

Prodigies 2441

Chapter 2441 Heng Tianshou's Intentions

Lin Xun couldn't help but frown.

The two assassination factions, Empty Hidden World and Between Water and Cloud, were famous in the Eternal True Realm for 'assassination' and 'murder' respectively.

With history that could be traced all the way back to ancient times, it was impossible to know how many Emperors had fallen victim to them over the years. Who in their right mind wouldn't fear such mysterious factions?

Additionally, according to the green sparrow, the members of these two factions deeply immersed themselves in the art of killing and were freaks who grew up amidst a mountain of corpses and a sea of blood. As such, their assassination techniques were simply unrivaled.

It was basically a death sentence to be targeted by them!

A long time ago, Between Water and Cloud became a target of public outrage due to assassinating a few too many influential figures from the Immortal Imperial Clans. As a result, the Immortal Imperial Clans banded together to take a stand against Between Water and Cloud.

What followed was an extremely bloody war that spanned across many years, with the elusive assassins of Between Water and Cloud counterattacking as fiercely as possible. It was a dark and turbulent period where many mighty cultivator titans lost their lives.

In the end, Between Water and Cloud was nearly eradicated and the last few survivors were rumored to have gone into hiding.

After the event, news of Between Water and Cloud grew sparser and sparser, and memories of that dark and bloody period soon began to fade from the people's minds.

On the other hand, Empty Hidden World, which was said to be on par with Between Water and Cloud, rarely provoked the Immortal Imperial Clans, and thus didn't stir any public outrage.

However, there was no doubt that Empty Hidden World's foundations weren't the slightest bit inferior to Between Water and Cloud!

Even Immortal Imperial Clans would not carelessly mess with them either.

"Wen Shaoheng must have paid a great price to hire Crane. I have to admit that even I am surprised you survived the assassination," remarked the green sparrow as it cast a peculiar glance at Lin Xun.

Crane was rather famous in the Eternal True Realm. After all, how could anyone overlook the sixth ranked Emperor-level assassin?

Yet, that very same Crane had nearly died to Lin Xun tonight!

"Surprised? An assassin is just an assassin. Their biggest advantage is their concealment abilities. Once that is gone, the other party is at best slightly stronger than a Ninth Realm Ancestor."

Lin Xun casually continued, "However, I won't let things end like this. It matters not whether Crane was merely paid to do the job or that he's from Empty Hidden World. Since he dared to assassinate me, he'll have to pay the price!"

Although the words were spoken in a casual manner, their implication made even the green sparrow give Lin Xun sideways glance. Soon after, it snorted and said, "Perhaps you won't dare to say such things when you truly understand how terrifying Empty Hidden World is."

Lin Xun merely smiled and didn't argue. However, the incident did put him on guard. Crane's appearance undoubtedly proved that it wasn't completely safe in the Immortal Heavenly Pass.

The green sparrow asked, "With Crane's defeat, I doubt Wen Shaoheng will drop the matter either. Are you going to let him off for this?"

Lin Xun answered without hesitation, "Of course not. It's not polite to come and go without any greeting. If I can't catch that assassin, I will at minimum make Wen Shaoheng pay for this!"

His eyes flashed chillingly. Since the other party dared to strike in the city, Lin Xun naturally wouldn't allow himself to be constrained by the city rules either.

The green sparrow asked with interest, "What are you going to do?"

"Wait for an opportunity," said Lin Xun as he re-summoned the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron and continued to feed Yellow Spring Beads to the nine netherworld runes. It was as if the events that had transpired hadn't affected him in the slightest.

The green sparrow couldn't help but inwardly sigh in admiration. Lin Xun's mental fortitude was simply too strong and tough. Anyone else would have been clouded with anger, worry, and unease after such an event. Yet, he could still calmly refine runes...

After the eventful night, in Tianyu Building, Wen Shaoheng stood against the rail with a wine pot in his hand, appearing relaxed and content.

He liked the feeling of looking over the city from high above and observing the people below. It made him feel as if he was the king of the world.

