Feng's eyes flashed. In truth, although the rune materials were astonishingly valuable, she could gather them all with a little effort.

However, Granny Feng ached at the thought of the favors and wealth she needed to collect the rune materials.

In the end, she drew a deep breath and said with a terrifyingly frosty look in her eyes, "Fine! I promise you, but if you dare to pocket those rune materials. I won't spare you!"

Lin Xun nodded. "Of course."

He then changed the topic immediately and said with a smile, "Since the matter of rune materials has been dealt with, it's time to talk about the reward for repairing the Ancient Law Ocarina. After all, my

master will have to exhaust a lot of time and energy to repair the Ancient Law Ocarina. We can't let the old man work for nothing, right?"

Granny Feng's face darkened. Reward? That much rune materials are still not enough. This little bastard is pushing his luck!

He has simply gone too far!

Granny Feng said expressionlessly, "Oh, tell me how much you want."

She had made a decision. If Lin Xun dared to be greedy, she would use some tough means to make him know what it means by the phrase 'those who are aware of their situation are wise people'.

Lin Xun corrected her. "It's not what I want, it's what my master deserves as reward."

Seeing that Lin Xun was still arguing back and forth, Granny Feng was fuming inwardly and about to lose control of her anger.

Given her current identity and status, even the higher-ups of the empire treated her with courtesy but the little bastard before her was brazenly blackmailing her. Granny Feng was so close to losing her temper.

If it wasn't for the fact that the Miss of her family cared so much about the Ancient Law Ocarina, she would have kicked Lin Xun out already.

Who would have thought that what Lin Xun said next surprised her?

He took a deep breath, and said solemnly, "Regarding the reward, I am thinking of letting the elder decide. As for my Master, I will explain to him. What do you think about this suggestion?"

Granny Feng was indeed stunned. She never thought that Lin Xun would know when to stop. She coldly snorted, "I have no time to calculate how much you should be paid. Just give me a number." Her expression softened.

Lin Xun nodded. "If that's the case, how about ten thousand gold coins?"

Ten thousand gold coins!

Granny Feng's eyes went wide. She thought that Lin Xun knew when to stop but it turned out that she was completely fooled. It was clearly a tactic of his. He pretended to retreat and then suddenly advanced. He had deliberately dug her a hole and waited for her to jump in!

Granny Feng gnashed her teeth to the point they almost shattered. This little bastard dares to trick me. This is simply outrageous!

However, Lin Xun said in puzzlement, "Elder, you don't look too good. Is it because you think the pay is too much? The pay is already very low. If my master had come in person then it would be much more than ten thousand gold coins."

Granny Feng really felt the urge to kill. Her gaze were razor-sharp like blades as she stared at her Lin Xun. Then, she took a deep breath and said, "Ten thousand gold coins? Fine, I promise you!"

However, she secretly vowed to settle things with Lin Xun once the Ancient Law Ocarina was repaired!

Lin Xun seemed unaware and just smiled, "Granny Feng is really straightforward. I really admire that."

Granny Feng gave a half-hearted smile. "Kid, you're also not bad. I have traveled the world for years and this is the first time I have met a young man like you who leaves such a strong impression."

When she said the word 'impression', it felt like it was being squeezed out from the gap between her teeth.

Lin Xun grinned. "I feel embarrassed, how would a junior, I, deserve such praise from an elder."

Granny Feng couldn't be bothered talking to Lin Xun anymore. "You can return first. In seven days, I will send all the rune materials and rewards to the Rune Master Association." she said directly.

Lin Xun gave a cupped fist salute. "Then, I will take my leave now."

He turned around and left.

However, no one noticed that his back was drenched with cold sweat. He appeared to be talking cheerfully with Granny Feng and seemed incredibly calm but the invisible oppressive power exuding from Granny Feng made him almost suffocate and collapse.

Fortunately, Granny Feng didn't make a move in the end.

Thinking back to what happened, Lin Xun felt incredibly delighted and pleased. That old woman underestimated me so much. She should have a taste of her own medicine. Otherwise she would think that I'm a pushover.

Of course, his action was no different from playing with fire. After all, Granny Feng's strength was unfathomable. Lin Xun would undoubtedly suffer if he truly angered her and made her take action.

However, Lin Xun was certain that she wouldn't dare to do so because he was one of the only few people in the world able to repair the Ancient Law Ocarina.

It was that belief that gave Lin Xun the confidence to unwaveringly ask for the list of rune materials and demand a reward. He wasn't polite at all and his request was worse than daylight robbery.

Of course, Lin Xun would never admit to this and no one would be able to see through it. After all, how many people in the world knew how to repair the Ancient Law Ocarina?

When you had the skill you can eat your fill.

However, just as Lin Xun was leaving, Granny Feng's voice rang out behind him. "Kid, You destroyed Huang Jianxiong's cultivation, there is likely a disaster coming for you. You should be careful!"

She clearly wasn't reminding him but gloating.

Without turning his head around, Lin Xun said, "Granny Feng, I believe that you won't want to see anything happen to me before the Ancient Law Ocarina is repaired, right?"

With a wide smile, he continued forward.

Granny Feng's expression stiffened. She was so infuriated that she had to take several deep breaths to suppress her anger. She snarled, "That bastard. He is so hateful. He actually wants me to clean up his mess!"

However, she felt helpless because she indeed couldn't let anything happen to Lin Xun to ensure that Miss Yan'er's Ancient Law Ocarina would be smoothly repaired.

