

## **Prodigies 2371**

### **Chapter 2371 A Day Remembered as the Return of the Emperor Lord**

Following the revival of aeth qi concentrations, the world underwent drastic changes and the Forbidden City had become like a world of its own.

Even for a quasi-Emperor, teleporting through the void would take several hours to traverse the entire city.

Despite that, in mere moments, Lin Xun had already trampled the territories of nine major factions from the Ancient Wasteland Domain!

This feat was possible because, first, his speed was astonishingly fast.

Second, his true body and five dao bodies acted independently, striking multiple targets at once

Third, his strength was overwhelming. Each faction was obliterated in just a few snaps of his fingers

From a bird's-eye view of the Forbidden City, the destruction of one faction after another resembled bursts of dazzling fireworks illuminating the sky.

It was a breathtaking sight!

To the people of the Forbidden City, the scene symbolized something far more profound. The factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain that had ruled like overlords were crumbling and perishing one by one!

Lin Xun's attacks were so swift that by the time the news spread, it was already outdated. He killed faster than news could spread.

"The Black Nightmare Sky Dog Clan is destroyed!"

"The Mysterious Metropolis Sect has fallen!"

“The Thousand Beast Spirit Mountain is wiped out!”

News swept through the city like a storm, leaving countless people reeling in disbelief, their minds buzzing and unable to process the reality before them.

“How could this happen so fast...”

“Are those Ancient Wasteland Domain factions nothing but clay chickens? No, but under the slaughter of Peak Master Lin, that’s exactly what they are!”

“Unbelievable! He’s too strong!”

Shouts of shock and awe echoed across the city as the massacre continued.

Today, the Forbidden City was bound to witness a monumental reshuffling!

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Divine Grace Mountain, the stronghold of Spirit Treasure Holy Land, was once the location of the imperial palace.

After the world’s drastic changes and the revival of aeth qi, a towering mountain emerged from the earth, enveloped in purple mist and auspicious clouds. Its grandeur far surpassed that of ordinary sacred mountains and blessed lands.

Today, it was hailed as the most auspicious place in the Forbidden City!

In the past, the major factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain had fought a bloody battle for control over Divine Grace Mountain, a conflict that lasted for a full year. In the end, by a stroke of luck, the Spirit Treasure Holy Land emerged victorious.

Shua!

High in the sky, Lin Xun's true body appeared, casting his gaze down upon the mountain. His vast spirit sense immediately enveloped the entire area. To his surprise, the entire Divine Grace Mountain seemed empty, with no one in sight.

He descended and wandered the mountain.

The place radiated an extraordinary aura. The air was thick with primal chaos aeth qi, and the mountains, rocks, and plants glimmered with divine light.

Unfortunately, the mountain was in disarray, with items scattered everywhere. It should have been dropped by the experts of the Spirit Treasure Holy Land when they abandoned the place in a panic.

When Lin Xun reached the summit he saw that the training halls, medicinal gardens, alchemy rooms and other buildings were all completely deserted.

"No one is here. Have they all fled?" Lin Xun muttered, his brow furrowing.

Even if they had escaped, there should have been some trace left behind, but after searching, he found no useful clues.

His gaze inadvertently drifted across a pond.

The pond, about ten feet in diameter, was crystal clear. At its center floated a single emerald green lotus, swaying gently in the breeze.

Huh?

A surprised look flashed in Lin Xun's eyes. As he approached, he observed the lotus more closely. Though it appeared ordinary at first glance, it was unlike anything he had seen before.

Its round, plump emerald-green leaves were etched with natural veins glowing with traces of the great dao. There were nine leaves in total, each inscribed with different dao runes.

As Lin Xun mentally began to decipher the dao rune patterns on the nine leaves, an astonishing sight unfolded before him. The dao runes seemed to form the shape of a door!

There were leaves but no flowers. Perhaps this secret dao rune door was the 'flower' hidden within the lotus!

Lin Xun speculated that the lotus in the pond was likely a portal leading to a 'pocket world' or a secret realm.

As for the Spirit Treasure Holy Land disciples, they probably had not fled but instead concealed themselves within the world inside the green lotus!

Lin Xun's black eyes gleamed, and he suddenly flicked his sleeves.

Boom!

Dao runes condensed in the sky, weaving patterns across the void before transforming into a forbidden array that enveloped the pond and the lotus within it.

Then, without hesitation, Lin Xun turned and left.

At this moment, there was no need to rush into an unknown place. It would not be too late to act after gathering more information.

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In just half an incense stick of time.

Every Ancient Wasteland Domain faction scattered across the Forbidden City had been utterly annihilated!

Just moments ago, Lin Xun had slain hundreds of quasi-Emperors and four Emperor-level old monsters!

When the news spread, the world fell into stunned silence. Everyone was dumbfounded, as if they had just witnessed the most impossible of miracles.

“Obliterated...all obliterated...how much time has even passed?”

Countless people stood in a trance, their minds blank with shock, while goosebumps rose across their skin.

“The feat of this battle will be remembered for generations to come. Even if the world changes, this moment will be carved into history forever!”

Some older generations were so overwhelmed with excitement that they shouted and danced with wild joy.

To the cultivators native to the Forbidden City, the factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain were like mountains crushing down on their shoulders. Over the years, these forces had bent their backs, lowered their heads, and weighed on them so heavily that they could barely breathe or see any hope.

Today, as Lin Xun swept through the city, he single-handedly crushed those mighty factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain. It felt like he was overturning those suffocating mountains!

Who wouldn't be thrilled? Who wouldn't be ecstatic?

“Before, we pitied Peak Master Lin, thinking that his challenge against the major factions was nothing more than an ant overestimating itself. But now...I feel so ashamed!”

Many cultivators bowed their heads in shame.

Lin Xun had disappeared and remained silent for years. Many believed that he had missed the golden era of aeth qi revival and he stood no chance against the factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

Today, Lin Xun proved to the world with undeniable facts that, just as he had once dominated the capital in his youth, he could do the same now!

The seas changed, and the world could rise and fall, but only true heroes and elites could shine through the ages!

“Haha, it’s not too late to realize that now.”

Feeling the electrifying atmosphere in the city and watching the cultivators cheer and roar with excitement, Toady, A’lu, and A’hu couldn’t help but chuckle, their eyes gleaming with pride!

“Father, are they cheering for Uncle?”

Shi Linlang blinked her big, bright eyes and asked curiously.

“Yes!” Shi Yu nodded vigorously, his face lit up with a smile mixed with pride and emotion.

At that moment, countless cultivators across the Forbidden City were celebrating. Their discussions and cries of excitement surged like a torrent, echoing throughout the nine heavens.

Lin Xun!

Lin Xun!

Lin Xun!

This name stirred endless discussion, like a living myth and a legend unmatched in history. Today, in the Forbidden City, he illuminated the world, standing unrivaled!

“Who here remembers the song Heaven’s Pride?” An old man sighed wistfully. “Back then, the young peak master was in his prime, peerless and unmatched. Liu Qingyan, the world’s greatest art cultivator at the time, composed Heaven’s Pride just for him, shaking the world to its core. Even now, I can still picture those scenes as if they happened yesterday.”

Curious, younger cultivators eagerly asked about the song. On the same day, the song Heaven’s Pride became a sensation once again, its melody echoing in the streets, alleys and in every corner.

“From now on, we shouldn’t call him Peak Master Lin anymore. He kills quasi-Emperors as easily as tearing a painting and destroys Emperors as effortlessly as taking something out of a bag. It’s time we change his title.” Someone thoughtfully suggested.

As soon as the suggestion was made, it immediately sparked enthusiasm and many people began offering various suggestions.

“How about Battle Emperor Lin?”

“Or perhaps Emperor Lord Lin?”

Many suggestions were thrown out, but all were quickly rejected, until an elder spoke up:

“Peak Master Lin rose from the lower world, and now, he has returned, crushing the Ancient Wasteland Domain and overpowering Emperors with unparalleled power. He is like a sovereign traveling the world to pacify it. The dao power he wields is unfathomable, as if he is acting on behalf of the heavens, saving us from our suffering. He truly deserves the title Emperor Lord!”

Countless people nodded in agreement.

As a result, the title Emperor Lord Lin spread rapidly, and soon it had spread beyond the Forbidden City, across the Ziyao Empire, and eventually throughout the All Dao Realm.

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At this moment, on Divine Grace Mountain, Lin Xun had returned with A'hu, Toady, Shi Yu, cultivators from Qinglu Academy, the Rune Master Association, Golden Jade Hall and many others.

“From today on, this Divine Grace Mountain will be renamed Mind Cleansing Peak. I, Lin, have decided to establish a dao sect here and create a foundation for eternity. I do not seek to dominate the world, but only hope that if disaster strikes in the future, those connected to me will no longer suffer unjustly.”

On the summit, Lin Xun gathered everyone and made this declaration.

His words moved everyone deeply.

They all knew that Lin Xun wasn't doing this for himself, but for those present!

“But establishing a sect is no small task. It is something we must all work together on, making plans and offering suggestions and strategy.”

Lin Xun continued, “After I rescue the Lin Clan, I will formally begin the establishment of the dao sect.”

Just as he said, it was easy to establish a sect with his current strength. He alone could support the power of a sect.

However, establishing a sect that could stand for eternity was far more difficult.

Over the years, Lin Xun had traveled across the Ancient Nebula Road and seen countless ancient sects. However, he knew better than anyone that even the most powerful sects, like the Earth Treasury Realm or the Holy Illumination Ancient Sect, could be destroyed in a single day by an enemy like himself.

Especially since Lin Xun's purpose in founding a sect was to ensure that his family and friends would have a safe refuge once he was gone, this had to be carefully planned.

On this day, Lin Xun destroyed four Emperors, slain over a hundred quasi-Emperors, and wiped out all the factions from the Ancient Wasteland Domain, causing a sensation throughout the Forbidden City. The song Heaven's Pride was sung everywhere, and everyone hailed him as Emperor Lord Lin.

On this day, Divine Grace Mountain was renamed Mind Cleansing Peak. Emperor Lord Lin and the others took residence there, preparing the establishment of the new sect. When news spread, it drew the attention of the entire world.

This day was recorded in the history of the All Dao Realm as the 'Return of the Emperor Lord!'

Chapter 2372 The Secret of the Green Lotus

Mind Cleansing Peak

Lin Xun sat cross-legged, quietly reflecting.

He was sifting through the memories in the primordial spirits of the four Emperors—Mingya, Xie Shangxu, Xiu Yunzi, and Yue Heng.

After a long while, he opened his eyes.

From Mingya's memory, he learned that when the aeth qi concentrations first began to recuperate, a pond and a mysterious green lotus emerged at the site of the imperial palace—Divine Grace Mountain.

Within this green lotus lay a hidden, pocket secret realm!

When the major factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain invaded, the members of the imperial family had already vanished without a trace, along with the Lin Clan of Mind Cleansing Peak.

It wasn't until Spirit Treasure Holy Land seized control of Divine Grace Mountain that Mingya and other high-ranking members of the Spirit Treasure Holy Land began to grow suspicious. They speculated that

the missing imperial family and the Lin Clan had likely escaped into the secret realm in the green lotus before the invasion.

Throughout the past decades, Mingya and the Spirit Treasure Holy Land experts had ventured into the Green Lotus Secret Realm on multiple occasions.

According to his memories, the Green Lotus Secret Realm was vast and incredibly mysterious, resembling a massive honeycomb with countless tunnel-like 'holes.' Each tunnel led to a different little world, as if the Green Lotus Secret Realm was a vast nest filled with different sub-realms.

Despite years of exploration, Mingya and the Spirit Treasure Holy Land had explored less than one tenth of the Green Lotus Secret Realm!

Moreover, they had never found traces of the imperial family or the Lin Clan.

However, they believed that the imperial family and the Lin Clan were highly likely hiding somewhere within one of the undiscovered worlds.

This revelation lifted Lin Xun's spirits. Previously, he had no clues regarding the mysterious disappearance of the Lin Clan, but now, at least he had a clear lead to follow!

After scanning the memories of Xie Shangxu, Xiu Yunzi, and Yue Heng, Lin Xun uncovered more clues about the pocket space and the blessed lands.

The Forbidden City was known as the All Dao Holy Land.

