Prodigies 2361

Chapter 2361 Tears of a Man

In the courtyard.

A dim lantern swayed gently on the treetop, casting mottled light and shadows across the ground.

A hunched old man struggled to draw water from the well.

His frail frame was bony and gaunt, his disheveled hair hanging over tattered clothes. It was just a bucket of water, but it seemed to require every ounce of strength he had. His veined hands gripped the rope tightly, trembling under the strain, sweat dripping from his forehead as he pulled.

His hand slipped and the bucket plummeted back into the depths of the well with a loud splash. He staggered, nearly toppling over the edge.

Panic flashed in his cloudy eyes.

Hu— Hu—

With labored breaths, he steadied himself, preparing to try again. Just as he reached for the rope, an icy voice sounded, “I heard you’re being dishonest again. What trick is it this time? Suicide? Or hunger strike?”

The old man froze, and without turning his head round, he said in a hoarse voice, “What? Did you come here to laugh at me again?”

Chi Cangmei stood watching in the distance, her gaze as sharp and cold as a knife. “You’re just a useless thing without cultivation now, what’s there to laugh at? If you didn’t still hold some value, do you think...you would have lived this long?”

The old man said nothing and just gripped the rope, intent on fetching the water.

Chi Cangmei's voice rang again, "You're a clever man. I'm sure you've already noticed the spring water in this well has changed recently. It is now rich in aeth qi and if you keep drinking it, not only will it prolong your life, but it will also cleanse the murky qi in your precious daughter's body. Who knows...it might even help her lay the foundation for cultivation."

The old man's hands trembled. Realization dawned on him and he asked, "What exactly do you want this time?"

Chi Cangmei's expressions remained cold and indifferent. "Your daughter is already five years old. I plan to take her away and help purify her essence and cleanse her marrow, shed her mortal shell, and then teach her cultivation. Then she will have a chance to train in the Spirit Treasure Holy Land in the future."

"You dare!" The old man whipped around, his face contorting with rage.

Chi Cangmei smiled. "Don't worry, I won't let your daughter know that Spirit Treasury Holy Land was the one that destroyed Stone Cauldron Alms and ruined her father's future. She will live a good life...I assure you."

The cruelest fate in the world was to mistake a thief for a father and an enemy for a master!

The old man stood there stunned, as if he was struck by lightning. His eyes were bloodshot, and he suddenly rushed into the house.

"Even if I die, I won't let you take Linlang away!"

He roared like a madman.

Bang!

Chi Cangmei lashed out with a kick, sending him sprawling to the ground. She marched into the house and when she came back, she held a five or six-year-old girl in her arms. The child seemed to be deep in sleep.

Although her clothes were ragged, it was evident the child was a pretty and adorable girl with snow-white skin.

“Shi Linlang...well, from now on, her surname will be Chi.” Chi Cangmei said as she strode out of the courtyard.

The old man felt as if a blade had pierced his heart. Rolling and crawling across the ground, he howled, “Chi Cangmei, if you have a grudge, come at me! Come at me—!”

Chi Cangmei smiled. “Don’t worry, I already told you that you still have some value. Sooner or later, I’ll come to use you.”

As she spoke, she carried the young girl in her arms and strode toward the courtyard gate.

Behind her, the old man’s face twisted with fury and his bloodshot eyes brimmed with rage. He roared, “Chi Cangmei! One day, I will raze your Chi Clan to the ground!”

“Is that so?” Chi Cangmei sneered contemptuously, utterly unbothered by his threats.

However, when she pushed open the courtyard door, her steps halted and her expression stiffened.

A tall figure stood outside. She had no idea when or how they had arrived.

When her gaze fell on the figure, she was stunned for a moment. Then, her face changed drastically. An indistinctive sense of danger surged through her, and without hesitation, she clenched her fingers around the little girl's throat.

Then, she spoke in disbelief, “How...are you here?”

It had been almost fifty years since this person had vanished!

Over those decades, the lower world had undergone tremendous changes, which made her long conclude that this person would never return.

Now, he was standing before her!

The person standing outside the gate was of course Lin Xun.

Lin Xun's eyes were cold and indifferent as he spoke, "If I hadn't returned, I wouldn't have known that the Chi Clan, who begged for my mercy like dogs back then, has now become a rabid beast, sinking to such despicable means."

Chi Cangmei's face flashed with fury, but she quickly uttered coldly, "Lin Xun, this lower world has changed long ago. You may have been unrivalled in the past, but now, who do you think in this world still cares about you?"

She paused, as if regaining her confidence, and added, "I suggest you think carefully. My Chi Clan is now the most valued force of Spirit Treasure Holy Land. If you offend us, you will bring great disaster upon yourself!"

Lin Xun glanced at her and said, "I thought that after I spared your Chi Clan, even if you failed to turn over a new leaf, you would at least have the sense to know what should and should not be done. Unfortunately, you have disappointed me."

He stepped forward.

"What are you doing?! I will strangle this girl to death if you take another step. She is the daughter of your good brother, Shi Yu!"

Chi Cangmei's fingers tightened around the child's throat, as if she would ruthlessly crush the girl's neck without hesitation if Lin Xun took another step.

Lin Xun simply extended his hand.

A wave of invisible force surged forward. Chi Cangmei's body froze in place. Her face drained of color as she realized that she couldn't even lift a finger.

Then, the little girl in her arms floated and landed steadily in Lin Xun's embrace.

"Linlang...such a beautiful name, how could it bear the surname Chi..." Lin Xun sighed.

"Lin Xun, do you still not understand? The Forbidden City is no longer a place where you can act as you please!" Chi Cangmei screeched, struggling to calm down.

PA!

An invisible slap landed on her beautiful, icy face. Her body spun violently before crashing to the ground with a thud. Her cheeks swelled and blood trickled from her lips.

Her hair became disheveled and she let out a piercing scream as she attempted to rise to her feet, but her limbs wouldn't respond. Terror gripped her heart. She felt as though she had fallen into an ice cave.

It should be noted that she was now a Big Saint!

Yet before Lin Xun, she was as powerless and insignificant as an ant, trampled at will!

Lin Xun ignored her shrieks and strode toward the frail old man with a filthy and unkempt beard and hair.

The old man sat paralyzed on the ground, his body trembling as if he had suffered the greatest shock of his life. Between sobs, he murmured painfully, "Linlang...Linlang... Father is sorry...I am so sorry..."

He wept like a madman, his face streaked with dust and tears, completely unaware that Lin Xun was now standing before him.

Seeing him in this state, Lin Xun felt a sharp pain stab through his chest.

Was this really the elegant and graceful Third Young Master of Stone Cauldron Alms from back then?

Was this the Shi Yu who used to laugh and chat so freely, full of confidence and ambition?

What kind of torture had he endured all these years to end up like this?

A tightness gripped Lin Xun's chest. Taking a deep breath, he spoke softly, "Brother Shi, I, Lin Xun... am back..."

His voice carried the power of the dao, like a ray of light piercing through darkness. Just one sentence, and the turmoil, despair, fury, and madness in Shi Yu's heart began to melt away.

He lifted his head with difficulty, staring blankly at the familiar figure standing before him, as if he couldn't believe it.

After a long moment.

He suddenly threw himself forward, clinging to Lin Xun's legs. And he burst into tears.

His cries were gut-wrenching!

Just like the sobs of a prisoner who had long lost hope, but at last, found a thread of hope to hold onto. At this moment he released the years of suffering, pain and helplessness.

Lin Xun felt a lump in his throat.

Men only weep when deeply grieved.

Lin Xun could not have imagined that fifty years later, the once handsome and dignified Shi Yu would be reduced to a state worse than a beggar!

“Lin Xun, it’s you...it really is you...”

After a long time, Shi Yu’s emotions finally settled. His lips trembled and a genuine smile curved his lips. His dim eyes sparkled with joy.

Especially when he saw the young girl in Lin Xun’s arms. He exclaimed, “Hahaha, Linlang is here too! Linlang is here too!”

“She’s here, and she will always be.”

Lin Xun spoke in a gentle voice, pulling Shi Yu up from the ground and dusting the dirt from his tattered robes. “As for you, it doesn’t matter if your cultivation is crippled. I will help you rebuild your path. And I will personally repay every ounce of pain and suffering you’ve endured all these years!”

His voice was gentle, yet carried the power of the great dao, seeping into Shi Yu’s mind and soothing the scars of his devastated spirit.

Soon, the clarity in Shi Yu’s eyes returned and his state of mind was fully restored.

He suddenly hugged Lin Xun tightly and laughed, “It doesn’t matter anymore. Now that you’re back, even if I die, my daughter Linlang will never be alone!”

Those words pierced Lin Xun’s heart like a knife again. He patted Shi Yu’s back firmly. “Don’t worry, Linlang will always be with you.”

“How absurd! If the powerful forces in the Forbidden City and the Ancient Wasteland Domain find out that you, Lin Xun, are still alive, can you imagine what the consequences would be?”

In the distance, Chi Cangmei, who was still imprisoned on the ground, let out a cold sneer, “If you listen to my advice and release me now, I can personally ensure that you, Shi Yu and his daughter leave here safely. But if you kill me, you are doomed!”

Shi Yu’s expression darkened and he was about to speak but Lin Xun interrupted, “Go wash up first, change into clean clothes, and take the pills in this bottle. As for her...she can’t escape.”

He spoke casually, but the weight behind those words sent a chill through Chi Cangmei. Her hands and feet turned ice-cold, her hair stood on end, and her mind almost collapsed.

Lin Xun ignored her completely and handed Shi Yu a set of clothes and a bottle of pills. His voice softened as he reminded him, “Your cultivation has been crippled and your body has accumulated severe internal damage and ailments over the years. Dissolve these pills in water but don’t take them all at once. Once your body recovers and your condition stabilizes, I will personally help you rebuild your cultivation foundation...”

Shi Yu’s emotions churned and an indescribable warmth spread through his chest, causing his eyes to mist over once again.

Chapter 2362 Rescue and Kill

Several minutes passed

After washing up and changing into clean clothes, Shi Yu, though still thin and aged, appeared noticeably different. His eyes shone with clarity and he radiated a renewed spirit.

Following Lin Xun’s instructions, he dissolved a pill in water and drank it slowly. Before long, a searing heat surged through him, intense and unbearable. Shi Yu sat down quietly and closed his eyes.

Lin Xun placed a steady hand on Shi Yu’s shoulder, channeling his power to purify and refine his meridians and marrow, eliminating the chronic ailments that had plagued him for years.

Like a gurgling stream, the miraculous power of the great dao coursed through Shi Yu.

Visibly, his body transformed, like a withered tree awakening in spring. In less than a quarter of an hour, his lifeforce surged energetically.

Even his once-haggard face appeared much younger.

Lin Xun withdrew his hands and smiled. “With proper rest, within three days, your dantian will be rebuilt and your dao foundation restored.”

Shi Yu opened his eyes, his gaze flickering with hope. “Can I really return to the path of cultivation?”

For any cultivator, having their cultivation crippled was akin to a death sentence, enough to make them break down and lose all hope.

Not even quasi-Emperors could reverse it, let alone Saints.

However, for Lin Xun, who now possessed a cultivation of the fourth realm Emperor Stage, such a feat was as simple as breathing.

“I guarantee it.” Lin Xun smiled.

In the distance, Chi Cangmei, still paralyzed on the ground, stared in utter disbelief.

Rebuild a cultivation path?

That was tantamount to defying the heavens and rewriting fate. Where did Lin Xun find the confidence to make such a promise?

Then, Lin Xun asked Shi Yu about his experiences over the years.

Shi Yu did not hide anything. He told Lin Xun everything.

A few years ago, several major factions from the Ancient Wasteland Domain entered the Forbidden City and almost swallowed up all the forces and aristocratic clans.

Stone Cauldron Alms was not spared.

Shi Yu's father, Fortune God Shi, and his two elder brothers were all slaughtered by Spirit Treasure Holy Land, and the vast estate of Stone Cauldron Alms was also seized by Spirit Treasure Holy Land.

As for Shi Yu, although he survived, his cultivation was completely abolished. However, the reason he was spared was because of Lin Xun.

Spirit Treasure Holy Land knew that Shi Yu and Lin Xun were brothers who had faced life and death together in their youth, so they kept Shi Yu alive as a hostage.

If Lin Xun ever reappeared, they could use Shi Yu to threaten him!

Spirit Treasure Holy Land entrusted this matter to the Chi Clan, which had submitted to them.

For years, Shi Yu and his wife had been imprisoned here, but six years ago, his wife died in childbirth, leaving behind only Shi Yu and their newborn daughter, Shi Linlang.

For the past six years, in order to keep his daughter alive, Shi Yu had been forced to lower himself, doing everything he could to beg Chi Cangmei for supplies.

Hearing this, Lin Xun's heart churned with turmoil again, and his dark eyes turned frighteningly cold.

"Lin Xun, did you hear that? If it wasn't for me, Shi Yu's daughter would have starved to death! She wouldn't have survived!"

Chi Cangmei shouted from the distance.

