

Prodigies 2341

Chapter 2341 Break Free

The world had fallen into deathly silence.

Countless cultivators wrestled with their emotions. Even if they found it hard to accept, they had no choice but to acknowledge the reality. Lin Xun had already won three out of the five rounds and secured an undeniable victory!

Ling Xuanzi smiled. “But we have not yet finished the five rounds of our duel.”

“You still want to continue?” Lin Xun raised a brow.

Ling Xuanzi replied calmly, “Little Junior Brother, didn’t you want me to understand what it means to be utterly defeated on the cultivation path?”

Before his voice had fully faded, a mighty quasi-Emperor aura surged from him and his eyes shone with unfathomable dao light.

“Fine, I’ll make sure you admit defeat from the bottom of your heart.” Lin Xun soared into the sky.

Boom!

The battle of supreme quasi-Emperors erupted instantly.

This clash was even more intense, even more heart-stirring than before. The world before Fangchun Ruins plunged into chaos and destruction.

Everyone watching felt their hearts tighten, their souls shaken again and again.

Even Emperors held their breaths and concentrated fully, unable to hide the astonishment in their eyes.

They were not supreme Emperors nor supreme quasi-Emperors, and they had never witnessed power at this level before.

Only now did they realize that the so-called Emperor Stage heavenly barrier that was regarded as an insurmountable divide since ancient times posed no hindrance at all to Ling Xuanzi and Lin Xun at all!

The strength both displayed defied heavens, far beyond conventional comprehension. The terrifying power they unleashed had long surpassed that of ordinary Emperors!

It was truly terrifying.

If word of this spread, it would even overturn the understanding that had existed for countless ages!

As the battle raged on, Ling Xuanzi began to sustain injuries, but unlike before, he did not admit defeat. Instead, the more setbacks he suffered, the more determined he became, his fighting spirit burning with even more ferocity.

Boom!

In the void, Ling Xuanzi was seen charging forth with unstoppable momentum, wielding the power of the boundless cosmos, executing a myriad of profound techniques like a divine being descending upon the world.

He appeared more composed than ever, his expression solemn, yet his eyes burned with a terrifying divine light. Every strike he unleashed carried the force to incinerate mountains, boil seas, and split heaven and earth. The power was so overwhelming that it was unimaginable.

However, no matter how devastating his blows were, Lin Xun shattered them one after another. No matter how profound his dao was, they were all utterly destroyed!

Compared to Ling Xuanzi's relentless attacks, Lin Xun's every move exuded an air of simplicity—direct, unadorned, yet utterly indestructible and impervious to all attacks.

Before long, Ling Xuanzi was riddled with wounds.

Though his figure was formed from the power of his will so it bore no blood, the damage was unmistakable. Everyone could see his form flickering and blurring, showing signs of disintegration.

The spectators felt a pang of disappointment. Was Venerable Dao Lord, a supreme existence to them...really about to fall from grace?

“Why won’t you admit defeat? Or are you just refusing to accept the reality?” Lin Xun asked.

Ling Xuanzi’s eyes blazed with fighting spirit, but his expression remained as calm as always. “I haven’t lost yet, so why would I concede?”

Boom!

As soon as the words left his lips, Lin Xun struck once more, sending Ling Xuanzi hurtling through the air. The dao light around him trembled and scattered.

Despite the impact, Ling Xuanzi steadied himself as if unfazed and immediately launched another assault.

Lin Xun furrowed his brows.

From the very beginning of their battle, Ling Xuanzi had demonstrated a level of strength that defied the heavens, forcing Lin Xun to unleash his full power to suppress him.

This alone was enough to prove that Ling Xuanzi was no ordinary opponent.

However, Lin Xun was puzzled by Ling Xuanzi’s relentless persistence. What was the reason driving him to continue?

As time went on, the battle only grew fiercer.

Ling Xuanzi's figure had become blurred and fragmented, but he still remained unyielding, appearing extremely tenacious.

It was not that Lin Xun wasn't trying to suppress him completely, but even if he was exerting his full strength, he was unable to fully take down Ling Xuanzi.

An unparalleled genius like him who only appeared once in countless ages was not so easily subdued.

"It's tragic..."

Far away, countless spectators felt a sense of unease.

Recently, Ling Xuanzi had been preaching the profound truths of the great dao, enlightening and benefiting countless cultivators. Seeing him in such a dire state, they couldn't help but feel anxious.

Meanwhile, Meng Lianqing and the others were gripped by a single thought. Is that guy...really the Lin Xun we know?

Even Venerable Dao Lord is struggling against him, so just how terrifying is Lin Xun's strength?

None of them knew that in the reincarnation world of the Nirvana of Transcendence, Lin Xun had already become the undisputed number one across all history in the lower five cultivation stage, the Longevity Tribulation Stage, the Saint Stage and the Quasi-Emperor Stage!

Under such circumstances, how could Ling Xuanzi possibly stand a chance?

In the distant canyon, A'hu, Toady, A'lu and the others held their breaths, watching nervously.

They all knew that Ling Xuanzi had lost. There was no turning the tides anymore.

However, they were concerned as to whether Ling Xuanzi would keep to his promise.

Given Ling Xuanzi's cultivation, if he revealed his full strength, would Lin Xun be able to withstand it?

Boom!

On the battlefield, Ling Xuanzi was once again sent flying.

His figure had become completely blurred, as faint as drifting smoke, as if he could dissipate at any moment. In truth, everyone could see that Ling Xuanzi could no longer hold on.

At that moment, he let out a long sigh and decisively stopped.

Despite that, there was no trace of disappointment, bitterness or unwillingness in his sigh. Instead, it carried an inexplicable sense of satisfaction.

Many found this hard to believe.

He had been utterly defeated, so why would he react so unusually?

"Remarkable! Little Junior Brother, your dao is truly one of a kind, unprecedented in all of history." Ling Xuanzi said, his voice carrying a depth of emotion.

Lin Xun frowned. "At such a time, you still have the mood to be sentimental?"

"Haha." Ling Xuanzi chuckled. "Even if I lost, to have personally witnessed my Junior Brother's great dao, I feel nothing but joy and deep satisfaction!"

This was like the most unreserved praise from a senior brother to his junior brother, filled with genuine sincerity.

At this moment, a flicker of realization crossed Lin Xun's expression. His eyes narrowed slightly and he asked, "During our dao duel, have you been trying to figure out my dao path all along?"

Ling Xuanzi was stunned for a moment, then burst into laughter, clapping his hands. "Little Junior Brother, you are sharp as ever. But you're mistaken. I was not trying to figure it out; I have already comprehended your past dao paths and know it thoroughly!"

After a brief pause, he continued, "From what I can tell, you must have reconstructed your dao path more than once before, but the one you forged before becoming an Emperor was the most pivotal."

He then added, "If my guess is correct, the place where you underwent rebirth and achieved nirvana must be the Nirvana of Transcendence, am I right?"

Lin Xun felt a chill in his heart, his eyes flashing sharply. Just from our dao duel, Ling Xuanzi has pieced together so much! This man is far too terrifying!

Lin Xun suddenly recalled what the Dao Ruleless Bell had once said about Ling Xuanzi:

Born with profound wisdom, a heart of nine apertures, a mind that blooms like a lotus, a talent that defies heavens, unparalleled throughout the ages.

Lin Xun couldn't help but wonder whether Ling Xuanzi's extraordinary perception and insight might be linked to his innate talent.

"Seems like my speculation is correct."

Ling Xuanzi remarked with a calm, amiable smile, "Regardless of everything, I must thank you, Little Junior Brother. Your dao path had finally allowed me to understand what kind of great dao Master had been waiting for. After glimpsing into your dao, I can finally..."

He turned around, gazing at Fangchun Ruins, and spoke firmly, emphasizing each word, "Break free!"

The moment he finished—Boom!

The massive lotus-shaped sacred mountain quaked violently. Torrents of chaos qi erupted from its depths like a tidal wave, and boundless divine light surged in all directions.

It was as if an ancient god had awakened beneath the mountain, attempting to overturn the prison that had confirmed him for countless years and once again step into the world!

Cries of shock erupted in the distance, causing a stir and chaos.

No one had expected such a sudden, earth-shattering change would happen as soon as the fourth round came to an end.

"So, this was your true intention all along."

Lin Xun's dark eyes turned toward Fangchun Ruins in the distance. He could distinctly sense an immensely terrifying presence awakening beneath the sacred mountain's foundation.

"You misunderstand, Little Junior Brother. Even if you hadn't come today, I would have broken free from this countless years of imprisonment in no more than two months." Ling Xuanzi's voice was light, almost casual, yet there was an unmistakable arrogance.

Lin Xun's expression remained cold. "That brings me to the question I was about to ask. In order to escape, do you truly intend to sacrifice all those innocent cultivators?"

Ling Xuanzi asked in response, "Little Junior Brother, after all your years of cultivation, the number of people who have perished by your hands must be beyond counting. Perhaps you had your reasons for killing them, but so do I. Death is death. What difference is there between us?"

Lin Xun laughed in anger. “I, Lin Xun, have cultivated to this day with a clear conscience. No matter whom I’ve killed, I have never done anything unjust, ruthless, or inhumane. But you? You are willing to sacrifice hundreds of thousands of innocent lives!”

Countless cultivators in the distance turned deathly pale, their bodies cold with terror. The realization of what Lin Xun’s accusation meant slowly dawned on them.

When they looked at Ling Xuanzi again, their gazes were filled with deep fear and disbelief, as if they couldn’t comprehend how the Venerable Dao Lord they worshipped could do something so ruthless and monstrous?

Rumble!

In the distance, the sacred mountain trembled violently, divine brilliance surging across the land as if it were on the verge of collapse.

Ling Xuanzi seemed not to notice Lin Xun’s fury as well as the countless cultivators watching from afar. With an indifferent tone, he said, “Little Junior Brother, in your eyes, they are living beings, but to me, they are nothing more than specks of dust along the path of the great dao. In fact, at this moment, you and I are also no different from dust ourselves.

“Only by transcending the great dao and attaining eternal immortality can one truly stand above all, as the supreme ruler of the heavens!”

As he spoke, a fervent madness burned in his gaze, and he let out a long sigh, “This was the great dao dispute between Master and me back then! Perhaps, for now, I am inferior to Master now, but one day, I will prove whose dao reigns supreme!”

Lin Xun’s expression suddenly grew calm as he looked at Ling Xuanzi’s fading illusory figure. “Do you really need to wait for one day? Don’t forget, you just lost four rounds. By your own words, your fate is mine to decide. Or, are you planning to go back on your words?”

Ling Xuanzi was stunned for a moment, before breaking into a smile. “No, I, Ling Xuanzi, have never gone back on my word. Even after being suppressed for countless years, have I ever once shown regret?”

After a pause, he spoke each word slowly and deliberately, “Little Junior Brother, don’t be so hasty. The fifth round...has yet to begin...”

At the end of his words, the incarnation of his will dissipated into a rain of light and vanished without a trace.

At the same time, the sacred mountain in the distance collapsed with a deafening rumble!

Chapter 2342 How Often Could Such a Battle be Witnessed in the Mortal World?

The sacred mountain crumbled and the earth trembled violently.

A tidal wave of debris and dust surged across the land, engulfing everything in its path.

That was Fangchun Mountain—a place that had endured through the ages. Even when its mountain gate had been devastated, the mountain itself had remained standing.

It bore witness to the glory of Fangchun Mountain’s sect, preserving the imprints of every Fangchun Mountain’s successor’s cultivation and legacy.

Now, with the collapse of the sacred mountain, all of it was reduced to nothing but ruins and dust.

Lin Xun stood still, his eyes dark and unfathomable, his robes billowing violently in the wind. A monstrous flame of fury roared within his chest.

Ling Xuanzi had been plotting from the very beginning!

In the distance, countless cultivators trembled, their faces drained of color. Many realized the terrifying shift in the situation and fled in panic, unwilling to linger a moment longer.

They all had a premonition—an ultimate battle between Emperors was on the verge of breaking out!

Even the Emperors wore solemn expressions, retreating instinctively. They knew better than anyone else that if a battle of that level erupted, the sheer destruction force could wipe out everything!

Moreover, both Ling Xuanzi and Lin Xun were no ordinary Emperors.

No one wanted to be caught up in the battle and if they wished to spectate, they had to stay far away.

“Ling Xuanzi is treacherous. He has been scheming against Big Brother from the very start!” A’lu seethed in the distant canyon.

A’hu, Toady, Big Black Bird and Little Silver wore grim expressions, their emotion shifting unpredictably. They had heard everything happening in the outside world. How could they not realize that Ling Xuanzi had completely used Lin Xun in the dao duel!

In truth, even they could hardly believe it. Just through their duel, Ling Xuanzi had managed to discern the profound secrets of Lin Xun’s dao path. His insight was terrifying beyond words.

As the smoke and dust settled, a figure emerged amidst the devastation of Fangchun Ruins.

Dressed in an azure robe, he had the handsome, youthful features of a teenager. His black hair was casually tied back and a faint smile played at the corners of his lips. He was elegant and refined like polished jade, yet exuded a free-spirited brilliance.

Such an extraordinary figure would leave anyone in awe. What a handsome young man!

He stretched lazily, raising his arms as he tilted his head toward the sky, his expression one of greed and satisfaction.

Endless years of suppression.

Endless years of darkness and imprisonment.

And now, finally—He had returned to the light!

Boom!