"Little bastard, don't be so smug. Just you wait!" Granny Feng hissed through gritted teeth as she watched Lin Xun's figure drift into the distance.

Chapter 237 Playing Tricks

As Granny Feng watched Lin Xun depart, something came to her mind and she headed to the main hall of the Jade Leaf Pavilion.

As she had thought, before she neared the main hall, she already heard conversations and discussions regarding how to deal with Lin Xun and get revenge for Huang Jianxiong.

Granny Feng stormed into the hall with a darkened face. Her presence immediately silenced the discussions in the hall.

Many people were sharply aware that Granny Feng was in a bad mood. They shuddered inwardly as they didn't know what happened after Granny Feng took Lin Xun away.

Granny Feng ignored the terrified gazes and said bluntly, "Lin Xun is now of great use to Miss. If anyone dares to take his life, don't blame me for being ruthless." Her voice was indifferent yet threatening.

All the aristocratic clan descendants scrunched their brows, seemingly unwilling.

However, Wen Mingxiu, Qi Yunxiao, Yuan Shu and the other children of the wealthy clans in Haze City were astonished. They had thought that Lin Xun would face imminent danger after destroying Huang Jianxiong's cultivation and angering the descendants of the aristocratic clans.

Unexpectedly, Granny Feng came forward to help Lin Xun take care of the matter!

"It's too unbelievable. What use would Lin Xun have to make Granny Feng want to protect him?"

"Granny Feng. That guy wrecked Seventh Young Master Huang's cultivation. Don't tell me we have to leave the matter at that," an aristocratic clan descendant asked aloud.

Granny Feng uttered coldly, "At least, this matter has to be left at that until Lin Xun has helped Miss deal with the problem."

This sentence was very intriguing.

At that moment, Little Sword Lord Xie Yutang said aloud, "Granny Feng, do we just need to ensure that he isn't dead?" All gazes shifted to Granny Feng.

Granny Feng pondered for a moment and said, "Yutang, come with me." As she was speaking she turned around and walked away.

Seeing that Granny Feng had repeatedly left, but the real owner of Jade Leaf Pavilion remained to be seen, someone couldn't help but ask, "Granny Feng, is Miss Yan'er..."

Granny Feng was first taken aback. Then, she realized something and said casually, "Oh, you guys should return. Miss has something important to do today. It's better that you come back another day."

Immediately, many people's faces clouded with disappointment. They had come all the way to visit Liu Qingyan and they had been patiently waiting for so long but they came to hear such a disappointing result. They immediately looked glum.

"Damn it, it's all Lin Xun's fault!" someone complained, and sparked fury in the rest of the people.

"Exactly, if that kid wasn't so arrogant and destroyed Seventh Young Master Huang's cultivation base, how would so many things have happened?"

"Miss Yan'er must also feel very helpless. Otherwise, given her personality, how would she leave us waiting here?"

"Let's wait and see what Granny Feng has to say to Young Master Xie first, but no matter what, I won't let that kid Lin Xun off so easily!"

Discussions broke out in the hall, and many people gnashed their teeth in anger at the mention of Lin Xun's name.

As for Wen Mingxiu and the others, they stood terror-stricken in the hall for a while. They didn't want to get involved and so they left in a hurry.

They knew that they had to report that day's matter to their respective clan elders. Lin Xun had an extraordinary background, and now that he had formed enemies with the children of the aristocratic clans, they had to discuss the matter with elders of their clan and express their stance.

Should they stand on the aristocratic clan's side or Lin Xun's side? Or should they choose to stand neutral?

Their stance was very important. If they didn't express it and if something similar happened again, they would offend both sides and the consequences would be more than they could bear.

.....

Lin Xun didn't return home right away but stopped by the Rune Master Association. He wanted to let Chu Feng know that the matter had been resolved and he needn't worry.

Chu Feng was indeed very worried. He had been incredibly tense ever since Lin Xun left with Granny Feng. He could finally breathe a sigh of relief. "Hurry tell me, what does that old woman want from you?"

Lin Xun thought about it for a moment and said, "Just to repair a unique musical instrument. Fortunately, I am able to and so I agreed."

Chu Feng exclaimed, "Musical instrument? Could it be that Granny Feng is the caretaker of an art cultivator?"

Lin Xun seemed impressed. "Big Brother, you're so clever. I'm surprised you could guess from one sentence."

Chu Feng became more curious, "Who is it?"

Lin Xun said casually, "You should have heard of her. It's Liu Qingyan, the art cultivator known throughout the empire."

Chu Feng quivered and his face glowed with a rare excitement. "It's Miss Liu Qingyan?! Heavens! She actually came to Haze City earlier than expected? I am her loyal fan. I was awed by her song Water Dragon Sword when she performed in the Forbidden City. It's the first time in my life that I heard such a beautiful voice in the world."

Chu Feng's eyes blazed. "Little Brother, have you really met Liu Qingyan? She...what did she say to you?"

Lin Xun was completely dumbstruck. He couldn't imagine that the president of Haze City Rune Master Association would become a love-struck fool because of Liu Qingyan.

Does Liu Qingyan really have such tremendous charm? Lin Xun muttered to himself.

But he said aloud, "Nothing much, we just talked about repairing the musical instrument."

Not only was Chu Feng not disappointed, but he also looked enviously at Lin Xun. "Little Brother, do you know what a rare opportunity that is? Not everyone in the world can talk to Miss Liu Qingyan. Damn it. I really envy you, you're such a lucky guy."