PA!

An invisible slap landed across her face, sending blood spraying from her lips. She collapsed to the ground, her body trembling, her hair disheveled, no longer daring to utter another word.

Shi Yu's expression twisted with rage. "If I hadn't threatened you with my own life, would a vicious woman like you have been so kind?! Only if I am alive would I be valuable to you, a bargaining chip to threaten Lin Xun!" He sprang up, his eyes burning with fury, as if he wished to end Chi Cangmei's life at this moment.

Lin Xun stopped him, his voice calm. "Killing her now would be far too easy on her. We will wipe out the Chi Clan first and let her witness it with her own eyes. Let her experience true pain and despair." Shi Yu took a deep breath, then nodded in agreement.

Chi Cangmei refused to believe it. Even in her current miserable state, she sneered coldly. In today's Forbidden City, if Lin Xun dares to show his face, he is doomed!

Then, Lin Xun asked about the Lin Clan of Mind Cleansing Peak, but Shi Yu just shook his head, indicating that he knew nothing.

This matter remained a great mystery. Not only were ordinary people clueless, but even the major factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain, who wished to exterminate Lin Xun's entire family, had also been relentlessly searching for clues and traces of them. Unfortunately, to this day, they had found nothing.

"This is not the worst news..." Lin Xun sighed.

Next, Lin Xun inquired about Qinglu Academy, the Rune Master Association and Golden Jade Hall.

Shi Yu's voice was filled with certainty as he answered, "The major factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain did this deliberately. Their goal is to eliminate all forces connected to you and capture your closest allies as hostages.

“If you never show up, they will simply let them rot. But the moment you do, they will use them to blackmail you!”

Lin Xun had already expected this, but hearing Shi Yu confirm it, a violent killing intent surged within his heart.

Fortunately, I didn’t reveal my identity when I was at the Ye Clan of the East Sea. Otherwise, if those powerful forces in the Ancient Wasteland Domain found out, they would have immediately relocated Shi Yu and the other hostages to use them as pawns in their game... Lin Xun thought to himself.

“All the teachers and students of Qinglu Academy, Master Yu Beidou and Master Chu Feng of the Rune Master Association, and Gu Yanping and Gu Liang of Golden Jade Hall are all still alive. But, like me, they have become nothing more than prisoners.”

As Shi Yu spoke, his gaze burned with fury as it fell upon Chi Cangmei. “All of this is tied to the Chi Clan, Hua Clan and the Qi Clan. They have submitted to different factions in the Ancient Wasteland Domain, willingly becoming their dogs!

“To please their masters, they offered advice, plotted strategies, and in the early years, they nearly wiped out every force connected to your Lin Clan!”

The Hua Clan and the Qi Clan, like the Chi Clan, had once been among the Seven High Clans of the Empire long before the revival of aeth qi concentrations.

Upon hearing this, Lin Xun almost lost control of his rage.

In the distance, Chi Cangmei couldn’t help but explain, “We...we were only trying to survive. Those Ancient Wasteland Domain factions are terrifying. If we hadn’t submitted, we would have been exterminated. Those who obey prosper, and those who go against them perish!”

“Bullshit!” Shi Yu snapped. “Even if you submitted, you could have simply protected yourselves. Instead, you chose to be their lackeys, serving as the claws and fangs to help the tiger devour its prey. You attacked and retaliated against those connected to the Lin Clan!”

Chi Cangmei merely sneered, as if she couldn't be bothered to argue.

This infuriated Shi Yu. Even now, Chi Cangmei remained defiant and unrepentant, as if she had backing to depend on. It was clear that she believed that Lin Xun alone could never reverse the current state of the Forbidden City.

Lin Xun raised a hand, signaling Shi Yu to calm down, and then he asked, "So those hostages are under the control of the Hua Clan, the Qi Clan, and the Chi Clan?"

Shi Yu nodded. "That should be the case."

"No matter what, they suffered because of me. I will not allow their lives to be threatened again..." A deadly chill flashed in Lin Xun's eyes.

Since entering the Forbidden City, everything he had seen and heard had only fueled his fury.

Now, the wrath simmering within him was on the verge of erupting.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

Suddenly, a knock echoed from the courtyard gate.

"Miss, it's time to leave." It was the voice of the black-robed old man who had driven the chariot here earlier.

Chi Cangmei's face lit up with hope and she instantly screamed, "Quickly run!"

That single word seemed to drain the last of her strength. She panted heavily, as if a great weight had been lifted off her shoulders. Then, with triumphant arrogance, she turned to Lin Xun. "Lin Xun, if you leave now with Shi Yu and his daughter, you still have a chance to escape the Forbidden City alive. But if you..."

Her words suddenly stopped.

The courtyard gate creaked open and a corpse lay silently on the ground. In the blink of an eye, the body crumbled into ashes, scattering into the wind.

Chi Cangmei stiffened. A feeling of suffocating terror gripped her chest, her pretty face drained of all color. The body was the black-robed old man!

“Do you know of my feats in the Ancient Wasteland Domain?” Lin Xun asked.

Chi Cangmei was caught off guard. She hesitated, then shook her head, clearly confused.

Lin Xun seemed to realize something and muttered to himself, “No wonder you’re so ignorant. You know nothing at all...”

Thinking about it, it made sense. How could the Ancient Wasteland Domain major factions that had suffered repeated humiliating defeats at his hand tell Chi Cangmei about their greatest disgrace?

Chi Cangmei had spent her life in the lower world. She was completely unaware that not just in the Ancient Wasteland Domain, but even in the Ancient Nebula Road, only a handful of people dared to offend Lin Xun!

One’s vision determined the limits of their understanding.

If the people in this lower world still saw Lin Xun as they did in the past, then they were making a grave mistake!

“A’hu, Toady, A’lu...”

Lin Xun released A’hu and the others from the Dao Endless Pagoda, briefly explained Shi Yu’s situation and gave them an order, “Stay here and take care of Shi Yu, I’ll be right back.”

A’hu and the others nodded. They could tell that Lin Xun was not in a good mood. What he needed now was a battle to vent his fury!

Only Shi Yu was stunned, “What are you going to do?”

“Rescue, and then kill.”

With those words, Lin Xun vanished from the courtyard, dragging the fear-stricken Chi Cangmei with him.

Shi Yu’s chest tightened with anxiety. “Why didn’t you stop him? The Forbidden City is nothing like it was before...”

However, even after speaking until his lips were dry, A’hu and the others remained motionless, staring at him with strange expressions.

“What’s going on?” Shi Yu asked, frustration creeping into his voice.

“Brother, do you know what Big Brother’s cultivation is now?” Toady said casually.

Shi Yu shook his head. He only knew that the Forbidden City was now controlled by major factions in the Ancient Wasteland Domain. If they discovered Lin Xun, the consequences would be catastrophic.

“Big Brother can now slay Emperors like slaughtering chickens.” A’lu stated flatly, unable to bear watching Shi Yu panic any longer.

Slay Emperors?

Shi Yu’s mind went blank.

Little Silver crossed his arms, speaking leisurely, “Master could crush those idiots like ants with one hand.”

Shi Yu still looked blank.

What kind of situation was this?!

This wasn’t just unbelievable but it completely overturned his understanding of the world.

Then, Little Sky and the big black bird spoke one after another:

“Master once slaughtered his way across the Ancient Nebula Road, earning the title of Emperor Daoyuan. He was the first supreme Emperor to emerge in a hundred thousand years. If anyone should be worried, it’s his enemies.”

“Hahaha, let me be blunt. In this lower world, if anyone can so much as touch a single strand of Lin Xun’s hair, I’ll acknowledge them as my grandson. No, I’ll acknowledge them as my grandfather!” The big black bird chuckled.

Shi Yu: “...”

He stood petrified.

Chapter 2363 Crested Jade Peak

The narrow alley was dark and dilapidated.

When Lin Xun stepped out with Chi Cangmei, he no longer concealed his aura.

Almost instantly, the sentries lurking in the dark noticed them

However, that was also the last scene they ever saw.

By the time Lin Xun and Chi Cangmei emerged from the alley, the path behind them was eerily silent.

Chi Cangmei's heart sank. A chilling realization struck her. The hidden sentries nearby had met their end.

However, what truly terrified her was that, from start to finish, she hadn't even noticed when or how Lin Xun made his move!

Only now did Chi Cangmei begin to grasp a terrifying truth. Lin Xun had finally returned to the lower world after all these years, but what level of cultivation had he reached?

Lin Xun's voice rang out, cold and indifferent, "I need to extract some information from your spirit. Don't resist."

Chi Cangmei stiffened, caught off guard. Before she could react, she felt her spirit tremble, as if countless cold tendrils had reached into the depths of her mind.

A few moments later, Lin Xun withdrew his spirit sense. He now understood everything he needed to know.

For example, the strongholds of the Chi Clan, Hua Clan and Qi Clan, and the power that these three aristocratic clans currently wielded.

"You...do you really intend to make an enemy of the entire world?"

Chi Cangmei's face turned deathly pale, a mix of fear and disbelief flickering in her eyes.

"The entire world?" Lin Xun raised an eyebrow, a hint of amusement in his voice. "Are those so-called Ancient Wasteland Domain factions enough to represent the entire lower world?"

If Chi Cangmei wasn't a captive now, she would have scoffed and ridiculed Lin Xun on the spot. To her, his words were madness. The factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain had long stood at the pinnacle

of this lower world. The power they wielded was enough to dominate the world. How could they not represent it?

It was clear that she didn't believe that Lin Xun could stand against the major factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

Lin Xun had no interest in explaining to her.

Dao light swirled around him, and in the next moment, his Green Wood Dao Body and Red Flame Dao Body emerged beside him.

"Go!"

Without hesitation, Lin Xun gave his command. The Green Wood Dao Body and the Red Flame Dao Body vanished instantly, splitting off in different directions.

From Chi Cangmei's memories, Lin Xun had learned that the captured hostages were held in the Chi Clan, Hua Clan and Qi Clan.

Since this was a rescue mission, Lin Xun wanted to crush the enemy in the shortest time possible to prevent any unforeseen accidents.

Thus, Lin Xun sent the Green Wood Dao Body and Red Flame Dao Body to the Qi Clan and the Hua Clan respectively.

Then, he himself headed straight for the Chi Clan with Chi Cangmei!

The Forbidden City was still prosperous, bustling and lively. The streets were filled with endless streams of horses and carriages and bustling crowds.

Lin Xun appeared to be taking a leisurely stroll, but with each step, it felt as if the stars shifted and the space contracted beneath his feet. He covered miles in an instant, yet not a single soul in the sea of people noticed his presence.

His speed had reached a level that was beyond comprehension.

The most astonishing thing was that as Lin Xun moved forward, no power leaked out. His movements were silent, like a phantom of light, traveling at an inconceivable speed yet alarming no one.

To Chi Cangmei, everything around her became a blur, her vision and hearing failing to register anything.

Fortunately, it all ended in just half an incense stick of time.

When her vision finally stabilized, she let out a long sigh of relief, as if a great weight had been lifted from her chest. However, when she looked up, her face went pale as if she had been struck by lightning.

Crested Jade Peak!

This had been the Chi Clan's stronghold for generations.

Covering such an immense distance in just half an incense stick of time was something that Chi Cangmei could hardly fathom.

Even if a quasi-Emperor moved at full strength, it would still take them forty-five minutes to travel from that alley to Crested jade Peak!

"After today, this place will no longer exist." Lin Xun uttered indifferently, putting his hands behind his back.

"Do you really want to make an enemy of my Chi Clan?" Even now, Chi Cangmei still couldn't believe what was happening.

“No, your Chi Clan is not even qualified to be my enemy.” As Lin Xun said that, he marched forward. “Stand here and watch.”

Chi Cangmei wanted to struggle, but she couldn’t move at all.

Her expression was daze, as if her entire understanding of the world was being overturned. This was the Forbidden City, a place where aeth qi had flourished for fifty years. It was no longer what it used to be!!

Where did Lin Xun get the confidence to storm the Chi Clan’s territory alone?

What was most unbelievable was that he wasn’t even trying to conceal his presence. He simply strode onto Crested Jade Peak!

“You are asking for death!” A flicker of madness flashed through Chi Cangmei’s eyes.

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“Hey, isn’t that the eldest daughter of the Chi Clan?”

In the distance, many cultivators noticed Lin Xun and Chi Cangmei.

Crested Jade Peak was the stronghold of Chi Clan, one of the prestigious high clans of the empire. Ever since the Chi Clan submitted to Spirit Treasure Holy Land, their influence and power had only grown stronger. In the Forbidden City, they were now a force of absolute authority.

Who wouldn’t recognize Chi Cangmei, the eldest daughter of the head of the Chi Clan?

“Who is that young man? His back looks...strangely familiar?”

An elder cultivator frowned, then his pupils suddenly contracted, and he exclaimed in disbelief, “Could it be him?”

“Who?”

The people around him looked over, their curiosity piqued.