The world quaked, the clouds collapsed in all directions, and torrents of the great dao surged wildly toward him, like rivers bursting their banks, pouring into him.

Visibly, his aura soared higher and higher, and his already striking features seemed to glow even brighter beneath the dazzling dao light.

In the distance, countless beings stood frozen, overwhelmed with awe. Just witnessing this from afar filled them with indescribable fear.

They were like mortals gazing upon a god!

Lin Xun stood in the same spot, his gaze locked onto the azure-robed youth in the distance. He had to admit that this man's grace and presence were unmatched, rarely seen in the world.

The world was always cruel.

Some were born destined for the great dao, gifted with extraordinary talent and blessed by the heavens.

They were endowed with unparalleled talent and profound wisdom. From the moment they were born, they possessed a heaven-defying aptitude, and were destined to outshine all others and illuminate the world with their brilliance.

Ling Xuanzi was undoubtedly one of these rare individuals. Just the title 'unparalleled throughout the ages' was enough to illustrate the terrifying nature of his talent.

After a long time, the heavens and earth finally quieted.

The handsome Ling Xuanzi was now bathed in radiant dao light. His transcendent aura was like that of an immortal descending from heavens and not like a mortal at all.

He slowly withdrew his gaze from the sky, dusted his clothes and turned toward Lin Xun with a bright smile. "Little Junior Brother, thank you."

Lin Xun snorted, "Do you really think you've broken free?"

"I was imprisoned for an eternity... Shouldn't you be happy for your Senior Brother?" Ling Xuanzi sighed. Who could understand the agony of those endless years spent in darkness?

His expression softened, and he walked toward Lin Xun with a smile, "Earlier, you asked me if I would regret it, my answer is—absolutely not.

"I know you must hate me to the core, but it doesn't matter. In this fifth round, I will show you why I chose to use the method of a dao duel to subdue our other senior and junior brothers and sisters."

He strolled forward leisurely, as if taking a casual walk through a garden, stopping only when he was a thousand feet away from Lin Xun. Then, with a radiant smile, he asked, "So, what do you say? Do you dare to give it a try?"

"You want to subdue me?" Lin Xun raised an eyebrow.

Ling Xuanzi nodded. "After I subdue you, you can decide my fate however you wish. This wouldn't be considered going back on my word, nor would it be breaking the rules. But by then, I believe you'll definitely feel guilty and offer me an apology."

Lin Xun couldn't help but chuckle, sweeping his gaze over Ling Xuanzi. "Fourth realm Emperor Stage?"

“Only then would it be a fair match.” Ling Xuanzi said casually. “Little Junior Brother, rest assured. If I can’t defeat you in a duel at the same level, you may do whatever you wish with me!” His tone was relaxed, yet his words carried undeniable weight.

Lin Xun smirked, his voice tinged with mockery, “At this point, I am already utterly disappointed in you.”

Boom!

The already tense and oppressive world seemed unable to withstand the terrifying pressure radiating from the two any longer. In an instant, it shattered like a mirror, collapsing into fragments.

At that very moment, Lin Xun and Ling Xuanzi moved simultaneously.

Rumble!

Lin Xun soared into the air, throwing a punch.

His fist force was plain and unadorned, yet it tore through the sky, splitting the void with a thousand-foot-long crack. The sheer power behind it was unstoppable, crushing all in its path.

Many onlookers in the distance couldn’t comprehend the intricacies of the strike. To them, this terrifying supreme Emperor power was like the wrath of the heavens.

Even Emperors felt a chill creep into their bones. Their hands and feet turned cold, their scalps tingled and their faces paled in horror.

With just one punch, Lin Xun demonstrated unparalleled brilliance, standing above all beneath the heavens!

“Descend!”

Unlike Lin Xun's domineering and earth-shattering punch, Ling Xuanzi merely raised a slender finger and traced a line through the air.

Endless divine rainbows streaked across the sky, transforming into countless blades of sword qi. Each blade contained profound and unfathomable laws of the Emperor Dao, embodying different supreme mysteries of the great dao!

"Go!" Ling Xuanzi made a gesture with his finger.

Countless rays of great dao sword qi shot toward Lin Xun like the sharpest arrows in existence. In that instant, each sword ray erupted with a different terrifying power.

Some were like roaring thunder and flashing lightning, swift and domineering.

Some were like raging wind and blazing fire, ferocious and untamed.

Some were like towering mountains, steady and majestic.

Each ray of sword qi exuded an ultimate aura, blotting out the sky and the sun, sweeping across the nine heavens!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Countless sword qi slashed down, colliding fiercely with Lin Xun's incomparably domineering fist force, causing an earth-shattering explosion.

However, how could mere sword qi stop Lin Xun's punch? This was the same fist force that had once slain an eighth realm Emperor in the Ancient Nebula Road.

With a thunderous boom, his fist force tore through the torrent of sword qi like a blade through bamboo. Countless streaks of sword qi shattered and dissipated into dazzling rain of light.

“Rise!” Ling Xuanzi remained unfazed, calmly sweeping his hand through the air.

In an instant, the remnants of his shattered sword qi transformed midair, weaving into countless divine chains that lashed out like whips, striking Lin Xun’s fist force. Each lash weakened a fraction of its power. After what seemed like an endless barrage, Lin Xun’s unstoppable fist force was finally neutralized, just three feet away from Ling Xuanzi.

The distant spectators were utterly dumbstruck.

In just a single exchange, the Emperor dao power unleashed had already far exceeded their comprehension.

Lin Xun’s fist embodied simplicity, yet it carried an indomitable force.

Ling Xuanzi’s sword qi that was summoned with a causal gesture displayed the ultimate art of transformation—profound, unfathomable and breathtaking.

Adding to that, this was just a casual exchange between the two.

If they unleashed their full strength, how terrifying would the battle become?

“Mastering myriad daos, knowing countless techniques and laws —so this is the extent of your so-called Supreme Emperor Dao?” Lin Xun chuckled.

His body radiated boundless brilliance yet remained as deep and unfathomable as an abyss. With a step forward, he threw another punch. The world seemed like a fragile canvas, crumbling and collapsing beneath the devastating force of that strike.

At that moment, Lin Xun was like the sovereign of all existence—eternal as a cauldron and as vast as an abyss that could swallow the heavens. His cultivation was fully unleashed in this single blow.

That punch, infused with the essence of the great dao refined to its ultimate limit, sent the heaven and earth quaking, and the sun and moon reeling.

Instantly, a terrifying vision unfolded. The myriad worlds and realms, the countless great daos all shattered into oblivion beneath the force of the fist!

Even Ling Xuanzi's face darkened, revealing a trace of solemnity. Then, without hesitation, he clenched his right hand in the void.

Clang!

A three-foot long sword qi surged forth from the crown of his head. The sword qi was magnificent and within it, countless profound mysteries of the great dao swirled, projecting mysterious dao diagrams one after another.

Those countless dao diagrams were actually condensed from a myriad of intricate laws!

When the three-foot sword qi descended into Ling Xuanzi's palm, his entire aura transformed. He seemed to have become the Emperor of Heaven wielding the sword of sovereignty, patrolling the cosmos with unmatched authority!

Boom!

The entire world was instantly illuminated by an unparalleled sword light, dazzling beyond compare. Mountains and rivers, void and shadow...everything paled in the presence of that radiant blade.

A three-foot sword encompassing all the daos of one's being!

This was Ling Xuanzi's great dao, the foundation of his belief, the obsession he had upheld through countless years of suppression: 'Seeing me is like seeing the heavens.'

"Retreat, now!"

Far away, Emperors fled in terror.

Countless cultivators were gripped by inexplicable dread. Though they could neither see nor hear the battle direction, their souls trembled and almost collapsed.

Some even collapsed to the ground and fainted!

Everyone knew that the battle between Lin Xun and Ling Xuanzi had already escalated into something irreversible. The power of the Emperor dao they unleashed was not something just anyone could just stand by and observe.

Rumble!

Powerful qi roared, and the surrounding void was plunged into chaos.

On the battlefield, Lin Xun advanced with his fist, moving like a vast abyss sweeping across the world, carrying the might to suppress the heavens and engulf all realms. The dao light radiating from him shook the eternal vast heavens.

Ling Xuanzi, armed with his three-foot sword, was equally fierce and powerful. He stood like the Emperor of Heaven himself, commanding the universe with his blade, slicing through all obstacles in his path.

At the heart of their fierce clash, scenes of great destruction and chaos unfolded as if it was the end of the world. Their clash was like a battle of sovereigns, using the heavens and earth as their chessboard and the great dao as their pieces!

This was an incredibly rare sight, an earth-shattering battle that could shake the annals of history.

After all, although the two were senior and junior brothers, they were also mighty Emperors on the Supreme Path. A battle at this level was legendary, how often could such a battle be witnessed in the mortal world?

Chapter 2343 Myriad Dao Emperor Scripture

Rumble!

The world was thrown into chaos. Mountains and rivers shattered and crumbled into dust.

Everywhere the two clashed, torrents of destructive great dao power surged like an apocalyptic storm, ravaging everything in their path.

Aside from a handful of Emperors, the rest had long been forced away by the shockwaves, unable to remain anywhere near the battlefield.

All eyes were filled with shock and dread.

The battleground had become a zone of devastation—mountains leveled, valleys caved in, the earth split into gaping ravines and everything reduced to ashes.

“In this duel, who will emerge victorious?”

Countless cultivators’ eyes were wide with shock, their minds gripped by terror. Even Emperors could not predict the outcome.

“Ling Xuanzi, is this all you’ve got?”

Lin Xun’s figure suddenly reappeared, blazing like a rising sun. The great abyss pulsed with boundless power and crashed down with unparalleled might.

A strike with immeasurable divine force!

“Little Junior Brother, the battle has just begun, don’t be impatient.” Wielding the three-foot sword, Ling Xuanzi remained composed, yet his aura grew increasingly frightening, disrupting the clouds and winds in all directions.

Rumble! Rumble!

They clashed again, like two sacred mountains colliding. Their every exchange sent the sky crumbling, the void rupturing, and the ground caving inward. There were all sorts of apocalyptic visions.

Dao sounds rolled across the nine heavens like divine thunder. Brilliant light engulfed the world, evoking an apocalyptic scene. The sun and moon seemed to be sinking and the great dao was crumbling into ruin...

One earth-shattering scene after another unfolded, making this unprecedented supreme Emperor battle even more terrifying.

If this battle happened in the outside world, all would have been reduced to nothing!

At first glance, Lin Xun seemed to be at a disadvantage with every one of his strikes intercepted, unable to break past Xuan Lingzi's three-foot sword qi.

However, to a few Emperors watching closely, the truth was far from what it seemed.

"It seems...Venerable Dao Lord can no longer hold on..." someone muttered, their voice trembling and their expression shifting wildly.

Another sharp-eyed spectator also noticed something alarming. Each time Ling Xuanzi blocked Lin Xun's attack, the world around him would quake violently, the space would collapse and force him to teleport away to stabilize himself.

This meant that although Lin Xun's strikes were deflected, Ling Xuanzi wasn't truly neutralizing them with his own power, but had also endured the impact.

This realization sent a shudder through the Emperors present.

“Kill!”

On the battlefield, Lin Xun let out a thunderous roar. His fist force surged forth, condensed like an eternal cauldron, carrying an indomitable might that could suppress all of existence.

Faintly, around the cauldron, visions of the world crumbling and all things being annihilated emerged.

Even an old antique at the eighth realm Emperor Stage would be struck with terror and despair at the sight!

Boom!

Ling Xuanzi's three-foot sword qi could no longer withstand the force. It fractured inch by inch while Lin Xun's terrifying fist force, seemingly indestructible, continued its descent upon him.

Expressionless, Ling Xuanzi executed thirty-nine supreme dao techniques in an instant. Each one could be regarded as an ultimate emperor scripture, imbued with the deepest mysteries of the Emperor Dao and unimaginable power.

However, no matter how Ling Xuanzi adapted and changed, Lin Xun's fist force remained simple, unadorned and natural, yet its power was tyrannical and domineering, breaking through all obstacles in its path.

Before long, Ling Xuanzi was sent flying backward like a sword streaking across the sky for thousands of feet.

Everything in his path, void, mountains, and rivers, was obliterated.

Some spectators thought they had retreated far enough, but they still found themselves struck by the residual shockwaves. Blood spewed from their mouths and noses, limbs shattered, and some even perished on the spot!

“Not bad, really not bad at all. Little Junior Brother, when you achieved the Supreme Emperor Stage, I imagine you must have caused quite the commotion. Haha, you’ve truly opened my eyes.”

Ling Xuanzi straightened himself, a crazed smile spreading across his youthful and handsome face. Wiping the blood from the corner of his lips, he said, “Come, let’s fight to our heart’s content today. Life and death, the great dao, let’s cast it all aside for now!”

The moment he finished—Boom!

With a single step, he shot forward like a shooting star, slicing through space with the grace and swiftness of a divine sword. His aura surged, more powerful than ever.

“I already told you that I’ll make you understand what utter defeat truly means!”

Lin Xun’s fighting spirit burned fiercely. His qi, essence, and spirit surged like an erupting volcano, his cultivation pushed to its absolute peak.

Over the years, he had slain countless old monsters, yet never had he encountered an opponent at the same level who was truly worthy.

Now, Ling Xuanzi’s appearance reignited a long-lost desire for battle.

Rumble!