Lin Xun was at a loss for words for a while. Then he said, "If there is nothing else, I should be leaving now."

Chu Feng hurriedly said, "No, there is one more thing, well...little brother, can you see if you can arrange a time to visit Miss Liu Qingyan together?"

Lin Xun rolled his eyes, turned his head, and walked away. He didn't realize that someone like Chu Feng would be so obsessed with an art cultivator.

However, Lin Xun just didn't know that Chu Feng was already quite normal. Many more famous and influential people in the empire would do many more absurd and crazy things to catch a glimpse of Liu Qingyan.

Although Lin Xun thought that Chu Feng was abnormal, in Chu Feng's eyes, Lin Xun, who treated the meeting with Liu Qingyan as nothing special, was more abnormal.

.....

When Lin Xun returned home, the first thing he did was find Xue Jin. He handed him a bottle of Burning Soul Spirit. "Thank you for today."

Xue Jin looked baffled. "Kid, have you gone crazy?"

Lin Xun smiled. "You think I don't know? You were watching over everything in Jade Leaf Pavilion, isn't that right?"

Xue Jin chuckled. "You said it. I won't admit to doing such a thing. But then again, it's nice that you brought me a jar of alcohol."

He lifted the jar and chugged happily.

Thinking about what happened in the hall of Jade Leaf Pavilion, Lin Xun frowned. "Old Jin, how serious do you think the consequences would be for destroying an aristocratic clan descendant's cultivation?"

Xue Jin shot Lin Xun a contemptuous glance. "It's been done already. Are you starting to regret it?"

Lin Xun smiled. "If I didn't know that you were there, I wouldn't have done that. At least I would have tolerated them then and would have settled things with them later."

Xue Jin exclaimed, "That kid used a Mind-Piercing Blood Crossbow to kill you. Can you really tolerate that? Based on your character, you would definitely regret it if you didn't kill him."

Lin Xun grinned. "Old Jin, you finally admit that you were there at the time, but you are wrong. I didn't intend to kill Huang Jianxiong because having his cultivation base destroyed is more painful for him."

Xue Jin's eyelids twitched. "Kid, you really are ruthless. What if Xie Yutang tried to kill you at the time?"

Lin Xun asked back, "Then would you watch him kill me?"

Xue Jin glared at Lin Xun. "You are playing with fire. When you pass the provincial examination, my mission will be completed. At that time, who else will save you?"

Lin Xun said indifferently, "That's then and this is now. Just as I said, if you weren't present today, I would have tolerated any humiliation and wouldn't have put my life in danger."

Xue Jin didn't say anything more, but all sorts of emotions were swirling in his heart. Lin Xun is indeed different from other young people. He knows how to take advantage of power when he has it. He knows how to judge a situation. It seems that, for him, as long as he can live, he will do anything no matter how shameless or despicable it is.

No one could be sure what kind of person he would become when he grew up.

But there was no question that it won't be easy for anyone to kill Lin Xun, no matter who it was.

Then, the two discussed the restoration of the Ancient Law Ocarina. When Xue Jin learned that Lin Xun had demanded a huge sum of money from Granny Feng out of spite, he could no longer contain his laughter.

He burst into wild laughter. "That old woman deserves it. Hahaha...Nice! Nice one!"

Xue Jin laughed so hard that he almost squeezed tears out.

Lin Xun looked at Xue Jin with a smile, and suddenly asked, "Do you know Granny Feng?"

Xue Jin froze. He immediately curbed his laughter but he knew that he had to admit to it. He sighed, "You are so good at playing tricks. You have been trying to get me to talk since the beginning of the conversation. Do you really think I don't know?"

Without waiting for Lin Xun to explain, he said aloud, "Granny Feng? Hmph, everyone who knows her calls her a crazy woman. The old woman is a powerful figure. You don't need to know her background. You just need to know that I will definitely stand still and do nothing if she wants to harm you. It can't be helped. Being pestered by that old woman is worse than having eight lives of bad luck."

As Lin Xun listened, the more uneasy he felt. A bad feeling rose in his heart. I have angered Granny Feng so much, if what Old Jin said is true...

Lin Xun violently shook his head. He didn't dare to think about it. He comforted himself. A powerful master like Granny Feng wouldn't care about a junior like me...

Chapter 238 Weapon Forging Operation

Xue Jin looked at Lin Xun teasingly, as though saying, 'you should pray for yourself.' But Lin Xun felt all his hair stand on end.

Fortunately, Xue Jin changed the topic. "If that crazy woman stands up for you, even if you destroyed Huang Jianxiong's cultivation base, it's not a big deal. There are many youngsters in those aristocratic clans. You will understand in the future that it's not easy being the child of an aristocratic clan. Often, siblings kill and scheme against each other for power."

After a pause, he continued, "Huang Jianxiong, who ranks seventh within the clan, is not actually a direct descendant. Even if you did kill him, as long as someone is willing to come forward to help you, the big problem will be turned into a little one and the little problem will become no problem."

Lin Xun nodded. He had also heard that the more powerful a clan was, the more cruel the internal conflicts were. It was common to see siblings of the same clan kill one another to obtain more resources.

"However, having said that, it is still best for you to be careful. To the aristocratic clan descendants, your identity isn't particularly remarkable yet you have crippled one of their comrades. They won't easily let go of the matter." Xue Jin reminded him.