The reason being that compared to other regions of the Ziyao Empire, it contained far more pocket spaces and blessed lands.

These mysterious pocket spaces often appeared in blessed lands like Divine Grace Mountain and Violet Abyss Mountain.

For example, the Green Lotus Secret Realm was hidden within a pond on Divine Grace Mountain.

The rapid ascension of Mingya, Xie Shangxu, and other Emperors in such a short period of time was linked to these pocket spaces. Each of them discovered rare and extraordinary dao blessings during their explorations, which allowed them to break through to the Emperor Stage.

For instance, Mingya found a sacred mountain formed by the laws and order of the great dao while exploring the Green Lotus Secret Realm. There, he came across a mysterious Origin Dao Fruit and after refining it, he became an Emperor in one leap.

Xie Shangxu, on the other hand, encountered a vast river formed from pure dao origin power, stretching endlessly like a divine dragon. After refining this river, he was finally able to achieve his dream of becoming an Emperor.

Xiu Yunzi and Yue Heng both had similar encounters.

From their memories, Lin Xun reached an astonishing conclusion.

If the lower world was the place of origin of all Heavenly Dao, then the Forbidden City was its very heart!

The true source of the aeth qi revival lay within the pocket spaces scattered across the Forbidden City!

In essence, the power released by the revival of aeth qi concentrations radiated throughout the lower world via these hidden pocket realms, leading to the drastic transformation of the entire world.

By this logic, the closer one was to the source of the aeth qi, the greater their chance of obtaining dao blessings.

This was precisely how Mingya and the others achieved their breakthroughs.

Realizing this, Lin Xun's heart stirred.

The world knew that aeth qi in the lower world had been revived, ushering in an unprecedented golden age. Yet, very few likely understood where this revival originated.

If he could find these 'sources,' it would not only mean discovering the root of the aeth qi revival in the lower world, but it might also provide profound insight into the deep mysteries of the origin of all Heavenly Dao!

What surprised Lin Xun was that within the memories of the four Emperors, they all shared similar experiences. When they explored those pocket spaces, they had detected extremely dangerous auras!

As a result, they instinctively avoided those areas with dangerous auras while exploring the secret realm.

Based on their speculations, the origin core of all Heavenly Dao was likely home to terrifying unknown beings!

Unfortunately, even after thoroughly examining Mingya and the others' memories, Lin Xun found no concrete clues regarding these 'terrifying beings.'

Clearly, Mingya and the others had been too cautious to explore or approach those areas, and they could only speculate what lay within.

"A'hu, Toady..."

Not long after, Lin Xun called over A'hu and the others to share his thoughts. "I plan to take you into the Green Lotus Secret Realm, and perhaps, we can find an opportunity for you to break through to the Emperor Stage."

A'hu and the others' hearts raced upon hearing this.

Whether it was A'hu, Toady, A'lu, or Little Silver, Little Sky, or the big black bird, they had all stagnated at the third-level Quasi-Emperor Stage for many years.

For them, all they needed was the right opportunity to ascend to the Emperor Stage!

Unfortunately, such opportunities were incredibly rare, sometimes even after thousands of years of searching, one might still not be able to achieve their goal.

They would not want to miss this chance.

“But Mind Cleansing Peak...” A’hu asked, worried. If they all left to explore the Green Lotus Secret Realm, there might be trouble with Mind Cleansing Peak being unguarded.

Lin Xun smiled slightly. “Don’t worry. My dao bodies will remain here to handle any threats.”

He paused, his dark eyes growing deeper, before adding, “Moreover, while the Forbidden City has just gone through great chaos, and the factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain seem to have been eliminated, over time, those behind them will surely send more forces from the Ancient Wasteland Domain into this world.”

“With my dao bodies here, there’s no need to worry too much.”

Upon hearing this, everyone nodded in agreement, feeling much more at ease.

Lin Xun had already destroyed a large part of the Ancient Wasteland Domain’s factions, but their power was not completely eradicated. Their forces still remained in the Ancient Wasteland Domain.

This meant that in the future, more factions from the Ancient Wasteland Domain would inevitably descend upon the lower world.

However, with Lin Xun’s dao bodies guarding the place, there should be no danger.

Without hesitation, Lin Xun led A’hu and the others into action that very day, while his five dao bodies stood watch over Mind Cleansing Peak.

The Forbidden City remained in a state of uproar, buzzing with excitement. With the factions of the Ancient Wasteland Domain wiped out, it felt as though the entire city had witnessed a 'world-shattering change.'

The news had already been spreading to the outside world at an astonishing speed and it wouldn't be long before the entire lower world would be shaken by the impact of this earth shattering battle!

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"Little Five, guard this place for me. Before I return, no one is allowed to approach this area. Likewise, anyone who comes out of the Green Lotus Secret Realm must be captured immediately."

In front of the pond, Lin Xun instructed.

Lin Xun had already set up a restriction array around the pond, and with the array spirit Little Five in charge, it would be more than sufficient to handle any situation.

"Big Brother, rest assured." Little Five nodded confidently.

Buzz!

With a wave of Lin Xun's sleeve, mysterious dao runes spread across the emerald green lotus leaves, forming the outline of a mysterious door in the void.

Having placed A'hu and the others inside the Dao Endless Pagoda. Lin Xun strode toward the door without hesitation.

As soon as his figure vanished through it, the door dissolved back into dao rune and returned to the lotus leaf.

Green Lotus Secret Realm.

Atop a lone and steep mountain peak that rose ten thousand feet high.

Buzz—

With a strange ripple of energy, an illusionary door appeared at the mountaintop, and Lin Xun stepped through.

At the peak, there was another pond, with a green lotus resting upon it.

According to Mingya's memory, this was the 'exit' to return to the outside world.

Lin Xun raised his eyes and saw auspicious clouds curling gracefully across the sky, brilliant light cascading in all directions, and primal chaos qi surging and steaming.

In just a moment, he sensed his suppressed cultivation beginning to show signs of loosening.

"It seems that because this secret realm is closer to the origin core of all Heavenly Dao, it can accommodate greater powers...

"If that's the case, does the gradual restoration of my cultivation mean I'm approaching the origin core of all Heavenly Dao?" Lin Xun murmured thoughtfully.

Not long after, his figure flashed as he left the mountain, flying swiftly toward the east.

Thanks to Mingya's memories, Lin Xun had a detailed understanding of part of the Green Lotus Secret Realm. He quickly determined that the honeycomb-like network of 'hole' tunnels was located thirty thousand miles away from the 'exit.'

Swoosh!

While flying, he spread his spirit sense, scanning the void. Before long, he detected lingering traces of aura drifting eastward.

“It seems the missing Spirit Treasure Holy Land disciples have indeed gone into hiding within this Green Lotus Secret Realm...” Lin Xun speculated, his gaze turning sharp.

A quarter of an hour later.

Suddenly, a deep and resonant sound of the great dao echoed across heaven and earth.

Lin Xun looked up and saw a breathtaking sight in the far distance. Primal chaos qi churned and tumbled like a raging storm, forming a massive vortex that blotted out the sky and the sun, completely enshrouding that section of the world.

Upon a closer look, within the primal chaos vortex, countless dazzling spots of light flickered like stars.

In Lin Xun’s eyes, the vortex resembled an enormous honeycomb, and the sparkling light were tunnels leading to different ‘secret realm worlds!’

Shua!

Lin Xun’s figure flashed and as he approached the vortex, he couldn't help but feel a surge of awe.

It was so vast. It seemed to cover both the sky and the earth. From it radiated obscure and unfathomable waves of great dao energy.

In front of this colossal force, even someone as powerful as Lin Xun seemed no more than a drop in the ocean.

Chapter 2373 Qi of the Origin of All Heavenly Daos

Between heaven and earth, the primal chaos vortex slowly rotated, causing the surrounding void to twist and collapse.

Within the vortex were hundreds of tunnel-like 'holes.'

Lin Xun halted before it, carefully observing his surroundings.

The lingering traces of the Spirit Treasure Holy Land experts' auras vanished at this point.

However, upon closer inspection, he detected faint remnants near one of the 'holes.'

The traces left behind were from their cultivation power resisting the vortex's chaotic pull during flight.

"It seems they entered a secret realm." With this thought, Lin Xun recalled the information he had extracted from Mingya's spirit.

Over the years, Mingya had explored many of these tunnel-like 'holes.' Now, as Lin Xun reviewed those memories, he quickly realized that the previously explored tunnels no longer held any value.

There were some 'holes' that had been marked by Mingya as 'extremely dangerous,' which were places he had barely explored or dared not venture too deeply.

To Lin Xun's surprise, the 'hole' tunnel that the Spirit Treasure Holy Land experts entered was one of those 'extremely dangerous' zones!

After a moment's thought, the reason became clear to Lin Xun:

The Spirit Treasure Holy Land experts must have known that they would be pursued and so deliberately took a gamble by hiding in an extremely dangerous place.

Shua!

Lin Xun's figure flashed as he rushed into this tunnel.

For Mingya, a place labeled 'extremely dangerous' likely concealed unknown 'terrifying beings.'

Lin Xun was curious to know more about it.

The stars shifted and the void trembled.

When Lin Xun appeared, he found himself in a mysterious secret realm draped in misty rain.

The landscape was vast and magnificent like a painting. The rich power of the great dao condensed into fine misty rain, and every breath soothed the mind and invigorated the spirit.

"What a beautiful place!"

Lin Xun's dark eyes gleamed as he felt his suppressed cultivation loosen significantly, surging back to the second realm Emperor Stage!

Clearly, this secret realm was very close to the origin core of All Heavenly Daos.

Moreover, as Lin Xun extended his spirit sense, he realized that, based on the density of aeth qi alone, this place could easily be considered a first-rate blessed land even within the Ancient Nebula Road.

While pondering, Lin Xun moved forward through the void.

Misty rain drifted through the air, shrouding the mountains and rivers in a hazy veil. Before long, Lin Xun picked up traces of the Spirit Treasure Holy Land experts' lingering aura.

Following these trails, he advanced for a full quarter of an hour.

Soon, a vast, blood-red mountain came into view. From a distance, its jagged peaks undulating across the horizon resembled an ancient crimson dragon coiled over the earth.

Lin Xun's dark eyes narrowed.

He could sense that nearly all the great dao power within this secret realm had been plundered by the blood-red mountain range.

The process was subtle and left no visible trace, imperceptible to anyone without an extraordinary cultivation.

"So this is the place where Mingya sensed an extremely dangerous aura and retreated without hesitation..."

"If there are really 'terrifying beings' lurking in this secret realm, they are most likely hiding somewhere within this mountain range."

With that thought, Lin Xun quietly advanced.

"Huh?"

Suddenly, his spirit sense locked onto a valley deep within the mountains. Everything in the valley, the grass, trees, and rocks were all an eerie shade of blood-red.

The ground was littered with the broken remains of weapons, and the air was thick with the lingering scent of blood.

Lin Xun descended onto the valley and after carefully examining the surroundings, a strange glint flickered in his eyes.

After a thorough investigation, he concluded that the Spirit Treasure Holy Land experts had been killed silently upon entering this valley. Even their flesh and blood had been devoured.

If he had come any later, even these remaining clues would have vanished completely.

“There are no signs of struggle, which means that the Spirit Treasure Holy Land experts had no chance to resist at all... They were wiped out instantly.”

With his hands clasped behind his back, Lin Xun pondered quietly.

Unnoticed, the misty rain drifting through the world began to take on a faint blood-red hue. As they neared Lin Xun, they transformed into ferocious, demonic heads and lunged toward him with gnashing teeth.

This sudden change would have caught most off guard.

However, before the blood-red demon heads could reach him, they disintegrated midway, as if crushed by an invisible abyss.

Lin Xun stood in the same spot without even lifting his gaze. He simply pressed his foot against the ground.

Boom!

The earth trembled and split apart, forming a massive blood-red ravine.

Countless blood-red demon-like figures burst forth from the depths with lightning speed. Each radiated a violent, terrifying aura, and possessed the strength of a quasi-Emperor. Some even reached the third level Quasi-Emperor Stage.

In the blink of an eye, they swarmed the sky, blotting out the sun!

Lin Xun remained calm and composed. With a slight motion of his right hand, a vast, abyssal force surged from his palm.