Space suddenly rippled as Granny Xue emerged with a terrible-looking expression, "Young Master, Crane failed."

The wine pot in Wen Shaoheng's hand crashed onto the ground and shattered to pieces. Taken aback, he couldn't help but ask, thinking he had misheard, "Failed?"

An ashen-faced Granny Xue replied in a whisper, "We just got word that Crane is severely injured and was almost killed..."

Wen Shaoheng nearly fainted on the spot. He staggered slightly as his handsome face twisted into a hideous expression, veins bulging as his chest heaved in anger.

"My three million first-grade cosmic origin crystals were wasted just like that? That damned Empty Hidden World! They can't even kill a single Ling Xuanzi, what utter trash!"

He had clearly lost his composure and was storming about in a fit.

"Young Master, Crane's strength is undeniable. The reason why he lost is perhaps because we still underestimated Ling Xuanzi."

With a cloudy expression, Granny Xue continued, "Empty Hidden World's contact person has already said that since they've accepted our mission, they will naturally give us a satisfactory explanation, but..."

"But what?" asked Wen Shaoheng.

"They said that the previous payment isn't sufficient. For Ling Xuanzi to die, we must fork out another two million first-grade cosmic origin crystals. The reason being the information we previously provided about Ling Xuanzi was lacking, which led to a slip-up during the assassination..."

Granny Xue's voice became softer and softer towards the end. She felt as if there was a ball of fire in her chest that was about to erupt.

Wen Shaoheng was stunned for a few moments before his lungs nearly exploded from rage as he laughed in anger, "What does Empty Hidden World take me for? A sucker to be extorted? This is simply too much!"

It took a long time before he finally managed to calm down a little. Wen Shaoheng grimly said, "Tell Empty Hidden World that I won't spit out a single crystal. Either they kill Ling Xuanzi, or they return my three million cosmic origin crystals!"

Towards the end, he couldn't help but angrily curse again, "Blasted bastards, how can they bargain with me after failing? They must all be sick in the head!"

Granny Xue worriedly said, "Young Master, it will be better not to offend Empty Hidden World if we can. As a faction with a long history, their foundations are a little more terrifying than even our Wen Clan's..."

Instead of arguing, it might be better to spend a little more to let them continue to deal with Ling Xuanzi."

She briefly paused before she hesitantly said, "After all, even Crane failed to kill Ling Xuanzi. At the very least, it proves that in this city, unless an Ancestor of a Path, Heng Tianshuo, personally takes action, we won't be able to do anything given our power."

Wen Shaoheng was stunned again as an indescribable sensation of failure rose within him. As one of the Wen Clan's Five Absolute Emperors, it had been a long time since he last experienced this feeling.

Some time later, he took a deep breath and said, "Tell Empty Hidden World that they will receive the two million cosmic origin crystals when they kill Ling Xuanzi."

Only then did Granny Xue let out a secret sigh of relief and left to deliver the message.

.....

"The Empty Hidden World assassin...failed?"

In the City Lord Mansion, Heng Tianshuo was startled from his meditation when he heard the news.

A boy reported in a clear voice, "My Lord, the information has been verified. Fortunately, it hasn't spread and everything still remains a secret."

Heng Tianshou grunted in acknowledgement. "Wen Shaoheng might be coming later. If he does, bring him to me."

The boy was briefly taken aback before he left to carry out the command.

Sure enough, Wen Shaoheng hurriedly arrived not long after. He cupped his hands together and said, "Uncle, sorry to disturb you again."

Heng Tianshou flashed a smile as he rose to his feet and replied, "No need to be so courteous, come have a seat."

Wen Shaoheng shook his head and said, "I've only come to ask Uncle for a clear answer. What price should I pay for Uncle to personally get rid of Ling Xuanzi?"

Heng Tianshuo's eyes narrowed. After a while, he finally said, "Why, is Empty Hidden World unable to do it?"

The corners of Wen Shaoheng's lips twitched imperceptibly. He said, "Given Uncle's influence, I'm sure you already know the outcome of the assassination. To be honest, I'm very disappointed in Empty Hidden World."