Lin Xun sneered, "So what if my identity isn't remarkable? Those guys just want to maintain their so-called dignity and face. If they really won't let the matter go, I won't mind killing more people."

Xue Jin nodded and didn't comment.

In truth, deep down in his heart, he really admired Lin Xun's ruthlessness. He would kill whoever provoked him regardless of which aristocratic clan they were from!

"Of course," Lin Xun changed the topic. "Before I repair the Ancient Law Ocarina, Granny Feng won't watch them kill me and do nothing, and that is more than enough."

Xue Jin chuckled. "Then I'm curious, when will you finish repairing the Ancient Law Ocarina?"

Lin Xun grinned. "It's impossible to say."

Xue Jin burst into laughter again. He gave Lin Xun a thumbs up and complimented, "Amazing, you are using that crazy woman's protection as a weapon. Even I have to admire your courage."

Lin Xun looked perplexed. "Am I?"

"Don't pretend! Do you really think I don't know what you're thinking? I reckon that you won't be finished repairing the Ancient Law Ocarina before the provincial examination!"

With a grin, Lin Xun got up and headed into his room. "You said it, I never admitted to it."

Xue Jin snorted. "Given how you are, when you move your butt I know what shit you want to do."

"So vulgar!" Lin Xun rolled his eyes and slammed the door shut.

.....

Meanwhile, in a quiet courtyard in Jade Leaf Pavilion, a charming and sweet laughter echoed like the sounds of heaven.

Liu Qingyan laughed to the extent that her shoulders were shaking and her eyes curved like crescent moons. "I didn't think...I didn't think Young Master Lin Xun would be so cunning. It's the first time I've seen Granny so angry. Haha, this is interesting."

Liu Qingyan indeed didn't expect Lin Xun to be so cunning. He made Granny Feng have no choice but to suffer silently.

The youngsters who Liu Qingyan had met in the past were all graceful, calm, modest and polite. Every one of them was one of the most outstanding.

Only Lin Xun seemed handsome, gentle and harmless on the surface but turned out to be so cunning. He even made Granny Feng suffer a huge loss, which wasn't achievable to ordinary people.

However, when Liu Qingyan noticed that Granny Feng looked a little embarrassed, she did her best to curb her laughter and said, "Granny, sorry you had to suffer."

"I don't mind suffering but since that kid tried to trick me, if I don't teach him a lesson, he will likely become even more dishonest."

Liu Qingyan couldn't help laughing again. She said teasingly, "Yes, he needs to be taught a lesson. How dare he make Granny so angry. He's been very bad."

Granny Feng glared at Liu Qingyan. "I'm not joking. Miss, you have to be extra careful. That bastard is very cunning. In my opinion, if he isn't taught a lesson, he might not properly repair the Ancient Law Ocarina."

"Didn't you already promise to pay him?"

Granny Feng sighed. "Miss, you have misjudged that little bastard. In my opinion, he will definitely help you repair the Ancient Law Ocarina, but it may take a while."

Liu Qingyan became more perplexed. "Why?"

Granny Feng sneered. "It's very simple, the kid is worried that people will give him trouble since he destroyed Huang Jianxiong's cultivation, and as long as he hasn't repaired the Ancient Law Ocarina, I will

not let him die. Given how cunning he is, he will no doubt take advantage of this fact and use me as his shield. So, Miss, do you think he will repair the Ancient Law Ocarina any time soon?"

"This is a way for Young Master Lin Xun to protect himself. After all, he is different from the aristocratic clan descendants. He has no choice but to do this to avoid trouble."

Granny Feng suddenly became wary. "Miss, why are you looking out for the kid? You have only met once, don't tell me..."

Liu Qingyan blushed. "Granny, this is human nature!. It's not as complicated as you think it is."

Granny Feng nodded. "Then I don't need to worry."

"Granny, how do you plan to teach Young Master Lin Xun a lesson?" Liu Qingyan asked curiously.

A triumphant look suddenly flashed across Granny Feng's eyes. "Miss, just wait for the good news. In seven days, someone will teach that kid a lesson. If he can handle it, then I don't mind being used by him just this once. But if he can't, he has to properly repair the Ancient Law Ocarina!"

Liu Qingyan said in worry, "Granny, please don't make things difficult for Young Master Lin Xun. It will be bad for him if you ruin his reputation."

The corners of Granny Feng's lips quirked into a light smile. "Don't worry, Miss. At least he won't lose his life!"

.....

The smile on Lin Xun's face vanished as he seated himself in the room. Then, a ruminative expression crept into his eyes.

Many things have happened today, but if I carefully organize them, there are three main things. Firstly, after I destroyed Huang Jianxiong's cultivation, there might be trouble. Secondly, I need to help Liu Qingyan repair the Ancient Law Ocarina.

The third...

Lin Xun ran his finger down his throat again. He thought of Little Sword Lord Xie Yutang, thinking of how he pressed his sword against his throat.

"If a little insignificant ant pushes his luck, he will no doubt bring disaster to himself!"

This was Xie Yutang's warning to him. It reeked of arrogance and bone-deep disdain.

Lin Xun fell silent for a long moment. Then, he took a deep breath and restored his usual calm back into his jet-black eyes. He murmured. "One day, I will let you have a taste of your own medicine..."

Chirp—

At that moment, he felt a ripple of movement in the palm of his hand. Jiujiu's melodious cry rang out before his round body rolled in front of Lin Xun.

A thought struck Lin Xun's mind. "Jiujiu, you came just in time. Let's get to work."