Rumble—

The blood-red demons were instantly swept up like leaves in a hurricane, their bodies torn apart and devoured by the power of Lin Xun's palm strike.

Moments later, all that remained was a crystal-clear red bead resting in Lin Xun's palm. The bead was no larger than a thumb. Glowing faintly, it was translucent with arcs of lightning crackling within it.

Lin Xun's eyes flashed with interest as he examined it.

The bead turned out to be condensed from the origin essence of the fire dao and lightning dao. The aura of both daos exuded a primal and authentic quality.

Just like the very origin power of the dao of fire and dao of lightning!

"This lower world is said to be the origin core of all heavenly daos... It seems the rumors aren't baseless." With a flick of his wrist, Lin Xun stored the bead away.

The dao was formless, manifesting in the boundless mountains and rivers, in all things and all phenomena.

Cultivators observed the heavens, the earth, and the landscapes, seeking to comprehend the mysteries and secrets of the dao, and in doing so attain their own transformation.

However, the origin of the great dao and the mysteries of its essence were difficult to comprehend, not only for ordinary cultivators, but even for beings as powerful as Emperors.

In the lower five cultivation stages, one primarily comprehended Dao Ripple and Dao Meaning.

At the King Stage, one grasped the dao laws of the longevity path.

At the Saint Stage, one delved into the laws of the Saint Dao.

At the Quasi-Emperor Stage, one touched upon the incomplete laws of the Emperor Dao.

Even when one reached the Emperor Stage, what one truly controlled was nothing more than the Emperor Dao Laws.

However, no matter whether it was Dao Ripple, Dao Meaning, longevity laws, saint dao laws, or emperor dao laws, all were merely manifestations of the great dao.

However, the further one advanced in cultivation, the deeper their understanding of the dao, bringing them closer to its essence.

The Emperor Ancestor Stage was also known as Ancestor of a Path, as it was equivalent to fully comprehending and mastering the origin and essence of a complete dao path.

Therefore, an Emperor Ancestor was revered as a supreme being!

This was precisely why Lin Xun was surprised upon discovering that the small bead contained the origin essence of two daos—fire and lightning.

Unfortunately, although the great dao power within the bead was exceptionally rare, it was merely a wisp, a faint trace of aura and far from complete.

To ordinary cultivators, it would be an invaluable treasure, but to Lin Xun, it held little value.

Even so, this discovery made Lin Xun's heart stir. The lower world was said to be the origin core of all Heavenly Dao. If this is true then the closer I get to the 'core,' the more likely I am to witness the origin power of all Heavenly Dao?

If I could comprehend the mysteries of the essence of the origin of all Heavenly Dao, when I reached the Emperor Ancestor Stage, wouldn't I be called the Ancestor of all Daos?

Lin Xun quickly shook his head.

The great daos of the heavens were boundless and immeasurable. The term 'All Daos' was just a generalization. Throughout the ages, no one had ever attained such a supreme title Ancestor of All Daos.

How difficult would it be to reach this point on the cultivation path, even if there was hope?

"Huh?" Lost in thought, Lin Xun's pupils narrowed, and his figure flashed, appearing beneath the sky.

At that moment—Boom!

The blood-red mountain that stretched across the vast earth suddenly trembled violently, as if awakening from an eternal slumber.

Immediately after, endless blood-colored light surged skyward, intertwining and writhing, gradually condensing into a blood-red figure.

As this figure took shape, the world quaked, the clouds shattered in all directions, and an overwhelming, boundless power erupted, spreading like the force of an almighty god!

In Lin Xun's eyes, the figure was bizarre, its form constantly shifting. At times, it was an old man with gray hair, other times a young, heroic figure, or a charming and beautiful lady. It even morphed into various fearsome birds and ferocious beasts...

It was as if it embodied 'all living beings and spirits!'

The aura of this figure was terrifyingly powerful, reaching the limit of what this world could bear.

Second realm Emperor Stage!

Is it a human or a demon?

Lin Xun's dark eyes flashed. He couldn't tell what kind of strange creature that was.

"Die!"

The blood-red figure spoke, its voice like the roar of a thunderous drum, shaking the heavens and earth.

Boom!

The sky and the earth quaked in chaos as a storm of fire and lightning surged upward, condensing into a giant seal that descended upon Lin Xun.

Its power was so immense it seemed capable of obliterating the world!

"Hmph!" Lin Xun snorted coldly and without any hesitation, he flashed into the air, charging toward the giant seal.

Boom!

With one palm strike, he crushed the dao seal that could have easily killed any cultivator below the Emperor Stage. A shower of fiery red lightning erupted.

"Die!"

Seeing Lin Xun charging forward, the blood-red figure let out another thunderous roar. Chains of fire erupted, entwined with dazzling arcs of lightning, roaring toward Lin Xun.

Chi!

Lin Xun made a swift motion with his hand as if tearing through a canvas. The chains of fire and lightning shattered into dust, disintegrating under the immense force.

Seeing the unfavorable turn of events, the blood-red figure attempted to flee.

Lin Xun sneered coldly and reached out with his hand.

Boom!

The blood-red figure had no time to evade and was directly seized by Lin Xun's grip. With a sudden squeeze, the figure's body exploded inch by inch, accompanied by a deafening sound.

Wisps of smoke rose as the figure disintegrated.

In the end, all that remained within Lin Xun's palm was a fist-sized fire lightning crystal. It contained an enormous amount of origin power of the great dao, pulsating with the essence of both the fire dao and lightning dao.

Compared to the dao power in the crystal that Lin Xun had just refined, this was a thousand times stronger!

Chapter 2374 Explore and Harvest

"Not bad. I didn't expect to obtain such an opportunity while exploring the Green Lotus Secret Realm..."  
Lin Xun's dark eyes gleamed with a sharp light.

The origin essence power of the fire dao and lightning dao stored within the fist-sized lighting fire crystal, though incomplete, was clearly extraordinary.

The secrets and mysteries embedded within it were of great benefit to him, even with his current understanding of the great dao!

"It contains the origin power of the great dao, so this could be called an Origin Dao Crystal." Lin Xun mused.

He opened his mouth and swallowed the treasure, sending it into his True Self Emperor World.

By doing so, there was no need for active comprehension. Over time, its profound secrets of the great dao would be continuously refined and absorbed.

Lin Xun stood tall in the sky, running his gaze across the land below.

The vast blood-red mountain range still loomed, but through his spirit sense, he detected scattered remains of countless bodies, both cultivators and monsters.

These bones had long decayed from years of corrosion.

A wave of enlightenment washed over Lin Xun.

The lower world is part of the Ancient Wasteland Domain and the origin core of all Heavenly Daos. The owners of these corpses likely attempted to seek out and explore the origin of all Heavenly Daos, but unfortunately perished here.

Their lingering spirits, wills, and blood...after countless years of transformation, merged with the origin dao power born here, and ultimately transformed into the blood-red figure I encountered earlier.

This is the only way to explain the manifestations of 'all living beings and spirits' in that figure!

After a brief moment, Lin Xun let out a light exclamation, and with a flash, he appeared in the depths of the blood-red mountain range.

At the foot of a towering mountain, a massive boulder stood. Wisps of fire and lightning curled across its surface.

Lin Xun gently pressed his hand against the boulder, sensing it quietly.

Instantly, a surge of profound dao mysteries flooded his mind, all linked to the dao of fire and dao of lightning, each exhibiting a primordial essence and aura.

“Could the Origin Dao Crystal that formed here be connected to this boulder?”

A thought struck Lin Xun, and he suddenly exerted force through his hand and fingers.

With his current strength, lifting a sacred mountain would be effortless, yet this boulder remained completely immovable!

This only deepened Lin Xun’s suspicion that the rock was not ordinary.

After multiple attempts, he realized that it was like the very ‘root’ of this world. Resisting it was akin to resisting the entire world itself.

In the end, Lin Xun gave up.

Surveying the surroundings, he remarked, “This place is saturated with rich aeth qi and the origin power of the great dao. It’s an ideal place for cultivation.”

“Toady, if you cultivate here, it should be enough for you to break through to the Emperor Stage.” Lin Xun called out Toady.

“What a great place!” Toady’s eyes gleamed as he looked around.

Lin Xun smiled. The aeth qi in this secret realm surged like a tide, rivaling a blessed land. More importantly, the mysterious boulder emanated a power that could draw cultivators into a state of enlightenment.

Given Toady's foundation, this was the best place for him to make his breakthrough.

Unfortunately, the area could only accommodate one person. If another attempted to cultivate here, the power within this secret realm would be insufficient.

"When the great tribulation of the Emperor Stage descends, I'll be here to protect you." Lin Xun reminded his friend before he turned around and left.

A quarter of an hour later.

Lin Xun's figure reappeared before the huge honeycomb-like vortex of primal chaos.

"The disciples of Spirit Treasure Holy Land have already met with misfortune. Next, I should find the members of the Lin Clan..."

Lin Xun gazed into the primal chaos vortex, carefully analyzing the countless 'holes' flickering within it.

He first eliminated the 'hole' tunnels Mingya had already explored.

However, even after ruling those out, the number of remaining tunnels was still staggering. It was simply impossible to explore all the secret realms behind them in a short period of time.

However, Lin Xun remained unfazed.

On his return to the lower world, he had already completed his second Senior brother Zhong Qiu's mission—subduing his fourth senior brother Ling Xuanzi. His top priority now was to find the missing members of the Lin Clan!

Swoosh!

Without hesitation, Lin Xun's figure flickered as he stepped into a 'hole' tunnel marked as 'extremely dangerous' by Mingya.

The passage led to another secret realm, but the scenery here was entirely different. It was a world of ice and snow, where the wind was bitterly cold and piercing to the bone.

The power of ice and snow in this realm was so terrifying that even a quasi-Emperor would find their body stiffening as the bitter cold seeped into their bones.

When Mingya first explored this place, he barely lasted a quarter of an hour before being forced to retreat.

The swirling snow in this world was like countless razor-sharp blades and sword qi, carrying a terrifying power capable of cutting through the soul and piercing the bone marrow.

None of it had any effect on Lin Xun.

Half an hour later.

His figure appeared before a vast, frozen lake with a thick layer of ice and blanketed in heavy snow.

Upon closer inspection, he found that this place was filled with surging and pure aeth qi, along with a primordial aura of the water dao.

After observing for a moment, Lin Xun stepped forward and threw a punch.

Boom!

The lake that had been frozen for countless years was shattered by the devastating punch, leaving a massive hole at its center. Around the impact, countless cracks spread outward like a spiderweb.

In the blink of an eye, the entire lake surface shattered, sending towering waves crashing into the sky.

At that very moment, an illusory blue figure shot out from the depths, charging straight at Lin Xun with terrifying speed and power. It was no weaker than the blood-red figure he had encountered before.

Despite that, Lin Xun remained unmoved.

Using the same method, he swiftly seized the figure by the throat. The force of his grasp obliterated the blue figure inch by inch like a tsunami.

Finally, another fist-sized Origin Dao Crystal rested in his palm!

“As expected, it seems that every secret realm, after countless years of silence, has given rise to similar ‘creatures.’ Once I slay them, I will receive an Origin Dao Crystal.”

Lin Xun raised his hand and swallowed the treasure into his body. Then, he stepped forward and plunged into the icy lake.

At the bottom of the lake, a distinct vein of ice and snow emerged, radiating the primordial aura of the water dao.

It closely resembled the strange boulder he had encountered in the blood-red mountains. It should be the ‘root’ of this mysterious secret realm!

“A’lu, stay here and train.”

Lin Xun released A’lu from the Dao Endless Pagoda and gave a brief explanation. A’lu readily agreed.

Lin Xun, on the other hand, turned and left, reappearing outside the vast, honeycomb-like vortex.

“The next one.”

Without stopping, he chose another tunnel and disappeared into it.

This time, he entered a secret realm steeped in metallic essence.

The mountains, rocks, and even the grass exuded the chilling, sharp aura of the metal dao.

Half an hour later.

Lin Xun returned. In his body was another Origin Dao Crystal. This one contained the essence of the metal dao. He had left Little Silver behind in that secret realm to cultivate.

Following that, he continued moving in and out of the countless 'hole' tunnels within the primal chaos vortex.