Heng Tianshou shook his head and said, "Nephew this might not be the case. I have some understanding of Crane's assassination methods and I'm afraid that even a supreme seventh realm Emperor like you won't be his match. It isn't that Empty Hidden World is incapable, but Ling Xuanzi...who is problematic!"

Wen Shaoheng's heart shook as his expression changed slightly.

However, Heng Tianshuo merely chuckled and continued, "I believe you have already surmised this as well. That's why you came to this old man, right?"

Wen Shaoheng's complexion fluctuated in uncertainty for a while. After some time, he finally said in a low voice, "Please, Uncle, help me this once."

Heng Tianshou pondered for a moment and said, "In three months, the Secret Realm of Trial will open."

Wen Shaoheng was taken aback. He soon realized something and said, "What does Uncle mean?"

Heng Tianshuo's smile grew increasingly friendly. "I'm suggesting that...we can perhaps make Ling Xuanzi disappear forever inside."

Wen Shaoheng's eyes gleamed brightly. Feeling reinvigorated, he then asked, "Uncle, are you saying that you'll send him to the ninth district of the Secret Realm of Trial?"

Heng Tianshou merely smiled in answer.

Wen Shaoheng seemed to understand the plan and said, "Ninth district...ninth district...why didn't I think of that? As long as Uncle wills it, won't those participants obediently head to their deaths?"

Heng Tianshou frowned and said, "Nephew, a trial is a trial. Only those who survive the Secret Realm of Trial will be permitted to continue their journey to the Eternal True Realm. How can you say that I'm sending people to their deaths? Of course, since it's a trial, casualties...are inevitable..."

Wen Shaoheng inwardly cursed at the hypocrisy. On the outside, however, he smiled and respectfully said, "I'll be troubling Uncle for this matter. Nephew will repay this favor one day."

Heng Tianshou beamed. "An old man like me isn't petty about such small matters. You just have to remind your father to come visit his old friend whenever he's free."

Wen Shaoheng was stunned. With a forced smile, he nodded. It was clear as day that his repayment meant nothing to Heng Tianshuo. What Heng Tianshuo really wanted was repayment from his father, the current patriarch of the Wen Clan!

Wen Shaoheng inwardly cursed after leaving the City Lord Mansion, "That old bastard is so devious and greedy!"

However, he had no choice but to agree. Since the grudge had already taken root, there was no choice but to...see things to the end!

Chapter 2442 Drinking and Killing at Night

The night passed quietly and a new day arrived.

In the inn room, a hint of joy was revealed in Lin Xun's eyes.

After refining all the Yellow Spring Beads, another of the nine netherworld runes was finally complete: the mysterious Purgatory Dao!

It was the dao of suppressing all evil like a prison!

When cultivated to the extreme, one could form a dao pattern resembling the Eighteen Hells!

In battle, the Purgatory Dao could generate a terrifying suppression force as if opening the gates of hell.

Lin Xun also noticed that the Purgatory Dao had strong synergy with the Soul Capturing Dao and could be used together with great effect.

With one restraining the soul while the other suppressing it, it was practically a match made in heaven.

However, Lin Xun's happiness soon began to wane.

It had taken fifteen Yellow Spring Beads to complete a single Purgatory Dao. Based on this rate, wouldn't he need ninety Yellow Spring Beads to complete the remaining six netherworld daos?

Given a Yellow Spring Bead was worth four hundred thousand first-grade cosmic origin crystals, ninety beads...would be a total of thirty-six million crystals!

The amount made Lin Xun's heart twitch as his breathing paused for a moment.

Such an astronomical figure was simply unattainable for his current self.

"The road ahead will be filled with competition, and there will be more than enough killing to go around. Looks like I'll have to work extra hard to collect more battle spoils..."

It had been a long time since Lin Xun had experienced the feeling of 'the cleverest housewife being unable to cook without rice,' but it did finally rouse his fighting spirit.

After all, motivation would only follow when there was pressure!