As he was speaking, he brought out the rune materials and rune inks that he had already prepared. He arranged them in an orderly manner.

Now that he was involved in more and more matters, he had to hurry up and customize a blade for himself as soon as possible.

Jiujiu, who possessed the Golden Star Fragment Fire, would no doubt play an important role in forging the blade!

Lin Xun brought out a furnace and walked out of the room with Jiujiu.

It was a first-class furnace called the Nine-Smelting Furnace, which was specifically used to smelt the materials for forging blades.

Lin Xun dumped all the rune materials that he had prepared into the Nine-Smelting Furnace, then he patted Jiujiu's little butt. "Come, smelt all those things for me."

Jiujiu looked confused, unable to understand what Lin Xun was saying.

Lin Xun repeatedly gestured with his hands. Only after explaining and pointing at the materials and furnace for a good half of the day did Jiujiu understand him. Its face lit up with excitement and it opened its mouth wide. It spewed out a stream of golden flames, stars faintly glistening within them. It was truly stunning.

It was the Golden Star Fragment Fire, a rare heaven-grade fire!

Rumble—

The Nine Smelting Furnace shook violently as it began to operate. The runes densely distributed around the furnace lit up in a dazzling glow and completely enveloped the rune materials dumped in the furnace.

"Good job!"

Lin Xun praised Jiujiu and made it so happy. It opened its mouth wide again and spewed out several streams of Golden Star Fragment Fire into the furnace. A column of golden flames rose from within the furnace, incinerating the surrounding air and producing plumes of white smoke.

Lin Xun jumped up and urgently stopped Jiujiu, "Take your time. There's no rush. The heat doesn't need to be that strong. The temperature just needs to be consistent, just like now..."

He rambled on, and he didn't care whether Jiujiu understood him or not.

The flames had alarmed Xue Jin. He rushed over and exclaimed in surprise, "Are you going to start forging a blade now?"

Lin Xun nodded. Then, a thought struck him. "Old Jin, do me a favor and watch Jiujiu. Don't let it waste the rune materials in the furnace."

"How would I know what to do?"

Lin Xun said casually, "Those are the materials needed to be smelted to forge into a blade. It's very simple. Just watch the furnace and don't let it explode."

As he was speaking, he spun around and sped into the room. He had to prepare the rune ink as he planned to immediately engrave rune patterns on the rudimentary blade once it was formed!

Xue Jin was stunned. He found that Lin Xun seemed to have become another person. He had an indescribable focus and seriousness on his face like he was in control of everything that regarded runes. He exuded utmost confidence.

"I didn't know that this kid has such a side to him..."

Xue Jin's heart fluttered. It greatly boosted his confidence that Lin Xun would be able to help him make a rune armament in the future.

Chapter 239 A Blade filled with Ferocity

The tightly shut doors made it impossible for Xue Jin to know what Lin Xun was busy with. However, Xue Jin could tell that crafting this blade was very important to Lin Xun.

Days ago, Lin Xun had already mentioned it and had even specially consulted Xue Jin about the design and peculiarities of the blade.

As a seasoned expert with a wealth of combat experience, Xue Jin had naturally seen countless blades in his life. However, he did not understand why Lin Xun would ask him about such trivial things.

What kind of blade is he trying to craft?

As he observed the beautifully colored ingredients boiling in the nine cauldrons and Jiujiu fully focused on controlling the temperatures, Xue Jin grew increasingly curious.

He had a feeling that the blade Lin Xun was crafting would be completely different from any he had seen before!

In other words, Lin Xun was creating a new type of blade that had never been seen before in the empire!

Rumble~~

The nine cauldrons continued to boil and rumble like mighty waves were crashing within them. Bright plumes of fire would burst out from time to time, creating a dazzling light show.

The various ingredients were gradually beginning to melt, turning into red, indigo, dark-green, white, light-green, purple, and various differently colored translucent liquids. It was a beautiful sight that would stir anyone's soul.

This was the first time Xue Jin witnessed the material preparation process and he could not help but be dazed by the magical and dreamy scene.

This was the ability of a rune master!

They could turn trash to treasure like a legendary alchemist, seize the secrets of the world, and cause originally ordinary-looking materials to suddenly give off mystical auras.

Woo~Woo~~

Every so often, Jiujiu would breathe out a stream of Golden Star Fragment Fire at the nine refining cauldrons. Although it was the first time the little guy had been given this task, it could already expertly control the fire. Under its control, the temperatures of the nine cauldrons were maintained at the most perfect conditions.

This observation made the originally worried Xue Jin relax. It was exactly as he had claimed. Jiujiu and its Golden Star Fragment Fire was a natural-born grandmaster of refining materials!

Other refining grandmasters required complex rune arrays to control the fire's temperature. Moreover, the higher the rank of the fire the more difficult it was to control. This was often a huge burden on the refining grandmasters.

Several refining grandmasters usually needed to work together to control a heaven-grade aeth flame and utilize its full capabilities.

However, Jiujiu didn't need to go through such troubles. The rare heaven-grade Golden Star Fragment Fire was essentially a part of its body and moved according to its will.

When compared, it was easy to see Jiujiu's superiority.

Xue Jin could even envision how envious the old fogeys from the Divine Workshop would be if they knew about Jiujiu's ability.

Time quickly passed and night arrived.

The various ingredients in the nine cauldrons had been fully completely melted and refined of all impurities, leaving only the pure essence of each material behind.

