

Prodigies 2431

Chapter 2431 Successive Harvests

The mushy color of burning blood soaked into the boundless crimson earth beneath.

In this vast and bleak region, the Yellow Spring Road ran into the depths, while every other bit of space was covered in black mist.

Even one's spirit sense could not peer into this mist.

Following the green sparrow's instructions, Lin Xun traveled fast on the blood-red Yellow Spring Road instead of using teleportation.

His speed was naturally far below that of teleportation, but this was the safest and most stable approach.

Along the way, Lin Xun clearly sensed a cold and savage energy in the atmosphere that was permeated with a sanguinary aura.

This was like a place where the gods had spilled their blood, like a tragic ancient battlefield where the air was filled with a stench that made the mind violent.

If one's will was not firm enough, then their heart demon might be stimulated by this bloody energy, and their emotions would spiral out of control. One would transform into a madman with a thirst for killing, and they might fall into obsession, which would destroy their dao foundation!

Even Lin Xun had to run his cultivation to keep his mind and dao heart clear while moving forward with vigilance.

Boom!

Abruptly, a group of Netherworld Soldiers rushed out from the thick mist. They were riding big warhorses that were also made of black mist. The eyes of those horses were dark hollows, their mouths and noses spurted out corrosive black air currents, and their auras were ferocious.

Meanwhile, the soldiers were covered in black armor, only revealing a pair of scarlet, bizarre pupils that radiated a merciless glow.

There were thirteen of them, all draped in drifting black mist and wielding weapons. Each of them exuded an aura no weaker than that of a third realm Emperor.

However, they gave off the feeling that they were one whole entity. Their breaths harmonized with each other to produce a ferocious might that far exceeded that of the third realm!

“Kill!” bellowed the group of Netherworld Soldiers in unison. A matchless, tyrannical killing intent spread from them, stirring up the area.

Rumble~

The warhorses under them moved. Unexpectedly, they used teleportation, arriving before Lin Xun in an instant with their hooves stomping down at him.

At the same time, the soldiers on them stabbed out black spears at lightning speed. Their combined might was so strong that it shattered the void around them.

What was even more terrifying was the power they emitted from head to toe. It was actually a bizarre law power of the great dao!

Under such an attack, Lin Xun showed no emotions while the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron flew out with a roar and erupted with billions of rays of gorgeous light.

In a deafening explosion, the thirteen Netherworld Soldiers, along with their horses, were crushed. They burst into rolling black mist that was all swallowed up by the sword cauldron.

The group of enemies had been utterly destroyed with a single blow!

This stunned Lin Xun. He had held back with this strike, intending to test the depths of the Netherworld Soldiers and the mysterious power they controlled.

Who would have thought that the other party would be directly blown up like paper?!

Of note, a third realm Emperor wouldn't be this weak, not to mention that the combined strength of these Netherworld Soldiers far exceeded that of the third realm.

Despite that, they had been obliterated so easily.

"It's the power of the netherworld that's been collected into the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron..."

Lin Xun quickly noticed something different about the strange, flickering runes that diffused netherworld energy in the sword cauldron.

After the black mist left by the thirteen Netherworld Soldiers was devoured, the runes were visibly clearer, although still blurry.

Lin Xun counted a total of eighty-one runes, and each of them gave off an aura that belonged to the netherworld.

"It seems that these weird runes give the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron a natural power to restrain Netherworld Soldiers. Only this can explain why those Netherworld Soldiers were crushed so easily!" Lin Xun quickly understood.

He temporarily called this power 'netherworld power.'

He called those runes 'netherworld runes.'

As for the netherworld territory that the Nirvana law power had just absorbed and created in its realm, he called it the Netherworld Order.

“Your lifebound Emperor weapon has indeed changed,” marveled the green sparrow with a look that said ‘I can still figure out some details even if you don’t tell me.’

Lin Xun laughed and continued moving forward.

It didn’t take long before he encountered another group of Netherworld Soldiers, this time with over thirty in numbers. Each of them was seething with ferocious and murderous intent.

Generally, when faced with such a situation, an Emperor expert would immediately flee, certainly not daring to engage in this kind of battle.

However, how could Lin Xun miss this opportunity after he had already learned about the new, wondrous ability of his sword cauldron?

Boom!

The sword cauldron glided out.

In just several blinks of an eye, the whole bunch of Netherworld Soldiers were slain. The black mist they were reduced to after death got swallowed up by the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron.

Lin Xun noticed right away that the eighty-one netherworld runes inside the sword cauldron had solidified much further.

In particular, one of them showed faint signs of becoming complete!

This change in the netherworld runes also caused the netherworld power they released to increase by a chunk.

The new gain energized Lin Xun, and he couldn't help but look forward to the metamorphosis when all of the eighty-one netherworld runes became clear and complete.

Soon, Lin Xun resumed on the road.

One day.

Two days.

Three days.

Time passed as he frequently encountered attacks from Netherworld Soldiers along the way, as few as four or five and as many as several dozens each time.

In response to this kind of prey that delivered themselves to his door, Lin Xun of course unpretentiously used the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron to erase them all.

After three days of absorbing power, five of the eighty-one netherworld runes in the sword cauldron had become complete and clearly visible.

They now looked like five breathing, swimming fish, full of strange and unpredictable intelligence that the rest of the netherworld runes could not compare to.

The Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron had also grown much more terrifying in the way of dealing with Netherworld Soldiers, presenting an absolutely dominating power!

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“That guy must be a supreme Great Emperor from some Immortal Imperial Clan, right?”

A group of figures was trailing far behind Lin Xun on the Yellow Spring Road.

In the past three days, they had been following him all the way without being under any attacks, thus avoiding all sorts of fatal dangers.

This was of course thanks to Lin Xun. He was the equivalent of a trailblazer, cutting through the thorns and clearing the obstacles for the ones behind.

However, while taking great advantage, these cultivators had also been shocked by the power he displayed to the point their mind could not feel calm at all.

By this point, their mindset had been completely altered, and they were filled with awe and fear toward Lin Xun.

One of them gruffly said, "No matter who he is, he's definitely a menace we can't afford to mess with!"

An elder among them immediately admonished, "Pay attention to what you say. We have been taking advantage of him all the way, and he has most likely noticed us long ago, but he doesn't seem to care. He clearly is just too lazy to bother with us.

"I suggest that when that fellow daoist runs into trouble that he can't solve, we lend him a hand."

The speech had the approval of the crowd.

Lin Xun had of course detected their presence, but after seeing that they were only following him from afar without any malicious intent, he paid them no heed.

After seven days on the Yellow Spring Road like this.

The netherworld runes in the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron had metamorphosed again and gained seven more complete runes. Together with the previous ones, there were now a total of twelve perfect netherworld runes!

With this kind of repeated harvests, the fights along the way were no longer boring, but instead filled Lin Xun with a sense of anticipation.

However, the next day went by without any gain. He did not encounter a single Netherworld Soldier.

The abnormal occurrence made Lin Xun frown.

It can't be that someone is a step ahead of me and has cleared out all the Netherworld Soldiers on this path?

It was very likely!

After all, there was only one Yellow Spring Road, which was no more than a thousand feet wide. If there was a group of powerful experts walking ahead, then any Netherworld Soldier on their way would automatically be swept.

This meant the cultivators behind them would not encounter anything too dangerous, which was undoubtedly equal to taking a huge advantage, a very lucky thing.

However, to Lin Xun, it was an unpleasant situation.

Because it meant that he might not be able to gather enough power to improve his netherworld runes!

How could he be happy about this?

He immediately quickened his pace.

Shortly after, he detected chaotic and intense fluctuations coming from the dark and hazy mist in the far distance!

It looked like a big battle was taking place there.

“Indeed.” Lin Xun’s speculation was verified.

Whoosh!

He transformed into a light streak that shot toward the area producing energy fluctuations.

“Kill!”

Intense fighting sounds pierced the sky, disturbing the wind and clouds. It was as if gods and devils were shouting.

“Kill!”

A variety of horrifying dao arts mixed with the colors of various treasures rushed across the heavens, bursting with blazing light that lit up the whole space.

“Kill!”

Figures of Emperor experts roamed across the void. Clearly from the same camp, they were fighting side by side.

What was transpiring resembled a fierce battlefield. Blood was splashing. Treasures were flying. Powerful skills reverberated through the sky and earth, exploding with infinite light.

That was what greeted Lin Xun when he arrived. Feeling the tragic aura hitting him, he couldn't help become serious.

The opponents of those Emperor experts were an army of Netherworld Soldiers led by a Netherworld General. There were hundreds, thousands of soldiers, riding warhorses and fighting fiercely as they galloped in the churning black mist.

The sole Netherworld General was the scariest of them all. Its armor gleamed with streaming blood-red light, and in its hand was a black halberd. It emitted a brutal might that changed the atmosphere.

It was at least as strong as a Ninth Realm Ancestor!

The army of Netherworld Soldiers was also not half bad. Together, their energy blended and they coordinated impeccably. When they roamed across the field and attacked, they formed a grand killing formation.

Each of the soldiers was fearless of death. Every combined strike they made was sheer terror, seemingly capable of chopping the void to pieces and turning the world upside down.

It was naturally much easier to deal with only dozens of Netherworld Soldiers, but in this situation, there were up to thousands of them, densely packed and crowding every bit of space. The sight was enough to make the scalp of any Emperor tingle!

Coupled with the fact that a Netherworld General was presiding over them, even Ninth Realm Ancestors would be exhausted before they could kill off all the soldiers. In fact, they might even be drained to death in the midst of it!

Chapter 2432 Emperor Daoyuan Who Takes Pleasure in Helping Others

Compared to the army of Netherworld Soldiers, the group of only about twenty Emperor experts was like an unremarkable wave in the ocean.

Even so, none of them was retreating. Instead, they were all doing their best to advance.

Even though they were insignificant in numbers, Lin Xun noticed that this group was led by a supreme Great Emperor and three Ninth Realm Ancestors.

Two of the Ninth Realm Ancestors were in a fierce fight with the Netherworld General.

The remaining one was protecting the supreme Great Emperor as the group moved through the army of Netherworld Soldiers.

Obviously, they didn't want to fight to the death with this horrifyingly large army. They only wanted to kill a way out and continued further on Yellow Spring Road.

However, judging from the heavy encirclement, it would be extremely hard for them to achieve this anytime soon.

The reason was very simple: there were just too many Netherworld Soldiers who didn't fear death. When one fell, another would immediately take its place, making every step forward difficult for these Emperor experts.

Meanwhile, the two Ninth Realm Ancestors fighting the Netherworld General could only restrain it to an extent. They were unable to take it down despite going all out.

Lin Xun could see that the figure in the center of the big group was a man in plain clothes who had long, loose purple hair. Wielding a brilliantly golden jade ruler, his offense was powerful and domineering. He fought valiantly and courageously.

The plain-clothed man was at the sixth realm and currently shrouded in a dazzling light. His appearance was quite handsome. Every time he blinked, his eyes mysteriously flashed with the pattern of a pair of yin and yang fish, which gave him an intimidating air.

Despite being trapped deeply in the siege and struggling to move forward, he didn't look troubled at all but instead revealed a hint of impatience.

It was as though he was fed up with this kind of battle that felt like being stuck in a quagmire.

From this, Lin Xun reckoned that he had a powerful card up his sleeve that could solve his current predicament.

The reason why he delayed using it was probably because he didn't want to waste it on these opponents.

Sure enough, as if to verify Lin Xun's speculation, a green bamboo slip quietly appeared in the hand of the plain-clothed man shortly after. The item emanated a heavy and vast aura.

There was a hesitant look on the man's face. Obviously, the value of this green bamboo slip was so great that he was somewhat reluctant to use it.

Seeing this, Lin Xun rushed straight out without any hesitation while urging the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron.

Kaboom!

The sword cauldron, dragging radiant dao light, blasted down at the dense army of Netherworld Soldiers.

Bang bang bang—

It dropped down like a divine mountain descending from the sky and directly smashed eight Netherworld Soldiers along with their warhorses to bits.

The plain-clothed man and his group were startled and looked over one after another.