Soon after, Lin Xun walked out of the inn with his hands behind his back, and began to stroll around in the streets.

The city was a hive of activity. Most people were locals and only a small fraction were trial takers like Lin Xun. Even so, their large numbers should not be underestimated.

While walking, Lin Xun offhandedly asked, "In other words, I must participate in this Secret Realm of Trial to advance?"

Previously, the green sparrow had said that among the forty-nine Immortal Heavenly Passes in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, the thirty-six lesser Immortal Heavenly Passes were just temporary stops to rest that one could enter and leave without restriction.

In the thirteen greater Immortal Heavenly Passes, however, there were trials that were required to be overcome before one could advance. Origin City was the first Immortal Heavenly Pass in the Great Thousand Battle Domain.

To advance past it, one needed to participate in the Secret Realm of Trial. Only after collecting ten 'star sources' from the Secret Realm of Trial would one be qualified to enter the next battlefield.

"You could also buy ten star sources. That way, you won't have to participate." The green sparrow then continued, "However, a complete star source is worth about five hundred thousand first-grade cosmic origin crystals, making ten of them five million. Can you... afford it?"

Lin Xun was immediately speechless.

The green sparrow said, "Even the nobles from the rich clans can't gather so many cosmic origins crystals on short notice, let alone someone like you, so you'd better obediently go sign up."

An idea suddenly occurred to Lin Xun. "If I collect surplus star sources, can I sell them to others?"

The green sparrow was taken aback. Was this guy going crazy due to the lack of money? Meanwhile, Lin Xun had already started calculating how many star sources he needed to sell in order to collect thirty-six million first-grade cosmic origin crystals...

While strolling about, Lin Xun arrived at the City Lord Mansion. With the identity token from Ferry City, he successfully registered and got a spot in the trial. As soon as he left, the news about his registration reached Heng Tianshuo.

Unsurprised, Heng Tianshuo merely smiled as he thought to himself, "Using Ling Xuanzi's death in exchange for a favor from the Wen Clan Head...what a worthwhile deal."

Dusk arrived. Lin Xun returned to the inn. When the server greeted him with a smile, he suddenly remembered something.

He had only paid for ten days of board, but there was still three months to go before he could participate in the Secret Realm of Trial. In other words, he had to continue paying room fees until then. However, his remaining cosmic origin crystals weren't enough to sustain him for three months.

Lin Xun thought to himself, "It seems that I'll be going out tonight..."

While he might have appeared leisurely earlier, he had managed to discover Wen Shaoheng's whereabouts and had even gone there to take a look in person.

Under the ink-black night sky, on the first floor of the inn, Lin Xun ordered a pot of wine and sat there drinking by himself.

Suddenly, a surprised voice sounded from the door of the inn, "Eh, Brother Samaritan!"

Lin Xun looked up and saw Dantai Feng and his group appear at the entrance. He couldn't help but smile. "What a coincidence."

Dantai Feng let out a hearty chuckle. He gestured and said, "Go get us a room, we'll be staying here. I'm going to have a drink with Dao Friend Ling Xuanzi."

As he spoke, he walked to Lin Xun's table, sat down, and boldly said, "Waiter, bring out your most precious stash of alcohol."

Lin Xun couldn't help but caution him, "This place is ridiculously expensive."

Taken aback, Dantai Feng couldn't help but laugh, "Dao Friend, let me say something that might sound a little unpleasant. I, Dantai Feng, have never worried about money in my life. Drink as much as you want. I'll pay for tonight's drinks!"

He was evidently someone who never lacked money.

Lin Xun immediately laughed, "Alright then, let's drink to our heart's content tonight!"

Dantai Feng laughed along as well.

Although he hadn't interacted much with Lin Xun on the way to Gathering Netherworld, he had already developed a great liking for the latter's 'chivalrous and helpful' nature.

To have met again in the city, Dantai Feng couldn't help but sigh at the mysteriousness of fate. Although it was a brief exchange, Dantai Feng felt more and more certain that Dao Friend Ling Xuanzi was simply 'one of us' and wasn't the least bit pretentious.