Every time he entered a secret realm, he gained insight into the origin essence of one or two daos, killed a strange 'being' that had formed over countless years, and obtained an Origin Dao Crystal...

Toady, A'lu, Little Silver, Little Sky, and A'hu who came with Lin Xun were each assigned to different secret realms where they could cultivate undisturbed.

Throughout his exploration, Lin Xun encountered few obstacles and dangers, remaining calm and composed.

One day later, he had already explored all the tunnels marked as 'extremely dangerous' by Mingya, uncovering a total of thirty-nine Origin Dao Crystals. Each one contained the purest essence of the dao, some sharing the same attributes, others entirely different.

The harvest was not small. At least with Lin Xun's current cultivation, he couldn't refine all the Origin Dao Crystals in a short period.

However, before Lin Xun reached the Emperor Ancestor Stage, these Origin Dao Crystals were of great benefit to his cultivation, so the more he had, the better.

What made Lin Xun frown was that, despite scouring forty secret realms, he found no trace of the missing Lin Clan members.[1]

“It seems I’ll have to search the secret realms that Mingya hasn’t explored...” Lin Xun thought.

If he entered those unknown secret realms, Mingya’s memories could no longer serve as a guide.

From here on, the exploration would be full of uncertainty and potential peril.

Regardless, Lin Xun had no choice but to proceed.

After taking a day to restore his strength to peak condition, Lin Xun resumed his exploration.

“Huh?”

Upon entering the first unexplored secret realm, he immediately sensed the difference.

The suppression on his cultivation was lifted, instantly restoring him to the third realm Emperor Stage!

This secret realm was undoubtedly closer to the origin core of all Heavenly Daos!

“Interesting... Does this mean the Origin Dao Crystals here are different as well?”

Spreading his spirit sense, Lin Xun advanced cautiously, scanning the surroundings.

From experience, he knew very well that every secret realm had a core area, which was akin to the ‘root’ of the world.

Finding it often meant discovering unimaginable opportunities.

“One, two, three...five?!”

As he pressed forward, he was astonished to detect the presence of five distinct primordial auras of the dao in this secret realm!

This was the first time he had encountered such a unique secret realm during his exploration.

After the time it took to steep a cup of tea, a vast and unfathomable abyss loomed ahead, stretching ten thousand feet deep. Black mist churned at its depths, and from within, flashes of light flickered like meteors streaking across the void before vanishing into darkness.

Lin Xun halted in midair. As he extended his senses, carefully observing the abyss, his expression gradually turned solemn.

A hint of solemnity surfaced between his brows!

Chapter 2375 Origin Nest

Churning black mist filled the unfathomable abyss.

Lin Xun perceived with concentration, and detected a terrifying presence in hibernation deep within the great abyss. Even though vague, its energy gave him a sense of oppression.

An unspeakable joy instantly washed through him.

It was as if...he had finally come across a worthy opponent?

Boom!

Lin Xun deployed a palm strike into the abyss. A matchless dao light immediately whistled out and downward, blowing up the rolling black mist along its way to the depths.

“Seeking death!” rang a cold bellow, and from the darkness of the abyss, a towering figure bolted out, draped in a dazzling, holy silver light.

It was a peak third realm supreme Emperor!

Moreover, this one was very close to breaking through to the fourth realm!

Lin Xun figured out the other party’s details at a glance, and couldn't help but suspect that the silver figure would display an even stronger cultivation without the restriction power of this secret realm.

“Die!” The silver figure had speedily approached, setting off a silver storm that filled the sky and caused the region to tremble.

Instead of avoiding, Lin Xun rushed forward to meet the attack.

Kaboom!

In an instant, the two exchanged dozens of blows. The sky dimmed under splashing dao light and flood of destruction everywhere.

It was like a battle between two gods.

“Whatever the hell this thing is, it even wields a supreme dao power and possesses a complete fighting spirit...” Lin Xun was surprised.

During his previous exploration in this secret world, all of the ‘terrifying beings’ that Lin Xun had encountered were mostly remnant auras of powerful experts who had fallen long ago, which had then coalesced thanks to the origin power of the great dao. Therefore, they weren't really living creatures.

This silver-colored figure in front of him, however, was obviously different from the rest!

Meanwhile, the silver figure also seemed surprised and shouted, "Who are you?!"

In a flicker, it quickly withdrew like a stream of silver light while staring at Lin Xun in bewilderment.

"No. Who are you?" Lin Xun also stopped mid attack. Although surprised by the other party's intelligence and willpower, he was still confident that he could kill the latter in a short time.

"My Emperor title is Thousand Void. In Primeval Year 3700, I started secluding myself here to study the origin of all Heavenly Dao," replied the silver figure as he revealed his true appearance.

This was a spirited young man with sharp brows and a bright mien. The only odd one out was his eyes, which looked like they had witnessed the changes of eons.

"You're from the primeval era?" Lin Xun was stunned, "I don't mean to offend, but it has been countless moons since you started your seclusion, so why is your cultivation still so...weak?"

"Weak?" The handsome young man who called himself Thousand Void Great Emperor was dumbfounded and somewhat amused, "My friend, this is the core origin of all Heavenly Dao, and the law power of this secret realm can accommodate at most cultivation at the third realm of the Emperor Stage. If not for this, it would have been easy for me to suppress you."

Toward the end of his statement, his voice carried disdain and confidence.

"How high would your cultivation be if you weren't restricted?" asked Lin Xun.

"When I started my seclusion here, I was at the sixth realm, the realm of No-Law, Against Heavens. Now, after these many years, I have fathomed the wonders of many supreme daos. I'm certain to need only a day to break through the thresholds and shoot to the ninth realm!" Thousand Void Great Emperor was so confident that he said this with nothing but calmness.

Lin Xun, however, only smiled, "So, you've been here for so long comprehending, but you still can't break into the next stage?"

Thousand Void Great Emperor didn't deny this, "If you conduct big breakthroughs in this place, you will invite backlash from its law power. You might be able to escape if you're lucky, but you will lose the opportunity to continue to research the almighty dao. It is not worth the loss."

Lin Xun was stupefied, "So, you have never taken a step out of this place all these countless years?"

Thousand Void Great Emperor shook his head, "This is the only place where I can sense the enigmas of the origin of all Heavenly Dao. How can I leave before I have completely comprehended and mastered it?"

This was an absolute obsession with the dao!

Lin Xun instantly realized he had run into an old timer who was infatuated with cultivation. The latter probably didn't know how much the outside had changed.

Thousand Void Great Emperor reminded Lin Xun, "Fellow Daoist, you haven't introduced yourself."

Lin Xun casually replied, "Lin Daoyuan. The world calls me 'Emperor Daoyuan.'"

Thousand Void Great Emperor shook his head. "Never heard of it."

Lin Xun laughed, "You've been here for too long, so naturally you've never heard of me... Do you know Sword Emperor Taixuan?"

Lin Xun just picked a random primeval expert's name to ask, but surprisingly, Thousand Void Great Emperor trembled upon hearing this name and was seemingly in a trance, "Taixuan... That's my senior uncle... Do you also know him?"

Lin Xun was stunned, "Your senior uncle?"

Thousand Void Great Emperor nodded, "I wouldn't lie about this."

Whoosh!

Countless Taixuan sword qi abruptly emerged around Lin Xun, densely packing the space with their burning brilliance.

"Taixuan Sword Scripture, that's his dao legacy!" Thousand Void Great Emperor was dumbfounded. "Could it be that you are his successor?"

"Sort of." Lin Xun gathered his energy as his gaze toward Thousand Void Great Emperor became much friendlier.

Thousand Void Great Emperor laughed and walked over to him. "Hahaha, if that's the case, then we shouldn't be strangers. In fact, we are still fellow disciples. Come come come, let's sit and talk..."

Arriving before Lin Xun, he suddenly raised his hand and grabbed toward Lin Xun's neck. His speed was incredibly fast and the force in his palm was terrifying, obviously having accumulated momentum for a while.

As the saying went, when one finally decided to move, it should only be a critical strike!

The most uncanny thing was that he still wore a warm and bright smile on his face, which was in stark contrast with how sharp and sudden his attack was.

However, his determined grab fell short.

"Huh?" Thousand Void Great Emperor's pupils shrank. He immediately moved to dodge, but a large hand had already clutched his neck. From the fingers, a force poured out and confined his strength.

“There will never be so many coincidences in this world. Did you really think that I would believe your bullshit?” Lin Xun's eyes were playful as he clutched Thousand Void Great Emperor like a chicken, looking him up and down.

Thousand Void Great Emperor's face darkened, and he reluctantly said, “Fellow Daoist, what do you mean by this? I’ve never once lied to you.”

Bang!

Lin Xun's hand burst with power, and Thousand Void Great Emperor's shell exploded to bits. Only his primordial spirit remained in the rain of blood, which Lin Xun tightly grabbed.

Looking closely, the primordial spirit was a buck-toothed, pointy-mouthed monkey!

“The primordial spirit of a Ghost Spirit Monkey, no wonder it can see through one's heart... But too bad, you were too impatient. If you had worked on me a little longer, I just might have fallen for your deception,” commented Lin Xun.

Ghost Spirit Monkeys were an extremely rare spirit that could distinguish yin and yang and gain insight into the human heart, all owing to the pair of All-Penetrating Ghost Eyes they were born with.

Rumor had it that anyone these monkeys targeted would have all their secrets laid bare within a few moments. It was an extremely magical ability.

Unfortunately, this kind of trick was useless on Lin Xun. His dao heart was as untouchable as the eternal blue sky, so how could it be seen through so easily?

Even so, this Ghost Spirit Monkey had been able to weave a convincing story through just a few sentences they had exchanged. It was indeed not simple.

The monkey hissed, “If I had waited any longer, my story would have too many holes. Given how keen you are, you will surely notice right away, so it was better for me to strike as soon as possible. That way, perhaps there would still be a glimmer of hope for me to turn my situation around.”

"You're right." Lin Xun nodded, "If my guess is correct, then you should have devoured the soul and memories of quite many experts who had fallen here, and that's why you knew Sword Emperor Taixuan and the Taixuan Sword Scripture, am I right?"

At this point, the monkey completely gave in. It said with a defeated look, "Your cultivation is profound and your eyes are as discerning as a torch. I am far inferior. However, you're probably here for the mysteries of the origin of all Heavenly Dao, right? If you let me live, then I might be able to point you in the right direction."

"Is that so?" Lin Xun grinned, "If I want to know something from you, I can just directly search your memories from your spirit. Why would I need your guidance?"

Who would have thought that the monkey was ready to risk everything? It screeched, "If you do that, then I shall self-destruct the moment you start searching my soul!"

Lin Xun frowned. After some pondering, he said, "Alright then, you can talk."

The monkey seemed relieved. It calmly said, "Before that, Fellow Daoist, you need to swear on the great dao that you will spare my life after I give you the answer."

Lin Xun immediately made an oath.

The monkey still wasn't reassured and shook its head repeatedly. "Please don't blame me for being overly careful. To an Emperor, whether to kill or not all depends on their will. They no longer fear the Heavenly Principle, much less be bound by an oath."

After a pause, the monkey continued, "To make sure that I can live, I hope to accompany you in your action while also giving you pointers along the way. As such, you can verify whether the pointers are correct, while I get to live in the meantime."

Lin Xun couldn't help but assess the monkey in surprise. Only after a long time did he nod, "Alright."

He confined the monkey's cultivation before releasing it from his clutch, then said, "If I want to seek the mysteries of the origin of all Heavenly Dao, where should I start with?"

The monkey replied, "You should have also noticed that when entering different Origin Worlds, the suppression of their law powers on your cultivation also differs. This means that the closer one gets to the origin core, the weaker this suppression will be until it disappears."

Lin Xun secretly nodded in agreement as he listened.

It was also now he finally learned that all these big and small secret realms were supposed to be called Origin Worlds.

The monkey continued, "However, it's impossible to reach the origin core of all Heavenly Dao by going through these Origin Worlds one by one, because there are just too many of them, as many as stars in the nebula.

"The place you have arrived prior to this should be an Origin Nest, but even if you search all the worlds in this Origin Nest, you would only end up with the realization that none of the paths here directly leads to the origin core."

According to the monkey, the chaotic vortex that Lin Xun had seen before, as well as the tunnel 'holes' in it, were collectively known as an Origin Nest.