“The Lord of Mind Cleansing Peak, Lin Xun.” The old man’s gaze was complicated and filled with disbelief and doubt. “Many years ago, when I was still a young man, I had the fortune of seeing the true face of this Lord of Mind Cleansing Peak, but he has been gone for a long time now...”

“Lin Xun?”

Some youngsters struggled to recall. Then, a few couldn’t help but chuckle.

“Ah, that guy. The one whose name once resounded throughout the capital. Unfortunately, the world has changed. Now that the aeth qi has revived, even if he returns, it won’t matter. He’ll struggle to find a foothold.” Someone laughed dismissively.

Lin Xun? To them, he was a relic of the past. Not worth mentioning anymore.

“Mind Cleansing Peak has long been destroyed. If that young man is really Lin Xun, does he even dare to seek revenge?” Someone smirked.

“Revenge? The moment he shows his face, he’s as good as dead. Everyone knows that it was because of Lin Xun that Qinglu Academy, the Rune Master Association, Golden Jade Hall and others fell. The one that those major factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain want to eliminate the most is him!”

As they spoke, a sudden boom rang out.

Everyone looked up, only to witness a gruesome scene. At the foot of Crested Jade Peak, a Chi Clan expert who was guarding the mountain gate had burst apart like a balloon, blood spraying in all directions.

“In broad daylight, he...he dared to walk up to the Chi Clan’s gates and kill?”

The cultivators in the distance were dumbstruck. Does he have a death wish?!

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At this moment, at the entrance of Crested Jade Peak.

The Chi Clan descendants guarding the mountain gate instantly turned pale, their eyes widening in disbelief. This was the Forbidden City, the Chi Clan’s territory. Who would be so insane as to provoke them here.

“How dare you kill at our Chi Clan’s gate? You are seeking death!”

A Chi Clan expert charged forward furiously, his figure flashing like a bolt of lightning. With a sudden leap into the air, he lunged at Lin Xun, striking down with a fierce palm strike.

Boom!

Five blue rays of light shot forth from the man’s fingertips, sharp as piercing blades, slicing through the air with a shrill, ear-splitting whistle. Each ray stretched three feet long, flickering unsteadily. As they tore through the void, their power was both fierce and domineering.

“It’s Chi Yunpeng, the third deacon of the Chi Clan’s outer sect. His cultivation has reached the eighth Longevity Tribulation Stage, and he’s only half a step from breaking through into the ninth level. He has mastered the Chi Clan’s Blue Astral Grand Palm Seal to perfection. Even those of the same cultivation stage as him wouldn’t dare to face him head-on. That young man is in trouble!”

An elderly cultivator spoke in a low, knowing voice.

The crowd stirred. Their eyes flickered with astonishment.

Chi Yunpeng was a renowned master of the Longevity Tribulation Stage. Nowadays, every deacon of the Chi Clan's outer sect was at least a King expert.

Just as everyone's heart tightened, preparing to shake their heads in silent pity for Lin Xun, something happened.

The powerful palm seal silently dissipated into the void before it could even touch Lin Xun.

Chi Yunpeng's expression twisted in sheer shock and disbelief, as if he was being crushed beneath a thousand mountains.

Boom!

His body exploded mid-air. Blood splattered across the sky, dyeing the area around the mountain gate a gruesome red.

"H—he?"

Everyone froze, their eyes wide with horror and disbelief.

A distinguished deacon of the Chi Clan's outer sect had died just like that!

Furthermore, from start to finish, no one saw how it happened. What level of cultivation did it take to obliterate a powerful Longevity Tribulation expert so effortlessly?

A True Saint?

Or perhaps Big Saint? Saint-King?

“Impossible. Saints are now the core pillars of the major factions. And quasi-Emperors are as elusive as divine dragons, existing high above. If such a formidable figure had emerged in the Forbidden City, how come we have never heard of him?”

The cultivators murmured in disbelief. .

At that moment, the Chi Clan experts guarding the mountain gate had drastically changed expressions.

“Attack together!”

All of a sudden, figures surged in from all directions.

Dozens of Chi Clan experts launched a simultaneous attack. Their combined might resembled a devastating tsunami.

The watching cultivators were visibly shaken. This was the true foundation of the Chi Clan, an overlord-like clan. However, Lin Xun didn’t even react. He didn’t even acknowledge the incoming storm of attacks. He didn’t even lift a finger. He simply kept walking forward.

Screams tore through the air.

Dozens of figures exploded midair, like fireworks igniting in the night sky. Scarlet blood bloomed, hot and vivid, painting the heavens in a gruesome spectacle.

It fell deathly silent.

In the blink of an eye, dozens of cultivators, with the strongest at the ninth Longevity Tribulation Stage and the weakest at the Cyclic Derivation, all perished on the spot!

The distant onlookers’ minds went blank, and their hands and feet ice-cold.

What kind of terrifying cultivation would allow someone to achieve that?

What was even more bizarre to them was that Chi Cangmei had just stood there the entire time, motionless and showing no attempt to stop him!

Everything felt so strange and abnormal.

At this moment, Lin Xun stepped through the gate of Crested Jade Peak.

As the stronghold of the Chi Clan, the base of Crested Jade Peak was shrouded in strict restriction forces. Over the years, the Chi Clan had poured vast resources into setting up a Saint-level restriction array capable of suppressing and obliterating even Saint-Kings.

Yet Lin Xun casually walked right through it. There was not a ripple. Not a flicker of resistance. It was as if the array was mere decoration.

It was at this moment that Chi Cangme's confidence crumbled completely, as if her sense of security had been shattered. Her gaze turned dim and lifeless.

She replayed everything from the moment she encountered Lin Xun to now, and only one thought remained in her mind: He must have reached the Quasi-Emperor Stage!

In today's world, a Quasi-Emperor was akin to a sovereign, absolutely qualified to stir up a storm in the Forbidden City!

Chapter 2364 It's Your Turn

Quasi-Emperor!

To Chi Cangmei, who stood at the Big Saint Stage, this title already represented the pinnacle of existence.

Furthermore, this realization made her blood run cold, because within the entire Chi Clan, there was only one quasi-Emperor overseeing them.

In other words, even if the Chi Clan somehow survived this calamity, the price would be catastrophic.

Chi Cangmei opened her mouth, intending to cry out, to send a signal to the nearby cultivators, urging them to report immediately to the Spirit Treasure Holy Land.

If they learned that Lin Xun had returned, they would surely dispatch experts at once. That would minimize the disaster the Chi Clan was facing.

Unfortunately, to her horror, no sound came out. Her voice was sealed. Even her spirit sense was locked, unable to spread beyond her body.

A chill sank into her soul.

.....

Meanwhile, at the summit of Crested Jade Peak.

Inside the Chi Clan's Main Hall.

Many high-ranking figures of the clan had gathered to receive a distinguished guest.

In the years since the revival of aeth qi concentrations, the Chi Clan, as one of the high clans, had also gained many fortunes and benefits. Their strength had skyrocketed and they were no longer what they used to be.

At this moment, every figure seated in the main hall radiated an aura as deep and oppressive as an abyss. Some blazed with intense heat, some emanated bone-chilling cold, some exuded violent battle intent, while others surged with overflowing qi and blood.

Even the weakest among them was a Big Saint!

However, the strongest presence had to be the imposing middle-aged man seated at the head of the hall. He was clad in a bright yellow dragon robe, with ink-dark hair and beard and eyes as sharp and cold as lightning.

Chi Lingxiao!

The clan leader of the Chi Clan. His presence was like a bottomless abyss, radiating the boundless power of the Quasi-Emperor Stage.

Twenty years ago, Chi Lingxiao had stumbled upon a hidden secret realm and obtained a great fortune. It transformed his cultivation, allowing him to ascend into the Quasi-Emperor Stage!

He became the sole quasi-Emperor of the Chi Clan to this day.

Despite that, at that moment, Chi Lingxiao was all smiles as he chatted to a handsome young man dressed in a flowing daoist robe, his skin fair as jade.

Though the young man appeared youthful, his eyes shimmered with age and insight, as if they had witnessed the ebb and flow of time. There was a natural arrogance and composure in his every gesture.

When he looked at Chi Lingxiao and other high-ranking figures of the Chi Clan, it was as though he was merely glancing at his subordinates.

Lan Muli!

A true disciple of Spirit Treasure Holy Land.

Even though he was only at the Big Saint Stage, his status alone was enough to make powerful figures like Chi Lingxiao lower their heads in respect

“Clan Leader Chi, two hours ago, where the ruins of the Lin Clan’s Mind Cleansing Peak are, an earth-shattering murderous aura erupted. I wonder if you sensed it?” Lan Muli said calmly.

“So Young Master Lan is here regarding that event.” Chi Lingxiao’s eyes flashed with realization and he nodded. “I’ve just been informed. They say the murderous aura was so strong it surged straight into the heavens, shaking the entire Forbidden City. That kind of aura couldn’t possibly come from an ordinary cultivator. At minimum, it has to be...a quasi-Emperor.”

Lan Muli said indifferently, “Our Spirit Treasury Holy Land believes the same, but unfortunately, when we sent people to investigate, there was no trace of that person at the ruins of Mind Cleansing Peak. But we suspect...that the person might be Lin Xun.”

Lin Xun!

Chi Lingxiao and the others visibly tensed, their hearts pounding.

Today’s younger generation might be ignorant of how dazzling Lin Xun once was, but for those of the older generation, how would they not know what his name represented?

He alone suppressed the entire empire!

Back then, the Zuo and Qin Clans, two of the Seven High Clans, had been wiped from existence overnight by his hand!

Though many years had passed since then and times had changed, they still struggled to remain calm at the mention of his name.

Of course, if it were them now, they had no reason to fear Lin Xun anymore.

Not only had their own power grown rapidly over the years, but more importantly, they also had the Spirit Treasure Holy Land as their backing!

“If it really is that boy, doesn’t that mean he’s already stepped into the Quasi-Emperor Stage?” Chi Lingxiao’s eyes flashed.

Lan Muli said aloud, “Whether it’s him or not, I’ve come here under the orders from my sect to take some people away.”

Chi Lingxiao responded promptly, “It is our clan’s honor to serve Spirit Treasure Holy Land. May I ask who it is that you wish to take?”

Lan Muli replied flatly, “Those connected to Lin Xun who are currently imprisoned by your Chi Clan. Go ahead, I don’t intend to waste any time.”

Chi Lingxiao nodded, though a flicker of confusion passed through his mind. He couldn’t help but ask, “Young Master, even if it was Lin Xun, with the foundation and strength of Spirit Treasure Holy Land, wouldn’t it be a piece of cake to eliminate him?”

Lan Muli laughed with a trace of mockery, “You wouldn’t understand. That guy is not as simple as you think. Back when he was in the Ancient Wasteland Domain...”

He abruptly stopped himself, realizing that if he continued, it would expose the incident that the Spirit Treasure Holy Land considered a deep humiliation to this day.

After a brief pause, he said calmly, “In this new era of the revival of aeth qi concentrations, Lin Xun is naturally not a threat. Since coming to the Forbidden City, our Spirit Treasure Holy Land has been eager to eliminate that beast. Unfortunately...he has been gone for many years...”

Bang!

The doors to the main hall slammed open, and a figure staggered inside, voice trembling, “Clan Leader, bad news, someone has breached Crested Jade Peak!”

“What?” Everyone was stunned and could hardly believe their ears.

Only Chi Lingxiao remained composed. Frowning, he raised a hand and said calmly, “Third Elder, Fourth Elder, Fifth Elder, go investigate. Make sure the intruder doesn’t disturb our guest.”

“Yes!”

Immediately, the three powerful figures stood up and left in a hurry.

“Apologies for the interruption, Young Master.” Chi Lingxiao apologized to Lan Muli with a smile.

Lan Muli couldn’t help but clap his hands. “The clan leader of the Chi Clan remains calm even in the face of crisis. What remarkable composure.”

Chi Lingxiao laughed heartily, “Our Chi Clan has been rooted in the Forbidden City for generations, and has seen countless storms over the years. This minor disturbance isn’t worth raising a fuss over.”

Lan Muli nodded in agreement, finally at ease.

Come to think of it, this was the Chi Clan’s territory, and in the current Forbidden City, only a fool with a death wish would dare cause trouble here.

Just as Chi Lingxiao and Lan Muli were about to resume their conversation, a piercing, blood-curdling scream echoed from afar, rising from the base of Crested Jade Mountain and reverberating through the hall.

Chi Lingxiao’s expression darkened instantly. His face clouded with suppressed fury.

Seeing this, Lan Muli asked, “Clan Leader Chi...do you need to go check the situation yourself?”

Chi Lingxiao forced a smile. “No need, Young Master. Just a minor disturbance.”

He issued another order, dispatching more high-ranking clan members to investigate.

“I’m curious, who in the Forbidden City would be so bold as to cause trouble at the gates of the Chi Clan? Do they not know that the Spirit Treasure Holy Land won’t tolerate such provocation?” Lan Muli narrowed his eyes.