By this time, Jiujiu was clearly tired after spitting out so many mouthfuls of Golden Star Fragment Fire. Its round body panted heavily as if it would collapse at any moment.

However, the little guy displayed a stubborn tenacity, its round black eyes still filled with concentration.

This surprised Xue Jin and made him feel sorry for Jiujiu. He never imagined that such an adorable little fellow could show such resolve. It was almost like that brat Lin Xun.

If Jiujiu wasn't a rune beast, Xue Jin would have suspected that it was Lin Xun's son.

Rumble~

A strange noise suddenly spread from the nine cauldrons. The liquid inside was rapidly enveloped by a rune array and an astonishing transformation began to occur.

Xue Jin immediately widened his eyes to make sure he didn't miss anything. A blade gradually took shape as fire and runes swirled around it, creating a dazzling and mystical sight.

The doors that had been tightly shut since day one opened at this moment and Lin Xun walked out. His eyes gleamed when he saw what was happening.

“Jiujiu, it’s enough,” said Lin Xun as Jiujiu breathed a heavy sigh of relief. It quickly sucked all of the Golden Star Fragment Fire back into its stomach.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun made a hand-sign. Light sprinkled from him and the nine cauldrons immediately fell silent.

Xue Jin could not stop himself from approaching and saw Lin Xun lift out a pitch-black blade that was two-feet-seven-inches long and four fingers wide.

The body of the blade was rather unique: its edge was as thin as a cicada's wing and curved at a perfect angle. A blood groove spanned from the middle of the blade to its tip as if it couldn't wait to feed on blood!

Xue Jin’s eyelids jumped. The shape alone told him that it was a deadly murder weapon. Its perfect curve and blood groove were designed for the sole purpose of more effectively killing enemies.

Overall, it looked more sinister than the usual battle blade. Besides this, there was nothing in particular that stood out on the blade, making it appear rather normal.

At closer inspection, however, one would discover that although no rune arrays had been carved on the blade and it was not a true aeth weapon, it already gave off a threatening and ferocious aura!

It was like a ferocious beast in deep slumber. Once it awakened, it would be hungry for blood!

What kind of blade is this?

Xue Jin was extremely curious. When he tried to ask, however, Lin Xun hurriedly returned to the room with the newly forged blade.

Bang!

The door was tightly shut again, blocking Xue Jin’s gaze and stunning him.

Are all rune masters like this when they’re working?

“Jiujiu~” Jiujiu was deflated on the ground like a soft bun as it cycled between heavy panting and weak chirps. It was clearly exhausted.

Xue Jin inwardly scolded Lin Xun for being heartless. He took the blade away without saying anything and did not show any concern to Jiujiu, who had done the bulk of the work.

If not for Jiujiu’s help, how could he have melted the materials and forged the blade so quickly?

“Come come come, have some liquor.”

Xue Jin awkwardly scratched his head and offered Jiujiu a jar of Ghostburn Wine.

Jiujiu shook its head and pitifully stared at Xue Jin with its black eyes.

Xue Jin was taken aback. He hastily patted down his body for a Qingyi aeth crystal and shoved it into Jiujiu's moth.

The little guy immediately made a happy noise and swallowed the high-grade aeth crystal that was worth a hundred gold coins into its little stomach.

It soon began to hop around again as fiery light rose around it, chirping loudly like a happy kid.

Xue Jin could not help but grin. However, his expression immediately turned somewhat ugly when he realized that this was Lin Xun's responsibility and yet he had paid an entire piece of Qingyu aeth crystal despite being an observer.

He looked at Jiujiu and muttered inwardly, "He can't have already calculated that this would happen, right? Why did he look so composed when he saw how weak Jiujiu was earlier..."

.....

Xue Jin had wrongly blamed Lin Xun this time. Like other rune masters, Lin Xun was fully focused on his work once he began. Not a single distracting thought would be found in his head and it would not be an exaggeration to say that he was not even thinking of himself.

At this moment, he was seated before the workbench. He dipped the rune brush in the already prepared rune rink and began to attentively carve on the blade.

Lin Xun was making a weapon specially for himself and it was something he had never done before. The materials, rune ink, and rune arrays had all been meticulously chosen by him.

Every small step had been reviewed and repeated countless times in his head for the sake of ensuring that no mistakes would occur during the process.

After all, he had no experience to tap on for this project and he had to do everything by himself. If anything went wrong, all his effort and preparation would be wasted.

Lin Xun was a rune master that was very strict with himself, a quality he had inherited from Mister Lu. As such, Lin Xun made sure he was fully prepared before embarking on this project.

It was well known in the world that every rune master sought perfection.

Swish swish swish~~

The rune brush moved naturally like drifting clouds and flowing water as mystical symbols blossomed like fireworks on the surface of the blade.

Lin Xun's brush style was steady and austere like a majestic mountain. His movements were free and easy like the waves and wind.

It was a style he had honed from countless practices and self-correction, a style tempered by countless criticisms and guidance from Mister Lu. Although there was nothing spectacular about it, it was the technique that most suited Lin Xun.

All of this allowed Lin Xun to maintain a high level of precision and conciseness and display a high level of synchronization between his spirit sense and the ink. Together, this enabled him to bring out the greatest effectiveness from the runes.

However, the rune arrays he had to carve were different from before. Lin Xun had prepared forty-nine rune arrays. As the saying went, of the fifty great daos, only forty-nine could be born from the world and the final dao of reincarnation could only be walked by humans. Forty-nine represented the imperfect cycle where there was always chance and opportunity.