In a flash, the two clashed once again. The battle was even more ferocious and more earth-shattering than before. It was as if two great rulers of the great dao were locked in a life and death battle, shattering heaven and earth in their clash.

“Run! Quickly!”

“This isn’t a battle between Emperors, it’s a war between gods.”

“Retreat now! Move!”

Across the distant lands, countless cultivators fled in terror, panic-stricken. Fear was etched across their faces, none daring to linger.

Only a handful reluctantly remained, but they knew they were gambling with their lives, as if they were dancing on the edge of a blade, so they were ready to flee at a moment’s notice.

“Fairy Meng, run! Quickly!”

Yan Juan was nearly in tears, his entire body trembling violently, his soul almost leaving his body. A battle between Emperors of that level was enough to scare a person to death

Ironically, those young talents who had always followed Meng Lianqing around had long since fled without a trace.

“I won’t leave.” Meng Lianqing’s delicate face had turned pale, and her slender figure was rigid. Clearly, she too was deeply shaken and overwhelmed.

However, as a dazzling figure at the Quasi-Emperor Stage and that she had already retreated far from the battlefield, she was able to withstand the terrifying force of the battle.

Why did she stay?

Even she didn’t know.

It was as if the knot in her heart all these years had compelled her to witness whether the person from back then could be defeated!

Or perhaps it was mere stubbornness.

Any past bitterness or unwillingness had already faded the moment she saw Lin Xun take action—soaring above the nine heavens, exuding the god-like aura of an Emperor.

“Then...I’ll stay too!” Yan Juan clenched his teeth, his expression filled with determination, as if he had prepared himself to face death.

Meng Lianqing merely glanced at him before turning her full attention back to the battle.

The two figures clashing in the sky were indeed like gods. They fought from the highest heavens to the depths of the earth, shifting and teleporting, leaving only ruin and destruction in their wake.

A closer look revealed that Ling Xuanzi’s power was steadily growing stronger, but under Lin Xun’s relentless assault, he was clearly struggling to hold on!

Rumble!

Blinding dao light erupted, illuminating the nine heavens.

Ling Xuanzi was struck by Lin Xun’s crushing punch and sent hurtling down from the void. The impact shook the land, sending a cloud of dust surging into the sky, while the earth rumbled violently beneath the force.

In the distance, countless spectators gasped sharply, their hands and feet turning ice-cold. Lin Xun’s unparalleled might had left them utterly speechless.

“Ling Xuanzi, show your true strength. If you keep holding back, you’ll definitely lose!”

Hovering in the void, Lin Xun radiated dazzling dao light, his divine aura shaking the heavens.

“Why not.”

A divine rainbow burst forth from the earth, revealing Ling Xuanzi's figure. Though slightly disheveled, his expression remained calm, neither sorrowful nor joyful.

"Little Junior Brother, you may not know but after I ascended to the Supreme Emperor Stage, I created the Myriad Dao Emperor Scripture, a scripture designed to command all daos. During my countless years of suppression, I devoted myself wholly to refining it. Through thousands of painstaking deductions and revisions, I finally perfected this scripture. Now, let me show you what my dao truly is," Ling Xuanzi spoke steadily.

An imposing aura surged from him, vast and transcendent, as if he stood above the heavens, ruling over all daos in existence. .

"Cage of Great Dao!"

Ling Xuanzi thrust out a palm, and countless rays of divine light cascaded down like a waterfall, converging into an immense cage that blotted out the sun and sky, radiating boundless might.

It was as if the very fabric of the great dao had materialized to form a prison, seeking to seal away the mortal world!

If what Ling Xuanzi had displayed before was the art of commanding all daos, then what he wielded now was a power that transcended all daos, like the sovereign of the heavens wielding the very essence of the 'dao' to kill!

"Good."

Lin Xun's black hair billowed in the wind as his palm and fingers formed a sword and slashed forward.

This strike appeared plain and unremarkable, devoid of any sword aura, but it seemed to have unified all daos, integrating them completely into this single strike.

Sword of Unification!

Lin Xun had spent years deducing and refining the five supreme sword scriptures to create a true Emperor Scripture of sword dao that belonged to himself.

As his sword descended, the heavens trembled, the earth crumbled, and all things withered.

The cage that seemed to be forged from millions of daos was shattered instantly, dissolving into a torrential rain of light scattering across the sky.

Ling Xuanzi was struck head-on, his figure blasted backward. His robes were torn, his long hair was disheveled, and blood seeped from the corners of his lips!

The sight left countless spectators pale with shock.

From the very start, Ling Xuanzi had been completely overpowered by Lin Xun.

They had battled from the earth to the sky and back again, yet time and time again, he was unable to withstand Lin Xun's relentless assaults. Each clash saw him either blasted backward or sent crashing to the ground.

Even now, after unveiling his great dao emperor scripture, he was still defeated by a single sword strike!

To the watching Emperors, Ling Xuanzi's strength had already reached an unimaginable level. Whether it was his spirit, body, or cultivation, he was unrivalled, like a sovereign ruler above all.

However, Lin Xun was even more terrifying.

From beginning to end, he had completely suppressed Ling Xuanzi. His dao was simple, direct, unadorned, and natural, yet it was absolute.

Especially the last sword strike, which was plain and unremarkable in appearance, yet it contained the power to obliterate all daos. Even the Emperors struggled to describe the sword strike in words.

To put it bluntly, the sword was like the dao itself, peerless and unstoppable!

Before that sword, all power paled into insignificance.

Once again, Ling Xuanzi was sent flying, blood trickling from the corner of his lips. It had been proven that his strength was far beneath Lin Xun's!

It was inconceivable.

How powerful was Venerable Dao Lord Ling Xuanxi, who had once preached the profound mysteries of the great dao to the world, and who could command and control myriad daos?

Even though he had been imprisoned for countless years and had only just broken free today, he was still completely suppressed by his junior brother?

How terrifying was Lin Xun's mastery of the Emperor Dao?

For the first time, even Ling Xuanzi was visibly shaken.

Immediately, a terrifying glint flickered in his eyes as he fixed his gaze on Lin Xun. The calm composure he had maintained throughout their duel finally wavered.

Only now did he realize that from the very beginning, he had gravely underestimated the foundation and strength of his little junior brother.

Chapter 2344 Herald of Heaven's Decree

Ling Xuanzi's heart was restless.

Through the first four rounds of their dao duel, he had gained a thorough understanding of Lin Xun's past paths. He had grasped the various powers that Lin Xun had comprehended along the way.

With this insight, he believed that he could crush his Little Junior Brother in the fifth and final round.

But the reality...

Was completely beyond his expectations!

In an instant, he deduced the reason.

After Lin Xun ascended to the Supreme Emperor Stage, he underwent a change that Ling Xuanzi could not decipher. Furthermore, this transformation was profound, filled with unfathomable mysteries beyond his understanding!

“Nirvana of Transcendence, the lotus of eternity...”

A strong premonition arose within Ling Xuanzi—Lin Xun’s dao path at the Emperor Stage was inexplicably linked to the Nirvana of Transcendence!

However, even with his wisdom and intelligence, he could deduce nothing further

He had no idea that in that world of reincarnation, Lin Xun had rebuilt his entire dao path, achieving a cultivation base so powerful that it stood above all of history.

He had no idea how terrifyingly abnormal the Emperor tribulation that Lin Xun faced had been when he broke through to the Supreme Emperor Stage on the Great Wall of Thousand Daos.

Even more, he had no idea that in order to ensure Lin Xun would successfully overcome the tribulation, the crescent moon three stars diagram left behind by the Master of Fangcun Mountain was actually a power of his will.

It was this terrifying force that had obliterated all the deadly attacks of numerous ancient giants from the other side of the cosmos.

It was this journey through the Nirvana of Transcendence that had elevated Lin Xun's dao path to an unparalleled, unprecedented height, becoming one that had never before existed throughout the ages!

However, failing to unravel the mystery did not mean that Ling Xuanzi would admit defeat.

Very quickly, he took a deep breath, and his handsome face regained its usual composure and his gaze locked onto Lin Xun in the distance. His voice rang out, "Little Junior Brother, if you can withstand my next attack, I, Ling Xuanxi, will let you decide my fate!"

His tone carried an unshakable determination.

"You still refuse to give up?" asked Lin Xun.

"Even if Master has suppressed me for countless years, my will has never wavered. Do you think a few minor setbacks will change anything?" Ling Xuanzi's voice was calm yet resolute.

His black hair gradually turned gray, yet his eyes grew sharper and more piercing. His robes billowed as an unparalleled power of will surged skyward, like an invisible giant hand summoning the laws of the great dao from all directions.

The entire Deva Secret Domain trembled. Across its vast mountains and rivers, immense forces erupted like tidal waves, rushing madly toward Ling Xuanzi.

Rumble!

The heavens roared, the earth quaked, and the entire world was trembling.

The Deva Secret Domain was vast and boundless, yet it seemed as if it was being wielded and controlled by Ling Xuanzi alone.

"How..."

Far away, the Emperors were horrified, their hearts pounding violently and their minds almost collapsed. How could someone command the power of a world?

So terrifying!

Ling Xuanzi's tall and imposing figure was like the backbone of the heavens and earth. With each breath, he controlled the currents of the cosmic void, drawing in the essence of all daos in all directions. His aura alone was vast enough to overshadow the world itself.

Even more striking was his gray hair.

At this moment, Lin Xun revealed a rare solemn expression on his face.

As a supreme Emperor, he understood better than anyone how terrifying the power that Ling Xuanzi now wielded truly was.

Had an ordinary eighth realm Emperor stood here, they would have been crushed by sheer pressure alone!

Lin Xun stretched his body, and from within, a sound like a raging sea thundered outward. His acupoints and meridians, his organs, and even his True Self Emperor World were all activated at full force, making his entire body glow with a brilliant and ethereal radiance.

A body like an indestructible cauldron. A dao as unfathomable as an abyss!

For the first time, Lin Xun unleashed his full strength without reservation against an opponent of the same level.

Because his fourth senior brother was simply too powerful!

"Go!"

With a sweep of his wide sleeve, Ling Xuanzi commanded heaven and earth, thrusting his palm forward.

Boom!

The boundless power of the great dao, as if finding an outlet to erupt, surged like a river bursting its banks, engulfing Lin Xun in an instant.

From a distance, it seemed as though the entire Deva Secret Domain had turned against Lin Xun, seeking to obliterate him!

The sight left countless spectators in shock, as if the power of the heavens had descended to crush Lin Xun!

“Open!”

At the same moment, Lin Xun raised a single finger, its edge gleaming like a sword, and slashed forward.

In an instant, boundless Emperor dao power erupted from within him, transforming into a streak of dazzling sword qi that illuminated the sky.

This sword strike embodied the rise and fall of all existence, the boundless expanse of mountains and rivers, the sacred order of heaven and earth, and the eternal brilliance of the sun, moon and the stars. It projected the image of the vast cosmic void, an awe-inspiring spectacle.

Wherever the sword swept, destruction followed.

Sword of Birth and Destruction!

Boom!

When the sword slashed forth, the world seemed to be cleaved in two. Unparalleled sword intent cut through everything, surging across the heavens with unstoppable force.

The entire Deva Secret Domain trembled violently. The sky collapsed, the earth sank, and the sun and the moon seemed to hang upside down in the void.

Even the Emperors, despite having fled far away, felt a piercing pain in their souls. They struggled to keep their eyes open, their minds shaken to the core.

“It’s useless. The daos you command, the myriad arts you wield are all borrowed power. No matter how strong the power is, what use is it?” Lin Xun’s voice rang across the battlefield, calm and unwavering.

Ling Xuanzi’s dao was mastering all daos and controlling all arts. However, in Lin Xun’s eyes, this dao was inferior to his own: To integrate thousands of daos and derive thousands of arts.

Just like their noble aspirations, they were fundamentally different. One declared, ‘Seeing me is like seeing the heavens,’ and the other sought, ‘My heart is the heart of the heavens, my dao is the great dao.’

When compared, the difference was like heaven and earth. One was inherently superior to the other.

“Is that so?” Ling Xuanzi frowned, unleashing his full strength and mobilizing the power of the cosmos to suppress Lin Xun.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

All kinds of boundless and terrifying great dao power transformed into countless supreme dao arts under Ling Xuanzi’s command, bombarding Lin Xun with overwhelming force.

Lin Xun dared not be careless, or rather, from this moment on, he had already unleashed his full cultivation. Every movement and every gesture radiated an aura of sword qi sharp enough to cleave the sky.

Even though he alone seemed to be fighting against the entire Deva Secret Domain, his presence remained unshaken and indomitable.

Boom!

Before long, the sky collapsed, the clouds dispersed, and Lin Xun broke through all obstacles, streaking toward Ling Xuanzi like a bolt of lightning tearing through the eternal sky.

Ling Xuanzi's expression finally changed. His long hair whipped wildly as he hastily formed a dao seal and thrust it forward.

Boom!

The dao seal exploded, unable to halt Lin Xun's advance in the slightest. The next moment,

Lin Xun's sword slashed down from mid-air.

In an instant, Ling Xuanzi displayed hundreds of intricate and mysterious defensive dao arts, layering them one after another like an impenetrable wall before him.

Lin Xun's sword descended, and with a thunderous explosion, the heavily stacked defenses were shattered one by one, crumbling into a dazzling cascade of light rain.

Bang!

In the end, Ling Xuanzi was sent hurtling through the air by the sword.

Although most of its power had been neutralized, a deep, bloodied sword slash was still across his chest, flesh torn open as he staggered backward.