Chi Lingxiao let out a faint chuckle, “Once the intruder is captured, I’ll be sure to present them to Young Master.”

Just as he said this, another sharp scream ripped through the air, shaking the walls of the hall.

Chi Lingxiao’s face turned as dark as storm clouds. Although he was furious, he also realized that the enemy who had come was no ordinary foe.

“Let’s go take a look together.” Lan Muli stood up, unable to remain seated.

Chi Lingxiao and other senior Chi Clan members also quickly stood up.

Just then—Boom!

A deafening explosion shattered the silence.

The main hall door exploded into a cloud of dust. Immediately after that, several Chi Clan corpses were hurled into the hall, rolling lifelessly, blood gushing everywhere.

Chi Lingxiao and the others stood frozen, horrified by the sudden scene.

The moment they identified the fallen bodies, a wave of burning rage rushed up their hearts. The corpses belonged to the high-ranking members who had only just stepped out the hall a moment ago.

Now, they were all killed!

Who had the audacity to slaughter right at the gates of the Chi Clan and storm to the Chi Clan main hall?!

At this moment, a calm, cold voice sounded from the entrance. “Chi Lingxiao, your old friend has come to visit. Why haven’t you come out to greet me? Have you forgotten who it was that once knelt and begged for mercy at my Lin Clan’s doorstep?”

Amidst the swirling smoke and dust, a young man stepped forward, extraordinary and otherworldly, his hands calmly folded behind his back.

The moment they saw him, the pupils of Chi Lingxiao and the others contracted sharply. Their voices rang out in unison.

“It’s you?”

“How is this possible...”

Even Lan Muli’s expression drastically changed, his face stiffening as his gaze narrowed.

The young man was of course Lin Xun.

His dark eyes swept over the hall with a calm, detached coldness. “What? Did you not expect me to pay you a visit?”

After the initial shock, Chi Lingxiao forced himself to stay composed, his eyes turning ice-cold and filled with hatred. “Lin Xun, all these years, my Chi Clan has done nothing to offend you, why have you stormed into the Chi Clan and slaughtered our members?”

As he spoke, he was secretly observing Lin Xun, trying to discern his cultivation level. But he was met with disappointment. Lin Xun’s aura was completely restrained, and it was impossible to see through it.

“At this point, you still have the nerve to ask me that...”

Lin Xun's gaze turned frosty and his voice indifferent, "Did you really think I didn't know how your Chi, Hua, and Qi Clans have been working for those scum from the Ancient Wasteland Domain all these years?"

Chi Lingxiao and the others were stunned.

That one sentence didn't just insult them, it was a direct slap to the face of the powerful factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain!

Lan Muli, who had remained silent, suddenly asked, "Was it you who unleashed that murderous aura at the ruins of Mind Cleansing Peak?

Lin Xun glanced sideways at him. "A disciple of Spirit Treasure Holy Land?"

Lan Muli's lips curled up with a trace of pride, "That's right."

"Kneel down." Lin Xun spat out two words.

What?!

Chi Lingxiao and the others could not believe their ears.

He's from Spirit Treasure Holy Land!

Is Lin Xun actually planning to go to war with the Spirit Treasure Holy Land?

Bang!

Lan Muli dropped to his knees with a dull thud, his head pressed to the floor, his handsome face flushed with humiliation.

He let out a hoarse, furious roar, “Lin Xun, you’re digging your own grave! Just you wait, this Forbidden City will be your tomb!”

Bang!

The next instant, Lan Muli’s body exploded into a rain of blood and flesh. Startled, Chi Lingxiao and the others instinctively dodge to avoid being splattered with blood.

However, their faces turned ashen and their eyes wide with disbelief. Lin Xun had just killed a disciple of Spirit Treasure Holy Land so effortlessly?!

They struggled to believe it

“I originally intended to let him live. I thought I could gather information about the Spirit Treasure Holy Land. But unfortunately, his mouth stank.”

Lin Xun turned to Chi Lingxiao and the others, his gaze as cold and emotionless as ever. His voice was devoid of any emotion. “Now, it’s your turn.”

Chapter 2365 Now Returned, More Magnificent Than Ever

Before Lin Xun’s words had even faded, Chi Lingxiao and the other high-ranking members of the Chi Clan had already acted, unleashing their full power in an instant. Terrifying aura erupted like a tidal wave.

The entire hall trembled and collapsed into ruin.

In the face of such an onslaught, Lin Xun lifted his sleeve lightly.

Boom!

A wave of dao light surged forth, swallowing the oncoming force. In the blink of an eye, Chi Lingxiao and the other eight high-ranking Chi Clan members were reduced to ashes.

Lin Xun didn't even spare them a glance. He turned around and descended the mountain.

To him, quasi-Emperors were no longer worth his attention. Even if his cultivation was now suppressed to the first realm Emperor Stage, slaying Chi Lingxiao and the others was no different from crushing ants.

From the foot of Crested Jade Peak, one could clearly see a crimson trail stretching all the way to the submit.

That was the path Lin Xun walked, each step he took left behind death and carnage.

Chi Cangmei witnessed it all. She watched as the Chi Clan's main hall on the mountaintop blasted into rubble. And in that moment, the last sliver of hope in her heart shattered. Her eyes lost all light and her spirit crumbled into despair.

In the distance, more and more cultivators gathered to watch, and when they saw the scene before them, they were all stunned into silence.

For years, ever since the major factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain had agreed to enforce an iron rule within the Forbidden City—no bloodshed was allowed, very few had dared to break that law. Witnessing such violence had become almost unimaginable.

Yet now, one of the high clans, the Chi Clan of Crested Jade Peak had been utterly wiped out!

Who could possibly defy that rule and massacre their way through such a powerful and influential clan?

Just then, a tall and solitary figure emerged from the mountain gate of Jade Crested Mountain. It was Lin Xun.

The crowd fell into a deathly silence. Not a single whisper could be heard.

Clad in a pristine robe, calm and composed, he looked nothing like a man who had just carried out the massacre of the Chi Clan.

But among the onlookers, some of the older cultivators began to tremble and their expressions shifted, as if they remembered him.

“Did you see clearly?” At this moment, Lin Xun walked over to Chi Cangmei and asked indifferently.

Chi Cangmei, who stood dazed and hollow-eyed, suddenly screamed hysterically as though struck by an unbearable shock, “You...you killed everyone in my Chi Clan?”

Lin Xun nodded.

She staggered and her voice turned hoarse with madness. “But most of them were innocent! You’re a demon!”

Lin Xun remained unmoved, his tone as calm and cold as ever, “You made me understand something. If you don’t pull up the roots, the weeds will grow back and endless troubles will follow.”

Shi Yu was also innocent, yet he suffered years of torment and humiliation simply for being Lin Xun’s friend.

Qinglu Academy, Rune Master Association, and Golden Jade Hall were all crushed just for being connected to the Lin Clan!

As for the members of the Lin Clan of Mind Cleansing Peak, to this day, their fates remained unknown.

Those brutal truths made Lin Xun thoroughly understand that he had been too merciful.

When dealing with enemies, one must eradicate them completely to prevent future calamities!

Even if he was called a demon, a butcher, it didn't matter. As long as his family and friends never have to suffer again. That was enough for him.

"Cutting the weeds at their roots." Chi Cangmei collapsed to the ground, weeping silently, her heart shattered.

At that moment, it was as if she had aged countless years. Her cultivation faded without a sound.

Lin Xun could tell that her dao heart had shattered and her cultivation was as good as crippled.

"Is it cruel? This is the price you and your Chi Clan should pay." Lin Xun uttered, turning away.

Without cultivation, Chi Cangmei's path had come to an end.

Lin Xun felt no sympathy for her.

As Lin Xun vanished into the distance, a sudden cry rang out from the stunned crowd.

"It's him! It has to be him!

"After so many years, he's returned. The one whose name once shook the capital.

"The Lord of Mind Cleansing Peak has always been clear in gratitude and grudges. He is known for his lethal decisiveness. Now that he's returned, this Forbidden City is destined to be swept by storms!"

In an instant. The crowd erupted. The older generation stood in awe, their blood surging and long-buried memories flashed across their minds.

The younger cultivators gradually realized Lin Xun's identity and were struck speechless. The legend who had faded into obscurity over the years had returned today and wiped the Chi Clan from existence in a single day!

Everyone realized that Lin Xun's return was bound to set off storms across the Forbidden City!

While Lin Xun's true body was massacring the Chi Clan.

At Clear Frost Peak, where the Hua Clan, one of the high clans, had been rooted for generations, Lin Xun's Green Wood Dao Body had also started a massacre.

Clad in green robes, hands calmly behind its back, the dao body walked up the winding mountain path. Its steps were unhurried, but to the cultivators of the Hua Clan, it was like an ancient god descending.

Each footstep shook the earth, crumbing boulders and incinerating the land beneath.

"Kill!"

Countless cultivators rushed in like a wave, weapons gleaming, dao light blazing.

A green sword qi shot out from the dao body's finger like a gust of wind and all cultivators were slain on the spot.

It was as though the dao body was harvesting grass from a field!

And that was only the beginning.

Three finger snaps later, the dao body swatted away Saint-level experts like flies, crushing them into blood and bone.

Five finger snaps later.

It pierced the forehead of an imposing and extraordinary quasi-Emperor being with a single finger.

Every step it took, another enemy collapsed. No one could resist and no one survived. Its advance was like a blade splitting bamboo.

Behind him, a river of blood formed, snaking down the mountain path. The mist of blood thickened and coiled into the sky.

Panicked screams and furious roars echoed endlessly through the skies above the Hua Clan.

On the mountain summit.

Hua Liuhong, the clan leader of the Hua Clan, and other high-ranking members trembled as they watched in horror.

It had only been a short while since Lin Xun appeared, but he had already reached the core of their stronghold.

All their restriction forces, treasured weapons and defenses had been proven utterly useless!

He advanced like an unstoppable force!

The trail of slaughter made Hua Liuhong and the others shudder in fear, their hearts aching as if being torn apart.

Those slain were all of the Hua bloodline!

At this moment, Lin Xun’s figure was approaching the mountain summit.

“Lin Xun, can you give our Hua Clan a chance to make amends? You’ve already rescued those you came for, why continue the bloodshed? Will you only be satisfied once you’ve wiped out our entire clan?”

Hua Liuhong shouted loudly, forcing himself to remain calm.

“This time, there is no forgiveness.” Lin Xun said indifferently, “Even if the backer you’ve been waiting for, Mysterious Metropolis Sect, shows up, it won’t change the fate of the Hua Clan.”

“You—” Hua Liuhong’s eyes widened in rage, his face contorted, muscles twitching with fury. “If that’s how it is, then we have no choice but to fight to the death!”

“Fight to the death? It’s pointless.” Lin Xun thrust out a palm.

Rumble!

The void trembled violently as a colossal green palm, like the hand of an ancient god, emerged in midair. Spanning hundreds of feet, it descended like a sacred mountain crashing from the heavens.

“Clan Leader, be careful!” The high-ranking figures of the Hua Clan turned ashen and took action at the same time.

Terrifying dao techniques transformed into sword qi, fist light, palm prints and torrents one after another. They surged forth, accompanied by all kinds of chilling visions, and came crashing toward the giant green palm. Hua Liuhong’s face darkened and a dense and extremely sinister dark fiendish aura erupted from his body. It turned into a mass of black clouds over ten feet long, rising to block the giant palm.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The countless attacks slammed into the green palm, but it remained immovable. Instead, the attacks rebounded and blasted the cultivators back. Those with weaker cultivation even coughed up blood and were badly wounded.

The giant green palm, undiminished in strength, thundered down with boundless might.

Horrified and desperate, Hua Liuhong and others brought out their trump cards.

However, the power of Lin Xun's palm was tremendous.

With a deafening boom, light soared into the sky.

When the smoke cleared, a massive pit hundreds of feet deep had sunken into the mountaintop.

At the center was an enormous palm print like the handprint of a divine being.

Hua Liuhong and the others had all been reduced to pulp, dyeing the huge palm print a striking red hue.

All obliterated with a single palm strike!

The hundred-foot-wide palm print remained visible for years to come, striking awe into the later generations.

At the same time—Jiuwen Peak.

Stronghold of the Qi Clan.

Lin Xun's Red Flame Dao Body stood at the summit, wreathed in divine flames that scorched and distorted the skies and boiled the clouds.

The thousand foot peak had become a sea of fire, and all members of the Qi Clan were buried in the inferno.

Whether it was the bloodbath at the Chi Clan's Crested Jade Peak, the massacre at the Hua Clan's Clear Frost Peak or the inferno at the Qi Clan's Jiuwen Peak, all of it happened almost simultaneously.

Furthermore, it all only took a moment!

By the time news began to spread, Lin Xun and the two dao bodies had merged back and returned to the alley where Shi Yu and the others waited.

The Lord of Mind Cleansing Peak, Lin Xun.

He had returned to the Forbidden City!

This news, as well as the fall of three high clans Chi, Hua, and Qi, swept through the Forbidden City like a raging storm, setting off tremendous waves and leaving countless cultivators trembling.