This Origin Nest was dotted with countless Origin Worlds, making it a boundless and complex labyrinth, and there was not a single path in it that connected to the origin core of all Heavenly Dao!

Chapter 2376 Pervading Deepness

After listening to this explanation, Lin Xun frowned.

He hadn't come here because he desperately wanted to research the mysteries of the origin core of all Heavenly Dao, but rather to find the members of the Lin Clan.

However, according to the Ghost Spirit Monkey, there were too many secret worlds in the Origin Nest to count. This meant he would need great luck to find them.

“Something’s not right,” Lin Xun suddenly said. “You’ve been hibernating here for all these countless years, so how do you know where the origin core of all Heavenly Dao is?”

The monkey didn’t miss a beat, “Because initially, I searched for that place, but I encountered a great peril in the process and had to draw back. It was so dangerous that I nearly died, and even though I emerged alive, all I had left was my primordial spirit.”

Lin Xun didn't ask more about this matter and just said, “Lead the way.”

The monkey immediately agreed.

Leaving this Origin World together, the two returned to the Origin Nest hosting it.

“Fellow Daoist, there’s something I have to remind you. The closer you get to the origin core of all Heavenly Dao, the more dangerous it becomes. From what I know, there were quite many very powerful existences who came here to explore a long time ago. Some of them died, while some were like me and have remained in hibernation in the Origin Worlds near the core origin.”

The monkey pointed at a tunnel hole in the Origin Nest and continued, “In that Origin World, there is a path that leads to a deeper secret realm.”

Lin Xun nodded and instantly teleported into that tunnel.

Just like that, following the guidance of the Ghost Spirit Monkey, he trekked nonstop through one Origin World after another.

More and more Origin Dao Crystals were collected along the way. Although the great dao origin essence they contained were more or less incomplete, the quantity was constantly increasing.

During this, the Ghost Spirit Monkey who proclaimed itself to be Thousand Void Great Emperor also got to witness Lin Xun’s terrifying strength. No matter what kind of opponents they ran into in any secret world, he easily dominated and killed them. Watching it sent chills through the monkey’s heart.

A day later.

Upon entering yet another Origin World, Lin Xun sensed right away that his cultivation, which had been restricted all this time, instantly recovered to the peak of the fourth realm.

He understood that he was getting closer to the origin core of all Heavenly Dao. The Ghost Spirit Monkey probably was leading him on the correct path.

Every Origin World had an Origin Center.

Some examples were the blood-red mountain that Lin Xun had seen in the secret realm of fire and lightning, the ice lake in the secret realm of snow and ice, and the large abyss where he had captured the Ghost Spirit Monkey in the previous secret realm.

The Origin Center of an Origin World was like the root of a tree.

Generally speaking, all the dangers he had encountered so far were beings who lay low near Origin Centers.

However, starting from the Origin World that Lin Xun was currently in, the strength of the opponents started to get higher!

Day after day...

Lin Xun and the monkey passed through many different Origin Worlds. They would occasionally take a break, but more often than not, they were on the road.

Along those worlds, the cultivation levels of the terrifying beings gradually increased from the fourth realm to the fifth, sixth, and seventh realms of the Emperor Stage...

The monkey looked nervous as it kept giving Lin Xun pointers.

However, to its astonishment, Lin Xun had killed those opponents, seemingly with ease, despite being only a fourth realm Emperor!

Ten days after the two started traveling together, they arrived in a world where every inch of space displayed a kind of eternal darkness.

Boom!

With a deafening roar, Lin Xun slayed an eighth realm being with a palm strike, sending out a flood of light that shook heaven and earth.

From afar, the monkey gawked in a daze. A fourth realm Emperor, overcoming the gap of several realms, killed an eighth realm opponent?!

"I'm going to break through, so I'll have to trouble you for a while." Lin Xun walked over to the monkey, his eyes profound.

His cultivation was like a full cup of water that was about to overflow as he had already reached the utter limit of the fourth realm, and it could no longer be suppressed.

"You're breaking into the next realm?" The stunned monkey reminded him, "That's an extremely dangerous thing to do here. You may suffer backlash from the law power of this world."

"It's alright," said Lin Xun, and without any further ado, he locked up the monkey inside the Dao Endless Pagoda.

Although the monkey had behaved very well during their past ten days of traveling together, Lin Xun did not let his guard down. The other party was a Ghost Spirit Monkey who was capable of reading the human heart, and was one of the most treacherous and cunning creatures.

"Whew~" Inhaling and exhaling, Lin Xun discarded all distracting thoughts, sat down cross-legged, and entered meditation.

A full day later, he opened his eyes, leapt to his feet, and looked up.

At some point, ink-black, churning tribulation clouds had covered the sky. The world was quiet as a depressing and terrifying heavenly might spread.

Lin Xun stood with his hands on his back, his expression calm.

This was the threshold before the fifth realm of the Emperor Stage. As long as he conquered this calamity, he would enter the realm of Pervading Deepness!

Pervading Mystery, Pervading Deepness, Pervading Emptiness.

These were the fourth, fifth, and sixth realms of the Emperor Stage.

Among them, Pervading Emptiness was also known as the realm of No-Law, Against Heavens!

BOOM!

After a long time, a rumbling thunder echoed from the tumbling tribulation clouds. It resembled the war drums of the heavenly gods, stirring the nine heavens and ten earths.

Immediately following, a dazzling lightning dao light unfurled from the highest point of the sky like a waterfall.

“It's finally here....” Lin Xun's expression was unperturbed like an ancient well. His body like a furnace and his might like a great abyss, he took to the air.

Rumble~

The tribulation had begun, plunging this Origin World into an unprecedented turmoil with lightning storms, shooting electricity, and chaos.

In the void, Lin Xun was like a deity bathed in brilliant dao light. His valor overshadowed the world as he fought against the sky full of bolts with a domineering and boundless might.

However, this was not a normal Emperor tribulation, but instead one tailored for a supreme Great Emperor. As a result, Lin Xun endured tremendous suffering.

It didn't take long before he became disheveled and injured.

Fifteen minutes.

Thirty minutes.

Forty-five minutes.

As time passed, the power of the lightning tribulation only became more and more horrendous, perverse even. Any ordinary Emperor expert would have been wiped out under it!

Lin Xun, however, had already put up a whole incense stick of time of resistance.

At the end of it, his body was riddled with cracks and finally exploded, leaving only his Will Dharma Form to continue the fight. The situation looked incomparably dangerous.

It had to be said that this catastrophe far exceeded any Emperor tribulation that Lin Xun had undergone before. Not only did it last for a long time, but its killing power was also hellishly horrifying.

If it wasn't for his ample preparations, he wouldn't have been able to endure until now!

KABOOM!

He stubbornly persisted through every bolt.

In the rain of lightning that filled the sky, all that was left of Lin Xun was a broken primordial spirit and a sliver of clarity in his consciousness.

“Doh!” He let out a loud cry.

The rain of lightning tormented through his primordial spirit. His blood, flesh, sinews, skin, internal organs, and meridians that had been blown to smithereens during the tribulation all gathered together.

Looking from afar, he was like a huge ball of lightning under the sky dome, constantly emitting the pulses of life.

Two hours later.

The bright ball of lightning had come to resemble a blazing sun, and it abruptly exploded into a rain of chaotic light, gradually revealing a handsome figure.

It was Lin Xun.

At this moment, he looked almost surreal. His sinews and bones looked as if they were made from cemented gold. His skin was like white jade, spraying a brilliant luster. His blood and qi were like a fast-moving ocean, containing boundless vitality. Every strand of hair on his head flowed with the arcane rhythms of great dao.

In his mind-sea, the Will Dharma Form reached ten thousand feet in height. It took the shape of a furnace and emanated an immortal might that dominated all heavens. All kinds of great dao wonders drifted around the furnace as they resonated heavenly tunes, infinitely sacred.

The biggest change had occurred in his True Self Emperor World. The heaven and earth, sun, moon, mountains, rivers, and everything within were now embedded with countless, continuous lines of runes.

They were present on the veins of leaves, the texture of rocks, the undulating curves of the land, the trajectory of the stars in the sky, and within all the changes in this world...

These subtle changes allowed the whole True Self Emperor World to shine with a brand new weather. It became close to a real world where every blade of grass produced and stored faint but deep marvels!

This was the distinguishing sign of Pervading Deepness.

This was also the dao ability that only Emperor experts from the fifth realm up could possess!

After perceiving his new self for a long time, Lin Xun's eyes gleamed with satisfaction. "The Emperor Stage's Pervading Deepness... Truly a marvelous realm..."

He could already see the earth-shaking change in his battle prowess!

"They say the ninth realm is a heavenly rift, and those who carry the might of Ancestor dao are unshakable... I wonder if I'll be able to break this invisible rule that has been in place for eternity..."

While pondering, Lin Xun had sat down cross-legged and started to solidify his cultivation.

About three days later.

He stood up and released the Ghost Spirit Monkey to resume on the journey.

Looking at Lin Xun, who was perfectly fine and clearly a realm stronger than before, the monkey's eyes glazed over. It also acted more obediently on the trip.

Lin Xun didn't comment as he noticed all this.

Another ten days quickly flew by.

Up until this point, Lin Xun had collected more than a hundred Origin Dao Crystals, and that was also roughly the number of Origin Worlds that he had searched.

However, he still hadn't found a trace of the Lin clansmen.

The only good news, if it could be considered one, was that he was getting closer and closer to the origin core of all Heavenly Dao.

Monkey suddenly said, "In the next Origin World, there's a mysterious character with an extremely eccentric temperament. As long as we don't provoke him, we can borrow the road out of there. Crossing around three more Origin Worlds after that one and we'll arrive at the origin core.

"Fellow Daoist, you must not provoke that guy, otherwise you and I will both get trapped in that world forever."

Lin Xun raised a brow, "You're saying he's very strong?"

The monkey looked grave, "Unimaginably strong, his depths cannot be fathomed at all. A long time ago, I once traveled with a group of fellow daoists. There was no shortage of eighth and ninth realm Emperors among them, but when we were asking for directions, two of them were careless with their words and accidentally pissed off that person. Guess what happened next."

Not waiting for Lin Xun to reply, the monkey had already said in a heavy voice, "Those two fellow daoists... He erased their memories with a snap of his finger, and turned them into a set of chess pieces on a chessboard world..."

Chapter 2377 Playing Chess

"Chessboard world?" Lin Xun was surprised.

The monkey said, "Yes, that mysterious freak created a chessboard using his own dao, and it seems to hold within it a vast world. Everyone whose memories were erased by him became a chess piece in it."

Lin Xun nodded. Then, together with the monkey, he entered the next Origin World.

This one was immense in size, and the land was as barren as it was boundless.

There were no mountains, no rivers, no greenery, no anything. It was empty and quiet as far as the eye could see.

The monkey, however, looked incredibly nervous as soon as they arrived here. It started to cower and didn't even dare to talk, only making eyes at Lin Xun telling him to be careful.

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes as he rushed forward with the monkey.

This Origin World was indeed very unusual, presenting a withered, silent scene. It was as if everything it was once home to had gone extinct.

Not even the faintest fluctuation or aura of the dao could be sensed.

After an incense stick of time, the two saw a bare, old tree on the extreme horizon. Its branches were like swords that reached up to the sky, and its roots were exposed above the soil like firm rocks.

A withered figure sat before those roots, his beard and hair unkempt. He was gazing at a chessboard in front of him, motionless like a clay statue.

In this whole world, there was only one tree, one person, and one chessboard!

Obviously, the withered figure was the mysterious freak that the Ghost Spirit Monkey had mentioned earlier, a terrifying existence that could erase the memories of Emperor experts with a snap of his fingers.

The monkey was so nervous that it was shaking like a leaf. It frequently winked at Lin Xun, signalling him to ignore the old man and walk straight by.

Because not far behind that dried tree, there was an invisible portal. As long as they passed through it, they would be able to reach the origin core of all Heavenly Dao!

Lin Xun gave it some thought, and finally decided against using his spirit sense to investigate the man. He looked away and followed the monkey's instructions, going toward the place where the portal was located.

Nothing, not even a sound of wind could be heard between heaven and earth. The utter silence was dreary.