When they saw Lin Xun, they were dumbstruck. To think that someone actually risked his life, jumping right into this kind of dangerous battle to help them! What was going on here?

Having someone coming to one's rescue was certainly very moving.

However, Lin Xun had come alone, and he did not look familiar at all. It meant a stranger was taking a huge risk for them. The plain-clothed man's group could never have expected this.

They were stupefied.

When did such a chivalrous and warm-hearted person appear in this Great Thousand Battle Domain?

Someone whispered, "Young Lord, could it be that this fellow recognized you and deliberately came to butter you up, right?"

The plain-clothed man was stunned, "But he's risking his life here. Which of my sycophants can be this fearless, putting their life on the line to help me?"

The rest of the group exchanged glances. Indeed.

As they discussed among themselves, another thunderous noise echoed in the distance.

Looking over, they saw Lin Xun conquer the field with the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron by repeatedly smashing it down. Wherever it passed, group after group of Netherworld Soldiers were squashed into rolling black mist.

The dominating scene caused the plain-clothed man's group to stare dumbly.

"This person is actually a supreme Great Emperor! No wonder he dared to get involved..."

"Killing Netherworld Soldiers like he's tearing up paper, this is just unbelievable."

"Savage indeed. Who is this person? Why have I never heard of someone like him?"

As everyone marveled, the plain-clothed man's eyes also flickered, shock taking over him.

The power of a single Netherworld Soldier was meager, but a group of hundreds or thousands of them could be said to be terrifying.

Otherwise, his group wouldn't have been trapped here.

Therefore, when he saw Lin Xun's unstoppable killing momentum, the plain-clothed man was shaken.

How can this kind of character be ordinary? An expert of this caliber would never try to butter me up.

The plain-clothed man took a deep breath and commanded, "Attack together with all your might!"

His whole group immediately gave voices of approval.

Lin Xun's appearance was like a sharp dagger that ruthlessly inserted itself into the army of Netherworld Soldiers, disrupting the momentum of the entire battlefield.

It was to the point that many Netherworld Soldiers flocked to him like a tidal wave.

This invariably took a lot of pressure off the plain-clothed man's group. They knew very well that this was the best time to break out of the siege.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun's heart was screaming in joy over the bountiful harvest. He kept charging forward at full might while hurling out every skill in his arsenal.

To others, these Netherworld Soldiers were tricky and difficult to deal with, whereas to him, they were alluring prey waiting to be hunted.

"Fiercer!" bellowed the Netherworld General who was fighting intensely with the two Ninth Realm Ancestors in the distance. It had also sensed Lin Xun's presence and realized that the situation had gone wrong.

At its order, almost all of the Netherworld Soldiers in the field abruptly rushed toward Lin Xun.

The plain-clothed man's group took advantage of this to break free in one fell swoop, which put them in high spirits.

When they looked back, Lin Xun was still charging bravely alone in a killing spree, while the sea of Netherworld Soldiers were fearlessly throwing themselves at him.

“Young Lord, hurry up and go!” someone quickly reminded the plain-clothed man. If they kept dallying here, something might happen that would waste this successful escape.

However, the plain-clothed man grunted, "Without the help of that daoist friend, how could we possibly have the opportunity to force our way out? Whether he's doing this to help us or not, I, Dantai Feng, will not leave him here to fight alone!"

His speech was loud and resolute.

The crowd was stunned for a moment.

Not waiting for them to persuade him, Dantai Feng pointed at the Netherworld General and said, “To destroy an army, we first capture their leader. Let's help the two elders kill that Netherworld General, and perhaps we will be able to resolve this calamity.”

As soon as his word rang, a loud shout came from the distance, "It's better that all of you leave quickly and don't complicate the situation. I, Ling Xuanzi, have my own way of getting out safely! Leave now, don't hesitate! Hurry!"

That voice was filled with urgency.

It naturally belonged to Lin Xun, who didn't want these Netherworld Soldiers to be snatched by the plain-clothed man and his group...

The man in plain clothes was dumbfounded. This fellow...actually refused help?

Meanwhile, the others seemed relieved as they advised him, “Young Lord, as that daoist friend has said, the opportunity is not easy to come by. Let's just hurry up and go. This Yellow Spring Road is filled with

perils, so we must preserve our strength as much as possible to get to the number one Immortal Emperor Pass alive.”

“But...” the plain-clothed man hesitated. Then, he looked up at Lin Xun in the middle of the battlefield and asked aloud, “Fellow Daoist Ling Xuanzi, dare I ask, why would you help us?”

Lin Xun said righteously in the middle of killing, “I don’t have many hobbies, but helping people is one of them!”

Hearing this, several people almost spat and looked at him strangely. If it wasn’t for the fact that Lin Xun was indeed doing them a huge favor right now, then they would have started retorting his nonsense.

Helping people as your hobby? Everyone here is an Emperor expert who has lived for countless years, okay? Who are you trying to fool with such a childish and absurd reason?!

The plain-clothed man's expression also became odd, and his cheeks twitched.

Only after a long time did he say, “Fellow Daoist...”

“Just go!” Lin Xun bluntly cut him off.

The plain-clothed man didn’t know whether to laugh or to cry. Is this guy really not scared to die?

“Young Lord, since this person is so chivalrous and happy to help, why are we still hesitating? Let’s just go!” The two Ninth Realm Ancestors broke away from the Netherworld General and swept in, taking the plain-clothed man to leave without any hesitation at all.

The plain-clothed man wanted to refuse, but his group swarmed him away.

He turned back and said loudly, “Fellow Daoist Ling Xuanzi, I, Dantai Feng, will remember this favor. If there is a day that we meet again, I will treat you to a drink—!”

His voice was still echoing when the group disappeared from sight.

Lin Xun's eyes gleamed with a strange look. That Dantai Feng actually has a conscience...

BOOM!

A ghastly killing aura speedily approached. It was the Netherworld General.

Lin Xun no longer dared to think too much. Abandoning all distractions, he steered the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron to kill with all his might. Despite being all by himself, he had the posture of someone who declared themselves to be invincible in the world.

One hundred.

One hundred and fifty.

Two hundred.

As the battle went on, the number of Netherworld Soldiers that died at Lin Xun's hand kept increasing. Black mist poured into his sword cauldron in a constant stream.

Such a harvest fanned Lin Xun's fighting spirit more and more. He didn't rush to kill the Netherworld General, worrying that once the other party died, these Netherworld Soldiers would disperse without a leader.

Three hundred.

Four hundred.

Five hundred...

Watching from afar, it was a heaven-destroying battle in the churning black mist. Batch after batch of Netherworld Soldiers fell under Lin Xun's killing spree like crops being harvested.

“So strong!”

“Simply perverse!”

“He has every chance to kill his way out but has never done so. Can’t it be that he plans to wipe out the entire army of Netherworld Soldiers?”

“How can there be such a menace in this world?”

The group of cultivators who had been trailing behind Lin Xun was also watching everything that transpired in the battlefield at this moment. They did so with their jaws on the ground and their mind in turmoil.

One of them couldn't help but ask, “Didn’t we decide to help this fellow daoist should he encounter a tricky problem? Do we go now?”

“No need!” Lin Xun's loud shout resounded from the distance before anyone else could respond. “If you guys still want to keep following me, then don't get involved!”

The group of cultivators was stunned speechless. He even refused help?! This kind of person actually exists?

Chapter 2433 Yellow Spring Bead

Lin Xun didn't care what those cultivators would think.

He had a feeling that after he killed all of these Netherworld Soldiers and their general, the eighty-one netherworld runes in the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron would likely undergo a monumental metamorphosis!

Kill!

Kill!

Kill!

In the battlefield, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron was glowing. It killed around seven or eight Netherworld Soldiers every time it struck while also shooting out overwhelmingly sharp sword qi that reaped the lives of Netherworld Soldiers like reaping grass.

The Netherworld General had long been aware that the situation had gone south. It struggled many times to escape, but Lin Xun had it so tightly suppressed that there was no possibility of it fleeing.

Upon reaching the end of the battle, Lin Xun felt that the progress was a little slow, so he deployed his five dao bodies to fight together with him.

The effect was apparent.

The harvests skyrocketed.

After only time it took to savor a small cup of tea, the Netherworld Soldiers in the field were finally swept clean. Upon seeing that Lin Xun no longer held back and ended the Netherworld General with a single blow.

Bang!

When the gigantic figure of the Netherworld General exploded, it turned into a vast black mist that spread out. The Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron had to use several breaths of time to devour it all.

It was also at this time that the crowd of stupefied cultivators snapped back to their senses.

Upon seeing the cold and desolate battlefield devoid of enemies, with Lin Xun being the only one left standing in it, they all stiffened and their minds were thrown into shock again.

A huge army of Netherworld Soldiers, along with a Netherworld General, was actually wiped out by that guy alone!

Who could ever have imagined this before?

Meanwhile, Lin Xun exhaled a long breath as he had expended over half of his strength. Consuming a divine pill to replenish it, he began to assess the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron's situation.

Inside the sword cauldron, eighty-one netherworld runes had absorbed all that netherworld power and coalesced into their complete state!

Each one of them was clearly visible, glowing with a kind of spirituality.

Moreover, their metamorphosis was still going on.

Gradually, the eighty-one runes began to wriggle nonstop as they merged with each other...

At the end of it, they formed nine brand new netherworld runes!

Each of these new runes presented a different vibe and emanated a different aura.

One was as cold as ice, bone-chilling.

One was violent and flamboyant, seemingly boiling and burning.

One emitted corrosive energy...

The nine runes seemed to belong to nine branches of Netherworld law power, and together they constituted the complete principle of the netherworld.

However, they were very feeble!

When Lin Xun surveyed them with his spirit sense, he found that each of these nine netherworld runes displayed a fragmented and mottled, broken and blurry quality.

He pondered, "Maybe they need further consolidation to be refined to actual perfection?"

Nonetheless, he still noticed the significant change with the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron after these nine netherworld runes were condensed. It had gained a new, mysterious aura.

At a glance, it looked like the entrance to the netherworld, radiating an eerie, secretive air that made one's heart palpitate!

After long contemplation, Lin Xun flipped his hand, and a bead the size of a pigeon egg appeared in his palm. It gleamed with a dim, turbid color. Within it, there seemed to be a river flowing, exuding a ghostly and chilling energy.

It was a Yellow Spring Bead!

Only Netherworld Generals carried this treasure that provided incredible effects when used on Emperor-grade treasures. In the Eternal True Realm, a bead like this could be exchanged for three hundred thousand first-grade cosmic origin crystals!

According to the green sparrow, those who possessed a Yellow Spring Bead rarely put it up for sale.

It was because this treasure was extremely rare and only hutable in this Gathering Netherworld.

Lin Xun thought about it and put the Yellow Spring Bead away. He intended to collect more before finally exploring their magical effects.

After a glance at the group of cultivators on the road behind him, he resumed walking forward.

“What are you waiting for, let’s go.” As if waking up from a dream, those cultivators hurriedly chased after him.

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Three days later, which was also the fourteenth day of Lin Xun’s journey on Yellow Spring Road.

He once again saw Dantai Feng and his group.

The funny thing was that the group was once again being trapped by an army of Netherworld Soldiers, and this time, there were two Netherworld Generals and over a thousand Netherworld Soldiers!

Dantai Feng and his group noticed Lin Xun’s presence as soon as he arrived. They couldn’t help but reveal strange looks, seemingly not expecting that this ‘chivalrous and helpful’ fellow was still alive.

“Hey, kind brother, come and help!” one of them called out, the two words ‘kind brother’ revealing a hint of sarcasm.

Dantai Feng frowned and scolded, “Don’t blame me for being ruthless if you dare to spout nonsense again!”

Lin Xun in the distance smiled and ignored it. With a flash, he teleported straight toward a Netherworld General.

Seeing this, Dantai Feng was dumbfounded, “This guy isn’t planning to find joy in helping people again, is he?”

The people around him, on the other hand, all had weird expressions. Even they hadn’t expected that Lin Xun would once again risk his life for others under this circumstance!

While they were wondering, Lin Xun had already exchanged fierce blows with the Netherworld General he targeted.