Lin Xun, after years of silence, had been forgotten in the lower world, becoming just a distant memory to the older generation.

In recent years, whenever the younger generation spoke of Lin Xun, most did so with indifference or even disdain, believing that his era had long passed and he was no longer worthy of admiration or reverence.

Today, Lin Xun's mighty return struck like divine thunder, shocking both the older generation and the younger generation.

It should be noted that the three high clans, the Hua Clan, the Chi Clan, and the Qi Clan, had grown increasingly powerful in recent years since they had submitted to the major factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain. They were second only to the great forces in the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

Now, these three powerful clans had been annihilated at the same time by Lin Xun alone!

It was unbelievable!

“How powerful has Lin Xun become?”

“After years of silence, he returned more magnificent than ever!”

“Mind Cleansing Peak was destroyed, and all the forces tied to the Lin Clan suffered one after another. How furious must the Lord of Mind Cleansing Peak be after learning about this?

Countless discussions erupted like wildfire. The Forbidden City, which had long since become comparable to a world of its own, was shaken to its core because of Lin Xun’s return.

Chapter 2366 Lin Xun in Peril

In the alley.

When Shi Yu saw Lin Xun return safely, he let out a long breath of relief, but then froze in astonishment. It has only been half an hour. How...has Lin Xun returned so soon?

The next moment, Lin Xun flicked his sleeve, and one after another, figures began appearing in the courtyard.

There were teachers and students from Qinglu Academy, Yu Beidou, Chu Feng and other rune masters from the Rune Master Association, as well as Gu Yanping and his son Gu Liang from Golden Jade Hall.

In just a short moment, the quiet courtyard was filled with people.

Shi Yu’s jaw dropped as he stood rooted in place, stunned.

Suddenly, the words Toady and A’lu had said earlier echoed in his mind. “He can now slay Emperors as easily as slaughtering chickens,” and how “he was the first Supreme Emperor to emerge in ten thousand years...”

It seemed they weren’t exaggerating at all

Gu Yanping, his son, and everyone else rescued by Lin Xun were overwhelmed with emotion.

After years of captivity, they had long given up hope, believing that they were doomed to rot away.

Who could have imagined that today Lin Xun would descend like a god from the heavens and rescue them in the blink of an eye?!

Even now, they still felt like they were dreaming.

“Lin Xun, is it really you?” Gu Yanping asked, voice trembling with excitement.

He still remembered the day that he met Lin Xun, a thirteen to fourteen-year-old boy who had just arrived in the Ziyao Empire.

Now, after one hundred years, the kid back then had become a legend!

This time, he even stormed three high clans alone and rescued them from doom!

All eyes turned to Lin Xun.

After not seeing him for many years, Lin Xun had hardly changed. He was still calm, transcendent, elegant and extraordinary. Simply standing there, he was like a pillar holding up the heavens, instilling a deep sense of reassurance.

Lin Xun was deeply moved. Standing before him were many familiar faces such as Gu Yanping, Gu Liang, the teachers from Qinglu Academy, Yu Beidou, Chu Feng...

However, they were all in rags, their hair disheveled, their faces gaunt and weary, their auras weak, and their appearances were filled with suffering.

It was difficult to imagine what kind of torture they had endured over the years.

Taking a deep breath, Lin Xun stepped forward and bowed sincerely. “All that you’ve suffered stems from me and the Lin Clan behind me. You all have endured so much these years, please accept my deepest apologies!”

Everyone fell into stunned silence. A’hu, Toady, and the others were visibly shocked.

This was the first time in all these years that they had seen Lin Xun apologize with such heartfelt guilt.

Gu Yanping and others were also momentarily speechless. Before anyone could respond, Lin Xun raised his head, his expression solemn, “Rest assured. I, Lin Xun, will end this enmity once and for all!”

It fell silent once more. Immediately, tears welled in many eyes and some even wept silently.

For years, they had indeed endured endless torment and suffering, living a life worse than death.

Now that they heard Lin Xun would stand up for them and seek vengeance, how could they not be moved?

Lin Xun’s heart stirred with anguish.

On the same day he entrusted Toady and the others to take good care of his old friends.

Then he left the alley alone and wandered into the bustling streets. Unknowingly, he found himself standing at the ruins of Mind Cleansing Peak.

Where had the Lin Clan gone?

Lin Xun put his hands behind his back, lost in thought.

.....

Meanwhile, the entire Forbidden City had erupted into chaos.

Lin Xun's sudden return had shaken the world. If he had remained silent, things might have remained quiet. However, not only had he come back, he had also utterly destroyed the Chi, Hua, and Qi Clans, three high clans!

His ruthless and domineering means left countless cultivators in awe and terror.

At the same time, many cultivators of the older generations who had lived in the Forbidden City for generations were overjoyed.

In their eyes, the Forbidden City ultimately belonged to the lower world. Unfortunately, over the years, the major factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain had taken over, seizing countless secret realms and blessed lands for themselves!

The revival of aeth qi concentrations should have been a great opportunity for the lower world to change their destiny, but all these years, outsiders had taken this destiny-changing blessing.

What was most infuriating was that those major factions from Ancient Wasteland Domain were tyrannical and ruthless, forcibly invading and annexing the major forces of the lower world. Those who dared defy them met with annihilation.

Now that Lin Xun had returned, cultivators of the older generations finally see a beacon of hope!

They all couldn't help but look forward to seeing the Lord of Mind Cleansing Peak, who once suppressed an entire empire alone, turn the tides and reshape the current world ruled by major factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

Soon, someone stood forward and said aloud, "Lin Xun's actions today may have been too reckless. Behind the Chi, Hua and Qi Clans stood powerful factions from the Ancient Wasteland Domain. It was no

doubt satisfying to see him wipe out the three high clans in such a swift and clean manner, but his action will inevitably incite a counterattack from the Ancient Wasteland Domain factions!

“Don’t forget that when those Ancient Wasteland Domain factions entered the Forbidden City years ago, their first target was Lin Xun’s allies. Now that he’s appeared, isn’t he walking straight into their trap?

“Lin Xun, may already be in danger!”

With those words, the mood shifted. The buzzing atmosphere in the Forbidden City changed!

After all, Lin Xun wasn’t facing one enemy, but the combined might of numerous powerful factions from the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

To the cultivators of the lower world, these factions were like sovereigns of heavens—untouchable and revered.

Their presence inspired awe and submission.

Back when they first emerged, there had been resistance.

Saint cultivators and even some forces had tried to oppose them with full force.

Unfortunately, the Ancient Wasteland Domain factions only needed to send a handful of people and those challengers were swiftly annihilated. They even uprooted countless major powers of the lower world, causing the deaths of millions!

Furthermore, this took place after the revival of aeth qi, a time when countless brilliant figures were emerging in the lower world.

Yet the Ancient Wasteland Domain factions continued to dominate with crushing, unstoppable might.

How could the beings in the lower world not be shocked and afraid?

From then on, no one dared to resist. Even a disciple of Ancient Wasteland Domain factions could walk wherever they please, like a sovereign patrolling their land.

It could be said that in the eyes of many, these factions had surpassed the imperial family and the Lin Clan of Mind Cleansing Peak in terms of status.

Over time, many cultivators of the younger generation believed the order of the Ancient Wasteland Domain ruling over the lower world was unshakable!

“Sigh, so even with Peak Master Lin’s return, nothing will change?”

Such sighs rippled through the city.

“Not necessarily. Back then Lin Xun single-handedly destroyed the Zuo and Qin Clans, and wiped out all the monster-beasts horde across the empire. Now that he has returned, he has already annihilated the three high clans—Hua, Chi, and Qi in one sweep. He must have stepped into the Quasi-Emperor Stage!” Someone spoke with certainty.

In today’s world, a quasi-Emperor was akin to a sovereign.

Another voice scoffed, “Quasi-Emperor? Even if he is, he left the lower world years ago and missed the best window of the aeth qi concentration revival. How powerful could he possibly be now?”

Many nodded in agreement.

Not long after Lin Xun left back then, the lower world ushered in the great era of aeth qi concentration revival. Yet he missed that perfect opportunity to progress on the path of the great dao.

Now that he has returned, So what if he was a quasi-Emperor? He still stood alone.

Meanwhile, the Ancient Wasteland Domain factions had countless quasi-Emperors!

“What a pity! If Peak Master Lin remained in the lower world, he would have become a peerless figure of the era. Not only the Quasi-Emperor Stage, but he might even also have stepped into the Emperor Stage...but now...”

Many people sighed, their voices filled with regret.

“It’s rumored that within the Omega Sword Sect, a Grand Elder has broken through to the Emperor Stage while cultivating in a folded secret realm!”

The news hit the Forbidden City like a bolt of lightning. Everyone was stunned, their blood running cold.

The Emperor Stage!

A quasi-Emperor was already an existence too terrifying for ordinary people to even imagine.

However, above the Quasi-Emperor was the Emperor Stage!

“If that’s true, then for Peak Master Lin...this might be the end...”

Countless sighs sounded.

.....

Lin Xun’s return also sent shockwaves through the Ancient Wasteland Domain factions.

Violet Abyss Mountain.

Decades ago, a newly risen blessed land in the Forbidden City was seized and occupied by the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan.

Atop the mountain, inside a grand and resplendent hall, dozens of high-ranking members of the clan, each clad in dark robes and bearing scarlet eyes, were drinking and conversing.

Their auras were ferocious, with several already stepped into the Quasi-Emperor Stage. Beautiful maids with graceful figures served them in silence, their expressions full of fear. They were all captured slaves.

One of the high ranking members, ravenous, reached out and seized a maid by the neck. With a savage bite, he tore through her throat and feasted on her flesh. It was a ruthless and cruel sight.

“Demon God Lin? The bastard who slaughtered so many of our clansmen. We have yet to settle that blood feud and now he dares show his face again?” The skinny old man seated at the head of the table spoke.

“Indeed, he wiped out three high clans in the city in a single day. It’s said that his cultivation has soared over the years and he may have reached the Quasi-Emperor Stage.”

“Quasi-Emperor? If so, now is the time to kill him. We’ve waited long enough for this day!”

“That’s right!”

The high ranking figures of the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan came to a decision after a brief discussion.

At the same time.

The Omega Sword Sect, Spirit Treasure Holy Land, Mysterious Metropolis Sect, Thousand Beast Spirit Mountain and other major forces of Ancient Wasteland Domain were all discussing Lin Xun’s appearance.

“So...he finally dares to show himself. Let’s see how much the so-called Number One of the Nine Domains has improved!” An elder of Omega Sword Sect spoke indifferently.

“Well, well, Demon God Lin, you actually dared to come back. Do you know you have missed out on fifty years of the most crucial era of aeth qi awakening?”

“Announce to the outside world that my Mysterious Metropolis Sect challenges Lin Xun to a duel. Let the entire Forbidden City bear witness to that little bastard’s death!”

“Spread the word, anyone in the Forbidden City who dares to shelter Lin Xun will be annihilated with their entire clan!”

“Contact other factions and seal the city. He will be trapped like a turtle in a jar. Let us take him down and avenge the blood grudge from back then!”

Commands were issued in different factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain, setting the already turbulent Forbidden City ablaze with tension.

Chapter 2367 Duel on Mind Cleansing Peak

At that moment, Lin Xun returned to the courtyard.

“Where’s Toady?” He asked immediately, noticing Toady’s absence.

“He went out to gather information. He said that he couldn’t just let you handle everything alone.” A’lu quickly replied.

Lin Xun nodded. As he looked around at the many familiar faces in the courtyard, a thought suddenly surfaced

One day, he would have to leave the lower world.

When that time came, what would happen if his family and friends were placed in danger again?

This was a question he had never seriously considered before.

After everything that had happened, he knew this was a problem that needed an answer urgently.

Perhaps, there was only one solution.

To establish a sect that could stand tall through the ages!

“Once I deal with the remaining enemies and find the missing members of the Lin Clan, I’ll begin preparations for this.” Lin Xun made the decision firmly in his heart.

Before long, Toady returned with news that was already causing a stir across the Forbidden City.

Only then did Shi Yu and the others dared to fully believe that Lin Xun had truly wiped out the Chi, Hua, and Qi Clans, three of the high clans in the empire, entirely on his own!

It had shaken the entire Forbidden City to its core.

However, when Toady relayed the reactions of the major factions from the Ancient Wasteland Domain, everyone’s expressions changed, aside from A’hu, A’lu and the others.

“Big Brother, those old bastards are threatening to seal off the Forbidden City to capture and kill you. They’ve declared that anyone who dares to shelter you will be annihilated with their clan.”

“This is outrageous!” Shi Yu roared. Everyone from the Qinglu Academy, Rune Master Association, and Golden Jade Hall were also furious.

Those Ancient Wasteland Domain factions had joined forces to target Lin Xun alone!

This filled everyone’s heart with indescribable heaviness.