He coughed up blood, his face deathly pale. His long gray hair was in disarray, and his expression, though solemn, had an undeniable flicker of shock. It was as if he had never imagined that even after drawing upon such power, he would still be overpowered by Lin Xun!

He simply couldn't believe it.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun's breath was slightly labored, but his eyes were brighter and deeper than ever, burning with an unyielding, roaring battle intent.

In the deafening silence, Ling Xuanzi wiped the blood from the corner of his lips and looked at Lin Xun calmly. Then, he spoke in a clear voice, "Junior Brother, during my countless years of suppression, I have forged a sword qi, tempered by my state of mind and the power of will. If you can withstand it, I, Ling Xuanzi, will admit my complete defeat!"

His face bore a look of determination.

As his words fell, he drew a deep breath.

Like a Kunpeng swallowing the sea, all the great dao powers surging across the Deva Secret Domain poured into Ling Xingzi's body like an endless torrent.

In that instant, the world seemed to be drained of its vitality. Mountains and rivers withered and space collapsed.

It was also at this moment that Lin Xun felt a deep sense of danger, unlike anything that he had experienced in the battle. For the first time, true pressure bore down on him.

Without hesitation, he charged forward.

A faint smile curved Ling Xuanzi's lips. His expression remained transcendent, unshaken, as he softly uttered something under his breath.

A strand of slender and transparent sword qi shot forth, radiating a sharpness that would astonish all ages and illuminate all of the heavens.

A faint sword hum rang through the air, ethereal and otherworldly, as if it did not belong to the mortal realm but came from the depths of an immortal world.

Countless eyes were locked onto it, yet none could truly see it. They could only feel its presence, stirring an instinctive awe and fear deep within their souls.

This sword embodied Ling Xuanzi's qi, spirit and will. It was forged through countless years of refinement. His state of mind and his great dao were all reflected within it.

To witness this sword was to gaze upon the heavens themselves.

This sword was called Herald of Heaven's Decree!

Lin Xun's pupils shrank abruptly as a searing pain coursed through his body. Instinctively, he mobilized all his power, transforming into a vast cauldron.

In his hand, a sword also appeared!

The Sword of Unification!

Unfortunately, in the blink of an eye, this mighty sword was instantly shattered. The transparent and slender sword qi tore through it like an unstoppable force, scattering its fragments in a dazzling explosion.

"Rise!" Without hesitation, Lin Xun unleashed dozens of swords.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Sword qi intertwined, but moments later, the fine sword qi crushed them all and shot directly toward Lin Xun.

The scene was breathtaking.

As the fine sword qi closed in, Lin Xun took a deep breath. A sharp glint of determination flashed in his eyes.

He stretched out both hands, and suddenly a vast abyss surged forth, capable of devouring the heavens. His essence, qi, and spirit, alone with his lifetime of cultivation were fully integrated within it.

Rumble!

The force was so overwhelming that it felt as though the heavens were collapsing and the earth sinking. The entire Deva Secret Domain trembled violently, as if thousands of volcanoes had erupted simultaneously. A chaotic torrent of destruction surged, engulfing the nine heavens. Blinding light filled the world, turning it into an endless sea of white.

Every remaining spectator, regardless of cultivation, lost all perception in that instant, as if their very senses had severed. They could no longer see, hear, or feel anything.

“Who won?”

A long while later, when the smoke and dust finally cleared and their senses gradually returned, the world before them was reduced to utter devastation.

The battlefield had become nothing but ruins.

A tall and imposing figure stood in midair like an indestructible cauldron, emanating a divine brilliance that illuminated the void.

His hands were clasped together, holding a strand of crystal-clear sword qi.

Unshaken. Unyielding.

He stood like a god descending upon the world!

Chapter 2345 Secret Domain Key

Previously, in the eyes of most people, Ling Xuanzi, as Venerable Dao Lord, had already pushed his power to the absolute limit. His final sword strike was seen as the most magnificent and unparalleled attack in the world.

No matter how formidable Lin Xun was, it seemed impossible for him to withstand such an attack. Even if he did not perish, he would undoubtedly be gravely wounded.

Even several Emperors shared this belief.

Ling Xuanzi's last sword was simply too powerful, capable of severing all enemies, striking fear and despair into any Emperor across the heavens. How could Lin Xun be an exception?

But now...

That sword had been blocked!

Gazing at the dazzling figure standing tall in the void amidst the ruins, everyone was frozen, their minds blank with shock.

He had blocked head-on the sword that carried all of Ling Xuanzi's cultivation.

In this world, who else could possibly match Lin Xun?

Before the five rounds of the dao duel had commenced, no one had believed Lin Xun stood a chance. Their unshakable faith and absolute confidence in Venerable Dao Lord made them dismiss the possibility entirely.

Now, the five rounds had concluded, and in every single one, Venerable Dao Lord had been defeated!

The reality was too difficult to accept.

Even Meng Lianqing's mind went blank, her soul seemingly lost.

Years ago, she and Lin Xun had stood as peers, competing on equal ground.

Now, they had become complete strangers!

One was a legendary figure of the Emperor Stage, wielding earth-shattering power, reigning supreme and unmatched.

The other...could only look up from the ground like an ant.

Bang!

A deafening explosion shattered the silence across the world.

In Lin Xun's grasp, the fine and translucent sword qi disintegrated into a cascade of light, slipping through his fingers.

In the distance, Ling Xuanzi stood frozen, his handsome face shifting unpredictably.

His robes were in tatters, his hair disheveled, and face had turned deathly pale. The final sword strike had carried all of his essence, qi and spirit, infused with his great dao, will, and resolute mind.

Now, as the sword shattered, so too did the unwavering pride, persistence and will he had upheld for countless years.

An unfamiliar sense of emptiness surged within him, leaving him dazed for a long while.

He had been defeated in a battle of the great dao. This was a devastating blow!

Lin Xun took a deep breath, and a crimson streak slipped from the corner of his lips, extremely striking against his skin.

Even though he had blocked the sword, he had been injured!

A strange look flickered across his expression as he studied Ling Xuanzi once more.

There was no denying that this fourth senior brother of his was truly terrifying. Among all cultivators in the entire world at their level, who else could push him to such an extent?

No one!

Lin Xun was certain that in the Ancient Nebula Road, there was no peer who could stand as his equal in battle.

“I...actually...lost...”

After a long silence, Ling Xuanzi finally spoke, his voice distant, his expression hollow.

He stared blankly into the distance, muttering, “When I was born, I was endowed with wisdom and talent. I could understand human speech, recognize all things, and grasp the profound principles hidden within them...”

“My parents were just ordinary peddlers. They never imagined that the child they brought into the world would turn out to be a monster. On the night of my birth, they abandoned me in the wilderness outside the city...”

“The mountains were covered in snow and the wind howled with a biting cold. Although I possessed wisdom and intelligence, I was still only a newborn baby...”

He let out a long sigh, his gaze filled with distant memories.

Lin Xun remained silent, listening.

He could tell that Ling Xuanzi had suffered a crushing blow.

“Later, when I was on the brink of freezing to death, an old bastard appeared. He took me in and fed me all kinds of miraculous elixirs every day...”

At this moment, Ling Xuanzi glanced at Lin Xun and suddenly asked, “Little Junior Brother, do you think it’s heartless of me to call my savior an old bastard?”

Lin Xun frowned but before he could respond, Ling Xuanzi’s eyes darkened with deep-seated hatred, and he continued in a low voice, “But a hundred days after I was born, that old monster threw me into a medicinal cauldron... It was only then that I realized that he had never saved me out of kindness, but instead he saw me as nothing more than a ‘guiding ingredient’ for refining a pill...”

Lin Xun’s heart clenched, his dark eyes flickering with realization.

“Unfortunately for him, that old bastard had no idea that during the time he raised me, I had already memorized every cultivation scripture in his collection. I had even comprehended the great dao he had spent his life pursuing. Then, while he was off guard, I seized the chance and escaped from the medicinal cauldron...”

Ling Xuanzi let out a hoarse laugh, “A day-old infant was abandoned as a monster, only to be rescued by someone who planned to refine him into medicine a hundred days later...”

His laughter faded into silence. “From that day on, I hid away in a cave deep in the wilderness, surviving on clouds and dew, dedicating myself wholly to cultivation.

“Three years later, I found that old bastard. I killed him, slaughtered his disciples, and burned his temple to the ground.

“Then I went back to find my parents.”

At this point, Lin Xun’s heart tightened.

Ling Xuanzi let out a long sigh, “Who would have thought that by the time I found them, they had already been beaten to death by a hedonistic young master from the city a year prior. It was said that he had set his sights on my mother because of her beauty. When he tried to force himself on her, she bit off her tongue and ended her life. My father was beaten to death and my entire family was wiped out...”

His eyes darkened with sorrow, bitterness and hatred. “Little Junior Brother, did you know? I nearly lost my mind back then. I just wanted to ask them in person why they abandoned me in the wilderness and why they, as my parents, had been so cruel. But when I finally found them...they were already dead!

“They died!”

His jaw clenched so tightly his teeth almost cracked. His handsome face twisted with anguish, and his whole body radiated a violent, suffocating aura.

Lin Xun’s dark eyes narrowed, “And after that?”

Ling Xuanzi fell silent. Then, slowly, the hostility around him dissipated. He became calm and composed, and said with a bright smile, “I endured in that city alone for three years. When I turned six, I walked into that young master’s clan and slaughtered every single one of them. Man, woman, child. I left no one alive. Blood soaked the earth...

“But I still felt resentful. Why? Why was I, Ling Xuanzi, doomed to suffer from the moment I was born?

“From that day forward, if anyone wronged me, I would kill them. I never left them a chance to live!”

He turned to Lin Xun and asked, "Little Junior Brother, do you think what I did was right?"

Before Lin Xun could answer, he shook his head with a smile. "No need to answer. I don't care to hear it. Right or wrong, I only know one thing...every single one of them deserved to die!"

"This is your inner demon," Lin Xun said after a moment of silence.

Ling Xuanzi was taken aback for a moment before letting out a low chuckle, "Back then, Master said the same thing. But neither he nor you will ever understand. You don't know what it's like to be abandoned by your own parents. To be saved, only to be turned into medicine. That feeling...that feeling is unbearable..."

He inhaled deeply and his voice grew calm and steady, "If that is a demon in my heart, then so be it. Even if I am suppressed for eternity or killed, I will never change."

"You lost," Lin Xun said flatly.

Ling Xuanzi was stunned, as if he had never expected that at this moment, Lin Xun would disregard his past entirely, caring only about the outcome of their duel!

A suffocating pressure weighed on his chest, making it almost hard to breathe. Unable to hold back, he asked, "Little Junior Brother, is this...all you care about?"

Lin Xun's voice was cold, "Why? Were you hoping to win my sympathy so I would let you go?"

Ling Xuanzi took a deep breath and said, "I already told you that if I lost, I would leave my fate in your hands. If I intended to go back on my word, I wouldn't have suppressed my cultivation to the fourth realm Emperor Stage. If I hadn't done so, do you really think you could have won?"

At the end, he laughed at himself. "I just wanted a good conversation. There are very few people in this world truly worthy of talking to..."

Lin Xun remained unfazed. "Even if you hadn't suppressed your cultivation, you would still have lost. I might as well tell you now that before I stepped into this place, I had already set up a grand array capable of suppressing even Emperor Ancestors."

Ling Xuanzi's expression stiffened, his gaze turning complicated. After a long sigh, he said, "I never expected this. I really never did. You would go to such great lengths just to deal with me, your senior brother."

Lin Xun said, "There was no other way. Fourth Senior Brother, you are an unparalleled genius, a peerless existence throughout the ages. If I wanted to defeat you, I had to make proper preparations. I wouldn't dare to assume I could subdue you otherwise."

Ling Xuanzi chuckled, "Are you praising me?"

"You can take it that way."

Ling Xuanzi fell silent for a long time before finally asking, "How do you plan to deal with me then? Kill me? Cripple me?"

Lin Xun raised his hand and the Dao Endless Pagoda emerged. "Enter on your own. When you see Master, I'll let him decide your fate."

Ling Xuanzi's expression darkened, a rare flicker of anger crossing his face. "You want to imprison me again?"

His aura surged violently, his eyes turned bloodshot, and his presence became terrifying. "Little Junior Brother, are you really not worried that I will go back on my word?"

The atmosphere grew unbearable tense, suffocating.

Lin Xun remained as composed as ever and replied calmly, "I'm giving you a path to survival. Otherwise, according to the order of Second Senior Brother, your only choice would be death."

Ling Xuanzi stared at Lin Xun for a long moment before sighing. Then, he retrieved a mysterious jade pendant engraved with a crescent moon and three stars and handed it over.

“This is the domain key that controls the entrance and exit of the Fangchun Secret Realm. Since you’ve come, it should be entrusted to you for safekeeping.”

With that, he turned and strode toward the Dao Endless Pagoda, his figure carrying an indescribable sorrow and melancholy.

Lin Xun glanced at the domain key, then suddenly said, “Wait.”

Ling Xuanzi halted, a trace of helplessness in his eyes. “I’ve already let you decide my fate and I won’t go back on my word, Little Junior Brother, what more do you want?”

“I’ll ask you one last time, why did you leak Second Senior Brother’s inheritance?” Lin Xun asked.

Ling Xuanzi was stunned before realization dawned on him. A wave of indescribable sadness surged in his heart. Lin Xun had never truly believed him from the start.