In just moments, this Netherworld General was blown up, giving Lin Xun a Yellow Spring Bead and giving the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron a surge of netherworld power.

In the distance, the other Netherworld General was fighting two Ninth Realm Ancestors of Dantai Feng's group.

Seeing this, Lin Xun shook his head and gave up this prey. He had no intention to stay here, so he turned and rushed away.

Before this, he had already found out already along the way that the netherworld power brought to the sword cauldron by killing Netherworld Soldiers had become almost negligible.

He realized that in order to improve the nine netherworld runes, he had to hunt down Netherworld Generals.

The reason why Lin Xun gave up on the other Netherworld General here was because two Ninth Realm Ancestors were fighting it. If he intervened and killed that Netherworld General, then...who should get to keep the Yellow Spring Bead it dropped?

Instead of creating unnecessary trouble, Lin Xun simply gave up.

He planned to overtake Dantai Feng's group on this road and beat them to any Netherworld General ahead.

"Woah, our kind brother is trying to leave ahead of us!" someone mockingly yelped.

Many people had also noticed this and couldn't help but frown.

Since their group was attracting the majority of the Netherworld Soldiers, Lin Xun would have a relatively easy time leaving.

It was the same as three days ago when Lin Xun had restrained that Netherworld army, allowing them to easily kill their way out of the siege.

However, when it was Lin Xun who got to just leave like this, they found it unfair.

"By what right can this guy take this opportunity to leave while we hold back the enemy? We never said we love helping others like him!" one of them coldly grumbled.

"Let's go after him together, we can't let him just take advantage of us like this," another egged on.

Their exchange enraged Dantai Feng. His eyes gleamed icily. "Have you fed your conscience to dogs? No matter what, Ling Xuanzi helped us before and has even killed a Netherworld General just now, yet here you are, saying such shameless things. You've disgraced me!"

His furious criticism caused the complainers to pale and utterly silenced them.

In the distance then rang the voice of a Ninth Realm Ancestor who was fighting the Netherworld General, "Young Lord is right. Furthermore, to be able to easily kill a Netherworld General amidst thousands of troops, Ling Xuanzi's battle strength proves terrifying, far beyond that of an ordinary supreme Emperor. How can such a character be denigrated?"

Hearing that, Dantai Feng's expression eased up. He said, "Keep fighting. As I said before, all encounters on the way are trials that are hard to come by. If not for that, I could have used my trump card and killed all of these enemies from the start, but I would have lost the opportunity to temper my strength in doing so."

With that, he waved his hand and led the group to continue the battle.

Lin Xun, who had long since killed his way out of the encirclement, also heard their conversation and was quite impressed by Dantai Feng.

He didn't need gratitude and reward from the people he helped. It was good enough that they were reasonable!

Unfortunately, most people in this world didn't have the kind of temperament and mindset Dantai Feng had.

Swish!

Lin Xun quickly vanished into the vast black mist on Yellow Spring Road.

On the other hand, the group of cultivators who had followed him was dumbfounded, feeling a bitter taste in their mouths.

Unlike Lin Xun, they were not capable of killing their way out of this army of Netherworld Soldiers.

This meant they had lost the chance to trail after him and enjoy the shelter he provided...

"Alas, it's over for us," many sighed.

"He and we are strangers who met by chance. We've already taken advantage of him all the way here, which is already a heavenly favor!" admonished an elder with a frown. "It's unacceptable to ask for a mile after gaining an inch and not know how to be thankful."

The crowd immediately fell silent.

"Go, let's join the fight! Helping others at this time is helping ourselves. Let's stop dreaming about taking advantage of people!" That elder waved his hand and charged toward the battlefield.

The others exchanged glances before they clenched their jaws and rushed after him.

Just as the elder had said, only by fighting alongside Dantai Feng's group would they have a chance of advancing on this road!

Otherwise, none of them could even think about breaking through this murderous tribulation.

When Dantai Feng saw them coming, he was moved. When did so many good people appear in this world...?

He couldn't help but ask, "You guys...also take pleasure in helping people?"

The newly arrived group of Emperors was stunned.

The elder leading them replied in a loud voice, "Although our strength isn't outstanding, we'd like to follow the example of Fellow Daoist Ling Xuanzi!"

Indeed! Dantai Feng felt his heart pumping as he said, "Don't worry! I, Dantai Feng, won't let anything endanger your lives as long as I'm here!"

If Lin Xun saw this scene, his jaw would have dropped.

After all, the reason why he 'liked to help people' was not pure, but it was obvious that Dantai Feng had been quite touched by his action...

Of course, all of this no longer had anything to do with Lin Xun who was moving at breakneck speed on Yellow Spring Road.

Along the way, he encountered a few Netherworld Soldiers who came at him murderously, but he couldn't be bothered. He directly avoided them and hurried on.

Currently, only Netherworld Generals could catch his eyes!

Chapter 2434 Netherworld's Soul Capturing Dao

Another half a month passed as Lin Xun hurried on the road.

During this, he had encountered dozens of raids of various scales, but the majority of them were swarms of Netherworld Soldiers.

The number of Netherworld Generals, on the other hand, only made up a tiny portion. He had only killed five during these last two weeks, obtaining five Yellow Spring Beads along with big surges of netherworld power.

By now, the nine netherworld runes in the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron had all become much more consolidated. They even showed faint signs of becoming complete, which was a stark contrast to how variegated and blurry they had been at first.

Even Lin Xun had not anticipated this kind of bountiful harvest before entering Gathering Netherworld.

“With my current battle prowess, killing Ninth Realm Ancestors is no longer something risky. When I reach the seventh realm of Practicing Voidness, maybe I can test if I can hold up against an Ancestor of a Path...

“Apart from that, the power of the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron has made a clear improvement, enough to match my strength...”

While traveling, Lin Xun perceived the changes in his cultivation.

“There's also the Great Dao Furnace Art, which has assimilated half of the various legacies I have. But it's still quite a distance away from truly integrating thousands of daos and deriving thousands of arts.”

During the recent years, the five dao bodies had been comprehending and blending the various inherited powers in Lin Xun's arsenal.

However, mere integration was nothing special.

The goal was to lean on the foundation of this integration and create his own, unique path to walk on.

This was carrying on the past and opening up the future.

Until now, the five supreme sword dao legacies like the Taixuan Sword Scripture, the Tornado Sword Scripture, and No Escape were no longer the only ones completely integrated.

Several dozens of legacies had been added to this troop, such as the Green Lotus Grotto Art, the All-Inclusive Plant Index, the Great Treasury Silent Scripture, and many more. They had all become a part of Lin Xun's Great Dao Furnace Art.

This was an 'ongoing scripture.'

Only when one had a truly complete Emperor-grade scripture to aid their cultivation would one be able to comprehend immortality at the Ancestor Stage!

"The most urgent thing is to break through to the next realm!

"Only after breaking through will I be able to go farther and survive longer in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, otherwise, I'd have no choice but to flee as soon as I come across an Ancestor of a Path..."

Lin Xun's eyes glowed with determination.

Currently, his cultivation had long since reached the very peak of No-Law, Against Heavens. He only needed an opportunity to enter Practicing Voidness.

At that time, the increase in his cultivation would result in a transformation of his battle power!

"The Gates of Hell isn't far ahead," the green sparrow suddenly reminded him.

Lin Xun flinched. Letting go of all distractions, he raised his eyes to look.

In the very distant black mist, there was a huge illusion of a door gate that connected the heavens above and the earth below. Although vague, it looked extremely lofty and mysterious.

The Gates of Hell!

Rumor had it led to a place of horror in the netherworld. Once entering, the souls of the dead could not go back!

Of course, this was just a rumor from the last epoch.

When Lin Xun carefully approached it, he finally got a clear look. It was a black gate that bridged the sky and earth, like something that belonged to the world of gods.

The two stone pillars on both sides were hundreds of feet thick, engraved with cloud motifs that had become mottled and faded due to the erosion of time.

Meanwhile, the lofty beam in the sky was inscribed with three big, black rune words: Gates of Hell!

Just a glance at it made one's heart drum.

The green sparrow informed, "What awaits you behind this door is not only an endless stream of Netherworld Soldiers and Netherworld Generals, but also very likely also the attacks of Six Yin Lightnings."

The so-called Six Yin Lightnings were six types of lightning filled with bizarre power. It was rumored that only the netherworld could produce such a terrifying tribulation.

These six types were the Asura Blood Lightning, Heavenly Destiny Severance Lightning, Human Soul Lightning, Evil Spirit Fury Lightning, Hell Annihilation Lightning, and Animal True Lightning.

Asuras, Heavenly Beings, Humans, Hungry Ghosts, Hells, and Animals corresponded to the six paths of hell in the previous epoch! [1]

The green sparrow then elaborated on the terrifying nature of the Six Yin Lightnings.

When hearing that even Emperors would transform into animals when struck by the Animal True Lightning and never be able to recover their true forms, Lin Xun almost laughed out loud.

He imagined a group of Emperor experts suddenly turned into pigs, cows, and sheep. It was spectacular indeed.

In fact, he couldn't help but recall the time in the Ancient Wasteland Domain when Xi turned a group of Saints into a flock of sheep and herded them away.

"Don't laugh. You probably won't even be able to cry when you get turned into an animal," snorted the green sparrow.

Lin Xun was stunned, and a layer of goosebumps appeared all over his skin. It was certainly creepy to think about...

He suddenly remembered something, "Right, didn't you say that there is a mysterious forbidden area near the Gates of Hell?"

The green sparrow said, "Enter this gate and walk for less than ten miles, you'll see a broken stele on the side of the road that says 'Yama.' Far east from this stele is where that mysterious forbidden area is located."

"Yama?" Lin Xun raised a brow. "What kind of danger lurks in that mysterious forbidden area?"

The green sparrow's voice became serious, "A kind of law power that shattered after the destruction of the last epoch. It resembles a burning black flame that's eternal and indestructible, also known as the 'extinguishing law fire.'

“In the past, there was a true Ancestor of a Path who went to explore this forbidden area and came across unknown dangers. The moment they escaped the forbidden zone, their entirety was engulfed by the extinguishing law fire and reduced to ashes in the blink of an eye.

“It was this incident that made people aware of the ferocity of that forbidden area, it’s capable of utterly killing an Ancestor of a Path!”

Lin Xun was aghast. He squinted, “It’s so dangerous, so why do you still suggest I go there?”

The green sparrow chuckled, “Because your lifebound Emperor weapon nurtures two different law powers, which is enough to resist the extinguishing law fire. If you can collect some of this fire... Hehehe, then you can pose a threat to immortal characters!”

This had Lin Xun tempted. Only then did he understand what the green sparrow meant by calling this a unique opportunity for him.

The green sparrow continued, “Of course, this is just my inference. It doesn’t matter if you don’t want to go. After all, that hellish place is indeed very dangerous.”

Lin Xun’s eyes flickered. After a moment of silence, he said, “Let’s go, we’ll take a look first.”

He then walked toward the Gates of Hell.

Buzz~

As soon as he arrived under the gate, the Nirvana law power in the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron abruptly emerged.

It then released a gorgeous, colorful rain of Nirvana light that enveloped the two massive stone pillars as well as the lofty beam.

“It has found another power that it can draw in and refine?” The green sparrow was stunned for a good moment.

Lin Xun was also a little surprised, but soon his heart grew expectant.

Shortly later, the Nirvana law power withdrew its light and returned to the sword cauldron.

Lin Xun probed his spirit sense into it and immediately saw the change. In the netherworld that had recently been built in the realm of Nirvana law power, there was a new Gates of Hell that touched both the sky and earth!

Obviously, the power that the Nirvana law power had just absorbed was a part of the netherworld!

However, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron didn't change much this time, except that one of the nine netherworld runes had become clear and complete in one fell swoop.

When Lin Xun sensed it, a strange dao mystery immediately surged into his mind.

A long time later, Lin Xun learned that this netherworld rune was imprinted with a complete netherworld dao called Soul Capturing Dao!

This dao was divided into two parts: rectifying and soul capturing. The former could rectify all kinds of dead souls there were: incomplete souls, ghosts, heroic souls...