To make the forty-nine rune arrays resonate with each other was undoubtedly a tall task for Lin Xun and it was far more difficult than anything he had attempted before.

However, everything was still within Lin Xun's control for the time being.

Time swiftly flowed as the sun rose and the moon fell. Three days passed.

Lin Xun did not eat nor rest but still maintained the same level of focus. He had finished forty-eight rune arrays and was currently working on the final rune array.

However, his complexion had become pale and beads of sweat dotted his forehead. Although his eyes remained focused and calm, he was clearly on the verge of collapsing.

The vigorous aeth power in his body had long dried up and his spirit sense was greatly exhausted.

The situation was very grave!

Although Lin Xun had envisioned the entire process countless times, reality turned out to be far more complicated and difficult than he had anticipated.

The moment he fell, however, everything he had done would be wasted!

Chapter 240 Cry of the Blade

Countless runes seemed to buzz in Lin Xun's head like millions of bees, causing him to feel a surge of irritation.

He suddenly took a deep breath and began reviewing his initial thought process and design in an attempt to find the source of the problem.

No problems had occurred when he was carving the first forty-eight rune arrays, so why had he encountered difficulty on the final rune array?

Where was the source of the problem?

Was his current mastery and knowledge unable to meet the requirements of such a complicated rune array, or had he missed out on some small detail in the process?

The problem was right in front of him and was the final straw that decided success or failure. If he could grasp it, he would be able to successfully proceed but if he didn't, everything he had done so far would be wasted!

Lin Xun bit the tip of his tongue, tried his best to cast away any thoughts or feelings that would only serve as distractions, and began to review the entire crafting process from the beginning.

He did not know how much time had passed but something suddenly clicked in his head, causing his expression to change slightly. He had finally identified the crux of the problem: it lay with the final rune array.

In his original plan, the final rune array was akin to dotting the eyes on the dragon and was the final step that linked everything together, allowing all the other rune arrays to resonate with each other.

If the other rune arrays were scattered beads, the final rune array would be the string that connected them all.

However, a problem had occurred with this 'string'!

Unfortunately, the rune arrays were already carved and if he wanted to change the 'string', he would need to redo everything from scratch. If he did not change the 'string', the crafting would end in failure!

What should I do?

Lin Xun felt disillusioned. He had never imagined that the design he had reviewed and adjusted countless times would suddenly reveal a flaw at the final moment.

Had he been careless?

No!

Lin Xun had already anticipated numerous scenarios but had failed to anticipate that there would be a slight gap between his design and reality.

That gap had now become a fuse that separated success from failure!

What should I do?

Do I give up just like this?

The cogs in Lin Xun's mind began to spin frantically as his complexion grew increasingly pale. His entire body was drenched in cold sweat and his condition was clearly deteriorating at an alarming rate.

The rune arrays were fixed and could no longer be changed but could he adjust the rune strokes within them to achieve a different effect?

All of a sudden, Lin Xun recalled the first trial he had faced when he first entered the Omega Secret-Realm.

The trial was called Spirit Refining and required him to gain an understanding of the Flowing Light Rune to pass.

After passing it, Lin Xun discovered the Little Divine Meditation Art hidden in the Flowing Light Rune.

He had been so amazed by this finding and wondered who had created the Flowing Light Rune and fused an inheritance into it. Such ability was truly unrivaled.

Later on, Lin Xun had gradually forgotten about it. It was only when he was forced into this predicament that a certain notion suddenly struck him: wasn't the Flowing Light Rune a 'moving' rune array?

Every stroke it contained could elegantly dance like flowing light, containing a mysterious power that surpassed imagination.

It was too unique. It was common sense that every stroke in a rune array was fixed, which in turn allowed the rune arrays to possess varying functions. However, the existence of the Flowing Light Rune broke this common sense and opened a completely new path!

Because its runes moved in a certain trajectory!

It could cycle like flowing light, a wonder that could not be described with mere words!

In the flash, the entire essence of the Flowing Light Rune surged out in Lin Xun's head as comprehension dawned upon him.

Swish swish swish~

The brush began to move again but its trajectory had now deviated from the original design. The initial work had changed beyond recognition and no longer looked anything like a rune array.

However, the seemingly chaotic strokes somehow began to harmonize together and magically pulse in unison.

More and more strokes appeared like a school of swimming tuna, filled with beauty and vibrance.

Omm!

In the end, Lin Xun's brush suddenly stopped.

A peculiar hum rang out as an astonishing change rippled through the countless strokes left by the brush. They rapidly linked together and fused into the forty-eight complete rune arrays like flowing water.

The entire blade abruptly glowed brightly.

Urgh!

Lin Xun finally hit his limit and violently coughed out a mouthful of blood. Blood landed, spattering on the pitch-black battle blade and appearing exceptionally glaring against the black background.

.....

Outside the room, Xue Jin was enjoying his liquor.

Three days had already passed but there had been no sign of any activity from the room. However, Xue Jin did not feel any impatience.

He knew that the time rune masters took to complete their work could vary greatly. Some could finish quickly while others would need up to half a month.

In fact, some complex aeth tools might not be complete even after an entire year.

Only three days had passed so far and Xue Jin had the patience to wait.

However, he did not know that Lin Xun could craft two to three aeth tools in a single day. It was the first time he had spent three days on a single item.

Eh?

Xue Jin's eyes suddenly narrowed and he put down his wine jar.