“As a successor of Fangchun Mountain, I will tell you this one last time—no matter how much wickedness I, Ling Xuanzi, have committed, I have never once lied to my fellow disciples!” His voice was resolute and resounding.

With those words, he stepped into the pagoda, his figure transforming into a streak of flowing light.

“Fourth Senior Brother, if I have offended you before, I apologize.” Just as Ling Xuanzi was about to disappear, Lin Xun’s voice rang out, “If you truly see me as your junior brother, then from today onward, cultivate well in the Dao Endless Pagoda. When the time comes for you to see Master and Second Senior Brother, I will plead for you.”

Ling Xuanzi gave no response as he vanished into the depths of the pagoda.

No one noticed that after hearing Lin Xun's words, a faint curve lifted the corners of his lips.

It was almost...a smile.

Chapter 2346 Nothing Compares to a Night of Drunken Bliss

The world lay in ruins, withered and lifeless. Mountains crumbled and rivers collapsed.

Lin Xun put away the Dao Endless Pagoda and exhaled softly.

Ling Xuanzi's childhood experiences had reminded him of himself. When he was born, his Origin Aeth Artery had been stolen by enemies and he had to grow up in the darkness of the mine prison...

To this day, he still didn't know whether his parents were alive or dead.

The difference between them was that Lin Xun had Mister Lu by his side, while Ling Xuanzi had been entirely alone, forced to fend for himself.

Lin Xun then thought of Yun Qingbai. He was born with an innate sword bone, but his family was destroyed and his fate was never his own. Even thinking of him was enough to evoke endless sighs.

After a long silence, Lin Xun turned his gaze into the distance.

Of the countless cultivators who had watched the battle, only a handful remained. Most had already fled in terror.

Aside from a few Emperors, what surprised Lin Xun was that Meng Lianqing was still there, but she looked disheveled.

After a thought, he walked toward her direction.

“Fairy Meng, he...he...is coming this way.”

Yan Juan stammered, his eyes filled with fear and unease.

Before entering Return Dominion, he still dared to address Lin Xun as brother, but now...how could he possibly dare?

At that moment, Meng Lianqing looked up as if waking from a dream. Indeed, she saw Lin Xun approaching, and for a moment, she was stunned, her heart tightening involuntarily.

What does he want?

Even more anxious than her and Yan Juan were the few remaining Emperors. Before Ling Xuanzi showed up, they had all harbored intentions of dealing with Lin Xun.

Now, as Lin Xun approached, it was already too late to flee. Their hearts pounded and they held their breaths in apprehension.

Lin Xun paid them no attention. He walked straight to Meng Lianqing and spoke, “I’ve already said before that the past no longer weighs on my mind.”

Then, his gaze shifted to Yan Juan, and he said with a smile, “Fellow Daoist, fate brought us together. Accept this dao scripture and cultivate diligently.”

With a snap of his fingers, an inheritance mark transformed into radiant white light and surged into Yan Juan’s mind.

A deep hum resonated in Yan Juan’s mind as an immense wave of inheritance power flooded his mind-sea. Endless profound secrets of the great dao emerged and receded like the tide.

A long while later, when Yan Juan finally regained his senses, he instinctively shrank back and asked in a trembling voice, “Where did Senior go?”

"He's gone," Meng Lianqing replied softly, her eyes carrying an unreadable depth of emotion.

At this moment, the lingering obsession and shadow in her heart had finally been dispelled. She felt an overwhelming sense of relief, and she had come to a realization that she and that person...no longer belonged to the same world.

Once you let go of something, a sense of relief follows.

"Gone?" Yan Juan's emotions were in turmoil.

"Are you Yan Juan from the Leaf Spirit Clan?" Meng Lianqing turned to him, her gaze assessing.

"Yes." Yan Juan nodded quickly, barely daring to meet her eyes.

"Let's go." Meng Lianqing said, turning away.

"Huh? Us?" Yan Juan was stunned for a moment before a surge of joy hit him. He hurried after her, unable to believe that Fairy Meng had taken the initiative to invite him along. It felt like a dream.

"In the future, if you have time, you can visit the Golden Luan Clan and discuss the dao with me," Meng Lianqing said softly as they walked.

Yan Juan trembled with excitement, nodding fervently.

Deep down, he had a feeling that the reason Meng Lianqing treated him differently was probably connected to Lin Xun.

"Senior, rest assured. I, Yan Juan, will not let you down!" Yan Juan silently vowed in his heart.

.....

As Lin Xun strolled through the Deva Secret Domain, he retraced the path where he battled back then. His injuries weren't severe and would heal in a few days.

During this time, he planned to remain in the Deva Secret Domain.

Once fully recovered, he would cross the Spirit Burial Sea and return to the Ziyao Empire for a visit.

"Are you not worried that you won't be able to suppress Ling Xuanzi in the future?" Dao Ruleless Bell, hanging from his hair, suddenly asked.

"He has already lost in the battle of the great dao. As long as I am alive, escaping the Dao Endless Pagoda will be near impossible for him," Lin Xun said casually.

Even though his fourth senior brother was a once-in-a-lifetime genius talent, Lin Xun had unwavering confidence that he could suppress him on the path of the great dao indefinitely.

This was an invincible-like confidence.

"Huh?"

Suddenly, Dao Ruleless Bell perked up as if it sensed something. "In a canyon far away, your name is being mentioned."

Lin Xun was taken aback.

.....

In the canyon.

"He won, Big Brother won!" Toady cheered, beaming as if he was the one who defeated Venerable Dao Lord.

A'lu grinned ear to ear.

"It's a shame that we didn't get to see Master's invincible grace..." Little Silver sighed.

The Sky Splitting Demon Butterfly fluttered excitedly on his shoulder. "As long as he won, the process doesn't matter."

"What did I say? That guy never fights a battle he's not sure of, I don't understand why you were all so nervous." The big black bird squinted, speaking leisurely.

Amidst the joyful atmosphere, A'hu suddenly interjected in a cold voice, "Have you ever thought about how we're going to reunite with Young Master Lin when we're still trapped in this canyon?"

Her words made Toady and the others stiffen, their hearts sinking.

The restriction power sealing the canyon was bizarre and formidable, like a massive inverted bowl covering the entire area. No matter how they tried, they couldn't break free.

Worse, it even blocked their thoughts and voices, making it impossible to call for Lin Xun's help.

A'hu speculated that unless one of them ascended to the Emperor Stage, they would remain trapped here forever.

"What do we do now..." Toady rubbed his hands anxiously.

The others exchanged uneasy glances, their earlier excitement fading. Had they rejoiced too soon?

“Damn it, unless the heavens open their eyes, we’re doomed!” The big black bird cursed.

At this moment—Boom!

A deafening explosion rocked the canyon. The restriction force covering the sky above fractured, forming countless spider web-like cracks.

Then, with another loud explosion and burst of radiant light, the entire restriction barrier that had trapped them for years shattered into nothingness.

“The...the heavens actually answered and opened their eyes?” The big black bird mumbled in disbelief.

The others stood frozen, struggling to believe that they were truly free.

Then, a familiar voice rang out, “Miss A’hu, Toady, A’lu, Little Silver, the big black bird...it really is you all!”

They turned their heads and saw a tall figure approaching from a distance. Who else could it be but Lin Xun?

“Big Brother!” Toady bolted forward, throwing himself at Lin Xun with a shriek.

Bang!

A’lu followed, stretching out his thick rock-like arms and scooping Lin Xun and Toady into a big hug. “Big Brother, I missed you so much!”

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Little Silver and the Sky Splitting Demonic Butterfly wriggled their way into the embrace, perching themselves onto Lin Xun’s shoulders, their faces filled with joy.

From a distance, A'hu's heart pounded. Her beautiful eyes shimmered as she stood still, reserved, yet unable to suppress the excitement of being reunited swelling in her chest.

Only the big black bird remained indifferent, holding his head high and walking over with a big black pot strapped to its back. "What is this nonsense? A bunch of grown men clinging to each other? Disgusting!"

Thud!

Suddenly, the big black pot behind him flew up and slammed down on his head. The impact sent sparks flying in front of his eyes, making him sway unsteadily.

Lin Xun chuckled, "Thieving Bird, you haven't changed at all, your mouth is still as stinky as ever!"

The big black bird wisely chose to shut up, suddenly realizing that Lin Xun was no longer the same person he once was.

After much effort, Lin Xun finally got out of the embrace of Toady and A'lu. Seeing the snot and tears on his clothes, he sighed, "Was this really necessary?"

A flash of dao light surrounded him, and in the next moment, his clothes were pristine again.

Toady blew his nose and exclaimed, "Big Brother, it's been years since we last saw each other! We've missed you so much. What's wrong with borrowing your clothes to wipe our tears and snot?"

Little Silver and the Sky Splitting Demonic Butterfly immediately retorted in unison, "Disgusting!"

A'lu simply scratched his head and grinned.

Lin Xun turned his gaze toward A'hu who was approaching from a distance. Seeing the familiar faces around him, a wave of emotions surged in his heart.

It had been decades since they parted ways in Kunlun Dominion. How could he not be overjoyed, moved and surprised?

After their excitement gradually settled, Lin Xun asked, “Why were you all trapped here?”

A’hu explained the situation. In short, they had come via the space-time passageway at the source of the Flying Immortal River, but after entering the Deva Secret Domain, they accidentally became trapped in this canyon.

It was a completely unexpected misfortune.

After years of exploration, they discovered that this canyon had once been the secluded cultivation ground of a cultivator named Blazing Jun. There were no hidden fortunes or treasures to be found here, but it was enveloped by terrifying restriction forces. Anyone who stepped into the canyon would be unable to leave unless their strength reached an unimaginable level.

Lin Xun’s eyes flickered with understanding.

Blazing Jun!

That was the dao name of the fifth successor of Fangchun Mountain—his fifth senior brother.

Thinking about it, this made perfect sense. The Deva Secret Domain was originally known as the Fangchun Secret Realm, the heart of the Fangchun Mountain Sect. It was natural for its successors to have cultivated here.

If not for the catastrophic attack by enemies back then, which led to the collapse of Fangchun Mountain’s grounds, the Deva Secret Domain wouldn’t have been reduced to its current state!

“Come, let’s drink! Over the years, I’ve traveled across the starry sky and gathered an array of divine brews as well as delicacies you’ve never tasted before.”

Reunited with old friends, Lin Xun was in high spirits. Without hesitation, he brought out bottles of treasured fine wine, rare aeth fruits, and an assortment of exotic dishes, inviting Toady and the others to feast with him.

Everyone cheered excitedly and joined in to help prepare the banquet.

When Lin Xun took out the meat of various sacred birds and beasts he had stored, Toady and the others were left wide-eyed and awestruck...

Of course, by the end, they were all drooling.

“Yezi, Wuque, Little Five..” Lin Xun called out, summoning Little Five, the array spirit, Wuque, the spirit of the No-Nonsense Bow, and Yezi, the sword spirit, to join them.

As they drank and chatted, they shared stories of their experiences over the years. Some moments were filled with laughter, others with nostalgia. Suddenly, the quiet canyon was alive with joy and celebration.

When old friends reunited, there was nothing better than raising a glass and sharing a hearty laugh.

Furthermore, Toady and the others were more than old acquaintances, they were brothers Lin Xun had fought alongside since he was young. Now, they were finally reunited after years apart. The joy in Lin Xun’s heart was beyond what words could express.

Chapter 2346 Nothing Compares to a Night of Drunken Bliss

The world lay in ruins, withered and lifeless. Mountains crumbled and rivers collapsed.

Lin Xun put away the Dao Endless Pagoda and exhaled softly.

Ling Xuanzi’s childhood experiences had reminded him of himself. When he was born, his Origin Aeth Artery had been stolen by enemies and he had to grow up in the darkness of the mine prison...

To this day, he still didn't know whether his parents were alive or dead.

The difference between them was that Lin Xun had Mister Lu by his side, while Ling Xuanzi had been entirely alone, forced to fend for himself.

Lin Xun then thought of Yun Qingbai. He was born with an innate sword bone, but his family was destroyed and his fate was never his own. Even thinking of him was enough to evoke endless sighs.

After a long silence, Lin Xun turned his gaze into the distance.

Of the countless cultivators who had watched the battle, only a handful remained. Most had already fled in terror.

Aside from a few Emperors, what surprised Lin Xun was that Meng Lianqing was still there, but she looked disheveled.

After a thought, he walked toward her direction.

“Fairy Meng, he...he...is coming this way.”

Yan Juan stammered, his eyes filled with fear and unease.

Before entering Return Dominion, he still dared to address Lin Xun as brother, but now...how could he possibly dare?

At that moment, Meng Lianqing looked up as if waking from a dream. Indeed, she saw Lin Xun approaching, and for a moment, she was stunned, her heart tightening involuntarily.

What does he want?

Even more anxious than her and Yan Juan were the few remaining Emperors. Before Ling Xuanzi showed up, they had all harbored intentions of dealing with Lin Xun.

Now, as Lin Xun approached, it was already too late to flee. Their hearts pounded and they held their breaths in apprehension.

Lin Xun paid them no attention. He walked straight to Meng Lianqing and spoke, "I've already said before that the past no longer weighs on my mind."

Then, his gaze shifted to Yan Juan, and he said with a smile, "Fellow Daoist, fate brought us together. Accept this dao scripture and cultivate diligently."

With a snap of his fingers, an inheritance mark transformed into radiant white light and surged into Yan Juan's mind.