Rectified souls would become pure soul power, which could be used to nourish and cultivate one's own spirit.

Meanwhile, soul capturing was a much more overbearing ability. It was like wielding a shackle that could forcefully pull out the opponent's primordial spirit!

The most amazing thing was that this Soul Capturing Dao was not a secret art, but instead a law power. After one mastered it, it could be integrated into their own cultivation.

As a result, this power could be utilized in all sorts of fighting tactics!

Understanding all this, Lin Xun couldn't help but marvel inside. What a marvelous dao. Just how powerful was the netherworld in the last epoch to have this kind of bizarre and overbearing law power?

At the same time, he reckoned that this dao probably had an inextricable relationship with the Gates of Hell.

Whether it was rectifying dead souls or capturing them, it was all for the purpose of taking them to the Gates of Hell for adjudication, which would be executed by the Six Paths Division!

Lin Xun was a little curious. There are nine netherworld runes, and one of them is the Soul Capturing Dao. What about the other eight?

Unfortunately, those eight netherworld runes were still incomplete. His only choice was to honestly gather the power to perfect and explore them.

"Hurry up," urged the green sparrow. It could tell at a glance that Lin Xun had reaped a big harvest, which made its heart itch with curiosity, but it also knew full well that he would never divulge what the harvest was.

Lin Xun nodded as he secretly instructed the Green Wood Dao Body to start studying the Soul Capturing Dao. Only then did he resume walking forward.

After passing through the Gates of Hell, Lin Xun proceeded with immense caution, lest an Animal True Lightning bolt fall and hit him.

Traveling for less than three miles, a Netherworld General leading a group of Netherworld Soldiers suddenly rushed out from the churning black mist and charged toward him.

Lin Xun naturally wouldn't be polite. He leaped at them, and in a matter of moments, this group of ferocious creatures had been massacred, easily gaining him another Yellow Spring Bead.

Lin Xun was about to survey the changes in the nine netherworld runes...

A blood-colored lightning bolt appeared out of nowhere, cutting through the void and slashing at him without making a single sound during the entire process.

Furthermore, its speed was incredibly fast!

Caught off guard, Lin Xun could only resist head-on with the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron.

Bang!

The sword cauldron shook violently and emitted rumbling buzzes. The collision produced a splash of blood-red sparks, which impacted Lin Xun to the point he staggered back and his qi and blood tumbled.

He was startled. Isn't this lightning a little too powerful?!

Its might surpassed even that of a Ninth Realm Ancestor. On top of that, it was incomparably tricky, silent and sudden, making it impossible to guard against.

Not giving Lin Xun time to think, more lightning bolts shrouded in fiendishly red sheens noiselessly swept out from the black mist...

Chapter 2435 Mark of Battle

One, ten, fifty...

Scarlet bolts appeared and kept increasing in numbers. Some were as thick as young but intimidating dragons while some were as thin as swords, none of which emitted any sound or aura.

Such a scene was extremely spooky.

Lin Xun's hair instantly stood up, and he immediately fled.

Bang bang bang!

Defending him from all sides, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron was viciously struck again and again. It rumbled violently, as if the attacker was a huge hammer in the hand of a god.

Lin Xun was rattled to the point he almost coughed up blood. His face sank, and without any hesitation whatsoever, he ran like crazy using every bit of his strength.

Looking from afar, one would see a dense patch of blood-colored bolts. Like a swarm of sharks who had smelled blood, they madly chased after Lin Xun and bombarded him. On his sword cauldron, eye-piercing lightning sparks continuously splashed.

A while later.

The scarlet lightning storm that had emerged from the black mist finally disappeared.

Lin Xun's face was slightly pale while his eyes carried a grave color, looking as though he had just survived a calamity.

The power of that blood-colored lightning was far too bizarre and terrifying!

The green sparrow revealed an odd expression, "That was the Asura Blood Lightning, one of the Six Yin Lightnings. Even Ninth Realm Ancestors would suffer if caught in its siege.

"But from what I know, it has only appeared a few times in these countless years. Only once in a blue moon you'd hear about someone running into it. Who would have thought that it'd happen to you..."

Lin Xun raised a brow, "So, my luck is pretty good?"

The green sparrow snorted out a laugh, "I'm afraid that only an unlucky guy like you would think so."

Lin Xun also burst out laughing, "At least, other people never have the chance to see with their own eyes what the Asura Blood Lightning looks like. As far as I'm concerned, it makes this trip worthwhile already."

The green sparrow teased, "What about the Animal True Lightning then, you wanna see it too?"

Lin Xun's face darkened. He shook his head decisively.

Next, he continued to travel for around seven miles and finally saw the broken stele that the green sparrow had talked about.

On one side of the Yellow Spring Road, the slanted, three-foot-high stele stood in tumbling mist. It was black as ink and mottled with traces of time.

On the center of the stele, the strange inscription of the word 'Yama' was faintly visible.

Lin Xun asked, "That mysterious forbidden area is further in from this stele?"

The green sparrow nodded, "Do you really intend to go there?"

Lin Xun's eyes glinted. "There's no harm in giving it a try, and I'll just flee the moment the odds are against me."

Right now, his most powerful card was Time Stopping, but he would not resort to it unless it was a matter of life and death.

Or else, if someone saw him using this skill, it would definitely lead to unpredictable problems.

After all, Time Stopping originated from the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer innate talent, which wasn't a secret to many people in the Eternal True Realm!

Once it was seen and word of it got out, the Luo Clan would probably find him very quickly.

Besides Time Stopping, Lin Xun had other powerful cards up his sleeve, but none of them could threaten an Ancestor of a Path.

This gave him a sense of crisis.

He was certain that in this Great Thousand Battle Domain, there would definitely be terrifying existences of such caliber!

Therefore, if he was able to collect some extinguishing law fire, then it would be equivalent to having a card that could intimidate an Ancestor of a Path!

This was the reason why Lin Xun wanted to try his luck in that mysterious forbidden area.

The green sparrow's voice also became serious, "Then you have to be careful."

There were many mysterious forbidden zones in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, and regarding the one they were heading to, there had been very few people who dared to go there since time immemorial!

Lin Xun nodded. He operated his cultivation to the maximum, and then summoned the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron. Finally, he started traveling in a specific direction from the Yama Stele.

The whole world was permeated with black mist, so quiet that even the wind made no noise.

Even with the All-Seeing Eye activated, Lin Xun could only see up to ten thousand feet away.

As he gradually went deeper, an indescribably oppressive and throbbing feeling surged through him, causing his muscles to tense up.

It was as if the depths of the dark mist was hiding something deadly.

Lin Xun's expression grew somber. He moved step by step, not daring to speed recklessly at all.

The dim purple sun quietly took cover in the clouds.

At some point, a blood-red moon had quietly appeared in the dark and foggy sky, radiating a demonic light.

When Lin Xun glanced up at it, his heart inexplicably shuddered.

All of a sudden, swish swish swish...

One after another black dots appeared under the scarlet moon in the sky until they formed a dense pack. Within a few breaths, no less than a thousand had gathered.

Looking closely, each dot was actually a malicious ghost condensed from black mist, with a stark-white face and deep-red eyes!

At the center of them, a huge skull shrouded in a blood-red glow was suspended.

The skull was crystalline white and as big as a hill. Its teeth resembled sharp spearheads. In the two hollows where the eyes were supposed to be, there were two ghostly green flames that rushed to the sky, dyeing the void with a bleak green luster.

The moment this skull appeared, the surrounding malicious ghosts kowtowed toward it while issuing incomprehensible and screechy 'keke' noises from their mouths. Those noises disturbed the atmosphere and sent chills through anyone who heard them.

These ghosts were conducting a ritual honoring the moon!

Lin Xun's expression was unprecedentedly grave. The eerie scene gave him the urge to turn and leave.

"Ghosts celebrating the moon... This is an omen of great evil..." transmitted the green sparrow, its voice also permeated with fright.

According to rumors about the netherworld of the last epoch, this event often signified the imminent birth of a Ghost Emperor!

This was something extremely sinister as the appearance of a Ghost Emperor meant that a great calamity would befall the netherworld.

This was virtually a sign that had been passed down in the netherworld since the beginning of time. It went hand in hand with the saying: 'Disasters accompany the emergence of a Ghost Emperor.'

Bang! Bang! Bang!

In the sky dome, the over one thousand malicious ghosts were suddenly set ablaze with green fire. Seemingly self-burning, their forms crumbled into strands of abundant netherworld power that surged into the mouth of the huge skull at the center.

The scene felt like a sacrificial ritual. They were sacrificing their own power to that skull!

At the same time, the scarlet moon in the sky dropped down a thick pillar of blood-red light directly at the huge skull.

In the blink of an eye, the whole region was submerged in waves of boundless blood-red netherworld power, and at the center of it all was none other than that skull.

It was swallowing this power and undergoing a shocking transformation!

“Run!” the green sparrow urged as it realized that the situation wasn’t good.

Lin Xun nodded.

Right at this juncture, however, a radiant black and white jade book swiftly swept out from the depths of the mist, heading straight toward the red-glowing skull.

Whoosh~

The jade book released two divine rays of light, one black and one white. They appeared dream-like and profound.

Seeing this, the skull emitted a savage and chilling voice, “King Qinguang, the destruction of the epoch is near, and the netherworld will eventually cease to exist. Why are you still trying to stop me?”

The skull then spewed out a scarlet haze, which collided with the black and white rays.

KABOOM!

In a deafening noise, the black and white jade book buzzed and collapsed into a rain of light.

Soundlessly, an illusory figure walked out from the black mist. It was magnificent, wearing an emperor crown and a black robe.

Lin Xun looked over, and the first impression he got was that the figure’s eyes seemed to be able to reflect everything in the universe: the world, the sun, the moon, and the stars. They accommodated all heavens and derived unfathomable foresight!

The simple look subjected Lin Xun's spirit to a suffocating pressure.

However, the majestic figure did not seem to notice Lin Xun. He only stared at the red-glowing skull and indifferently said, "Even if the epoch is destroyed, a fiend like you still is not allowed to disturb the order of the netherworld."

The skull laughed, "Who's going to stop me? Just you?"

The next second, more figures emerged from the mist one by one. Their appearances varied, either strange, scholarly, formidable and intimidating, or calm and relaxed, but they all had one thing in common: their auras were powerful to the extreme and could not be doubted!

That skull seemed frightened as it hissed, "King Songdi, King Chujiang, King Biancheng, King Taishan... Are you serious? All ten Yamas coming out together, just to prevent my metamorphosis?!"

As if going berserk, it roared, "But have you thought about it, this epoch has come to an end, already stepping into its collapse! Even if you successfully stop me now, you all will still die in the final destruction!"

Its voice echoed through the heavens and earth, dispersed all the clouds in the area, and caused the black mist to tumble violently.

Lin Xun felt his head buzzing and his eyes dizzy, as well as a pain that almost caused him to cough up blood.

Meanwhile, the answer to the skull's question was a joint attack from the ten Yamas.

The ten magnificent figures each took a direction, either holding a jade book, a sword, a flag, a copper furnace, or a big faded yellow seal...

"Suppress!"

"Restrain!"

“Bind!”

“Trap!”

“Stamp!”

“Kill!”

...

One divine sound boomed after another like orders given by gods, shaking the region.

Rumble~

All sorts of powerful treasure light covered the sky, reflecting endless horrifying phenomena: a sea of blood, the six paths suppressing souls, the Sea of Forgetfulness full of sufferings, the other shore sinking...

Lin Xun's eyes immediately tingled as he trembled to his core. It was as though the world had abandoned him, and he could no longer see or hear.

An unknown time later, he gradually came out of that blank state and back to his senses. His vision also regained clarity.

When he looked at the field, he was stunned to find nothing besides the mist. Silence was filling the heaven and earth. The scarlet moon was nowhere to be seen in the sky.

It was as if the scene just now had only been an illusion.

“The mark of battle...” Lin Xun instantly realized that what he had just seen was not an illusion, but instead was truly an appalling battle that had taken place in the last epoch.

What he had seen was merely a fragmented mark left behind by that battle!

Arriving at this conclusion, Lin Xun's heart became more and more unsettled.