Lin Xun and the monkey passed the withered tree, and before they could go far, a dry and hoarse voice suddenly rang out, "Wanna play?"

The mere two words were like a crash of thunder that paralyzed the monkey with shock. It screeched, "We're dead..."

Lin Xun turned his head, and saw that the withered figure under the tree had moved his gaze from the chessboard to them.

That gaze was pure as that of an infant. It was without any impurities, and resembled a true mirror that could reflect everything in the universe.

The second Lin Xun felt those eyes on him, he inwardly tensed up before quickly relaxing, and said with a calm expression, "Why?"

The withered figure pointed at the chessboard in front of him, "At the beginning of the primeval era, I entered this place. With the origin power of all Heavenly Dao I have comprehended here, I created this chessboard. Through nonstop deliberation and improvements, I've successfully imbued the origin auras of all Heavenly Dao in this chessboard..."

Lin Xun's pupils constricted.

This old man was actually a character from the early primeval era, and on top of that, he had refined the mysteries of Heavenly Dao origin and integrated them into a chessboard!

This alone was already some terrifying skills!

“You must be here for the origin enigmas of all Heavenly Dao, but let me tell you something you might not know yet. Aeth qi has returned to these places, and thanks to this, the origin enigmas have long been released and are currently spreading outward.

“When you came here, you should have already noticed that the aeth qi is madly reproducing itself in the outside world. All sorts of opportunities and fortunes have been springing out, and the structures of the worlds have undergone sudden changes. It’s like an unprecedented new era is coming...

“Such is the manifestation due to the origin core of all Heavenly Dao’s leaking out.

“This also means that it’s no longer possible for you to grasp the complete origin aura on this trip...”

As more and more words were uttered, the withered figure’s voice gradually went from dry and hoarse to low and clear, “In that case, you might as well stop a while and play a game of chess with me, right?”

The monkey was so nervous that it was close to collapsing. It hissed, “You can’t agree, you must not agree! Otherwise your memories will definitely be erased, and you’ll be reduced to a piece on that chessboard!”

The withered figure ignored the monkey. His gaze was fixed on Lin Xun.

Lin Xun, on the other hand, sank into silence.

The old man's words had given him a rude awakening.

Why had aeth qi concentrations been recovering and causing drastic changes in the lower plane?

The withered old man had already given the answer.

It was because the power of the origin core of all Heavenly Dao had been bleeding out and continuously spread!

However, this also meant that this origin core power was constantly melting and evaporating like snow. It had long ceased to be complete, and with the passage of time, it would even be exhausted and go extinct one day!

No matter who it was, they were bound to find it impossible to grasp the complete principle of the origin of all Heavenly Dao under such circumstances.

The thought of it put a self-deprecating arc on Lin Xun's lips.

He had spent the past month constantly trekking through different secret worlds, only to find out that the ultimate mystery that he had been searching for had turned into nothing but an illusion. It felt like he had been using a wicker basket to draw water – a complete waste of effort.

However, Lin Xun didn't regret it.

Along the way, he had collected more than a hundred Origin Dao Crystals. Their value was already incalculable.

"Even if I can't have the enigmas of the origin core, I still have no interest in playing with you," Lin Xun refused.

To this, the withered figure said, "If you win, you can take away this chessboard that contains the origin auras of all dao. If you lose, you will just be reduced to a chess piece on this chessboard."

What was contained in this simple proposal could make all Emperor Ancestors in existence go crazy.

A startled Lin Xun asked, "You spent infinite years since the early primeval era to painstakingly craft such an extraordinary chessboard. Are you really willing to give it up if I win?"

The withered figure said, "At the end of a game, there is always a winner and a loser, but in these countless years I've been sitting here, no one has been able to win this chessboard from me."

He had never experienced being on the losing side since the beginning of this all!

After some more consideration, Lin Xun still refused and wanted to take his leave. "You were wrong about something. I came here not to seek the origin of all Heavenly Dao, but my clansmen."

"You're looking for people?" The withered figure was stunned. He muttered, "What else in this world is more important than studying the great dao...?"

Lin Xun didn't intend to waste more time on this old man.

However, he heard the latter ask, "Among these, is there someone you are looking for?"

As soon as his question dropped, a prosperous world appeared in the void. It had countless cities, and countless beings inhabiting them, from royalties to nobles down to all kinds of characters from all walks of life. It was a perfect drawing of a mortal world.

Lin Xun looked up at it, and in just a second, he captured many familiar figures.

Zhao Tailai, Zhao Xingye, Lin Zhong, Lin Huaiyuan, Spirit Vulture, Third Old Zhu...

Some of them became private tutors in the countryside, some were escorts, some were young masters of noble families...

In that mortal world, those familiar faces were just a part of the masses, experiencing their own life and all the joys and sorrows that came with it.

When Lin Xun was about to probe with his spirit sense, the world in the void disappeared.

The withered figure said, "It seems that the people you are looking for are in there."

Lin Xun stared deeply at the other party, "You erased their memories and turned them into chess pieces in your chessboard world?"

The withered figure's voice was without ripples, "Have a match with me. Win, and I'll tell you."

Lin Xun strode straight to the withered tree. Sizing up the scruffy and skinny old figure, he asked, "How do we play?"

In the distance, the monkey's soul had flown off, probably having realized that Lin Xun already had no escape.

"Use this world as a chessboard, and use our own great dao as the chess pieces," replied the withered figure.

The next second, crisscrossing grids abruptly appeared in the barren world like a massive, heavenly net.

Half black, half white, the two sides were clearly divided.

"These chess grids will be the battlefield of our dao, you and I each command a side. Whoever's turf falls to the other's occupation, they lose." The withered figure got up to his feet. "You can choose, either the black or the white world."

Lin Xun nodded. In a flicker, he teleported to the piece of heaven and earth covered by black grids and faced off with the withered figure from afar. "Are there any rules for combat?"

The withered figure shook his head. "This chess game will be the battle of dao. You can show your full strength and attack however you like."

Lin Xun nodded. "Alright."

The withered figure waved his sleeve, "Rise."

Boom!

In each of the white grids beneath his feet, a star appeared, coalesced from a kind of law power.

Each star represented a different law power and was filled with a supreme, boundless aura.

In an instant, countless stars dotted the landscape, blossoming with various splendors that lit up the white world into something brilliant.

The most marvelous thing was that despite being in separated chess grids, the stars moved along a dense set of magical trajectories that complimented each other in a perfectly natural way.

It was like a grand picture of 'all Heavenly Dao in harmony.'

"Fellow Daoist, if you can break the dao world in the white chess grids, then it will count as my loss." The withered figure's voice was always so calm, permeated with absolute confidence. He was like a god who had seen through all the hypocrisy in the world and now stood above the heavens.

Lin Xun played a thought in his mind.

Immediately following, a cauldron appeared in the black world under his feet, veiled by a faint charm of eternity and uniqueness.

The cauldron enveloped the black world as it interpreted all sorts of great dao principles.

“Not bad at all!” exclaimed the withered figure with surprise in the distance as his eyes burned like the sun. “In these countless years, there are only a handful of people I've encountered who possess this level of attainment... Fellow Daoist, I hope you won't let me down.”

With that, he flicked his fingers.

Boom!

From the star cycles, a patch of dao light shot out and condensed into a seal. Vaguely, it emitted the terrifying might that could subdue everything in heaven.

In a split second, it swept toward the dark world where Lin Xun was and violently stamped down.

“Doh!” shouted Lin Xun, his eyes like electricity. From the steaming cauldron, a dao sword emerged and slashed out.

CRACK!

The dao seal was broken in half and exploded.

Unfazed, the withered figure flicked his fingers repeatedly, sending out various offensive skills from the white grid world under his feet.

They either formed a mountain, a vast sea, or manifested as soldiers... With the momentum to alter terrains, they crushed out a path toward Lin Xun's world.

At that instant, it was as if all daos had risen together, taking away all color from heaven and earth!

Chapter 2378 Caged Up for Too Long

In an earth-shaking noise, the cauldron that sat over the black grid world tumbled violently, splashing bursts of dao light.

Crack! Crack!

In a split second, two black grids crumbled under the other side's attack.

Lin Xun's eyes narrowed slightly as he operated his cultivation. The cauldron immediately glowed and produced a dominating force that finally managed to block the bombardment.

In the distance, the withered figure smiled faintly, "With such a defense, your world will fall completely in mere moments."

Saying that, he waved his sleeve.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Chains of law power shot out, sweeping through the sky like a tornado.

Each of those divine chains was entwined with terrifying great dao mysteries of wind, cloud, lightning, electricity, metal, wood, water, fire... They diffused countless might.

This was different from a martial clash; it was rather a pure competition of daos. The world was a chessboard, and one's daos would be the chess pieces that were responsible for the offense!

It was by no means dangerous, but once defeated, the player would be reduced to another chess piece on the board!

"Fall completely? You underestimate me, truly," Lin Xun said as he urged his energy. The cauldron buzzed, deriving all sorts of grand dao to constantly fight back the opponent.

For a time, the region was in turmoil under the manifestation of various horrifying phenomena.

If any Emperor expert was present to witness this, they would be shaken out of their mind.

Because whether it was Lin Xun or the withered figure, the daos in their control were unique and powerful to the point they could overwhelm everything that had ever existed!

In the Ghost Spirit Monkey's view, the black and white chess world constantly displayed new and incredible visions. The planets collided, mountains and rivers flew by, ancient gods fought valiantly, and divine beasts ravaged the wilderness...

Those were all derivations of the supreme grand dao. Each attack radiated a heaven-destroying might that was terrifying beyond imagination.

"Go! Go! Go!"

The withered figure was like an overlord as he waved his hands and sent out storms of attacks. Commanding thousands of daos, he conquered the nine heavens.

On the contrary, Lin Xun had been solely resisting with his cauldron. His black grid world had been almost shrouded by all kinds of powerful arts.

From time to time, there would be deafening cracks, with which one would see the outermost of the black grids crumble and fall.

Lin Xun appeared to be at a disadvantage.

For all that, his cauldron was impregnable, giving off the feeling that it was unshakeable while it guarded the black chess world. It certainly wouldn't be broken through anytime soon.

A distance away, the withered figure was not anxious. He even revealed a look of interest as he kept scrutinizing Lin Xun's cauldron.

He could already tell that it was the embodiment of Lin Xun's dao and was extraordinary.

Despite this, his movements remained fluid. His offensive momentum only became increasingly ferocious, presenting a domineering attitude to push forward.

RUMBLE~

The sky rattled and the land swayed. The sun and the moon could no longer be seen.

Lin Xun had never experienced this kind of game and combat before, where he needed to both defend his own world while trying to destroy the other side's.

Meanwhile, all he could rely on was the power of his own dao. It looked like a simple and brute confrontation, but was actually an intense race between their dao.

From what the withered figure had demonstrated so far, his control over dao power was indeed terrifying. It had reached an unimaginably appalling level.

Facing this, the black chess world under Lin Xun's command had fallen into a situation where it was being attacked from all directions and in complete turbulence.

It was like a reef that was being constantly battered by furious sea waves!

However, as Lin Xun gradually familiarized himself with the game, the cauldron that was the embodiment of his entire dao appeared more and more solid and unyielding.

As a result, the impacts on the black grid world were all effectively neutralized and dissolved.

Even though the withered figure's attacks kept getting stronger, Lin Xun's defense was also continuously improving.

Just like that, one attacked and the other defended in an unprecedentedly heated match.

At this point, the withered old man's face had taken on a serious look. His voice also transmitted a rare touch of excitement and delight.

He had met an equal match who he cherished!

Lin Xun's performance at this moment exceeded all his expectations, and it evoked the long-dormant fighting spirit in him.

"Next, I will perform the true way of chess, so be careful, Fellow Daoist!" The withered figure let out a loud laugh and stroked his fingers in the air.

Boom!

Countless stars appeared and circulated. Countless lotuses emerged and bloomed in green, red, white, gold... Some blossomed with lightning arcs, some were stirring with the power of wind, some absorbed yang and disgorged yin...

Thousands of dao lotuses opened their petals, floating in the sky.

In seconds, they covered Lin Xun's black grid world.

From blooming to withering, each lotus enacted the growth and changes of a dao from its very beginning to its peak splendor.

They looked like thousands of dao paths demonstrating their full capability.