Then, a cold gleam flashed in Lin Xun's eyes. "Do those bastards think that I, Lin Xun, didn't kill enough of them in the Ancient Wasteland Domain back then? They are just a bunch of trash yet they dare to bark at me now. So, I shall crush them beneath my feet."

For years, Lin Xun had roamed the Ancient Nebula Road, slaughtering countless Emperors along the way. Even mighty forces like the Earth Treasury Realm and the Holy Illumination Ancient Sect had been suppressed by him. How could he possibly regard the factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain as worthy of concern?

Shi Yu and the others were stunned. From Lin Xun's tone alone, it was clear that he held those Ancient Wasteland Domain factions in complete disdain!

What astonished them even more was how calmly A'hu, Toady, A'lu, and the rest responded. They nodded in agreement, as if Lin Xun's words were only natural.

Even Little Silver and Little Sky brimmed with killing intent, eager to take action.

If cultivators across the Forbidden City saw this scene, they would surely think that Lin Xun and the others had lost their minds. After all, in the entire lower world, who dared to be so arrogant as to disregard those Ancient Wasteland Domain factions?"

"Toady, A'lu, go into the city and make an announcement. Tell them that in three days, I will be waiting at Mind Cleansing Peak. If they don't come, I'll pay them a visit myself and eliminate them all!" Lin Xun made his decision, each word firm and resolute.

"Understood!"

Toady and A'lu immediately rushed off to carry out the command.

Shi Yu and the others stood frozen. They had not expected Lin Xun to make such a decisive move so quickly. When they tried to persuade him against it, it was already too late.

“Uncle, will I be as strong as you one day?” A delicate figure came running over. The little girl blinked her big eyes, looking up at Lin Xun as she spoke in a soft and innocent voice.

Lin Xun smiled and gently lifted her into his arms. “Little one, why do you want to be strong?”

Shi Linlang answered without hesitation, “So that no one can ever bully my father again.”

When those heartfelt words came from her soft, innocent voice, tears welled up in Shi Yu’s eyes. Lin Xun was also filled with emotions.

He gently ruffled Shi Linlang’s hair and said softly, “Then Uncle promises to make you very strong in the future.”

In the views of countless cultivators in the Forbidden City, this day was destined to be etched into the annals of the Forbidden City.

Not long after Lin Xun annihilated the three high clans, the Ancient Wasteland Domain factions responded by issuing an order to seal off the entire city and directing their full might at Lin Xun alone!

This news sent a wave of shock through the cultivation world.

“What a pity! If Lin Xun had chosen to lie low after returning, waited until he was fully prepared then he might have stood a chance against the Ancient Wasteland Domain factions. But now, I fear things will end badly for him.”

Many were pessimistic, feeling a deep sense of sorrow for Lin Xun.

Even those who held grudges against him couldn’t deny that, whether in the past or now, Lin Xun was undoubtedly the most gifted genius to ever emerge from the lower world.

Unfortunately, he couldn't keep a low profile. From the moment of his return, he set off a storm of blood, directly provoking the wrath of various Ancient Wasteland Domain factions. To many, this was no different from courting death.

Just as the world believed that Lin Xun was doomed, a piece of explosive news swept through the Forbidden City like wildfire.

"In three days, Lin Xun will await all the major factions from the Ancient Wasteland Domain at the ruins of Mind Cleansing Peak for a duel!"

"If they dare not come, he will personally go to their doors and eliminate them all!"

The moment the news broke, all cultivators in the Forbidden City were dumbfounded.

"Has that guy gone mad?"

"Heavens, he actually wants to take on all those Ancient Wasteland Domain factions alone? And he even said that if they don't dare to accept the challenge, he'll personally go to their doors and wipe them out. Where does he get the confidence to disregard those god-like factions?"

"Crazy! That guy is absolutely crazy!"

Many were dumbfounded, finding it absurd and unbelievable.

Regardless, once this news came out, all eyes in the Forbidden City turned to Mind Cleansing Peak.

Three days from now, would Lin Xun truly face off against the major factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain as he declared?

Contrary to the desperate and crazy image many had painted in their minds, Lin Xun at this moment was unusually relaxed and calm.

Clad in a moon-white robe, his long, shiny black hair was tied loosely with a wooden hairpin, and he radiated a quiet and unadorned grace.

He sat in the courtyard, brewing tea, reading ancient scriptures, and contemplating the next breakthrough in his cultivation.

As for those so-called mighty factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain, he paid them no mind at all.

Although his cultivation was suppressed, it didn't prevent him from comprehending the profound mysteries of the great dao. In this era of revived aeth qi concentrations, the world was brimming with the most primal and unrefined truths of the dao, stirring new insights within Lin Xun as he delved into his comprehension.

Moreover, after a long period of deduction, the many dao scriptures studied by his five dao bodies had already been mastered to forty percent and thoroughly integrated into the Great Dao Furnace Art he created.

While his cultivation stage had not improved, Lin Xun knew that under this suppressed state, his growing accumulation would eventually reach a critical point. When the time came for a breakthrough, he would soar and step directly into the threshold of the fifth realm Emperor Stage!

Meanwhile, A'hu, Toady, and A'lu were taking care of Shi Yu and the others.

After years of imprisonment and torture, these old friends had sustained some serious injuries.

A'hu and the others tended to their internal wounds one by one to ensure that their future cultivation paths would not be affected.

Whether it was A'hu and the others, who were eagerly anticipating the upcoming duel, or Shi Yu and the others, who were deeply concerned for Lin Xun's safety, none of them were truly at ease.

Only Lin Xun remained calm and composed.

One day passed. Then two.

Finally, the third day dawned. The day of the duel!

For the countless cultivators in the Forbidden City, these three days had been tormenting. Many had counted the hours, each day dragging on like a year.

On the day the news first came out, cultivators had already begun gathering at the ruins of Mind Cleansing Peak, waiting anxiously.

When the morning light spilled across the city, the surrounding streets were already packed.

Amid the rising tide of noises, all discussions revolved around the duel set to begin today.

“Sigh, part of me hopes that Lin Xun doesn’t show up. He should live and come back one day when he’s strong enough.”

“Impossible. Given Lin Xun’s nature, he will definitely come to fight after making such a declaration.”

“It would be fine if he didn’t show up. But if he does, how could he possibly survive?”

As before, most cultivators were pessimistic.

After all, his opponents were several major factions from the Ancient Wasteland Domain!

In the entire world, who would dare to go against such forces?

“Since Lin Xun dared to issue the challenge, he must have some confidence. What I am curious about is where does that confidence come from.” A frosty and proud woman in the crowd spoke aloud.

“The fact that he was able to flatten the three high clans proves his strength is at least at the quasi-Emperor level. If he’s mastered some unique combat techniques or hidden trump cards, then he might just have a chance against the factions from the Ancient Wasteland Domain, but the odds are still slim.” A handsome green-haired man said in a calm voice.

This man was none other than Wei Yunzhong, the leader of the group Lin Xun encountered on the way back to the Ziyao Empire from the Spirit Burial Sea.

“It would be such a pity if a person like him died here.” The frosty, aloof woman frowned.

“This is a matter we from the Spirit Burial Sea have no right to interfere in. Don’t forget that rumors say that an old monster of the Omega Sword Sect has already broken through to the Emperor Stage!” Wei Yunzhong added, eyes gleaming with ambition.

He had come to the Forbidden City to seek a trace of ‘dao blessing’ that might help him take that final step toward the Emperor Stage!

While they were talking, a thunderous boom exploded across the sky. Countless gazes snapped upward.

A dazzling golden rainbow streaked across, splitting the sky. It was a powerful quasi-Emperor from the Ancient Wasteland Domain factions.

Furthermore, this was just the beginning. One after another, golden rainbows followed.

One...two...ten...twenty...

In the end, over a hundred quasi-Emperors descended one after another above the ruins of Mind Cleansing Peak. Each radiated a monstrous aura, and their combined presence blocked out the sky and caused the void to quake.

In that instant, all noises ceased. Not a single sound could be heard and the atmosphere became deathly still.

Everyone stood frozen, their minds and bodies shaken to the core.

They had never expected such a terrifying lineup to descend just to deal with Lin Xun alone. The sight alone was enough to shatter one's will and drive them to the brink of collapse!

Chapter 2368 Too Weak

In the sky above, hundreds of quasi-Emperors gathered!

In the lower world, every quasi-Emperor was regarded as a pinnacle existence.

Even with the revival of aeth qi concentrations and the order of the great dao stabilized throughout heaven and earth, the might of a single quasi-Emperor remained enough to boil seas and incinerate mountains.

So what kind of unimaginable force would hundreds of quasi-Emperors wield together?

Rumble!

The heavens trembled, the earth cracked, and clouds collapsed in all directions.

Suddenly, thunder rumbled. Fierce wind howled. A suffocating pressure descended like a vast black cloud, blotting out the sunlight and plunging the world into darkness.

Stationed in all directions, the hundreds of quasi-Emperors wore cold, murderous expressions. Their presence radiated aloof majesty.

Everyone's gaze swept over them.

Omega Sword Sect, Spirit Treasure Holy Land, Mysterious Metropolis Sect, Thousand Beast Spirit Mountain, Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan...

Over a dozen top factions from the Ancient Wasteland Domain had joined forces, dispatching hundreds of quasi-Emperors!

In that moment, the entire world fell deathly silent.

Those who witnessed this scene felt their hearts tighten in their chest and their breaths strained.

How could this be possible?!

Why are there so many quasi-Emperors?!

Countless cultivators screamed silently in their minds

What kind of existence was a quasi-Emperor? They were once so rare they almost could be called extinct before the revival of aeth qi concentrations. Even today, a single quasi-Emperor was enough for a faction to dominate the world.

High Clans such as the Hua, Chi, and Qi Clans had ruled the lower world for generations, yet each only had one or two quasi-Emperors at most.

Now, the Ancient Wasteland Domain factions had dispatched hundreds all at once, clearly intending to suppress the world with absolute force.

Many older generation cultivators could tell that this massive display of power was to send a warning to others—kill the chicken to scare the monkey!

Therefore, Lin Xun was the ‘chicken’ they intended to slaughter.

“If Peak Master Lin Xun had known that he would face such a scene, would he still have had the courage to challenge the factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain?”

At that moment, all the cultivators of the lower world felt a chill as if they had been plunged into an ice cave.

In the face of hundreds of quasi-Emperors, even the most brazen and even those who had extreme confidence in Lin Xun couldn't deny that if he showed up today, he wouldn't leave alive.

Surrounded by hundreds of quasi-Emperors, Lin Xun would have neither room to retreat nor any hope of survival.

After all, no matter how strong he might be, he was alone. How could he possibly contend with hundreds of quasi-Emperors?

At this moment, all hope for Lin Xun had vanished from everyone's hearts.

"Where is Lin Xun?" Just then a thunderous voice echoed across the sky, shaking the world and causing all ears to ring, as if a god had spoken.

The one who spoke was a white-haired man in purple robes from Spirit Treasure Holy Land, with a sword slung across his back.

Countless cultivators' expressions changed. If they were in Lin Xun's shoes, they too would have fled at the sight of such a lineup. Who would dare to show themselves?

"That coward backed out!"

"I thought he had become something remarkable after all these years, but it turns out he doesn't even dare face his own challenge!"

Mocking, disdainful, and cold voices spilled from the lips of the quasi-Emperor figures, shaking the world.

“Old bastards, are you blind? I’ve been here waiting for quite some time.” A calm voice rang out, echoing through the heavens and reaching everyone’s ears.

In an instant, all eyes turned.

In the ruins of Mind Cleansing Peak, a lone figure stood silently as if he had appeared out of thin air.

Tall and majestic, calm and transcendent, with dark hair and eyes, and robes flowing like clouds. The figure could only be Lin Xun.

Only then did the crowd realize that Lin Xun had been standing there all along, yet none had sensed his presence!

However, when they saw his lone figure, a wave of sorrow and dread surged in their hearts.

It was impossible to not feel sadness. Over a hundred quasi-Emperors hovered above. Their oppressive presence enveloping the world. For Lin Xun to appear now was like walking straight into the jaws of death.

“It’s him!”

Wei Yunzhong’s pupils constricted, his face a mix of shock and disbelief.

Beside him, the aloof woman who had once scoffed at Lin Xun back in the East Sea also stood frozen, eyes wide.

Who would have thought that the ‘passerby’ she had dismissed was the Lord of Mind Cleansing Peak, an existence who had once shaken the world!

“Father, can Uncle really win?” The adorable little girl, Shi Linlang, clutched the hem of Shi Yu’s robe with anxious eyes.

“He...should be able to.” Shi Yu’s expression was grave, and his heart was filled with uncertainty.

“It’s not ‘should’, it’s ‘definitely.’” Toady, standing nearby, corrected him.

A’hu, A’lu, Little Silver, Little Sky and the others also stood among the crowd.

Unlike the others who were tense and gripped by worry and pessimism, they remained remarkably calm and at ease.

Under the sky, dark clouds loomed, pressing heavily over the city.

Lin Xun’s sudden appearance also stunned the quasi-Emperors. A look of unease flashed across their faces.