Endless years had passed since the destruction of the previous epoch, but in this mysterious forbidden area, he had accidentally peeked into a battle that could be called supreme and terrifying!

Although it was only an excerpt, it was enough for one to see how powerful the ten Yamas in charge of the netherworld back then were!

Chapter 2436 Daos of the Ten Yama Halls

After some time, the green sparrow said, "What we saw earlier was indeed a Mark of Battle." It was clear that it had only just recovered from its shock.

Then, the green sparrow suggested, "Should we leave?"

Lin Xun shook his head. His black eyes appeared impossibly deep as he said, "Since we're already here, it would be far too regretful to not see that extinguishing law fire."

With that, he continued forward.

The green sparrow suddenly regretted instigating Lin Xun to come here. Anyone could tell at a glance that this was a highly dangerous zone where even the slightest accident would most likely incur a catastrophe!

However, the green sparrow could no longer dissuade him as it could tell that he had already made up his mind.

The deeper they ventured, the thicker the black mist grew. It was utterly silent without even the tiniest bit of sound.

Under Lin Xun's All-Seeing Eye, the ground was littered with broken tiles and blackened bones. Everything looked so decayed that it would probably disintegrate at the slightest touch.

From these observations, Lin Xun hypothesized that many people had likely lived here in the previous epoch.

So far, no other conclusions could be made.

They walked several dozen miles in this manner without encountering even the slightest hint of danger, making the place seem very peaceful.

However, Lin Xun could keenly sense that the deeper they traveled, the more oppressive the atmosphere grew, which made his hair stand on end.

Lin Xun couldn't help but ask, "Why haven't we encountered the extinguishing law fire yet?"

Before the green sparrow could reply, a huge black shadow suddenly appeared from the depths of the black mist like a towering mountain.

Lin Xun inwardly shivered and immediately stopped.

When he took a closer look, he discovered that the huge black shadow was a gigantic cauldron!

The cauldron stood several dozen feet tall and was covered in mottled rust. Surrounded by swirling black mist, the cauldron appeared rather mysterious.

Lin Xun deliberated for a moment before he gritted his teeth and walked forward.

As he approached, he observed that the cauldron was severely corroded and looked as if it would fall apart at any moment.

Some vague cloud patterns were barely visible on its surface, but it was impossible to discern the full picture.

At this moment—Omm!

Nirvana law power swept forth again, emitting dao light that engulfed the giant cauldron.

Lin Xun and the green sparrow were taken aback.

Some understanding soon dawned upon them. The cauldron was likely branded with Netherworld secrets of the previous era!

Sure enough, when the Nirvana law power withdrew moments later, ten Yama Halls had appeared in the Netherworld of the law power world!

Each Yama Hall sported a different style and plaques hung from their entrances.

They were: King Qinguang Hall, King Chujiang Hall, King Songdi Hall, King Wuguan Hall, King Yanluo Hall, King Biancheng Hall, King Taishan Hall, King Dushi Hall, King Pingdeng Hall, and King Zhuanlun Hall.

[1]"><https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diyu>[/ref]

As the Ten Halls of Yama appeared, Lin Xun also noticed that one of the nine Netherworld runes had become clear and complete!

When his spirit sense reached in, mystical dao knowledge immediately flooded his mind.

The Ten Yama Dao!

It was a divine and unfathomable Netherworld dao consisting of ten branches which were all related to punishment and killing.

For example, the Mirror of Sin Dao wielded by the King Qinguang Hall could see the power of sin. When cultivated to the extreme, one's dao power would coalesce into a strange pattern resembling a book of life and death.

The Sea of Misery Dao wielded by the King Chujiang Hall was a type of punishment dao. When cultivated to the extreme, one could coalesce a Sea of Misery pattern.

The Fire Illumination Dao wielded by King Songdi Hall was a type of suppression dao. When cultivated to the extreme, one could coalesce a mandala pattern.

The other branches also had their own characteristics and abilities.

Together, these ten dao powers formed the Ten Yama Dao.

Lin Xun couldn't help but inwardly marvel at this knowledge.

Compared to the Gate of Hell's Soul Capturing Dao, the Ten Yama Dao from the Ten Yama Halls was undoubtedly far more complex. After all, each dao could display astonishing and mystical abilities.

Lin Xun didn't dare to imagine how incredible of an existence the previous epoch's Netherworld was to be capable of wielding so many inconceivable dao powers!

If it wasn't for the Nirvana law power's reconstruction abilities that restored the Soul Capturing Dao and the Ten Yama Dao, he would never have realized these mysteries in his entire lifetime.

"Another big haul?" muttered the green sparrow, seemingly a little jealous.

From the Bridge of Forgetfulness, to the Gates of Hell, and now the cauldron, Lin Xun had clearly benefited each time. The green sparrow simply couldn't remain calm at such luck.

It had never heard of anyone who could repeatedly strike the jackpot in Gathering Underworld like Lin Xun.

However, the green sparrow knew that this was likely because of the mysterious law power in Lin Xun's Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron!

That law power was simply unbelievable. It could rebuild law power that should have been destroyed in the previous epoch, allowing it to be reborn in the present!

It was also because the green sparrow couldn't know how much Lin Xun had benefited that made it irrationally vexed and envious.

Lin Xun sighed and said, "It's really nothing much, I'm just not quite able to wrap my mind around it."

He had indeed not expected to obtain the Ten Yama Dao from the previous epoch before they could even encounter the extinguishing law fire.

The green sparrow said, "You should quit while you're ahead. Let's hurry up and leave this place."

Lin Xun studied the mottled cauldron as he casually said, "What do you think is inside this cauldron?"

The green sparrow was stunned.

Lin Xun had already risen into the air. He flew above the cauldron and looked down.

Although he had restrained his aura and was as careful as possible, he still gave off some slight power fluctuations when he rose into the air.

A surge of terrifying destructive aura was abruptly released from the cauldron as if it had been startled.

Rumble!

The corroded cauldron exploded, unleashing blindingly bright black flames.

With a bang, Lin Xun was sent flying. Intense pain wrecked his body, and even his skin and hair felt as if they were being burned.

He couldn't help but be horrified.

Given his current cultivation level, it had been a long time since he had been put in such a sorry state.

In the distance, a long stream of flames rushed into the sky like a divine chain, releasing endless light. The searing torrent of destruction evaporated the nearby black mist and heated the surrounding space until it began to turn bright red!

"Extinguishing law fire!" exclaimed the green sparrow.

Lin Xun's heart violently shuddered. So this was the terrifying fire that could easily kill an Ancestor!

Without giving him any time to think, the law fire fiercely lashed at him like a crazy divine whip.

Rumble!

Flames filled the sky, burning everything wherever they passed. It felt as if everything was being burned into extinction. The destructive aura was so horrifying that even Lin Xun's expression involuntarily changed.

Swish!

Without hesitation, he turned and fled.

Lin Xun had originally planned to use the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron's power to suppress some extinguishing law fire. However, he immediately gave up when he saw this scene.

That power was simply too terrifying. He felt that even a tiny wisp of it could instantly burn him to ashes!

"Crap!"

Lin Xun's heart suddenly jumped as he instinctively dodged to the side.

A wisp of extinguishing law fire suddenly sprung up in the direction he had been fleeing as if it had been waiting there all along. If he hadn't moved in time, he would have likely crashed into it.

Lin Xun couldn't help but break out in a cold sweat. This fire was far too bizarre.

He didn't dare to linger a second longer and continued to flee.

However, his expression turned ugly a split second later.

It was because the area originally covered in black mist was now surrounded by extinguishing law flames!

Each flame seemed different from another. Some were as thick as pythons and shone brightly as they illuminated the surroundings, while others were as slender as sword qi, flickering erratically as they swam around in the air.

Regardless of form, the extinguishing law flames seemed alive and aware as they formed a giant circle of fire to surround Lin Xun.

To make things worse, the circle was rapidly shrinking and closing in!

It truly felt like even heaven and hell had closed their doors, leaving no way out and making it impossible to avoid the flames.

"We're finished...," the green sparrow said in a despairing voice, "If only you listened to me earlier..."

Lin Xun had no attention to spare for the green sparrow at the moment. He took a deep breath and became completely calm instead of panicking.

Swish!

He abruptly charged towards a slender sword-qi-like law power flame, which strangely flickered and vanished into thin air.

Delighted, Lin Xun immediately tried to escape the encirclement.

However, the joy on his face froze a moment later.

It was because thousands of law power flames appeared in his path, each slender as sword qi as they shone with blinding light.

To make things worse, various other types of law power flames were aggressively approaching from other directions. The flames seemed to gather into a torrential tsunami of fire, incinerating heaven and earth wherever they passed.

"Screw this!"

Lin Xun gritted his teeth, summoned the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, and charged straight ahead.

Bang!

A wave terrifying destructive force unfurled when the first sword-qi-like law power fire collided with the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, nearly causing him to cough blood.

He couldn't care less about such things at the moment. Instead, he desperately circulated his power to its limit in order to neutralize the law flame's power.

However, numerous law flames were already rapidly swarming towards him from the front.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Deafening explosions resounded across the skies, each collision accompanied by a horrifying eruption of flames.

The Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron buzzed and trembled violently. Despite using every last bit of his cultivation, the rapid barrage made Lin Xun's face pale as he repeatedly coughed blood.

The most terrifying part, however, was that the flames behind him were now arriving...

Any other cultivator would despair at this point.

At this critical juncture, Lin Xun activated Time Stopping with a sudden roar.

In an instant, heaven and the earth froze as if time had stopped.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun sent the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron plunging forward, breaking through the crowd of flames in his way.

In that brief opening, he dashed forward.

Chapter 2437 End of the Yellow Spring Road

On the Yellow Spring Road, Lin Xun fell to the ground, panting.

His handsome face was almost translucent, traces of blood could be seen at the corner of his lips, and his pupils were filled with remnant fear and joy.

After using Time Stopping twice in a row, he had barely managed to break out of the encirclement and escape the extinguishing law flames' pursuit.

In exchange, he was seriously injured and was on the verge of cultivation exhaustion.

With a deep breath, Lin Xun took out some precious healing medicines, stuffed them into his mouth, and began to chew and absorb them.

Lin Xun transmitted, "Yezi and Wuque...protect me."

The Yellow Spring Road wasn't safe as Netherworld Soldiers and Netherworld Kings could appear at any moment.

Yezi and Wuque emerged to stand guard.

Over the years, most of the unused Emperor-grade weapons Lin Xun collected were left to Yezi, Wuque, and the Broken Blade's spirit as 'food.'

By now, their cultivation had grown by leaps and bounds. In a one-on-one fight, each of them was capable of inflicting deadly damage to a seventh realm Emperor.

If they joined forces, they were even able to face a Ninth Realm Ancestor!

In fact, back in the Celestial Phoenix World, Yezi and the others had confronted a Ninth Realm Ancestor of the White Tiger Lineage!

"I can't believe that you even have two artifact spirits..." The green sparrow was dumbfounded. After barely escaping with its life, it discovered that Lin Xun had more than a few hidden trump cards.

Lin Xun didn't remark and began to meditate.

It was the first time he had been pushed so far since entering the Great Thousand Battle Domain, and he had only managed to survive by using Time Stopping twice in a row.

Even in the past, such situations were few and far between.

As he recalled the recent events, Lin Xun's heart involuntarily thumped in fear. The extinguishing law fire was simply too terrifying. After experiencing it for himself, Lin Xun was no longer surprised that it could easily kill an Ancestor of a Path. Such power would indeed make any cultivator despair.

The following period was surprisingly peaceful and without any unexpected incidents. Lin Xun's group didn't encounter a single cultivator, let alone Netherworld Soldiers and Netherworld Kings.

A full day later, Lin Xun finally woke up from his meditation.

His injuries were fully healed, and even his depleted reserves had been restored to about eighty percent. It wouldn't take long to completely recover.

However, Lin Xun didn't intend to linger here any longer.

The longer he stayed here, the less safe it became.

After Yezi and Wuque returned to the Sword Case of Rebirth and the No-Nonsense Bow respectively, Lin Xun immediately set off.