A deep hum resonated in Yan Juan's mind as an immense wave of inheritance power flooded his mind-sea. Endless profound secrets of the great dao emerged and receded like the tide.

A long while later, when Yan Juan finally regained his senses, he instinctively shrank back and asked in a trembling voice, "Where did Senior go?"

"He's gone," Meng Lianqing replied softly, her eyes carrying an unreadable depth of emotion.

At this moment, the lingering obsession and shadow in her heart had finally been dispelled. She felt an overwhelming sense of relief, and she had come to a realization that she and that person...no longer belonged to the same world.

Once you let go of something, a sense of relief follows.

"Gone?" Yan Juan's emotions were in turmoil.

"Are you Yan Juan from the Leaf Spirit Clan?" Meng Lianqing turned to him, her gaze assessing.

"Yes." Yan Juan nodded quickly, barely daring to meet her eyes.

"Let's go." Meng Lianqing said, turning away.

"Huh? Us?" Yan Juan was stunned for a moment before a surge of joy hit him. He hurried after her, unable to believe that Fairy Meng had taken the initiative to invite him along. It felt like a dream.

"In the future, if you have time, you can visit the Golden Luan Clan and discuss the dao with me," Meng Lianqing said softly as they walked.

Yan Juan trembled with excitement, nodding fervently.

Deep down, he had a feeling that the reason Meng Lianqing treated him differently was probably connected to Lin Xun.

"Senior, rest assured. I, Yan Juan, will not let you down!" Yan Juan silently vowed in his heart.

.....

As Lin Xun strolled through the Deva Secret Domain, he retraced the path where he battled back then. His injuries weren't severe and would heal in a few days.

During this time, he planned to remain in the Deva Secret Domain.

Once fully recovered, he would cross the Spirit Burial Sea and return to the Ziyao Empire for a visit.

"Are you not worried that you won't be able to suppress Ling Xuanzi in the future?" Dao Ruleless Bell, hanging from his hair, suddenly asked.

"He has already lost in the battle of the great dao. As long as I am alive, escaping the Dao Endless Pagoda will be near impossible for him," Lin Xun said casually.

Even though his fourth senior brother was a once-in-a-lifetime genius talent, Lin Xun had unwavering confidence that he could suppress him on the path of the great dao indefinitely.

This was an invincible-like confidence.

“Huh?”

Suddenly, Dao Ruleless Bell perked up as if it sensed something. “In a canyon far away, your name is being mentioned.”

Lin Xun was taken aback.

.....

In the canyon.

“He won, Big Brother won!” Toady cheered, beaming as if he was the one who defeated Venerable Dao Lord.

A’lu grinned ear to ear.

“It’s a shame that we didn’t get to see Master’s invincible grace...” Little Silver sighed.

The Sky Splitting Demon Butterfly fluttered excitedly on his shoulder. “As long as he won, the process doesn’t matter.”

“What did I say? That guy never fights a battle he’s not sure of, I don’t understand why you were all so nervous.” The big black bird squinted, speaking leisurely.

Amidst the joyful atmosphere, A’hu suddenly interjected in a cold voice, “Have you ever thought about how we’re going to reunite with Young Master Lin when we’re still trapped in this canyon?”

Her words made Toady and the others stiffen, their hearts sinking.

The restriction power sealing the canyon was bizarre and formidable, like a massive inverted bowl covering the entire area. No matter how they tried, they couldn't break free.

Worse, it even blocked their thoughts and voices, making it impossible to call for Lin Xun's help.

A'hu speculated that unless one of them ascended to the Emperor Stage, they would remain trapped here forever.

"What do we do now..." Toady rubbed his hands anxiously.

The others exchanged uneasy glances, their earlier excitement fading. Had they rejoiced too soon?

"Damn it, unless the heavens open their eyes, we're doomed!" The big black bird cursed.

At this moment—Boom!

A deafening explosion rocked the canyon. The restriction force covering the sky above fractured, forming countless spider web-like cracks.

Then, with another loud explosion and burst of radiant light, the entire restriction barrier that had trapped them for years shattered into nothingness.

"The...the heavens actually answered and opened their eyes?" The big black bird mumbled in disbelief.

The others stood frozen, struggling to believe that they were truly free.

Then, a familiar voice rang out, “Miss A’hu, Toady, A’lu, Little Silver, the big black bird...it really is you all!”

They turned their heads and saw a tall figure approaching from a distance. Who else could it be but Lin Xun?

“Big Brother!” Toady bolted forward, throwing himself at Lin Xun with a shriek.

Bang!

A’lu followed, stretching out his thick rock-like arms and scooping Lin Xun and Toady into a big hug. “Big Brother, I missed you so much!”

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Little Silver and the Sky Splitting Demonic Butterfly wriggled their way into the embrace, perching themselves onto Lin Xun’s shoulders, their faces filled with joy.

From a distance, A’hu’s heart pounded. Her beautiful eyes shimmered as she stood still, reserved, yet unable to suppress the excitement of being reunited swelling in her chest.

Only the big black bird remained indifferent, holding his head high and walking over with a big black pot strapped to its back. “What is this nonsense? A bunch of grown men clinging to each other? Disgusting!”

Thud!

Suddenly, the big black pot behind him flew up and slammed down on his head. The impact sent sparks flying in front of his eyes, making him sway unsteadily.

Lin Xun chuckled, “Thieving Bird, you haven’t changed at all, your mouth is still as stinky as ever!”

The big black bird wisely chose to shut up, suddenly realizing that Lin Xun was no longer the same person he once was.

After much effort, Lin Xun finally got out of the embrace of Toady and A'lu. Seeing the snot and tears on his clothes, he sighed, "Was this really necessary?"

A flash of dao light surrounded him, and in the next moment, his clothes were pristine again.

Toady blew his nose and exclaimed, "Big Brother, it's been years since we last saw each other! We've missed you so much. What's wrong with borrowing your clothes to wipe our tears and snot?"

Little Silver and the Sky Splitting Demonic Butterfly immediately retorted in unison, "Disgusting!"

A'lu simply scratched his head and grinned.

Lin Xun turned his gaze toward A'hu who was approaching from a distance. Seeing the familiar faces around him, a wave of emotions surged in his heart.

It had been decades since they parted ways in Kunlun Dominion. How could he not be overjoyed, moved and surprised?

After their excitement gradually settled, Lin Xun asked, "Why were you all trapped here?"

A'hu explained the situation. In short, they had come via the space-time passageway at the source of the Flying Immortal River, but after entering the Deva Secret Domain, they accidentally became trapped in this canyon.

It was a completely unexpected misfortune.

After years of exploration, they discovered that this canyon had once been the secluded cultivation ground of a cultivator named Blazing Jun. There were no hidden fortunes or treasures to be found here,

but it was enveloped by terrifying restriction forces. Anyone who stepped into the canyon would be unable to leave unless their strength reached an unimaginable level.

Lin Xun's eyes flickered with understanding.

Blazing Jun!

That was the dao name of the fifth successor of Fangchun Mountain—his fifth senior brother.

Thinking about it, this made perfect sense. The Deva Secret Domain was originally known as the Fangchun Secret Realm, the heart of the Fangchun Mountain Sect. It was natural for its successors to have cultivated here.

If not for the catastrophic attack by enemies back then, which led to the collapse of Fangchun Mountain's grounds, the Deva Secret Domain wouldn't have been reduced to its current state!

"Come, let's drink! Over the years, I've traveled across the starry sky and gathered an array of divine brews as well as delicacies you've never tasted before."

Reunited with old friends, Lin Xun was in high spirits. Without hesitation, he brought out bottles of treasured fine wine, rare aeth fruits, and an assortment of exotic dishes, inviting Toady and the others to feast with him.

Everyone cheered excitedly and joined in to help prepare the banquet.

When Lin Xun took out the meat of various sacred birds and beasts he had stored, Toady and the others were left wide-eyed and awestruck...

Of course, by the end, they were all drooling.

"Yezi, Wuque, Little Five.." Lin Xun called out, summoning Little Five, the array spirit, Wuque, the spirit of the No-Nonsense Bow, and Yezi, the sword spirit, to join them.

As they drank and chatted, they shared stories of their experiences over the years. Some moments were filled with laughter, others with nostalgia. Suddenly, the quiet canyon was alive with joy and celebration.

When old friends reunited, there was nothing better than raising a glass and sharing a hearty laugh.

Furthermore, Toady and the others were more than old acquaintances, they were brothers Lin Xun had fought alongside since he was young. Now, they were finally reunited after years apart. The joy in Lin Xun's heart was beyond what words could express.

Chapter 2348 The Origin of all Heavenly Dao, Aeth Qi Awakening

Silently, shadowy figures emerged from the thick, oppressive mist over the sea.

Shrouded in black qi, clad in tattered armor and wielding rusty weapons, they looked like an army marching out of the netherworld!

Their forms were grotesque and incomplete—some missing limbs, others with gaping holes in their rotting chests, some reduced to skeletons, and even a few were headless!

Despite their varying appearances, they all exuded the same bone-chilling murderous aura.

Their numbers were staggering!

Densely packed, they covered the sky and sea, surging with terrifying killing intent. The waters ahead were entirely blocked off, as if an army of the dead had risen to turn this world into a battlefield.

Lin Xun remained unfazed. This was not his first encounter with the malevolent spirits of the Dao Burial Sea Mound. There were countless similar wraith armies here and he had faced them before long ago when he was still young.

Lin Xun did not make a move, but said with a smile, "Come on, let me see how much progress you all have made on the cultivation path over the years."

“Haha, I’ll go first!”

Toady shot into the air, his golden robe billowing, his handsome face brimming with confidence.

As he activated his cultivation, cosmic torrents surged around him, swallowing stars and exhaling moons. His eyes burned like twin scorching suns.

He thrust his hand forward.

Boom!

A golden palm spanning a thousand feet crashed down. The sea trembled violently, towering waves surged and a thunderous roar echoed across the waters.

The wraith army charging forward was instantly obliterated, dissolving into waves of dark, fiendish qi.

“Watch me!”

A’lu bellowed like a thunderclap, his towering eight-foot figure soaring into the air. His muscles, which seemed to be built of divine gold, bulged with divine strength, radiating a terrifying and overwhelming brilliance.

He also launched a palm strike. The force of his attack rumbled forward like a sacred mountain in motion. The impact shattered the army of malevolent spirits, tearing a massive rift through their densely packed formation!

A’hu smiled, a radiant glow appearing on her pretty face. With a graceful wave of her slender hand, she summoned her power.

An array of magical weapons and treasures burst forth—azure flying swords, ancient scrolls, flame-wreathed gourds, and daoist bells crackling with thunder... Over a dozen artifacts swept across the battlefield.

As they streaked through the air, they erupted with boundless destructive force, exploding and disintegrating the wraiths everywhere.

Within a few breaths, the wraith army that had just emerged was completely wiped out!

Little Silver and Little Sky, who were about to take action, could only purse their lips helplessly.

Meanwhile, the big black bird rolled his eyes and sneered, "This is no different from playing with monkeys. I wouldn't lower myself to such trivial matters."

At that moment, a shadowy figure emerged over the distant sea, standing between heaven and earth. Though shrouded in mist, its presence was undeniably terrifying.

Faintly visible beneath the haze, the figure wore a robe that seemed woven from celestial gold, radiating brilliance, but too blurred to discern clearly.

In its grip was a broken purple halberd, exuding a mysterious aura of death, like a sovereign from the underworld descending upon the mortal realm.

As they conversed, everyone's pupils suddenly constricted.

The aura of the Emperor Stage!

Even Lin Xun was taken aback. Since when had an Emperor-level wraith appeared in the Dao Burial Sea Mound?

Unbelievable!

"Could some sort of changes have happened here in the past few decades?" Lin Xun frowned.

He recalled the Emperor figures he had encountered in Return Dominion. In the past, such beings could never have appeared in the lower domain world.

A sharp realization struck Lin Xun. During the years he had been away, some unknown and earth-shaking changes must have occurred in the lower domain.

“How dare you slaughter my soldiers? You must be executed!”

From the distance, the Emperor wraith’s voice echoed coldly, hoarse and filled with malice. The words sent waves rolling and the void wailing.

Boom!

As soon as he finished speaking, he raised his hand and the purple halberd shot forward like a swift and ferocious thunderbolt, tearing through the sky with terrifying force.

The oppressive aura of the Emperor Stage bore down on A’hu and the others, making it difficult to breathe. Their faces turned pale.

“Wretched thing, how dare you clamor before me?!” Lin Xun snorted coldly and casually reached out.

With a simple grasp in midair, he caught the mighty purple halberd with ease. As his fingers clenched, the already damaged Emperor treasure shattered into fragments in an instant.

“Huh?”

In the distance, the Emperor wraith was visibly startled, but instead of panicking, it sneered, “No matter how powerful you are, those who enter the Dao Burial Sea Mound are doomed to die. I advise you to leave now, otherwise...”

Its voice dripped with contempt, the threat blatant and undisguised.

However, before it could finish speaking, Lin Xun suddenly stretched out his hand.

Boom!

A massive palm that was vast enough to shroud the heavens, descended with blinding radiance, aiming to envelop everything.

Just as the wraith tried to struggle, the power around it was forcibly crushed and its figure was imprisoned like a powerless ant.

“You...” he roared in fury.

With a loud bang, it was instantly dragged onto the Grand Universe Ark, crashing to the ground before Lin Xun.