A living man had stood beneath their noses unnoticed. It was like a silent jab at them for being blind fools.

“Demon God Lin, didn’t you declare that you wanted to face us here? Now that we’ve come, do you have any last words?” A blood-eyed elder of the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan fixed his gaze on Lin Xun, his lips curling into a wicked smile.

“Lin Xun, you shouldn’t have come. You’ve missed fifty years of the aeth qi concentration revival. Do you even understand what that means?” An expert from Spirit Treasure Holy Land let out a booming laugh, his voice rocking the heavens.

“Before declaring war, did you think that we would still underestimate you as we once did? You’re wrong! No one can deny that you are a rare genius of this era and you are anything but ordinary. But since you’ve chosen to challenge us, you clearly have something up your sleeve. We...certainly won’t fall for it!” A stunning woman with a seductive figure from the Mysterious Metropolis Sect said with a smile. “As you can see we came prepared with over a hundred quasi-Emperors. So, tell us, what do you have that can contend with this?”

“Enough nonsense. Surrender or die. Lin Xun, make your choice.” A cold, cutting voice from the Omega Sword Set thundered.

In that instant, the might of more than a hundred quasi-Emperors erupted like a tsunami, sweeping across the nine heavens. The heavens roared and the clouds above the Forbidden City shattered.

If not for the revival of aeth qi concentrations, which had stabilized the order of heaven and earth, half of the city would have likely been destroyed under such terrifying might.

Beneath the crushing pressure, countless cultivators went limp and their breathing became labored. Some were even directly injured, coughing up blood and collapsing to the ground!

“Quick retreat!”

Countless turned pale and fled, fearing of being impacted.

“How can he possibly fight this battle?”

Chilled to the bone, many could only sigh in despair for Lin Xun.

At this moment, Lin Xun slowly raised his head and swept his gaze across the sea of quasi-Emperors. He let out a faint sigh, “I’ve waited three days, yet all that came was a flock of chickens. I heard there was an Emperor among you. Why didn’t he come to me for this death? How...disappointing.”

His voice was soft, but it rang clearly in everyone’s ears. Everyone was stunned. Facing such a hopeless situation, Lin Xun still dared to respond with mockery?

Has he gone mad knowing that he can’t win?

Countless had the same thought.

“What did he say?”

“So arrogant!”

“Does he think this is still the era when he ruled?”

Many quasi-Emperors roared in unison, their expressions cold and grim, while the rest stared down at Lin Xun, as it he was a pitiful ant waiting to be crushed.

“Don’t be angry, everyone. Isn’t this exactly what we expect from Demon God Lin? Brazen, audacious...he hasn’t changed. Let him say his last few words.” The woman from the Mysterious Metropolis Sect smiled charmingly.

“No, I can’t tolerate another word from him!” The elder from the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan bellowed. “Attack! Kill him!”

Boom!

In the next instant, hundreds of quasi-Emperors unleashed their power at once.

They knew exactly what Lin Xun had done in the Ancient Wasteland Domain, and even if they looked down on him, none dared to hold back. They attacked with everything they had.

Rumble!

A hundred quasi-Emperors attacking in unison, how terrifying was that?

Aeth qi within a thousand miles was instantly drawn away, and the power of various great daos surged and intertwined into a monstrous torrent, like a celestial river crashing down from above. The dazzling dao brilliance dimmed the world.

The void in every direction crumbled.

This earth-shattering blow left countless cultivators speechless in shock.

All hearts were clenched as they watched with bated breath.

Many shut their eyes, unable to bear to see Lin Xun being killed.

“Brother Lin!” Shi Yu tried to cry out, but no sound came forth. He felt as if his heart was being torn apart.

The next moment, Lin Xun merely flicked his sleeve.

It was a simple, effortless motion, like brushing off a speck of dust, yet the devastating torrent of power that had descended with enough force to shatter the world suddenly dissipated and vanished.

“How is that possible?”

The quasi-Emperors’ eyes were wide with disbelief. Even some of the fiercer characters who had always been calm and composed turned pale. Frowns creased their foreheads, and shock flashed in their eyes.

“Again!”

The elder from the Omega Sword Sect roared.

Once more, the quasi-Emperors unleashed their full might, and an even greater wave of destructive force came crashing down.

Despite their efforts, the result remained unchanged. As the power neared Lin Xun, it collapsed in silence, vanishing without a trace.

Not even a strand of Lin Xun's hair stirred, as though only a breeze had gently brushed past him.

This incredible and bizarre scene left everyone stunned. Many spectators thought they were hallucinating.

Even the quasi-Emperors were dumbfounded. To have their combined attack neutralized not once but twice was no longer shocking, but terrifying!

Then, Lin Xun spoke, "Too weak."

His voice was calm, almost disinterested. He had expected an earthshaking battle with an assembly of mighty Emperors from the major factions. Unfortunately, standing before him was just a swarm of ant-like quasi-Emperors who might not even withstand one of his full-force strikes.

Without any visible movement, his figure vanished from the ruins and reappeared in the sky. He swept his gaze over everyone and said, "Now, I'll send you all on your way!"

His voice shook the nine heavens.

Chapter 2369 Ignorant as Frogs at the Bottom of a Well

"Attack!"

Hundreds of quasi-Emperors launched their assault in unison, determined not to give Lin Xun even a moment to retaliate. Divine treasures burst forth like blazing comets, weaving brilliant arcs through the sky, each one wrapped in terrifying dao arts and laws, all converging upon Lin Xun.

The sight alone was enough to strike fear into gods and demons.

Yet Lin Xun remained composed, calm and indifferent. There was not a flicker of emotion in his dark eyes.

At that moment, he raised a single finger and casually pointed forward.

With that one motion, the elder of the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan, an old monster at the third level Quasi-Emperor Stage, who had been shouting the loudest suddenly exploded in midair!

Scarlet blood rained down as severed limbs flew, dyeing the heavens red.

Then, Lin Xun gently traced his finger through the air. A radiant ray of sword qi that was a thousand feet long swept forth. In the blink of an eye, it cleaved more than a dozen quasi-Emperors cleanly in half at the waist, as easily as harvesting grass.

Blood poured like a waterfall, accompanied by anguished screams echoing across the sky.

Countless spectators turned ashen, horrified, their scalps going numb.

Too strong!

Everything they thought they knew had been overturned!

At this moment, as if dissatisfied with the pace, Lin Xun leapt into the sky.

He suddenly waved his sleeve.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Countless brilliant rays of Taixuan sword qi erupted like a violent storm. The sword light surged beyond the nine heavens, engulfing the sky in blinding radiance.

Then, they descended like an earth-shaking storm of swords!

Boom!

Over thirty quasi-Emperors were slaughtered on the spot. Their bodies were torn apart and reduced to ashes in the torrential sword rain, wiped from existence.

A moment ago, Lin Xun stood calm and unassuming, but once he unleashed his power, everyone realized what it meant to be invincible. This was what it meant to crush all enemies with absolute power!

The combined might of hundreds of quasi-Emperors was enough to plunge the lower world into despair.

However, under Lin Xun's devastating counterattack, they were effortlessly annihilated like weeds in the blink of an eye.

All those so-called treasures and dao techniques all crumbled like paper in an instant. No matter how formidable one's cultivation or how indestructible their body, none was able to withstand a single blow.

The rain of sword qi finally dissipated from the sky.

Blood mist churned beneath the sky. Only a handful of quasi-Emperors remained. They were those who were fortunate enough to react quickly and flee at the first sign of danger.

As for the rest, more than ninety quasi-Emperors had all been wiped out!

The world fell into utter silence.

Only Lin Xun's tall and majestic figure remained, standing proudly in the void. Dressed in black with flowing dark hair, he looked calm and otherworldly, yet the aura he radiated was like that of a god descending upon the world!

Countless onlookers were shaken to the core, their eyes unfocused, their bodies trembling uncontrollably.

“Peak Master Lin...did he just kill over ninety quasi-Emperors within a few breaths? It’s an illusion, right? Why...why do I feel like I’m dreaming?”

“A dream? It must be...”

Many people were stunned, their eyes dull with disbelief.

In truth, the impact of that bloody scene was overwhelming. In the blink of an eye, over ninety quasi-Emperors were reduced to ashes in just a snap of the fingers?

Who could believe it?

How could someone in this world possess such terrifying power?

Even the experts of the older generation, those who believed they had seen the rise and fall of countless powers, were paralyzed with shock. Their scalps almost exploded and their hearts churned like a stormy sea.

In truth, they had all gravely underestimated Lin Xun from the very beginning. So when he faintly unleashed the power of his supreme Emperor cultivation, it completely turned their minds upside down!

Had the Emperors of the Ancient Nebula Road witnessed this scene, they would not have been so shaken.

After all, with the strength of Emperor Daoyuan, facing these quasi-Emperors was no different from a god crushing ants beneath his feet, which was far easier than slaughtering chickens.

“So powerful!” Shi Yu exclaimed in awe.

“Hahaha, that’s nothing. You should have seen Big Brother when he was slaughtering Emperors. Now that’s truly domineering!”

Toady and A'lu laughed.

"Peak Master Lin is invincible!"

"Amazing!"

"So satisfying!"

Excited shouts erupted from the crowd. Many older generation cultivators were stirred with emotion, as if time had gone back and they were reliving their youthful days. Scenes from the past flooded their minds. Back then, just like today, Lin Xun stood unrivaled, his brilliance blinding and his might second to none.

Soon, waves of cheering filled the air and countless cultivators from the lower world couldn't help but raise their voices in support of Lin Xun.

For years, the Ancient Wasteland Domain factions had invaded the lower world, plundering its opportunities, seizing its fortunes, setting off countless storms of blood, and annexing one force after another. The cultivators of the lower world could barely breathe under the suffocating pressure.

Lin Xun's earth-shattering display of power was like a beam of light piercing through the darkness, giving people hope that the tides could finally turn.

Even those who once doubted him watched in awe and reverence.

"Run!"

Amid the thunderous cheers, the remaining few quasi-Emperors had already lost their will to fight. Panic-stricken, they fled the moment they saw a chance.

"With me here, do you really think there's still a way out?." Lin Xun took a step forward, his eyes deep and unfathomable.

Boom!

The space around him cracked like shattered glass. A wave of terrifying destructive force rippled out like a raging storm.

The fleeing quasi-Emperors were as helpless as seaweed in a tidal wave. Amid shrill screams, their bodies were torn apart piece by piece, their spirits obliterated with their flesh.

In the end, the hundreds of quasi-Emperors had been completely annihilated!

From start to finish, it only took a moment.

The atmosphere was in an uproar. Countless cultivators flushed with excitement, screaming wildly as if unleashing years of pent-up emotion and exhilaration.

Beneath the sky, Lin Xun's tall, commanding figure stood like a legendary god, effortlessly sweeping away all before him!

What left everyone utterly stunned was how casually he wielded his power, as if he hadn't even used his full strength. Even so, he obliterated hundreds of quasi-Emperors. It was so surreal that no one would have believed it had they not witnessed it with their own eyes.

Just what terrifying level of cultivation had Lin Xun reached?

While the crowd was erupting in cheers, a streak of blinding white blade light suddenly tore through the air, slashing toward Lin Xun with terrifying force.

It was unbelievably fast!

"That..."

A’hu, A’lu, and the others tensed, hearts seizing in alarm.

Pu!

The blade light split Lin Xun’s figure in half.

“No!”

Cries of horror rang out. A’hu and Toady turned pale. No one had expected such a sudden twist, especially right after Lin Xun wiped out all the enemies.

It happened too fast.

Seeing Lin Xun’s body ripped apart, some were so shaken they nearly collapsed on the spot.

However, the next instant, Lin Xun’s figure reappeared unharmed in the void.

Only then did everyone realize that the figure that had just been cut apart was an illusion. Lin Xun had evaded the strike with such incredible speed that it left behind an afterimage.

“Indeed, that boy has set foot into the Emperor Stage.”

A cold, commanding voice echoed from the distance, sharp as a blade. The very sound seemed to pierce the eardrum, making listeners feel as though they were about to cough up blood from the pain.

Soon after, a figure appeared out of thin air.

An old man with white hair and beard, clad in a black daoist robe, stood in the void. Radiant strands of dao laws circled him, making it seem as if he had descended from a sacred realm.

As he appeared, an indescribably terrifying Emperor's pressure swept across the world like a raging tidal wave. Countless cultivators felt as if their minds were on the brink of collapse under the sheer weight of it.

It was a supreme pressure that struck directly at the spirit—inescapable and unshakable.

"So terrifying! That's...that's an Emperor! In this world...someone has finally taken that step!"

Gasps of disbelief echoed everywhere.

Even A'hu and Toady looked surprised. An Emperor had actually appeared in the lower world.

Did this mean that since the revival of aeth qi concentrations, opportunities to ascend the dao and become Emperors had also emerged?

However, what chilled everyone to the core was that this Emperor wasn't alone!!