Inside him, the Green Wood Dao Body and the Red Flame Dao Body were studying the Soul Capturing Dao and the Ten Yama Dao.

At Lin Xun's current cultivation realm, even the Netherworld dao from the previous era wasn't much of a struggle to learn.

In fact, he had already reached the beginner level of the Soul Capturing Dao.

However, it would still take some time for him to progress these Netherworld daos to the Emperor Law Stage.

Along the way, the green sparrow couldn't help but ask, "Did you...manage to collect any extinguishing law fire?"

Lin Xun grinned. He knew that the green sparrow would be curious.

"I did." He nodded. While escaping, he had used the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron to suppress a dozen of those slender sword-qi-like law flames.

When the law flames tried to struggle, they were swiftly suppressed by the combined powers of the phoenix and nirvana law powers, leaving them trapped and unable to move inside the sword cauldron.

"Really!?" exclaimed the green sparrow as it grew extremely excited, "That terrifying flame can threaten even immortals. Can it...really be suppressed and subdued?"

After all, it knew the origins of the extinguishing law fire. After the destruction of the previous era, the destroyed law power transformed into an eternal and indestructible black flame known as the extinguishing law fire.

In the past, even an Ancestor of a Path had been burned to death by this fire!

This was also why the mysterious forbidden zone near the broken Yama Stele was regarded as a place of great danger, which no one had dared to approach for countless years.

Even the green sparrow never imagined that Lin Xun, who had been fleeing in such a sorry state before, would not only survive, but also manage to collect some flames. How could it not be surprised?

The green sparrow expectantly asked, "May I see?"

Lin Xun answered, "Sure, but are you confident of not getting roasted?"

The green sparrow rolled its eyes and extinguished the idea.

Lin Xun asked, "How much further to the first Immortal Heavenly Pass?"

The green sparrow mused, "It should take less than a month!"

Soon after, it pointed out, "I can see that you're close to a cultivation breakthrough. However, I suggest that you do so after arriving at the Immortal Heavenly Pass as it will undoubtedly be the safest there. No one dares to act recklessly inside."

Surprised, Lin Xun asked, "It has the same rules as Ferry City?"

"Pretty much."

Lin Xun nodded in understanding.

Not long after, a Netherworld King leading hundreds of Netherworld Soldiers appeared from the road ahead and aggressively charged at Lin Xun.

Lin Xun wasn't surprised. This time, he secretly employed the Soul Capturing Dao he had recently learned to empower the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron.

Boom~

The Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron fell like a meteor, smashing dozens of Netherworld Soldiers to pieces that soon turned into billowing black mist.

Unlike before, Soul Capturing power burst from the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron. The power extracted illusory figures from the black mist and pulled them into the cauldron.

Lin Xun immediately observed that the illusory figures were actually fractured and blurred soul power. After being refined by the Soul Capturing Dao, they were transformed into crystal beads the size of a fava bean.

"As expected, the Soul Capturing Dao naturally restrains the Netherworld Soldiers. It can easily subdue them, extract, and collect their soul power..."

Lin Xun felt invigorated.

The Soul Capturing Dao was divided into two parts: extraction and capture. It could capture various souls and process them into pure soul power, which was extremely useful for spirit power cultivation.

After a group of Netherworld Soldiers were slaughtered, the black mist they left behind was turned into Netherworld power and was collected by the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron.

Although there was nowhere near enough Netherworld power to refine the nine Netherworld dao runes, it was still soul power that Lin Xun wasn't intending to neglect.

Rumble!

The battle continued as Lin Xun rampaged alone amongst the several-hundred-strong army of Netherworld Soldiers.

Even that Netherworld King was killed by him with absolute and overwhelming power!

In mere moments, the battlefield was swept clean of enemies!

Lin Xun then tallied the spoils. Inside the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, the single fava-bean-sized soul bead had become three fist-sized soul beads.

One of them was condensed from the soul power of the Netherworld King!

There was also a Yellow Spring Bead, which, together with the collected Netherworld power, caused minute changes to the Netherworld dao runes.

Lin Xun was rather satisfied with this harvest.

Soul power, Netherworld power, and even a Yellow Spring Bead...such a haul was something that Lin Xun would never have dared to imagine before.

The green sparrow could only powerlessly spit on the ground, full of envy and jealousy.

Such outrageous battle spoils was something the green sparrow had never ever heard of, let alone seen before!

It would even willingly bet that in the long history of Gathering Netherworld, not a single cultivator could come close to rivaling Lin Xun's absurd luck.

The green sparrow knew that all of this related to that mystical and unfathomable law power Lin Xun possessed!

In their subsequent journey, they didn't encounter any deadly danger or a calamity as terrifying as the extinguishing law fire.

However, they did encounter hordes of Netherworld Soldiers every once in a while, and occasionally, even Netherworld Kings leading grand armies of Netherworld Soldiers.

Unfortunately for these Netherworld residents, every single one of them were nothing but delicious prey to Lin Xun.

His collection of soul beads and Yellow Spring Beads rapidly grew as the nine Netherworld dao runes absorbed more and more Netherworld power...

Along the way, Lin Xun grew increasingly pleased and cheerful, even looking forward to more obstacles popping up.

On the other hand, the green sparrow couldn't bear to watch any further. It even inwardly cursed the Netherworld Kings and Soldiers for their stupidity. Did they not know they were nothing but fattened pigs being sent straight to Lin Xun's doorstep?

The days passed one after another.

Every cultivator travelling behind Lin Xun, regardless of the relative position, was rather confused and bewildered.

They had been on tenterhooks since entering the Gathering Netherworld, always tense, alert, and extra cautious lest they meet a deadly disaster.

Unexpectedly, however, they rarely encountered any of the terrifying Netherworld Kings and Soldiers. At most, they would occasionally come across a few Netherworld Soldiers, which naturally didn't pose much of a threat.

Although they were very careful, it was still strange that they hardly encountered any danger!

"What's going on?"

Many people were confused.

Someone couldn't help but mutter, "Could our luck have finally arrived? Are the heavens taking extra care of us?"

"Or maybe there's a super powerhouse ahead killing all the Netherworld Kings and Soldiers to pave the way for us?"

Others skeptically speculated.

"It must be that samaritan!"

Dantai Feng and his group had a strong premonition that it was the work of Ling Xuanzi.

They couldn't help but deeply sigh.

What an awesome guy!

In today's world, how many people could be so pure and helpful?

If Lin Xun were to know this, he wouldn't know whether to laugh or to cry.

Over twenty days later.

The black mist covering the Yellow Spring Road gradually thinned, while the oppressive and gloomy aura dissipated substantially.

Lin Xun finally saw the end of the Yellow Spring Road, where a circular black dao altar appeared, emitting obscure spatial undulations.

"Upon stepping onto this dao altar, you'll be moved to the first Immortal Heavenly Pass. It is a giant city that has existed since ancient times and has been governed in turns by different Immortal Imperial Clans over countless years..."

The green sparrow's voice was filled with relief, "After we enter, we can finally take a good rest."

Chapter 2438 The First Immortal Heavenly Pass

In the Great Thousand Battle Domain, there were forty-nine Immortal Heavenly Passes of various sizes.

The first Immortal Heavenly Pass, also known as Origin City, stood on the edge of the Gathering Netherworld.

It signified that only those who could enter this city were qualified to continue on!

"Origin City has a single rule: no killing. Those who violate the rule will be faced with two choices.

"One is death.

"The other is to be placed under the Total Destruction Invocation and become a city guard, unable to escape forever."

The green sparrow explained, "You've already seen the power of the Total Destruction Invocation. Both your friends have had their souls controlled by this forbidden spell. "It's no different from being a slave and some might say it would be better to be killed."

Lin Xun silently listened.

"If my calculations are correct, the force currently guarding the city gates should belong to the Immortal Imperial Heng Clan. There will most definitely be an Ancestor of a Path present as well. Otherwise, it will be impossible to intimidate the Emperors entering the city."

The green sparrow casually said, "As for other matters, you'll find out after entering the city."

Lin Xun nodded and stepped onto the circular black altar.

Omm!

His figure disappeared amidst a wave of spatial fluctuations.

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On a vast land where mountains seemed to stretch endlessly into the distance.

At the moment, Lin Xun stood before a majestic ancient city, appearing especially tiny compared to its mottled thousand-feet-tall walls.

While it was impossible to tell how big the city was from here, he could clearly feel the heavy aura of time it exuded.

Lin Xun turned his head and saw vast mountain ranges covered in mist, their successive peaks stretching as far as the eye could see.

The green sparrow transmitted to Lin Xun in warning, "The land outside Origin City is full of strange and unpredictable dangers. I advise you not to wander about too much and enter the city as soon as possible."

It had returned to its pouch, worried that it would bring unnecessary trouble to him if its identity was discovered.

Lin Xun nodded and turned his gaze back to the giant majestic city.

Although the city walls were covered in blade marks, sword holes, and the mottled scars of time, it couldn't hide the heavy aura of the years, which seemed to add a certain bleakness to the city.

Faint restriction undulations occasionally flowed, appearing and disappearing from time to time. As the first Immortal Heavenly Pass in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, the walls were naturally engraved with arrays to protect the peace and guard the city from the many disasters it must have experienced over the years.

The grand and ancient city gates were built from a rare blueish-black stone and two teams of guards were respectively stationed on each side.

They were well-armed and their bodies were encased in black armor. However, judging from their strong auras, all of them were at least at the Emperor Stage.

Their cultivation levels roughly ranged from the third to sixth realm Emperor Stages.

This was very astonishing. After all, it was hard to believe that a group of mighty Emperors would be relegated to mere gate guards of the Immortal Heavenly Pass.

According to the green sparrow, these people had broken the city rules and had their souls shackled, leaving them to forever serve as city guards.

Since Lin Xun was the only one in front of the towering city gates, he attracted the attention of the guards the moment he appeared.

Unfazed, he walked forward.

A guard in black armor with a huge bronze sword in his hand murderously demanded in a cold voice, "Identity plate."

Lin Xun casually handed over his identity plate.

The guard took it and inspected it. Then, he turned back to Lin Xun and said, "Anyone who wishes to enter the city must pay ten thousand first-grade cosmic origin crystals. If you don't have enough, you can use other treasures to make up the amount..."

Before he could finish, Lin Xun tossed over a storage bag. After checking it, the guard couldn't help but cast a deep glance at Lin Xun and said, "You may pass."

As he spoke, he returned the identity plate.

Lin Xun nodded and headed into the city.

"Remember, no fighting or killing in the city. Otherwise, no matter who you are, you will pay an unbearable price!"

The guard's cold voice rang out.

Without looking back, Lin Xun disappeared into the city gates.

The nearby guards began to discuss in low voices, "To have passed through Gathering Netherworld alone, he must be a formidable expert!"

Only the guard who checked Lin Xun's identity plate earlier didn't join in and instead beckoned with his hand. Immediately, a thin guard approached.

"Go to Tianyu Building and find Lord Wen Shaoheng. Tell him that the target has appeared."

"Understood!"

The thin guard hurriedly left.

.....

The city was enormous. On the extremely wide streets, ancient trees had taken root nearly everywhere, reaching up together to create an impressive canopy. Meanwhile, rows upon rows of ancient buildings lined up the streets and alleys.

There were medicine halls, weapon shops, inns, restaurants...and various other establishments.

The streets were crowded with people and all kinds of noises. The shouts and hawking from sellers rose one after another, forming a noisy and lively atmosphere.

Lin Xun couldn't help but be surprised. It was because although the figures he saw along the way were from various different clans and races, most of them were below the Emperor Stage!

There were even children chasing each other on the streets who had only just started cultivating.

It was quite inconceivable.

After all, this was the Great Thousand Battle Domain. To reach this city, one would have to pass through the Ancient Nightmare Battlefield, the Undead Soul Domain, and Gathering Netherworld. It was a journey filled with danger that most cultivators would never survive!

Even Emperors would find it highly risky, yet most of the people in the city were below the Emperor Stage...

How could anyone not find this baffling?

The green sparrow soon revealed the reason.

Over the years, numerous Emperors had packed many of their relatives and clansmen into treasures and brought them along to the Great Thousand Battle Domain, hoping to reach the Eternal True Realm together.