Such a terrifying scene could make any Emperor's blood run cold.

Lin Xun, however, looked unperturbed. Only his eyes were flickering with an intimidating aura.

He put his strength into full operation. His mind, will, and energy all merged into the dao as he controlled the cauldron to fight back.

RUMBLE~

Thundering explosions reverberated without end. Great dao power clashed and splashed, ravaging the nine heavens and ten earths.

The void collapsed and the sky was bleak, as if doomsday was coming.

However, just seconds into it, the withered figure let out a startled cry.

Opposite him in the distance, Lin Xun's defense remained impregnable despite being subjected to this degree of attacks!

"If this is all you've got, then you will most certainly lose," said Lin Xun indifferently.

"Oh? Then let's try again," the withered figure nonchalantly said, and grabbed at the air.

Clank!

Countless dao essence coalesced into a sword, which chopped out.

The attack was utterly simple.

Yet, it was clearly much more horrifying than the gale of attacks from before.

A loud, metallic chant resounded as the cauldron blocked the sword. In the collision, the latter shattered and burst.

Unfazed, the withered figure kept bombarding with all his might, utilizing various daos as he did.

Lin Xun, on the other hand, had taken on a steady stance where he remained immovable despite facing assault from all sides, impeccably defending the black grid world.

After a full fifteen minutes of such intense fighting, the withered figure's expression had become solemn. He began to slow down, but every strike he deployed doubled in power.

In spite of this, it was still unable to break Lin Xun's defense!

The withered figure could no longer maintain his composure, "If you just keep defending like this, then it'll end up being a draw. Why aren't you attacking?"

He reckoned that Lin Xun was using all of his power on defense, and as long as he attacked, there would finally be openings in his invulnerable shield.

"I didn't attack because I wanted to see the skills of your dao. Apparently... It's nothing special," commented Lin Xun bluntly.

"Nothing special?" The withered figure was stunned, as if he couldn't believe that he would receive such an evaluation. In fact, it was the first time in these countless years that he had heard one like this.

He leisurely said, "Fellow Daoist, words alone are empty. Why don't you let me witness your true ability as well?"

"Very well," uttered Lin Xun lightly.

He waved of his hand, and immediately, a great abyss emerged from the cauldron. Stretching across the sky, it swept out.

Its depth was unfathomable, its size immeasurable. It swallowed the sky and engulfed the earth in its wake!

RUMBLE!

In an earth-shattering collision, a big area of the white grid world was instantly crushed. The stars of daos distributed within it were worn away and devoured.

The withered figure's pupils shrank, and he wasted no time making a counterattack.

“Doh!”

Responding to his command, countless twinkling stars circulated in a harmonic echo. Building a boundless universe, they strived to suppress the great abyss.

However, the withered figure was caught completely off guard when he saw the great abyss keep on sliding forward. Its crushing momentum suggested how unbreakable and unstoppable it was.

In just a few breaths, a huge chunk was bitten off of the massive universe!

“Rise!” Undaunted in the face of danger, the withered old man carried on manipulating the thousands of daos with perfection, resisting with every drop of his strength.

Lin Xun sighed softly, “My dao, integrating all daos and deriving all laws, is unique of all time. Even if you try to deflect it with the power of all dao, it's ultimately futile...”

He recalled his fourth senior brother, Ling Xuanzi, who also identified and employed the various daos in existence. His cultivation path was similar to that of this skinny old man and so were their effects.

The only difference might be that this old man had been in an enlightenment seclusion here since the beginning of the primeval era, thus his cultivation to this day had been stagnant in the Emperor Stage.

If it were Fourth Senior Brother, he would have already transcended the Emperor Ancestor Stage!

KABOOM!

The great abyss glided horizontally in an overwhelming fashion, swallowing the starry sky and devouring all dao powers. It threw the white grid world into chaos, and one by one, the squares fractured and fell.

No matter how hard the withered figure resisted and countered, it was all in vain.

In the end, the white grid world completely collapsed in a shocking quake before it presented a state of ruins.

Seeing this, Lin Xun immediately stopped attacking.

In the distance, the withered figure stood dumbly in the void, his beard and hair in a mess. His expression kept shifting, as though it was too difficult for him to accept this blow.

Numerous years of research and deduction, pouring his blood, sweat, and soul into the game of chess, only to suffer a crushing defeat today!

There had been no twists and turns nor any variables during the match. From the moment the other side had gone from defense to taking the initiative to attack, his power was devastating and unbeatable!

It was simple, crude even.

However, the withered figure was well aware that this meant. In this competition between their daos, his mastery was far inferior...

A long time later.

The withered figure revealed a self-deprecating smile and looked up at the sky, "These countless years, I've been so obsessed with chess that I let my dao fall into the black and white grids without noticing. This defeat finally made me realize it. What I seek should be outside of the game...."

He seemed to have figured everything out and come to terms with it, but his expression was all despondent. How stupid he had been to have taken so many eons to understand this!

Suddenly, he looked at Lin Xun and respectfully cupped his fist, "Although I lost, I was also awakened. Thank you, Fellow Daoist, I owe you this favor!"

His words were sincere, and also permeated with a sense of relief like he had broken an invisible shackle.

Chapter 2379 Many Daos Chessboard

The monkey froze there.

He won?

Just who is this guy? How can he possess such terrifying cultivation?

As the match had been too terrifying, the Ghost Spirit Monkey had been in a constant shocked trance.

Still, upon seeing the withered figure bow and admit defeat, how could it not understand that the fellow who called himself Emperor Daoyuan had emerged victorious?!

"Since the game is over, it's time for you to honor your promise." Lin Xun floated down from the void, gazing at the withered figure.

"This is natural," the latter waved his sleeve, and a chessboard appeared. In a stream of dao light, the bustling world of mortals was once again manifested.

With Lin Xun's identification, the withered figure operated the chessboard to release all the members of the royal family and the Lin Clan that it had trapped.

Zhao Xingye, Zhao Tailai, and the royalty accounted for around forty percent, while Lin Zhong, Lin Huaiyuan, and a bunch of other Lin clansmen accounted for sixty.

Lin Xun even spotted Jiujiu. The little guy was as plump as a little ball.

It totalled to over a thousand individuals!

However, every single one of them was unconscious, as if in a very deep sleep.

“Don’t worry, Fellow Daoist. In less than three days, they will regain their past memories,” said the withered figure.

Lin Xun examined these acquaintances for a while, and only then did he put them away in a safe space.

In that instant, he felt as though a boulder had been removed from his heart and completely relaxed.

The withered figure explained, “They were able to get here in the first place with the token given to them by my elder brother. Their experience in the chessboard world has actually been a great opportunity for them. When they wake up, they will gain knowledge on the principles of different daos.”

Lin Xun was surprised, “Your elder brother?”

The withered figure said, “Yes. He's a cultivator from the early primeval era just like me, it's only that we seek different paths. I haven't seen him since I started my seclusion here, but I could still recognize his token.”

Lin Xun asked, “Can I see that token?”

The withered figure laughed, “Why not?”

Then he took out a token on which engraved a line of uninhibited, overbearing characters: Dao Dropout, Lone Man!

Lin Xun was dumbfounded, "Lone Man is your brother?"

The withered figure nodded, "His name is Baoxing but he calls himself Lone Man, while mine is Mian Yue and I call myself Chess Man."

Lin Xun finally learned the story.

The reason why the members of the Ziyao royal family and his clansmen were able to enter an Origin Nest and easily arrive at this Origin World was thanks to Lone Man's token.

In other words, when Lone Man had left the Ziyao Empire, he probably had already surmised that the new era where aether concentrations would recover was already approaching!

"Rotating Stars Hibernating Moon[1]House..." Lin Xun mused, "Lone Man should have figured out the secret of the origin of all Heavenly Dao long ago, and that's why he chose to remain dormant in the lower realm, so it seems."

"Looks like you also know my brother?" said Chess Man.

Lin Xun nodded and told him how he got acquainted with Lone Man.

"He has already left..." sighed Chess Man. "I guess that's for the best. Abandoning the great dao to seek himself, perhaps only the other side of the cosmos can allow him to achieve his wish..."

Having said that, he handed what he was holding to Lin Xun, "Fellow Daoist, please accept this chessboard."

Round on the outside and square on the inside, the board looked like it had been polished from a whole piece of black gold. On the surface were neatly lined up grids that resembled the mark of the almighty dao.

Wisps of chaos aura permeated the chessboard and transported all sorts of subtle dao fluctuations, appearing mysterious.

Lin Xun, however, shook his head and refused.

This chessboard was the coalescence of Chess Man's countless years of painstaking efforts. It contained the auras of many daos, which made it too invaluable a treasure to be given away.

However, Chess Man shoved the chessboard into Lin Xun's hands, "Take it. Since I made the gamble, I was ready to lose. Besides, if I keep holding onto this thing, I will be stuck in the same place forever. If you don't want it, then I will destroy it now."

Only then did Lin Xun accept the chessboard.

Lone Man advised him, "Although it only stores the origin breaths of the various daos, the marvels imprinted within are enough for you to study the mysteries of the Ancestor Stage."

He then pointed to a void portal in the distance, "It'll take you to the birthplace of all Heavenly Dao, but it's filled with oppressive law power. No matter who tries, it's impossible to bring the origin power of all Heavenly Dao out of that place.

"However, with your cultivation, it won't be a problem for you to stay there and study for a period of time."

With that, Chess Man swept his eyes at the monkey in the distance and suddenly asked, "Can I have this Ghost Spirit Monkey?"

Lin Xun was dumbfounded, "What use do you have for it?"

Chess Man laughed, "The heart of a human is as tricky as a ghost and impermanent as a spirit, which is what this monkey is born to read. I want to borrow its talent to examine my dao heart."

Lin Xun agreed straightforwardly.

With a wave of Chess Man's hand, the monkey was drawn over and fell into his palm. The skinny old man then turned and walked away.

"Farewell, Fellow Daoist," his voice became indistinct.

"Why are you in such a hurry to leave?" Lin Xun couldn't help but ask.

"I've broken the cage and freed my mind, so what's the use of remaining in this hell hole? These countless years... I have strayed too far, too far..."

As his sentimental voice still echoed, Chess Man had already disappeared.

Lin Xun stood alone for a moment, then stowed the Many Daos Chessboard away. Finally, he looked at the void portal in the horizon.

"Forget it, let's return to Mind Cleansing Peak first. It won't be too late to explore the birthplace of all Heavenly Dao after everything is settled." Lin Xun made a decision and returned along the direction he had come from.

.....

At Mind Cleansing Peak.

A green lotus in the center of the pond suddenly swayed, scattering countless runes that gradually outlined a portal.

This scene instantly alerted Little Five who had been guarding this place.

When he saw Lin Xun's handsome figure step out from it, he then eased up with a bright smile, "Big Brother, did the trip go well?"

Lin Xun smilingly nodded.

At the same time, his spirit sense spread out and instantly located his five dao bodies.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh!

In mere seconds, the five dao bodies arrived and merged back into Lin Xun. Following this, the experiences and memories they had recently gained surged into his mind.

Lin Xun took a long time to digest everything and commented, "To think that so many things have happened during the past month..."

A month ago, as the various major dao lineages of the Ancient Wasteland Domain were uprooted from the Forbidden City, and the newly named Mind Cleansing Peak under Lin Xun's command had become the focus of the world's attention in one fell swoop.

During the period of time that Lin Xun was away, countless cultivators from all corners of the world had come to visit. Mind Cleansing Peak had been so unprecedentedly lively that it almost turned into a market.

Many big powers even wanted to submit as a subordinate force in order to gain Lin Xun's protection.

Without exception, the others rejected them all.

However, this did not dampen the visitors' enthusiasm. Numerous still came from all over the world, with the purpose of either latching to the Lin Clan, wanting to become a disciple, or purely for the sake of watching the bustle...

Lin Xun couldn't be bothered with these trivial matters.

Only two things caught his attention.

The first was that the major powers in Spirit Burial Sea had banded up to form a 'Monster-Beast Battle Alliance,' and in the name of it, they decided to enter the All Dao Realm to seek the great fortunes of the new era and claim cultivation paradises as their territories.

Due to this, the situation in the East Sea once again became tense.