"Brother Mingya, Emperors aren't so easy to deal with. But, if I, Xiu Yunzi and Fellow Daoist Yue Heng join forces, capturing that boy shouldn't be a problem." A light, casual voice rang out as a graceful figure in fluttering wide sleeves appeared.

Xie Shangxu, Grand Elder of the Omega Sword Sect!

The white-haired man addressed as Mingya was none other than the Grand Elder of the Spirit Treasure Holy Land.

Shua! Shua!

Two more figures emerged from opposite directions.

One was a man in a pitch-black robe, long hair draped over his shoulders, with a stern, icy expression. Xiu Yunzi was an old monster from the Mysterious Metropolis Sect.

The other was a woman clothed in a colorful robe. Her demeanor was dignified and serene, her skin glowing with crystal-clear dao light. Yue Heng was the Grand Elder of Thousand Beast Spirit Mountain.

The four radiated the majesty of the Emperor Stage. Their presence engulfed the sky and earth, suffocating the void itself. The oppressive pressure made countless cultivators' vision darken, head buzz, as if their minds might rupture at any moment.

"Retreat!"

"Hurry!

Chaos broke out as cultivators scrambled to flee the area. No one dared to remain near the battlefield.

Four Emperors had arrived.

No one had ever imagined this scene. In fact, for many, this was their first time laying eyes on an Emperor.

A single glance at the four Emperors was enough to send waves of fear through the crowd, crushing any thought to resist.

Their aura was too supreme, too terrifying!

The celebratory atmosphere instantly froze, replaced by an endless suffocating chill.

With the arrival of four Emperors, did Lin Xun still stand a chance?

“Lin Xun, the grudge between you and our Ancient Wasteland Domain factions has dragged on long enough, but I can give you one chance now. Bow your head, admit defeat and submit. If you do, we’ll put everything behind us.” Xie Shangxu of the Omega Sword Sect spoke leisurely, his tone arrogant and condescending, as if granting Lin Xun a favor.

The other three, Mingya of Spirit Treasure Holy Land, Xiu Yunzi of the Mysterious Metropolis Sect, and Yue Heng of Thousand Beast Spirit Mountain, locked eyes on Lin Xun.

Their gazes were cold and detached, as if the outcome was already decided.

The air was suffocating, and the entire Forbidden City was blanketed in a chilling murderous aura.

However, Lin Xun only placed his hands behind his back and let out a cold sneer. “Who do you think you are? You’ve only just stepped into the Emperor Stage, yet you dare tell me to surrender? Do you really believe that becoming an Emperor gives you the right to do whatever you want?”

Even in the Ancient Nebula Road, the Great Six Courts and Great Ten Battle Clans wouldn’t dare speak to him in such a way.

Those old fools who had just become Emperors dared to act so high and mighty. Lin Xun found it laughable.

In the end, it was all a matter of perspective.

Those with limited understanding were doomed to remain ignorant like frogs at the bottom of a well!

Chapter 2370 The Slaughter of the Radiant Sword

Lin Xun’s words dripped with undisguised disdain.

The already terrified cultivators were left speechless, utterly bewildered.

Even the four Emperors, Xie Shangxu, Mingya, Xiu Yunzi and Yue Heng, were also stunned for a moment before their expressions darkened.

Since the revival of aeth qi concentrations, fifty tumultuous years had passed.

The four of them were the only ones who had ascended the dao and stepped into the Emperor Stage through the great fortunes of the lower world.

In the eyes of the world, reaching this realm was akin to transcending the mundane, standing at the pinnacle of existence. They were regarded as true sovereigns, able to stir oceans and level mountains with a flick of the wrist.

Despite that, Lin Xun treated them with such scorn. It was a great humiliation and blatant provocation.

“If we battle here, the entire Forbidden City might be reduced to ruins. Why don’t we work together to capture him and take the fight outside the city?” Xie Shangxu said coldly.

“Very well said, the Forbidden City is, after all, known as the All Dao Holy Land, home to countless beings. We must not become villains who massacre an entire city and be cursed by thousands of people.” Xiu Yunzi nodded with agreement.

Mingya and Yue Heng naturally had no objections.

Lin Xun sneered, “Old fools, you speak of mercy and compassion, but you are just worried about damage to the sacred grounds and cultivation sites your sects have seized. If you truly cared about innocent lives, why did you cause so much bloodshed over the years just to claim territories?”

That one sentence was like tearing off their mask of hypocrisy, causing their faces to darken and grow increasingly sullen.

“Attack!” Xie Shangxu thundered.

In an instant, the four moved in unison, striking from different directions with the intent to suppress and restrain Lin Xun.

Boom!

The world fell into chaos, and the sun and moon seemed to reverse in the sky.

When Emperors attacked, how could their power be ordinary?

Xie Shangxu and the other three intended to display their Emperor might in front of the world, so they did not hold back in their strikes, intending to capture the enemy with one blow.

Dao light roared, and divine brilliance surged like a tide, as if it were about to crush the sky. The terrifying sight cast a shadow of dread across Forbidden City.

It was like the end of days had arrived!

Yet Lin Xun remained as calm as ever. With a subtle shift of his body, a terrifying pressure erupted from him like a divine cauldron subduing the world.

In an instant, the full might of the four Emperors was quelled and restrained, unable to advance, buzzing violently as if wailing in pain.

Xie Shangxu and the others stiffened, their pupils shrinking in shock as their expressions turned grim.

“One sword is enough to end you all.” As Lin Xun said coldly, he raised a finger and sliced it through the air like a sword.

Boom!

A blinding ray of sword qi burst forth, magnificent and blazing, embodying endless transformations. Within it unfolded grand visions of the world’s cycles, the rise and fall of all things.

It was as if a world of swords had come alive.

One sword to give birth to all arts; one sword to destroy all daos.

The Sword of Birth and Destruction!

“Kill!”

“Attack with everything we have!”

Realizing the peril they were in, the four Emperors roared and desperately counterattacked with their full strength.

Unfortunately, no matter how they struggled, their cultivation was overpowered by the world of sword qi.

In an instant, the four newly ascended Emperors were swallowed by the boundless torrent of sword qi and shattered inch by inch!

At that moment, everyone was shaken. Even A’hu, Toady and the others were stunned, their hearts churning violently. The sight of four Emperors being obliterated in a flash struck them like a thunderclap.

“Impossible! Our Grand Elder could never lose!”

Disciples of the Omega Sword Sect screamed in hysteria, unable to accept what they saw.

It wasn’t just the Omega Sword Sect.

Among the distant spectators, disciples of the major factions from the Ancient Wasteland Domain stood as if struck in the skull by a hammer. They were on the verge of mental collapse.

Even when hundreds of quasi-Emperors were wiped out earlier, they hadn't felt such despair. It was as if a towering mountain in their hearts had suddenly crumbled into dust before their eyes.

Because this time it was Emperors who had fallen.

Fifty years had passed since the revival of aeth qi concentrations, and only now had four Emperors emerged. Even in the Ancient Wasteland Domain, Emperors were still revered like supreme beings.

Now, Lin Xun had slain all four Emperors with a single sword strike! Who could believe this? Who could accept it?

Beneath the sky, just as the spirits of Xie Shangxu and others were about to scatter, Lin Xun calmly stretched out his hand. Like picking up ants from the ground, he grasped the four primordial spirits and imprisoned them in his palm.

What was most unbelievable was that throughout this entire earth shaking battle, not a single wisp of destructive power had leaked. Lin Xun had completely suppressed the shockwaves with absolute force and then eliminated it all in utter silence.

In other words, not a single innocent being was affected by the battle. Had Lin Xun not suppressed the aftermath, the shockwaves alone would have been enough to destroy half of the Forbidden City!

At that moment, the experts from the major factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain felt as if a bucket of freezing water had been poured over their heads, numbing them from head to toe.

Countless people stood in a daze, so shaken that their minds were blank.

From start to finish, Lin Xun had annihilated hundreds of quasi-Emperors in a few moments, then killed four Emperors with one swing of his sword, and now he held their surviving primordial spirits in the palm of his hand.

It was like witnessing a myth unfold, unimaginable and beyond comprehension.

A moment later, the dead silence was shattered as cheers surged like a tidal wave. Countless cultivators from the lower world screamed, laughed and danced with wild joy.

“Heavens, Peak Master Lin really won. Unbelievable. Even Emperors were like weeds before him!”

“From today on, what right do those Ancient Wasteland Domain factions have to act so high and mighty? What face do they have left to look down on us like before?”

Many of the older generation cultivators trembled from head to toe, tears streaming down their faces as they looked skyward and laughed. Years of emotions were finally released at this moment.

For years, the people of the lower world endured life at the very bottom, being looked down upon and ruled by the Ancient Wasteland Domain factions. Their grievances had been bottling up.

Now, at last, they could finally let it all out.

“Young Master is unrivalled, his brilliance illuminates the capital!”

“The legend of Peak Master Lin has never faded!"

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The entire Forbidden City erupted like a boiling ocean, with countless people cheering in wild joy.

“He...he...”

The proud, cold woman who had arrived with Wei Yunzhong was now pale and shaken, her voice trembling.

When she remembered how she had dismissed Lin Xun with disdain before, she couldn't help but feel like she had narrowly escaped death. If Lin Xun had chosen to retaliate back then, would she still be standing here?

Even Wei Yunzhong's pride and arrogance had collapsed. He smiled bitterly, realizing that compared to Lin Xun, he was like a clown.

"Slay Emperors like slaughtering chickens... Slay Emperors like slaughtering chickens..." Shi Yu murmured, dazed. He now completely believed what Toady and A'lu had said.

However, he couldn't imagine what Lin Xun must have endured over the years to possess such terrifying and unfathomable power.

"Uncle won?" Shi Linlang opened her big, bright eyes and asked curiously. A'hu had sealed her senses during the battle because she was worried the carnage would traumatize her. She only woke up now.

"He won! He won!" Shi Yu replied, nodding repeatedly.

A'hu, Toady, and A'lu exchanged glances, then burst out laughing.

In the sky above, Lin Xun gathered the primordial spirits of the four Emperors and said calmly, "A'hu, take them back. I'll return after I wipe out the rest of the Ancient Wasteland Domain factions."

His voice had barely faded when he turned into a streak of light and vanished into thin air.

Everyone stood dumbfounded.

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Meanwhile, chaos erupted across the various territories of the Ancient Wasteland Domain factions scattered throughout the Forbidden City.

Hundreds of quasi-Emperors had perished, and four Emperors had met with disaster!

What had started as fury now transformed into fear.

Of course, each of these factions was still overseen by powerful figures, but the truly formidable ones had long left to explore secret realms and blessed lands in search of dao blessings. Some had even been gone for many years and had yet to return.

To the cultivators of the lower world, these factions were still worthy of fear and reverence.

However, to Lin Xun, they were not worth a glance!

Moreover, to prevent any of the major factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain from escaping, Lin Xun released his five dao bodies and they each set off on a different path to eradicate the remaining enemies.

Violet Abyss Mountain.

The territory of the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan.

“Hurry run, that little bastard Lin has become an Emperor, and his strength is terrifying!”

Panic gripped Violet Abyss Mountain. Many high-ranking members of the Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan scrambled to gather their clansmen and flee.

Suddenly, a cold, detached voice echoed through the sky, “You want to run now? Too late!”

As the voice rang out, Lin Xun’s figure appeared in midair. He raised his right hand and pressed down, sending a massive palm print crashing toward Violet Abyss Mountain.

“Not good!”

The Black Nightmare Sky Dog Can experts turned ashen and fled in terror. Unfortunately, it was far too late.

Boom!

The colossal palm blotted out the sun and the sky, carrying billions of rays of dao light. Heaven and earth paled before it as it enveloped the entire mountain.

Before the mighty palm even landed, many Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan experts had already been crushed into blood mist by its sheer might.

When the palm struck—Rumble!

The entire Violet Abyss Mountain was drowned in a sea of dazzling dao light. The powerful defense arrays crumbled like paper, vanishing in an instant. The Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan experts scattered across the mountain were obliterated beneath the terrifying force.

When Lin Xun withdrew his hand, the thousand-foot-tall Violet Abyss Mountain had vanished, as if erased from existence. In its place was an unfathomably vast palm print sunken into the ground. It was a jaw-dropping spectacle.

“Heavens...”

“So terrifying!”

Nearby cultivators were shaken to the core. They all gasped in disbelief and stood in a daze.

Without pausing, Lin Xun’s figure vanished again, speeding toward the next faction.

At the same time, his five dao bodies appeared at the territory of the Mysterious Metropolis Sect, the Thousand Beast Spirit Mountain, the Omega Sword Sect and more.

Thirty snaps of the fingers later.

Pine Swaying Mountain, stronghold of the Mysterious Metropolis Sect, and Great Wind Mountain, stronghold of Thousand Beast Spirit Mountain, were both razed to the ground. Their mountain gates were annihilated and every expert stationed there was wiped out.

Fifty snaps of the fingers later.

The number of Ancient Wasteland Domain factions eradicated by Lin Xun had reached an astonishing nine!

And the massacre was still not over...