However, after experiencing the dangers of the journey, many Emperors worried that a horrible mishap might occur if they continued. Thus, they left their relatives and clansmen in the city.

After countless years, the number of cultivators left behind in the city grew and grew. They lived and multiplied, leading to present scenes Lin Xun had just witnessed.

Only then did it finally make sense to him.

As he walked, he saw that everyone, regardless of cultivation level, got along harmoniously. Order was ever present, and no one was seen bullying the weak.

It was quite similar to Ferry City.

Lin Xun learned various things as he wandered around. Occasionally, he would look up at the sky where a mysterious restriction light curtain covered the entire city. Beyond the light curtain was the boundless cosmos where stars circled, appearing magnificent and mysterious.

"It seems that I can indeed choose to have my cultivation breakthrough here." Lin Xun pondered.

Other places were too dangerous and accidents may happen at any time. On the other hand, there was obviously no need to worry about such problems in Origin City.

Not long after, Lin Xun entered an inn and the server asked for ten first-grade cosmic origin crystals. Lin Xun was taken aback, feeling that the prices here were simply outrageous.

The server explained that only wealthy Emperors were capable enough to enter the city and stay in an inn...

Lin Xun couldn't help but chuckle. Since he was indeed not short of money, he left a bag of first-grade cosmic origin crystals to rent a room for ten days.

Upon walking into the room, Lin Xun couldn't help but inwardly nod in approval. The inn was equipped with various sophisticated restrictions, so there was no risk of being spied on by outsiders.

However, Lin Xun still personally set up a restriction before he lay on the bed and let out a long sigh of comfort.

Since entering the Ancient Nightmare Battlefield, he had experienced countless battles and dangers, which had kept him tense at all times. It was only now that he allowed himself to relax.

After a while, Lin Xun suddenly said, "Mi Wuya and Yan Yurou are both in the pagoda. Is Wen Shaoheng still able to sense them?"

The green sparrow answered, "The Total Destruction Invocation is sensed through the soul, and treasures do not have the power to block it. In other words, if Wen Shaoheng is in Origin City, he will definitely be notified of your presence."

Lin Xun said, "I see, will a noble from the Eternal True Realm like him be punished if he violates the city rule?"

The green sparrow thought for a moment and said, "Generally speaking, even the bigwigs, such as Immortal Imperial Clans from the Eternal True Realm, rarely dare to make a move in the city, but in some special cases...well, they will find sufficient reasons to make their move."

"For example?"

"A set-up."

"Set-up?" Lin Xun was startled and displayed a confused look.

The green sparrow nonchalantly said, "If Wen Shaoheng sends some scapegoats to cause trouble and you and them start fighting, the scapegoats will claim that you were the first to attack. Moreover, there will be many convenient witnesses. Who would you punish if you were the city lord?"

Lin Xun thoughtfully said, "Although it is a bit despicable, I have to admit that it is indeed the most direct and effective method."

"However, it will still depend on the city lord's attitude. If the city lord acquiesces the matter, you can be framed for a crime without bothering with any set-up."

The green sparrow's tone was filled with ridicule, "It's no exaggeration to say that these Immortal Imperial Clans have plenty of ways to deal with people like you from the Great Thousand Worlds. But generally speaking, no one would do such things openly."

Lin Xun thought for a moment and said, "In other words, if they want to deal with someone, they will choose to do it in secret so no one will know?"

The green sparrow replied, "Exactly, but such things rarely happen under normal circumstances. After all, the Immortal Heavenly Passes have remained standing to this day due to the rule that has been passed down for countless years. It can't be broken by just anyone.

"Even the Immortal Imperial Clans who take turns overseeing the city usually wouldn't dare to break the rule that everyone has agreed on together."

Lin Xun smiled. His black eyes appeared unfathomably deep as he slowly said, "But in my opinion, Wen Shaoheng...won't care about the rules..."

As he spoke, he slowly closed his eyes and began to doze off, seemingly very relaxed and comfortable.

The green sparrow didn't comment.

It knew best how much Wen Shaoheng hated Lin Xun. If there was a decent enough chance, he would not hold back just because they were at an Immortal Heavenly Pass.

Meanwhile, on the top floor of a towering building in the city.

This was Tianyu Tower, the tallest and most magnificent ancient building in Origin City.

Presently, Wen Shaoheng was standing by the railing as he peered into the distance. The giant city sprawled endlessly with its spider-web-like streets, rows of buildings, and bustling pedestrians...

He could see almost all of the city from here!

Chapter 2439 Empty Hidden World, Assassin Crane

While Granny Xue watched Wen Shaoheng standing by the railing in silence, she couldn't help but feel a pang of pity.

After his previous disastrous defeat, Wen Shaoheng seemed like a completely different person, becoming silent and taciturn. No one could tell what he was thinking about.

It seemed to Granny Xue that the defeat had not only dealt a heavy blow to him, but also become a source of torment.

If not removed, his dao heart would be affected!

A guard hurried over, stopping some distance away as he bowed his head and clasped his hands in respect, "My Lord, there's news from the city gate that Ling Xuanzi has entered the city."

Granny Xue abruptly turned her head, her eyes flashing like lightning as she waved her hand and said, "You're dismissed."

The guard turned around and left.

Granny Xue then took out a jade booklet that shimmered with a mysterious aura and gently flipped it open. After a brief probe, she immediately realized that Mi Wuya's and Yan Yurou's life soul auras were present within a certain area of the city!

Her expression brightened. Inwardly trembling with excitement, she turned to Wen Shaoheng and said, "Young Master, that little devil has indeed entered the city!"

To Granny Xue's astonishment, however, Wen Shaoheng didn't react in the slightest. His expression remained calm and indifferent while he continued to gaze into the distance.

She couldn't help but call out, "Young Master?"

"I know."

Wen Shaoheng finally spoke. He turned to face Granny Xue, revealing eyes filled with deep-seated hatred and endless iciness. "I have already contacted Empty Hidden World and they will send an assassin to deal with him. This is the empty hidden warrant."

As he spoke, he casually tossed out a blood-red, palm-sized token. A pair of eerie silver vertical pupils were visible on its surface.

Shocked, Granny Xue asked, "Young Master, you've agreed to Empty Hidden World's conditions?"

Wen Shaoheng expressionlessly answered, "As you know, an ordinary Ninth Realm Ancestor is no match for Ling Xuanzi. The only ones who can assassinate him in Origin City without being noticed are the assassins from Empty Hidden World."

"But...the cost is too high. That's three million first-grade cosmic origin crystals!" Granny Xue's emotions churned wildly, unable to calm down.

Three million first-grade cosmic origin crystals! In the Eternal True Realm, even an Ancestor of a Path would not be able to remain composed at such a sum! This was why Granny Xue felt it wasteful to use so much money to kill a mere Ling Xuanzi.

"It's worth it as long as we can kill Ling Xuanzi." Wen Shaoheng said each word with slight pause, his eyes chillingly cold, "That old man, Heng Tianshuo, has already agreed to turn a blind eye to this matter. I'd love to see how Ling Xuanzi will make it out of Origin City alive!"

Heng Tianshuo!

He was a bigwig from the Immortal Imperial Heng Clan and an Ancestor of a Path. At present, he was overseeing Origin City on behalf of the Heng Clan and held the authority of the city lord.

Granny Xue took a deep breath, knowing that she could no longer dissuade him, and nodded in agreement. Her spirit sense entered the empty hidden warrant and information about an assassin immediately appeared.

Crane.

Ranked sixth among the Emperor-level assassins of Empty Hidden World.

Has succeeded in all missions to date.

Over the past thousand years, he completed eighteen Emperor-level ninth realm missions and killed eighteen Ninth Realm Ancestors!

...the detailed records of Crane's accomplishments were very impressive, astonishing even Granny Xue.

"Ranked sixth among the Emperor-level...no wonder the fee is so expensive..." Granny Xue inwardly mused to herself. Even in the Eternal True Realm, Empty Hidden World was a mysterious assassin force that even Immortal Imperial Clans were wary of!

.....

In a simple, serene courtyard of the city lord's mansion, Heng Tianshuo was examining a bone-patterned jade scroll.

Dressed in a simple robe, his face was as flawless as a gem. The silvery white on his temples added a sense of worldliness to his appearance as he casually sat there, exuding an air of scholarly elegance. From his appearance alone, it was hard to tell that he was an ancient Ancestor expert who had lived for tens of thousands of years, and a true-blue Ancestor of a Path.

After a long silence, Heng Tianshuo softly murmured to himself, "In three months, the Secret Realm of Trial will open. I wonder how many Emperors will survive this time."

The rustling sound of footsteps echoed from afar. Heng Tianshuo immediately collected himself and asked, "What brings you here?"

A boy with delicate features softly reported, "My Lord, news has just arrived that Wen Shaoheng's target has entered the city."

Heng Tianshuo asked, "That Ling Xuanzi?"

"Yes."

Heng Tianshuo chuckled. He waved his hand and said, "No need to pay attention to this matter. Oh right, remember to suppress any disturbances and do not allow it to disrupt order in the city."

"Understood."

The boy received the order and left.

"To have forced one of the Wen Clan's Five Absolute Emperors, Wen Shaoheng, into such a desperate situation that he has even resorted to employing an Empty Hidden World assassin, Ling Xuanzi is indeed no ordinary expert..."

Heng Tianshuo pondered for a while before he shook his head, "Forget it, since a grudge has been formed with the Wen Clan, I'll let Wen Shaoheng resolve this matter himself."

He paid no further attention to the matter and continued to toy with the bone-patterned jade scroll while thinking about the Secret Realm of Trial.

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Under the ink-black night sky, Lin Xun strolled out of the inn and headed towards the bustling, brightly lit streets with his hands behind his back.

"Buying star frost nine-petal flowers, will take everything you have!"

"Hot golden scale meat buns, juicy with thin skin, a true delicacy."

"Customer, would you like to buy some divine materials? These are unique treasures found only in the Great Thousand Battle Domain and are almost impossible to find elsewhere."

Various shouts and cries from the vendors rang out one after another.

It was quite an eye-opening experience for Lin Xun. Unlike other places, the treasures sold in Origin City were diverse and rare wonders which would seldom appear in the outside world. Only, the prices were absurdly high! Soon after, Lin Xun stepped into a rather large shop and a server immediately came forward to greet him.

Lin Xun said, "I want to purchase some Yellow Spring Beads."

The server was taken aback. He replied, "Elder, that's an extremely rare treasure. Even if someone does manage to collect it, they would rarely sell it off."

Lin Xun directly inquired, "Do you have any Yellow Spring Beads in stock?"

"We do."

The one who answered was a thin man. He smiled and clasped his hands together, "I am Heng Yuntong, the store manager."

The surname Heng!

Lin Xun immediately knew that the person before him was a member of the Immortal Imperial Heng Clan.

Heng Yuntong smilingly asked, "How many Yellow Spring Beads does the dao friend need?"

"As many as you have," Lin Xun answered without hesitation.

Heng Yuntong raised an eyebrow and said, "Does dao friend know how much a Yellow Spring Bead is worth?"

He extended four fingers. "Four hundred thousand first-grade cosmic origin crystals."

Astounded, Lin Xun asked, "It should only be worth three hundred thousand in the Eternal True Realm, right?"

Heng Yuntong chuckled and said, "This isn't the Eternal True Realm, so the price of a Yellow Spring Bead is naturally different."

Lin Xun contemplated for a moment before he inquired, "How many Yellow Spring Beads does dao friend have?"

Heng Yuntong answered, "Three."

After some deliberation, Lin Xun said, "Can I barter with other items?"

Heng Yuntong grinned, "Of course."

He quickly led Lin Xun into a room isolated from the outside.

A quarter of an hour later, when Lin Xun walked out of the room, all of his cosmic origin crystals were completely cleaned out along with almost all the battle spoils he had collected on the way to the city. In exchange, he obtained a meagre three Yellow Spring Beads. The beads were simply far too expensive.

Of note, he had only managed to accumulate nine thousand first-grade cosmic origin crystals after selling all kinds of treasures in Ferry City. If not for the tremendous amount of battle spoils Lin Xun had collected in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, he wouldn't even be able to afford a single Yellow Spring Bead...