This entire sequence of events unfolded in the blink of an eye, so fast that it was almost beyond belief. A’hu, Toady, and the others barely had time to react, and when they did, their expressions dramatically changed as they turned to look at Lin Xun.

Back in the Return Dominion, they had already known that Lin Xun had defeated his Fourth Senior Brother Ling Xuanzi and ascended to the fourth realm Emperor Stage. However, at that time, they had been trapped in the canyon and had never witnessed his power firsthand.

Now, watching Lin Xun capture an Emperor-level wraith as effortlessly as crushing an ant, the sheer visual impact was indescribable.

Lin Xun’s expression remained indifferent as he studied the captured wraith. A flicker of realization crossed his eyes. This Emperor wraith was once a member of the Giant Spirit Blood Clan.

The Giant Spirit Blood Clan was a powerful imperial lineage from the Blood Demon Ancient Domain!

Back when Lin Xun participated in the Nine Domains Battlefield, he had learned about the other eight domains: Blood Demon Ancient Domain, Great Luo Ancient Domain, Absolute Yin Ancient Domain, East Mulberry Ancient Domain, North Sea Ancient Domain, Nine Dark Ancient Domain, Star Fiend Ancient Domain and Heavenly Flame Ancient Domain. These eight domains stood alongside the Ancient Wasteland Domain. Together, they were collectively known as the Nine Domains.

Having personally met cultivators from these domains and witnessed their foundations, strength, and capabilities, how could he not recognize the origins of the Emperor wraith before him?

Clearly, as Toady had mentioned before, the Dao Burial Sea Mound was once the battlefield of the Dao War of Ten Directions, where Ancient Wasteland Domain experts fought fiercely against the invasion of the other eight domains!

The Emperor wraith of the Giant Spirit Blood Clan was likely one of the fallen Emperors who had perished here.

“Tell me, what has happened here over these years?” Lin Xun asked.

The others also turned their attention to the wraith.

“You...don’t know?”

The Emperor wraith was taken aback for a moment before its expression turned icy. “Many years ago, this place became a restricted zone, and all outsiders were forbidden to enter. You all...have broken the rules!”

Bang!

With a slap, the Emperor wraith shattered into a brilliant rain of light, the fragments cascading down into Lin Xun’s palm.

These were remnants of an Emperor's will, fragments that had withstood countless years of erosion, refusing to dissipate. Instead, they had transformed into an intelligent Emperor-level wraith. This was very unusual.

Lin Xun instilled his spirit sense into the glowing fragments.

Boom!

Instantly, a flood of chaotic and vivid memories surged into his mind like an unstoppable tide.

Moments passed.

When Lin Xun finally withdrew his consciousness, his eyes gleamed with understanding. He had found the answers he was looking for.

Many years ago, the world underwent a huge transformation.

After countless years of changes, the dormant origin power in the lower realm suddenly awakened, triggering an upheaval of unprecedented scale.

It was as if a barren wasteland had suddenly erupted with boundless vitality.

Surging aeth qi, vast and turbulent like a tidal wave, swept across every territory and corner of the lower domain world, bringing forth an earthshaking transformation unseen in the world's history.

No one felt the change more distinctly than the cultivators.

In just a few decades since then, the concentration of aeth qi in the world had increased more than a hundredfold!

Especially in certain special lands, where countless new blessed mountains and spirit grounds had emerged!

It was as if a decayed, withering world had suddenly witnessed the dawn of a radiant new age, igniting the lower domain in a blaze of excitement and anticipation.

Within the memories of the Emperor wraith, Lin Xun discovered that, following the revival of aeth qi concentrations, the Dao Burial Spirit Mound had also undergone a shocking transformation.

The will fragments of many Emperors who had fallen in the past had begun to evolve and transform as they greedily absorbed the surging aeth qi.

As they devoured this power, they began to awaken consciousness. They set out to hunt and devour their own kind to rapidly elevate their own strength.

At this point, at least a hundred Emperor wraiths had already awakened within the Dao Burial Sea Mound.

This was undoubtedly an astonishing number.

It was also undeniable proof that countless Emperors had perished here during the Dao War of Ten Directions.

After learning this, Lin Xun couldn't help but feel a wave of shock wash over him.

Decades ago, aeth qi concentrations began to revitalize.

Emperor wraiths were born.

The ancient battlefield of the Dao Burial Sea Mound was no longer the same!

Unfortunately, what disturbed Lin Xun most was that almost ninety percent of the awakened Emperor wraiths belonged to the other eight domains.

Furthermore, during their transformation, they had gathered in hordes, relentlessly hunting and devouring the remnants of will left behind by cultivators from the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

As a result, the Dao Burial Sea Mound had now become the territory of the eight domains!

Lin Xun couldn't help but recall his time in the Nine Domains Battlefield. Back then, the forces of the eight domains had been arrogant and tyrannical, treating cultivators from the Ancient Wasteland Domain as nothing more than two-legged sheep, ridiculing and slaughtering them without hesitation.

Now, if these Emperor wraiths of the eight domains were to break free, the consequences would be catastrophic to the countless beings in the lower realm!

At the same time, Lin Xun also noticed something crucial. According to the Emperor wraith's memories, deep within the Dao Burial Sea Mound, a mysterious ancient altar stood like a powerful seal. As long as the altar's binding force remained unbroken, no wraith could escape.

In other words, the Dao Burial Sea Mound was like a natural prison keeping the Emperor wraiths caged for decades.

However, if the prison-like altar was breached...

It would be no different from opening the gate to hell!

Chapter 2349 Carving a Bloody Path

That altar...

Frowning, Lin Xun delved deeper into the memory of the Emperor wraith.

Suddenly, a vast and majestic dao altar appeared in his mind. It was an enormous structure spanning thousands of feet and arranged according to the principles of the Nine Palaces Formation.

The altar was constructed from mysterious sacred materials, its surface stained with vivid crimson blood. Even after countless years, the blood had never faded, remaining as striking as ever.

Dark mist churned in all directions, and countless Emperor wraiths surrounded the dao altar. Some were giants clad in tattered armor, some were Kunpeng skeletons as huge as floating continents and some were sword-wielding corpses wrapped in demonic qi.

It was like a scene straight out of a nightmare.

Atop the dao altar stood two figures.

One was a cross-legged monk, seated upon a black skeleton, his body draped in a tattered, blood-red kasaya robe. In his hand, he clutched a broken and mottled bone rosary. He bore the solemn air of a Buddha yet there was something deeply unnerving and eerie about him.

On his smooth, bald head, a blooming black lotus was imprinted. The lotus seemed to pulse with life, emanating an astonishing and bewitching radiance.

His eyes were closed, his body unmoving, his blood-red kasaya robe was in tatters, and he seemed as though he had long since passed. Yet the aura that surrounded him was suffocating, like the sovereign of hell.

The second figure was a faintly discernible silhouette, exuding a terrifying aura that made all of heaven and earth tremble in fear.

Still, it was clear that she was a woman. Her slender and graceful figure was shrouded in gray mist that pulsed with an obscure, invisible force, obscuring her true features.

She was like a supreme ruler, gazing down upon all existences with an aura so vast it felt capable of obliterating everything.

"It's them!"

A shiver ran through Lin Xun. He recognized them instantly. The blind monk. The mist woman. He had encountered them before.[1]

Unfortunately, what he was seeing now was just the fragmented memories of the Emperor wraiths. He found no more secrets, no more clues.

However, this discovery allowed him to deduce many things.

First, in the Dao Burial Sea Mound where aeth qi had been revitalized, the Emperor wraiths were attacking the ancient altar with full force, desperately trying to break free.

Second, the blind monk and the mist woman were likely willpower remnants of Ancient Wasteland Domain powerhouses. They had been guarding the altar, preventing those terrifying malevolent spirits from escaping into the world.

Third, the Dao Burial Sea Mound was on the verge of catastrophe!

With this realization, Lin Xun didn't hesitate to take action.

He had already gathered enough from the memories of the Emperor wraith, so he understood the dire consequences if the altar was destroyed.

On the way, he quickly relayed everything he had learned to A'hu and the others. Their faces instantly paled as they grasped the gravity of the situation.

"Young Master, do you remember when I took you into hiding in this Dao Burial Sea Mount to escape a deadly pursuit?" A'hu suddenly asked.

"Of course." How could Lin Xun forget? It was the mist-shrouded woman who had intervened back then and wiped out their enemies.[2]

“The elders were mighty figures from the primeval era, possessing earth-shattering power. During the Dao War of Ten Directions, they had killed countless enemies from the eight domains.” A’hu’s voice was solemn as she continued, “Young Master, we can’t allow the remnant wills left behind by the elders...to vanish...”

Lin Xun’s gaze turned sharp. “I will do my best.”

Without hesitation, he sealed A’hu, Toady, A’lu and others within the Dao Endless Pagoda, then rushed toward the Dao Burial Sea Mound alone.

This was a dangerous and eerie sea region, haunted by countless terrifying Emperor wraiths. Bringing the others along would only slow him down.

The most direct and efficient course of action was for him to storm through alone with full force!

Amidst the thick, swirling fog, Lin Xun’s figure streaked through the vast sea like a swift stream of light. His speed was astonishing.

“Kill!”

“Kill!”

“Stop all intruders!”

Before long, an ear splitting roar shook the air.

In the distance, an army of wraiths had blocked his entire path forward, forming a dense, impenetrable wall.

The moment Lin Xun appeared, the army of wraiths charged toward him as if they had been commanded to annihilate him.

Shrouded in gray fiendish qi, the wraiths exuded an overwhelming murderous intent. They had all been mobilized at this moment. Their monstrous momentum alone was enough to shake the world.

However, Lin Xun didn't spare them a second glance. With a casual flick of his sleeve, countless Taixuan sword qi roared out.

One split into two, two became four, four multiplied infinitely. Before long, a vast ocean of sword qi had been formed, swallowing everything in its path.

Rumble!

Hundreds upon thousands of wraiths were instantly shredded apart, their bodies exploding like fragile paper in the raging sea of sword qi. They had no time to react, no chance to resist, and no possibility of escape.

They were utterly crushed!

However, the wraith army never ceased. As soon as one batch was obliterated, another charged forward, endless and fearless, like a tide of death.

Lin Xun had no intention of wasting time. His figure tore through the void like a gust of wind, surging straight into the heart of the wraith army.

Within a few breaths.

A massive rift was forcibly carved through the wraith army that spread like a tidal wave, relentlessly expanding and extending forward.

On either side of the rift, wraiths shattered endlessly, their bodies exploding one after another!

No matter how powerful they were, if they dared to stand in his way, they were cut down instantly!

It was like slicing through tofu!

“Quick, an intruder!”

Seeing that Lin Xun was about to break through the defense line, a chilling bellow suddenly echoed through the battlefield.

Before the voice faded, a dark shadow descended, blotting out the sky. A terrifying, cold and merciless murderous intent surged like a storm, locking onto Lin Xun.

Lin Xun’s gaze snapped upward.

In the sky, a colossal skeletal bird emerged, its wings spreading across thousands of feet. Its gray-brown bones were engulfed in raging black flames, exuding a power comparable to that of a third realm Emperor.

Boom!

The skeletal bird beat its wings, sending forth an endless torrent of black flames, each wisp brimming with the aura of death. The flames roared down, incinerating the void, boiling the seawater and churning thick waves of mist into the air.

“Die.” Lin Xun spat out a single word.

The sound of his voice erupted like a storm of the great dao, surging violently across the nine heavens. The black flames were crushed and extinguished by the storm’s mighty force before they even got close.

Then, a piercing, tragic scream echoed across the sky. The mighty skeletal bird with Emperor-level power was directly torn apart by the sheer force of the sound waves. Its colossal body shattered into dust in an instant.

This scene alarmed and drew the attention of many terrifying consciousness lurking in the distant sea.

“How can such a person exist in this world?”

“He...seems to be a young supreme Emperor!”

“Stop him immediately! Even if we can’t kill him, we must not let him reach the dao altar!”

“Hurry!”

.....

As soon as this exchange of consciousness ended, one terrifying aura after another erupted from the black mist in the distance, disrupting and distorting the wind and clouds.

The vast sea raged, sending endless colossal waves towering into the sky.

Rumble!

Amidst a dull, earthshaking rumble, one Emperor wraith after another tore through the void.

Their figures were all battered and broken, and some were even just shattered remains. Their appearances were grotesque and different, but they all radiated the aura of an Emperor and their bodies were shrouded in a terrifying aura of death.

In the distance, Lin Xun furrowed his brows.

There was no doubt that he was getting close to the altar, only this could explain the intensifying chaos and commotion.

At this moment, the number of Emperor wraiths dispatched had already reached dozens!

“Kill!” A thunderous roar erupted, shaking the void.

The dozens of wraith Emperors, each with a different grotesque form, surrounded Lin Xun in a deadly encirclement. Their terrifying aura and killing intent engulfing the skies.

“Reckless fools...”

Lin Xun took a deep breath, and a cold light flashed in his dark eyes.

Buzz!

The sword cauldron emerged, unleashing billions of divine lights. In an instant, the mist-shrouded sea was illuminated as bright as day.

Dao sound roared around Lin Xun as he blazed with radiant light, his aura surging to its absolute peak. His tall and imposing figure exuded a power so vast and boundless that it seemed capable of devouring the world and shaking the heavens.