He disappeared from the spot a split second later.

Two figures had arrived outside the main doors of the residence. One was an elderly old woman with white hair and the other was a scholarly middle-aged man with an elegant beard.

It was Granny Feng and Chu Feng.

Chu Feng was currently sporting a crestfallen and bitter face like a prisoner who had accepted his fate. He sighed from time to time and was vastly different from his usual self.

Granny Feng's expression was indifferent. She looked at the residence's main doors in the distance and said, "Great Master Xun is here?"

Chu Feng nodded with a heavy heart.

Granny Feng coldly snorted. "Don't worry, when we meet Great Master Xun, you can say you were forced by this old woman."

A wave of bitterness washed over Chu Feng.

Isn't that what's happening?!

However, Granny Feng ignored him and walked towards the main entrance.

The more she thought about it the more unhappy she had grown over the past few days. Lin Xun was merely Great Master Xun's disciple and yet he dared to make use of her and even caused her a little trouble. She refused to just let this matter go.

At the same time, she also wished to personally see Great Master Xun and ensure that no mistake would occur. If everything had been Lin Xun's personal discretion and Great Master Xun was unaware, it would be hugely upsetting.

This was why Granny Feng had come. In order to achieve her goals, she captured Chu Feng to use him as a guide.

Chu Feng was naturally unwilling to cooperate. However, how could he possibly be Granny Feng's match? After being cruelly tormented, Chu Feng ultimately bowed his head in submission.

He had no choice. If he did not submit, he was sure that Granny Feng would cripple him!

Fortunately, Chu Feng knew that there was still a strong expert like Xue Jin around who should be able to stop the old lady.

"Oh?"

Granny Feng suddenly stopped as a terrifying and chilling light flowed out in her murky eyes.

At the same time, Xue Jin's imposing figure appeared in front of the residence. When he saw Granny Feng, however, his rugged face twitched unnoticeably before he smiled and said, "I was wondering who it was. It turns out to be you, crazy old woman."

"Xue Jin, why is it you?"

Surprised, Granny Feng's eyes narrowed.

Chu Feng's eyes immediately brightened. Since the old lady knew Xue Jin, this matter should be easily resolved!

"Senior Xue Jin, Granny Feng is here to pay a visit to Great Master Xun."

Chu Feng hurriedly said, intentionally placing an emphasis on Great Master Xun to remind Xue Jin that he had not divulged Lin Xun's identity.

Xue Jin acknowledged but Chu Feng could not tell if he had understood.

Meanwhile, Chu Feng said to Granny Feng, "Granny Feng, you might not know this yet but this senior Xue Jin is a good friend of Great Master Xun. Senior Xue Jin has been guarding this place in order to prevent Great Master Xun from being disturbed."

Granny Feng grew increasingly puzzled. "Xue Jin, why have you suddenly become Great Master Xun's bodyguard? Weren't you always following..."

Xue Jin cut in before she could finish. "No need to bring up the past. Crazy old woman, Great Master Xun is currently busy with a closed-door crafting project and is not meeting any guests. Please go back."

Granny Feng coldly snorted. "If I don't?"

Xue Jin's face twitched unnoticeably again before he chuckled. "Crazy old woman, I already know why you're here. It's about repairing that ancient law ocarina, right? Great Master Xun has already been informed of this matter and will help you as soon as he has time."

Granny Feng's expression softened. Having Xue Jin's guarantee that Great Master Xun knew was sufficient.

"Does that mean you also know about that little imp Lin Xun? Since Great Master Xun is busy, let him come out and meet me."

Granny Feng directly called for Lin Xun.

Xue Jin frowned. "Crazy old lady, although Lin Xun might have done something inappropriate, someone of your status shouldn't make things difficult for a younger generation member, right?"

A chilling light suddenly shot out from Granny Feng's eyes. "Oh, so you already know about this matter? In other words, you plan on defending that brat?"

Who could have imagined that Xue Jin would laugh instead? "That kid doesn't have the qualifications to move me. However...are you really going to make things difficult for a younger generation member?"

Granny Feng expressionlessly said, "I won't call it making things difficult but that brat is too devious and repulsive. He must be taught a lesson!"

Xue Jin displayed a look of agreement and nodded. "Agreed. That kid is a bad boy. He should be taught a lesson."

Granny Feng was taken aback. Soon after, she sneered and said, "Xue Jin, don't play dumb with me. Hurry up and summon that kid out to see me!"

Xue Jin shook his head. "Now isn't a good time. How about you come again in a few days?"

Lin Xun was at a critical juncture of the project, how could Xue Jin allow him to be disturbed?

Chu Feng also tried to persuade her. "Granny Feng, since you already know the address, you can always visit another day."

However, this only made Granny Feng increasingly suspicious. Xue Jin's appearance was already rather odd and him giving her no face because of a little brat made her faintly feel that there was something fishy going on.

Her eyes narrowed as a chilling light flowed within them. Her aura steadily grew terrifying as if on the verge of erupting.

Xue Jin's heart jumped as he inwardly sighed. The crazy old woman was still as difficult to deal with as before. It looks like he had no choice but to act.

Chu Feng also cursed inside. He was the one who had brought Granny Feng here, how could he possibly make it up to Lin Xun if something happened?

At this moment, a peculiar cry of a blade suddenly rang out and soared into the clouds like the roar of a dragon!

In that instant, Xue Jin's, Granny Feng's, and Chu Feng's hearts shook violently.