Heng Yuntong was all smiles as he sent off his VIP customer, Lin Xun. When Lin Xun's figure finally faded from sight, Heng Yuntong withdrew his gaze as a different smile emerged on his lips. It was indeed Ling Xuanzi who had made Wen Shaoheng suffer a disastrous defeat!

While checking and exchanging Lin Xun's treasures, Heng Yuntong discovered that most of them once belonged to Emperors accompanying Wen Shaoheng, and many of the treasures had the unique mark of the Wen Clan. This was how Heng Yuntong realized Lin Xun's identity.

"When you die, I might help collect your corpse. Your treasures...shall be the reward for collecting your body..."

Heng Yuntong's imagination began to run wild.

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After returning to the inn, Lin Xun casually set up an array and summoned the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron.

"Including the ones I bought today, I now have fifteen Yellow Spring Beads. I wonder if it'll be enough to make another netherworld rune transform..."

As Lin Xun pondered, he took out a Yellow Spring Bead and suddenly crushed it. Immediately, wisps of dusky light dropped into the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron like nectar.

Visible to the naked eye, the dusky light was greedily absorbed by one of the netherworld runes and refined into netherworld power. Meanwhile, several minute changes began to occur in the netherworld rune.

According to green sparrow, Yellow Spring Beads were incredibly effective in refining treasures. Hence why they were so exorbitantly expensive in the Eternal True Realm. After some testing, Lin Xun discovered that the power within the Yellow Spring Bead was also extremely useful to the nine netherworld runes!

As such, he had purchased more Yellow Spring Beads earlier in the hopes of completing another netherworld rune in one fell swoop. Lin Xun had a feeling that there was far more to these nine netherworld runes, and it was not merely as simple as each being imprinted with a single dao.

He believed that when he completed the nine dao runes, another transformation would likely occur! In the middle of the night, Lin Xun crushed one Yellow Spring Bead after another and the power inside them was absorbed by the netherworld runes within the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron...

The night grew deeper and deeper.

Suddenly, a tremor arose in Lin Xun's heart without any warning, and his well-honed battle instincts made him instinctively dodge to the side. A crack soundlessly opened beneath his feet as something sharp and dark flashed out.

The array power covering the room was easily torn apart as if it was a mere decoration, scattering into a shower of light. The chair Lin Xun had been sitting on also suddenly turned into dust.

Chapter 2440 Duel Against the Hidden

A series of scenes occurred in an instant.

The attack was unbelievably fast, hidden, mysterious, and deadly to the extreme! If not for Lin Xun's timely response, he would have most likely been hit!

The room fell silent again.

Lin Xun's black eyes looked frighteningly cold as radiant dao light flowed around him.

The inn was composed of layers of folded space where each room was an independent domain of sorts. Moreover, on top of the restriction power set by Lin Xun, the inn was also shrouded in its own restriction power.

Despite these measures, the assassin was able to launch a sudden and unnoticeable attack, making it clear that he or she was no ordinary assassin.

Swish!

Suddenly, Lin Xun waved his sleeve.

A ripple emerged before returning to unmoving silence.

Of note, a single wave from Lin Xun could easily burn mountains, boil the seas, and disrupt the very fabric of the world itself. Yet, it seemed to have been noiselessly neutralized by a strange force.

This made him frown. Mysterious dao light quietly circulated in his pupils as he activated the All-Seeing Eye.

The scene before him immediately changed.

Everything was pitch-black and silent as if he had fallen into an eternal night without the slightest glimmer of light.

"Interesting, to think I fell into a secret domain without noticing."

Lin Xun looked around, his expression unfazed.

The domain appeared to have also cut off his spirit sense. In other words, his senses were blocked and the scene before him could very likely be an illusion.

It felt as if reality and illusion were deeply mixed together, making the domain appear mysterious and unfathomable. The scariest part of the whole thing, however, was that even until now, Lin Xun had yet to detect any traces of the assassin.

A glimmer of something sharp soundlessly emerged and blended with darkness. Its aura was restrained to the extreme, not leaking a single power fluctuation as it suddenly stabbed at Lin Xun.

Lin Xun curled like a bow. The strange, silent sharpness passed by the side of his cheek before soundlessly vanishing again.

It was a precarious situation that would make any Emperor's expression change. From beginning to end, however, Lin Xun's face remained unchanged and unblinking. He was the very picture of composure.

Meanwhile, with a loud clang, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron unleashed a blast of light. A dao sword flew out and thrust at a certain spot to the front.

The originally empty space suddenly rumbled, shaken by the dao sword. Then, a figure suddenly rushed out.

Taking advantage of the opportunity, Lin Xun lunged forward and thrust his palm.

Boom!

The world of darkness rumbled violently as space churned like a turbulent sea.

However, the black figure was nowhere to be seen.

Lin Xun couldn't help but raise an eyebrow. He remarked, "To wield such assassination dao, it seems that you are no ordinary assassin."

No one responded.

Lin Xun's black eyes seemed impossibly deep as he stood there like a statue. He looked calm and unflustered.

It was like a secret war with one side in the open while the other lurked in the dark, each side focused on finding a sure-kill opening. The slightest slip-up from either side would likely immediately lead to a life or death confrontation!

This was the first time Lin Xun had encountered such a bizarre and unreadable assassin. However, he wasn't the least bit nervous. As someone who had experienced countless life-and-death battles, he had developed an extremely terrifying fighting instinct.

Even though his spirit sense was sealed, it was this very instinct that allowed him to be unafraid of fighting the assassin in the dark.

Lin Xun suddenly moved. A sharp edge appeared from the darkness under his feet, strange and silent as if it was blinking in and out of existence. Any other Emperor expert would have already been killed countless times without knowing why.

However, Lin Xun narrowly avoided the danger each time as if he possessed some kind of precognition. This was a feat that was no less incredible.

The bizarre assassination attacks continued, seemingly appearing out of thin air each time. They were nearly impossible to predict and guard against. Such a barrage of assassination attempts was terrifying, to say the least.

One time, Lin Xun's Limitless Abyss Dao Sword collided with the sharp edge, generating a tremendously astonishing force. From the exchange, he judged that the assassin's power was comparable to that of a Ninth Realm Ancestor.

More terrifying than the strength of a Ninth Realm Ancestor, however, was the assassin's assassination technique, which was the true threat between the two. Unfortunately for the assassin, Lin Xun had grown accustomed to the assassination attacks, becoming increasingly adept and confident the more he dodged.

Soon, this world of darkness fell into silence. The attacks from the assassin also ceased.

However, Lin Xun began to frown. He had a premonition that the other party had realized these attacks were no longer capable of threatening him. However, since the assassin hadn't left, he must be planning on trying out a different approach.

At this thought...Rumble!

An extremely bright light suddenly appeared, immediately turning the dark world misty white. The light was so harsh that it felt brighter than the sun.

When a light suddenly appeared to someone who was used to the darkness, they would usually be unable to adjust, and even panic.

Furthermore, the light that suddenly appeared also contained terrifying killing intent which resembled a landslide, tsunami, or an exploding sun.

Sharpness extended everywhere like the light!

Bang bang bang!

A rapid series of dreadful collisions rang out as shining phantasms poured out like a torrent of blades and attacked Lin Xun from all directions. The Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron was violently knocked left and right, spraying rain-like sparks.

In an instant, Lin Xun was assaulted by thousands upon thousands of attacks, as if he was a small boat in the raging sea. It was a scene that would bring despair to anyone.

At this moment, however, Lin Xun laughed wildly, "Got you!"

The moment these words were spoken, he suddenly extended his limbs outwards.

Rumble!

It was as if a giant abyss was awakening from its slumber, unleashing a terrifying force that could swallow the sky and the land. The sharp light aura approaching from all directions was completely crushed and devoured.

At the same time, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron roared forth and viciously struck at a certain spot far away. Amidst an earth-shaking crash, the weapon was blocked by a long and slender black sword. Power rippled and spread between the two objects, distorting the surrounding area.

Immediately afterwards, a thin figure was knocked out from hiding and staggered backward. Dressed in a straw raincoat and a bamboo hat, the assassin resembled a shadow with an illusory and misty sensation.

Plop!

He coughed blood as soon as he appeared, evidently injured by the attack.

"Go!"

A low, raspy voice sounded from him and the black sword in his hand suddenly spun. Strange runes immediately surfaced from the black sword. The runes burned fiercely as they unleashed a terrifying power which managed to stop the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron's suppression.

Swish!

He quickly moved, intending to dive into the darkness of the void again. At this moment, however, a plain dao sword shot out from the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron and slashed with the power to split heaven and earth. The sword's blade was so sharp that it could cut the sky.

Crack!

The thin figure tried his best to defend, but his black sword was directly chopped into two.

"Damnit!" The thin figure seemed to finally feel fear. However, it was already too late for him to dodge and he was instantly swallowed by vast sword intent.

Rumble!

Amidst a maelstrom of devastation akin to the sky falling and the earth being split, the black figure was crushed to dust and dissipated into the vast sword qi. It took quite a while before things finally returned to normal.

Lin Xun walked forward, but found that apart from the black sword that had been cut into two, only a crane feather with burn marks was left. He picked up the crane feather, observed it for a moment, and couldn't help but frown.

Not dead?

The nearby darkness began to fall and fade like peeling wall paint, followed by a peculiar spatial ripple. Lin Xun reappeared in his room.

Only the remains of the shattered wooden chair, the cracked ground, and the dissipating restriction power were left to prove that the strange and mysterious assassination attempt wasn't a dream. Lin Xun stared at the crack on the ground with tightly knitted brows. Soon after, he entered.

A deep and winding path appeared under the crack. When Lin Xun landed, he immediately felt a residual power fluctuation.

"It seems that he didn't die, but sustained serious injuries. Otherwise, given his ability, he would not have allowed any traces of his aura to remain."

Lin Xun's black eyes appeared impossibly deep for a moment before he began to follow the lingering aura. Moments later he arrived at the end of the underground path where he found a hole that led to the surface.

After rushing out, Lin Xun found himself in an inconspicuous courtyard which was overgrown with weeds. It had obviously been abandoned long ago. Here, he could no longer detect the assassin's aura.

"Someone was probably waiting here to receive him and immediately took him away upon seeing his injuries."

Lin Xun's black eyes appeared frighteningly cold as he stood there. After a while, he returned to the inn along the same route.

"A crane feather...is the assassin's true form a crane-shaped divine bird?" Lin Xun took out the crane feather again and inspected it with his spirit sense. It felt gloomy, cold, dark, fierce, and obscure. After a while, he snapped his fingers and the crane feather was incinerated to ashes.

Next, he took out the two broken pieces of the black sword and carefully examined them. The sword was narrow and slender, measuring slightly more than four feet long, and both its edges were dull. It was also covered in strange, twisted dao runes.

"I know who it is. It's Crane!"

Suddenly, the green sparrow cried out in surprise, "I didn't expect Wen Shaoheng to be so ruthless. To think that he even hired a top Emperor-level assassin from the Empty Hidden World."

Lin Xun raised an eyebrow. "Empty Hidden World? Crane?"

"There are two powerful and mysterious assassin factions in the Eternal True Realm. One is Empty Hidden World, and the other is Between Cloud and Water.

"The former wields the dao of assassination, while the latter wields the dao of murder. Both are mysterious eternal-level factions rumored to be even older than some Eternal Imperial Clans."

The green sparrow sounded slightly dazed.

No one knew the origins of these two mysterious factions, but they were undoubtedly incomparable to ordinary assassination organizations because they dealt with targets above the Emperor Stage!

In the Eternal True Realm, the names Empty Hidden World and Between Cloud and Water were frightening deterrents that would strike fear in anyone.

After a while, the green sparrow said, "If my guess is correct, the assassin who came after you earlier is Crane of the Empty Hidden World. He's a mysterious individual who is ranked sixth among the Emperor-level assassins from the Empty Hidden World.

"It's impossible to know how many Emperors have been assassinated by him over the years, which even include a few extremely powerful Ninth Realm Ancestors!"