With a slight shift of his body, the five dao bodies rushed forth, each wielding an Emperor weapon, standing shoulder to shoulder with Lin Xun. Each of them emanated an unparalleled might that seemed to engulf the world.

It was as if a group of divine beings had descended upon the mortal realm!

“Kill!”

Without hesitation, Lin Xun charged forward, his sword cauldron roaring into the sky.

At the forefront of the wraith army was a colossal skeleton, towering dozens of feet high. Its flesh and blood had long since rotted. It wielded a bone spear in its grip, and its aura was chilling and malevolent.

However, as the sword cauldron surged forward, with just a boom, the colossal skeleton of dozens of feet tall was instantly crushed into pieces. Its remains dissipated into a violent surge of black fiendish qi.

It failed to withstand a single strike!

The dao sword shot out from the sword cauldron, slashing through the void with unparalleled force. A ten-thousand-foot-long dazzling sword light tore across the sky, splitting the void into two. Its earthshaking might was so terrifying that several Emperor wraiths trembled in fear and their expression contorted in shock.

Boom!

As the sword light descended, three Emperor wraiths were instantly obliterated, their bodies disintegrating into nothingness, vanishing amid the boundless sword light.

At the same time, the sea split apart. A massive rift carved through the water, extending far into the distance.

One sword strike split the sea!

The sheer power of the sword shook heaven and earth.

Despite that, the Emperor wraiths seemed unfazed, or rather, in their desperate attempt to eliminate Lin Xun, they had already disregarded their own lives. Without hesitation, they charged toward Lin Xun.

“Rise!”

“So aggressive!”

“Descend!”

“Slash!”

“Go!”

At that moment, the five dao bodies moved simultaneously, each one as powerful as the next. Each unleashed their ultimate innate abilities and wielded their Emperor weapons to neutralize and dispel the incoming attacks of the Emperor wraiths.

Seizing the moment, Lin Xun pressed forward swiftly and decisively.

Along the way, more Emperor wraiths attempted to intercept him. Of course, they were all obliterated by the sword cauldron.

There was almost no resistance.

In truth, these Emperor wraiths were just the incarnations of long-lost wills. Although they possessed consciousness, they could never be compared with true Emperors of the same cultivation level.

At best, their strength was comparable to seventh realm Emperors. They posed no threat to Lin Xun whatsoever. Killing them was as effortless as slaughtering chickens!

All that could be seen was the sky and the sea roaring, the fog growing even denser.

Enemies continued to flood in endlessly.

Lin Xun rampaged through them.

Leaving all obstacles in the dust!

Chapter 2350 Meet the Blind Monk and Mist-Wreathed Woman Again

Dao Burial Sea Mound.

This name alone gave an ominous and eerie feeling.

Stepping into its depths was like entering hell itself. Black mist choked the air, countless restless souls lurked in the shadows, and every corner was filled with scenes of despair that could shatter the will of even the strongest cultivators.

This place was vast, and the deeper one ventured, the thicker and more suffocating the black mist became.

Lin Xun's true body pressed forward, and at last, he escaped the encirclement of the Emperor wraiths and arrived at the central area of the Dao Burial Sea Mound.

Here, only a single dao altar, spanning ten thousand feet, floated eerily above the sea. Arranged in the Nine Palaces Formation, the altar emanated an ancient, timeworn aura. Its surface was stained deep with blood.

When Lin Xun arrived, he found the area around the altar already surrounded by terrifying Emperor wraiths.

Among them were Kunpeng skeletons as huge as floating continents and towering figures clad in ancient armor, their bodies shrouded in billowing black mist. Some were mangled corpses crackling with black lightning, and some were giant birds with skeletal wings white as bone, exuding a monstrous demonic qi.

Each of them radiated overwhelming power comparable to eighth realm Emperors. Some even bore unusually domineering auras that rivaled the might of Emperor Ancestors!

Rumble—

The Emperor wraiths unleashed terrifyingly destructive forces and bombarded the dao altar with all their might. Dao sounds rumbled ceaselessly, echoing like thunderclaps across the nine heavens.

Around the altar, obscure and unfathomable restriction forces flashed, constantly resisting and neutralizing the relentless assaults from all directions.

Unfortunately, it was clear it wouldn't hold much longer

The altar shuddered violently under the onslaught, deep cracks splitting across its ancient surface.

Above it, thick black mist churned, and within its turbulent depths, the faint figures of the blind monk and the mist woman flickered like sea grass caught in a raging storm.

Their situation was perilous!

Seeing this, Lin Xun took a deep breath and suddenly drew the No-Nonsense Bow and Biluo Arrow. He pulled the blood-red bowstring to its full draw.

Bang!

With a roar like wind and thunder, the Biluo Arrow shot forward, streaking through the void like a blazing stream of light tearing through the barrier of eternity with astonishing speed and power.

In the distance, an Emperor wraith clad in a blood-stained robe and with a severed arm seemed to sense the impending danger. With a swift motion, he swung his blood-red spear in an attempt to block the strike.

At that exact moment, the Biluo Arrow struck.

Boom!

The blood-red spear exploded into a radiant rain of light.

The Emperor wraith, a being with the power of an eighth realm Emperor, was utterly obliterated, his body torn apart by the arrow's monstrous force, reduced to nothing but dust!

The battlefield stirred in commotion, startled cries echoing from all directions.

"Damn it, an intruder!"

"Hmm? A young supreme Emperor? When did someone this powerful emerge in the Ancient Wasteland Domain in the past decades?"

"Go deal with him first. The altar will be destroyed in less than half an hour, and once that happens, we will be free."

"Understood!"

While they were discussing the plan, Lin Xun had already fully drawn the No-Nonsense Bow, and in one swift motion, he released three arrows in rapid succession—Moli Arrow, Jiguang Arrow, and Pianyu Arrow. They streaked across the battlefield like ferocious lightning.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of sonic booms erupted, tearing through the clouds and reverberating across the battlefield with deafening force.

In the distance, before the enemies could even react, Emperor wraiths exploded one after another and were annihilated on the spot.

The scene was so ferocious and domineering that even the intelligent wraiths struggled to believe what they had just witnessed.

In their fragmented memory, a mere fourth realm Emperor should not be this powerful!

Yet reality struck them like a sudden, crushing blow, catching them completely off guard.

Immediately, as if enraged or perhaps realizing the grave threat before them, they no longer dared to hesitate. A group of wraiths charged straight toward Lin Xun, determined to eliminate him at all costs.

At the same time, the other Emperor wraiths, as if triggered, intensified their assault on the thousand-foot-tall ancient dao altar.

Lin Xun's eyes narrowed slightly. His tall and imposing figure seemed to have transformed into a boundless abyss, ready to devour heaven and earth. Roaring and surging, his qi, essence, and spirit were unleashed like never before.

At this point, there was no need to hold back at all.

He had to kill!

Kill to carve out a clear and brilliant world!

"Rise!"

The sword cauldron emerged, its divine brilliance spreading across the sky and the earth, blocking and dissolving every incoming attack.

Unshakable!

Indestructible!

With a sword hum that resonated across the nine heavens, Lin Xun's dao sword burst forth, its divine power engulfing the heavens.

Rumble!

The battlefield erupted into an earth-shattering clash. The sky collapsed, the earth split apart, and the seawater vaporized under the sheer force of the battle. Lightning tore through the void while divine light surged like tidal waves

More than a dozen Emperor wraiths charged together, attempting to surround Lin Xun. Each one possessed power equivalent to an eighth realm Emperor. Their strength was so overwhelming that it seemed almost inconceivable.

However, in Lin Xun's eyes, they posed no threat at all.

As the dao sword roared—Bang! Bang! Bang!

One after another, Emperor wraiths were obliterated on the spot. The ferocious and unparalleled sword qi raged across the battlefield with unstoppable force.

The moment they perished, they disintegrated into howling fiendish qi before fading into nothingness.

No matter how powerful their combat abilities, they were not true Emperors. Otherwise, they perhaps could have brought Lin Xun some pressure.

Rumble!

Before long, the group of Emperor wraiths charging over were fallen into disarray, utterly defeated and annihilated one by one.

“Damn it, how can a young supreme Emperor be so powerful?”

In the distance, a group of Emperor wraiths still frantically bombarding the altar were suddenly consumed by rage and disbelief

Seeing that Lin Xun was about to break through and coming their way, an old man with a broken body abruptly abandoned his attack on the altar and lunged straight at Lin Xun with murderous intent.

His body crackled with black lightning, his cold and eerie aura laced with the stench of death and decay. His presence was imposing and tyrannical, and his power was almost comparable to that of a ninth realm Emperor.

“Die!”

The old man’s voice was sharp and icy like a blade, slicing through the air as black lightning crackled across the sky. It was as though the lightning of death was descending from above, aiming to eliminate Lin Xun.

The void trembled violently, space collapsing and exploding. The black lightning twisted and lashed out like chains of destruction. Its terror was beyond imagination.

For the first time, Lin Xun felt a slight chill of fear. The old man’s aura in that moment was comparable to his fourth senior brother when he had been fighting at full strength!

Of course, that was when his fourth senior brother had only mobilized the power of the fourth realm Emperor Stage.

“Slash!” Lin Xun bellowed as he stepped forward into the air. He swung his sword in a devastating slash.

Boom!

The sky seemed to be torn apart. Endless sword qi surged like a blinding tidal wave, engulfing everything in an expanse of pure white, washing over the black-mist shrouded world in a blaze of light.

As the sword light dissipated.

The old man stood frozen, murmuring dazedly, “This...what kind of sword is that...”

His voice grew softer and softer.

Then, his body silently disintegrated into ashes, scattering into the sky like dust.

With just one sword strike, an Emperor wraith whose power rivaled a ninth realm Emperor had been completely annihilated!

Despite that, to Lin Xun, there was an immeasurable gap between this old wraith and a true Emperor Ancestor. After all, he was just a wraith, a being who had perished countless years ago. Even though his aura was monstrous and his power vast, he lacked a true will, a true breadth of spirit.

He was far from possessing the unshakable might of an Emperor Ancestor!

Over the years, Lin Xun had fought against many Emperor Ancestors. He knew firsthand the terror of their power.

If the old man had truly been an Emperor Ancestor, one sword strike would never be enough to kill him.

In the distance, only nine Emperor wraiths remained, still assaulting the dao altar. But now, an icy chill crawled through their bodies and fear took hold of them.

So terrifying!

It was simply unbelievable. A fourth realm supreme Emperor had killed their comrade with a single sword strike.

The dao altar swayed violently, its surface marred with striking, web-like cracks.

Yet at this moment, the Emperor wraiths no longer dared to think about it, because Lin Xun was already upon them!

“Run!”

A figure shrouded in dense mist, wielding a battle sword, let out a roar of unwillingness before spinning around and bolting away.

Upon seeing this, the other remaining Emperor wraiths immediately followed suit, fleeing into the distance.

In the blink of an eye, they were all gone without a trace.

“Young man, you are doomed here!”

A voice filled with menace and resentment echoed through the heavens, lingering for a long while.

Lin Xun secretly breathed a sigh of relief and chose not to pursue them, ignoring the threat entirely.

Earlier, he was worried that if those wraiths had abandoned all regard for their own lives and launched a desperate full-force assault on the dao altar, even if he could kill them all, he might have failed to protect it in time.

Fortunately, that did not happen.

The ten-thousand-foot-tall dao altar now stood riddled with cracks, like a fractured glass that would shatter completely. It could no longer withstand any further destruction.

At the center of the altar, a black skeleton hovered. The blind monk, draped in a blood-stained kasaya robe remained motionless. A black lotus mark adorned his smooth head. His empty eye sockets were hollow and lifeless, and he was eerily still, as if he had long since passed away.

Beside him, the mist woman lay slumped to one side. Her slender figure radiated an aura of fatigue and despair, as though the last of her strength had been drained.

“Xingjia, that kid from back then has come to help us. The Ancient Wasteland Dao Altar has not been destroyed. If you don’t believe me...just take a look...” Her voice was weak and fragmented.

No matter what she said, the blind monk beside her did not move.

Lin Xun trembled inwardly. Saint Buddha Xingjia?!

Suddenly, a flood of memories surged into his mind. He recalled the stupa he had seen in the Stupa Brahma Land within the Supreme Realm. And the one who had left it behind—Saint Buddha Xingjia!

He still remembered that in that very stupa, Saint Buddha Xingjia, who he had never met before, once spoke, ‘When my dao was proven, I realized the suffering of all beings!’[1]

More than that, Saint Buddha Xingjia had regarded him as a ‘companion’ and had even addressed him as ‘Dao Friend’.

To this day, Lin Xun had never forgotten the life-killing Stupa heart given to him by Saint Buddha Xingjia!

I leave my life-killing Stupa heart to break open life and death with thou![2]

As Lin Xun looked at the blind monk who was shrouded in a strange, unsettling aura, his expression changed completely. Could he be...Saint Buddha Xingjia?

Unfortunately, almost instantly, Lin Xun’s heart sank.

He had realized that the blind monk’s aura had completely faded, leaving behind nothing but an ice-cold, still empty shell.

An indescribable feeling of grief surged into Lin Xun’s heart. How could he not understand that the blind monk had died defending the dao altar?!

“Little Friend, come and talk.”

The woman shrouded in mist spoke, her voice growing even weaker. It was clear that she would not last much longer.

Lin Xun climbed onto the dao altar without hesitation.

It was at this moment that he finally saw the mist-shrouded woman's face clearly. He froze as if he was struck by lightning.

How...how could it be...her?!