The Monster-Beast Battle Alliance brought together many Great Emperors with unfathomable cultivations. According to the rumors, it was formed in order to fight back the threat Lin Xun posed!

This was because the power Lin Xun had displayed while slaughtering the many dao lineages of the Ancient Wasteland Domain was too terrifying. Anyone would feel a great deal of pressure from it.

When the various clans of Spirit Burial Sea headed to the All Dao Realm to explore fortunes and opportunities, fighting and killing could be expected.

The chaos wouldn't spread to Lin Xun right away, but after a long period of time, they might get into conflicts with him, and it would not be ideal at all.

It was based on this long-term consideration that the Monster-Beast Battle Alliance was founded.

Lin Xun didn't mind this.

As aether concentrations became alive again in the lower world, all kinds of new opportunities were springing up like volcanic eruptions. Anyone wouldn't be able to stop themselves from fighting over it.

The Ziyao Empire had long since turned into the All Dao Realm, expanding its territory a thousandfold. Sooner or later, it would evolve into a vast world on par with the Central Plain State.

Under these circumstances, it was simply impossible for Mind Cleansing Peak, with its current power, to unite all the dao lineages under its wing.

Not to mention that Lin Xun had no desire to unify the world and monopolize its opportunities. It was enough as long as he kept a tight reign over the Forbidden City, also known as the Holy Land of All Dao.

Unless someone tried to provoke him, he couldn't care less about the killings and competition that took place in the All Dao Realm.

The other thing that caught attention was that recently, there had been a lot of news coming out of the Forbidden City, saying that the major dao lineages of the Ancient Wasteland Domain would be making a comeback in the near future!

It was also said that the forces they would send out would exceed all imagination.

There was no need to even guess that when these forces arrived, they would definitely find Mind Cleansing Peak to take revenge!

"To take control of this lower world where the aeth qi concentrations are reviving, it looks like those big forces of the Ancient Wasteland Domain have gone crazy to the point where they can disregard the risk..." A cold glint flashed across Lin Xun's eyes.

However, he also paid this matter no heed.

The lower plane was still in the midst of a drastic change. It could currently host first realm Emperors at the highest.

This also meant that Emperors who appeared in this All Dao Realm, no matter how strong they were, their cultivation would be restricted to the first realm.

For Lin Xun, his five dao bodies alone were enough to dominate the All Dao Realm!

Before long, Lin Xun arrived at the top of Mind Cleansing Peak.

Waving his sleeve, he released the previously rescued royal members and clansmen from the Dao Endless Pagoda.

These people had already awakened on the way back to the outside world, but they were still in a state of confusion, having no idea what had happened.

Now, standing in this hall and looking at the smiling Lin Xun, their eyes uncontrollably widened as they thought they were dreaming...

Chapter 2380 Origin of All Dao

"Young Master... Is it really you?" a shaky voice broke the silence.

It came from Lin Zhong, who had taken great care of Lin Xun when the latter first entered Mind Cleansing Peak.

After so many years, Lin Xun was no longer that young man.

Lin Zhong's temples had grayed along with the hardships of time. Trembling, he rushed two steps forward, then hesitated as if afraid to be too abrupt.

Lin Xun took the initiative to go up and wrapped his arms around Lin Zhong's shoulders. "Uncle Zhong, I'm back!"

Lin Zhong nodded fiercely as excitement took over him, "It's good, it's good that you're back..."

Meanwhile, the others in the hall were also experiencing a surge of sentiments.

Zhao Tailai, Zhao Xingye, Lin Huaiyuan...which of them hadn't been one to watch Lin Xun rise to power back then? Now that they finally saw him again after decades, they were beside themselves with all the emotions in their heart.

“Chirp!” a crisp cry rang out as a ball of fire shot toward Lin Xun. The creature’s small, plump body displayed an amazing furriness as it squeezed itself between Lin Xun and Lin Zhong and rubbed against Lin Xun’s chest.

The little guy was naturally Jiujiu.

It was also the first little friend that Lin Xun had picked up on his way from Feiyun Village to the Ziyao Empire.

After so long no see, Jiujiu was even rounder than before. With a light pinch, it would spew out wisps of radiant golden flame.

“Grandpa, is he...our clan head? The one who has influence over the entire capital?” asked a healthy-looking teenager curiously.

He was standing next to Lin Xuefeng who, according to seniority, was Lin Xun's older cousin.

Bam!

Lin Xuefeng slapped the teenager on his head and scolded, “He’s your great-uncle!”

Their interaction startled Lin Xun. Looking around to see the many teenagers of the Lin Clan staring at him with curious expressions, he was secretly dazed.

It turned out that Ye Xiaoqi wasn’t the only one who had become a grandfather. During Lin Xun’s long absence, his clansmen had been opening branches and scattering leaves, producing one batch of juniors after another.

“This is quite some big change...” lamented Lin Xun.

“While you're still the same, Young Master.” Lin Zhong grinned, “Come and meet our juniors.”

With that, he began to introduce the youngsters one by one.

Among them, some addressed Lin Xun as 'Uncle' while some as 'great-uncle,' all of which went to show that he was now an elder.

After the introduction, Zhao Tailai walked over and said, "As the son-in-law handpicked by my older brother, how can you not get familiarized with the Zhaos? Come, come, come, let me introduce them to you."

After these being introduced one by one as well, Lin Xun had also grasped a thorough understanding of the current situation.

During his absence, the Lin Clan had become much more prosperous and powerful without going through any ups and downs. Even when the recovery of aeth qi concentrations had abruptly begun, the clansmen had gone with the members of the royal family to hide in Green Lotus Secret Realm, thus suffering no casualties.

Knowing this completely put Lin Xun at ease.

However, he keenly noticed that while everyone was all warm, enthusiastic, and smiling in front of him, they more or less revealed a kind of awe.

Lin Xun only needed to think for a moment to understand the reason.

Although he had retracted his aura to the point of perfection, all those years of traveling worlds, battling, and killing had refined an invisible temperament about him.

Like how a tiger, even when it was lying lazily, still struck fear into all the other animals.

This was not something that he could change.

On this day, Lin Xun set up a banquet on Mind Cleansing Peak, which he had invited all his relatives and his friends from the royal family, Qinglu Academy, Rune Master Association, Golden Jade Hall... Everyone gathered, eating, drinking, and mingling. The atmosphere was lively.

In the next several days, Lin Xun stayed at Mind Cleansing Peak and spent happy time with his friends and family, not paying any attention to the changes in the outside world.

For him, reunions like this would only become fewer and fewer in the future, which was why they were so precious.

Ten days later.

Lin Xun decided to found his own sect and named it 'New Genesis.'

It was taken from the saying 'When a genesis begins, everything renews.'

Lin Zhong, Spirit Vulture, Lin Huaiyuan, Shi Yu, Zhao Xingye, Zhao Tailai, along with a group of other senior figures, would serve as the sect elders, each having their own duties.

The first generation of disciples, on the other hand, were selected from the Lin Clan, the royal family, Qinglu Academy, the Rune Master Association, and Golden Jade Hall.

The sect had different departments such as Martial Arts, Justice and Punishment, Alchemy, Blacksmithing, Runes, Literature, Beast Care, and so on.

Other than that, there were trivial details that Lin Xun delegated to the others.

Meanwhile, he organized all the scriptures and jade slips that recorded arts and techniques that he had collected during his cultivation journey. With the exception of legacies from the Fangchun Mountain lineage, he categorized, revised, and put them in the Literature Department to be used as the legacies of New Genesis.

In addition, Lin Xun took out the treasures collected during his journey through worlds and, except the ones that he could use, set them up as the cultivation resources for the sect.

After having all these matters done, Lin Xun could finally relax.

It was easy to establish a dao lineage, for one only needed to pick a cultivation paradise and recruit disciples.

However, creating a lineage that would last forever wasn't something accomplishable in a short time. It required solidification and practical training.

There wasn't a single lineage that relied on just one person to survive.

The only thing Lin Xun could do was use his best efforts to lay an unshakable foundation for New Genesis. In the future, the sect itself would have to pass on the torch from generation to generation.

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A month later.

The news of Lin Xun's founding New Genesis Sect spread to the Forbidden City, becoming a sensation the second it did and grabbing the attention of cultivators all over the world.

"Quick! To the Forbidden City!"

"This move of Emperor Lord Lin will definitely change the power structure of the world. I'm afraid his New Genesis Sect will become the overlord of All Dao Realm!"

"If one can join New Genesis Sect now, they are pretty much among the founding generation! Even the people around them will be able to ride on their success!"

Every part of the world was in an uproar because of this.

In a city, a man and a woman were in the process of getting married. After learning of this news, they didn't even finish the ceremony as they packed their belongings and ran toward the Forbidden City.

At the same time, masses of cultivators were also setting off overnight to hurry to the Forbidden City. Some wanted to join New Genesis Sect themselves, while the others wanted it for their children.

The spectacular hubbub left many people dumbfounded.

When the news reached the far-away Spirit Burial Sea, it caused a stir in the Monster-Beast Battle Alliance as well.

Many sea beings were tempted. They thus quietly traveled to the All Dao Realm, intending to take the risk to enter the Forbidden City. If they were able to join New Genesis Sect....

Then that would naturally be the best outcome!

After all, New Genesis Sect didn't have a rule of not accepting beings from the various races of Spirit Burial Sea as disciples.

Overall, the establishment of New Genesis Sect was certainly a major event that the lower plane could not ignore.

Everyone was clear about the significance of it; it could affect the entire pattern of the whole world!

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Lin Xun was unaware of everything happening outside. After finalizing the affairs of New Genesis Sect, he left the other trivial matters to Lin Zhong and the others.

His five dao bodies remained on Mind Cleansing Peak as guards, while he himself once again entered Green Lotus Secret Realm.

This time, it only took him fewer than ten days to arrive at the Origin World where Chess Man had once been.

The heavens and earth were barren, with only an old, bare tree rooted in it.

Not far from this old tree was a portal that resembled the void, and what it led to was the place of origin of all Heavenly Dao!

Swish!

Lin Xun rushed into the portal without delay.

In an instant, a chaotic world filled his field of vision. It was impossible to know how far and wide it stretched. All kinds of dao powers poured in torrents and rumbled like a flood. Beautiful and colorful dao hazes swept wantonly like boiling waves of bubbles.

Entering this world, it felt as though one was in the midst of the galactic chaos when a universe first formed!

Lin Xun was instantly astounded.

This was the place where all Heavenly Dao originated from?

There was nothing but inexplicable chaos in which all daos were born together. They released the most primitive auras into the atmosphere, boundless and rich.

Boom!

A terrifying law power suddenly appeared and oppressed Lin Xun from all directions. He instinctively operated his cultivation and barely managed to resist this force.

Calmly perceiving this, Lin Xun assessed, "This kind of law power is born from chaos, and it's distinctly more powerful than the power of the Phoenix Flame of Order and the Nirvana of Transcendence...

"It's on the level of the taboo law power wielded by Heavenly Emperor Shi.

"Luckily, the law power isn't using its true destructive ability, or else I might not be able to fight back with just my own cultivation."

Lin Xun realized that Chess Man's reminder at the time was absolutely correct.

Although the law power of the birthplace of all Heavenly Dao was horrifyingly strong, it would only pose a pressure on the intruders and not a fatal calamity.

This meant that one could cultivate here as long as they were able resist this pressure!

Very quickly, Lin Xun noticed that the dao power in this place was indeed spreading and bleeding out. This was enabling the current recovery of aeth qi concentrations in the lower plane.

However, he calculated that it would take at least a few hundred years for the origin power of all Heavenly Dao here to be completely released.

After a careful observation to make sure that there were no other dangers here, Lin Xun began to fathom the principles in the origin of all Heavenly Dao.

In less than a second, he was deep in the sensation that both his body and mind were immersed in the womb of the almighty dao. Every breath he took, everything his spirit sense perceived, and every inch of skin were feeling all kinds of dao essences. They were majestic, boundless, and grandiose...

When Lin Xun opened his eyes a long time later, they were filled with shock.

If one stayed in here, not to mention cultivators, but even a stone or a piece of rotten wood would be infiltrated and branded with the enigmas of origin dao, thereby turning into a dao stone or divine wood.

It was just too inconceivable!

However, when Lin Xun tried collecting a bit of origin power, a sudden change occurred.