Soon, jar after jar of wine was brought over.

"Come, let's down a big bowl first!" Dantai Feng was in great spirits as he happily started drinking with Lin Xun.

The cultivators who had followed Dantai Feng here couldn't help but smile at the sight. They were initially suspicious and skeptical of Lin Xun, feeling his 'helpful' behavior was just a pretense to try and curry favor with their young master.

However, Lin Xun's subsequent actions soon changed their impression. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that it was all thanks to him that they were able to leave Gathering Netherworld without losing a single member. After all, all the netherworld kings and soldiers along the way were slaughtered by Lin Xun.

Soon, someone came forward and toasted with a wide smile. "Come, come, a toast to you, Brother Samaritan."

Dantai Feng glared and scolded, "What Brother Samaritan? This is Ling Xuanzi. Stop teasing with that nickname."

"Right, right, it's Dao Friend Ling." The others immediately made the adjustment.

Lin Xun naturally wouldn't be offended by these small matters and clinked his cup with the other party one after one. Everyone was happily drinking and having a great time. However, no one realized that this was one of Lin Xun's dao clones...

Meanwhile, at Tianyu Building, Lin Xun silently appeared amidst the darkness of the night. Stealth wasn't one of Lin Xun's weak suits and his Senior Brother, Well Moon, had extraordinary attainments in this field.

Well Moon was the twentieth disciple of Fangchun Mountain. The bronze-skinned disciple was agile and strong, carried a quiver on his back, and wielded a bow made of animal bones. He was the number one divine archer of Fangchun Mountain.

In the battle to kill the Nameless Esteemed Emperor, Well Moon revealed himself and killed many powerful enemies with his unparalleled archery and mysterious movement arts.

His best concealment technique was called 'hiding from the sky while crossing the sea.' When activated, even Emperor Ancestors would struggle to find any trace of him.

The technique was naturally among Lin Xun's many inheritances. Although he had yet to reach the same level of mastery as Senior Brother Well Moon, it was more than sufficient for the moment.

At present, his figure soundlessly disappeared into the shadows of Tianyu Building.

At the top floor, seated by his lonesome with a gloomy expression, Wen Shaoheng sneered, "It seems that Crane's disastrous defeat has embarrassed Empty Hidden World. They are planning to send the fourth-ranked 'Frost' next."

From the side, Granny Xue appeared excited as she said, "Frost is a legend in Empty Hidden World and a true supreme Emperor-level assassin. Frost's achievements and mission difficulties have always been far above Crane's.

"In fact, many rumors claim that the present Frost has become so exceedingly terrifying that he or she is likely capable of assassinating an Ancestor of a Path!

"If it's Frost, even five million first-grade cosmic origin crystals...will be worth it."

Despite hearing this, Wen Shaoheng coldly snorted and said, "Empty Hidden World also said that it would take at least half a year for Frost to arrive and I can't afford to wait that long. However, I do wish to see how Frost will feel when he or she arrives to find that Ling Xuanzi has already been killed!"

Granny Xue was taken aback. "Young Master, has Heng Tianshuo agreed to act?"

Wen Shaoheng's lips curved into a cold smile. "Do you really think that old fox will personally take action? However, I can only say that Ling Xuanzi doesn't have much time left to live!"

Just as Granny Xue was about to speak again, she suddenly seemed to sense something and expression changed abruptly. Almost instinctively, she swung her palm at the empty space near Wen Shaoheng.

Boom!

The empty space exploded as a tall figure emerged. It was Lin Xun. He couldn't help but be a little surprised at how sharp the old woman was.

However, this didn't slow him in the slightest. The moment he was discovered, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron rumbled forth, glowing with millions of dao light rays as it slammed down at Wen Shaoheng.

The sudden development made Wen Shaoheng's scalp turn numb with fear as his heart violently shuddered. He immediately stood up to try and avoid the attack but it was already too late. Lin Xun had moved far too swiftly and attacked with his full power. It was a truly terrifying and sudden attack.

Rumble!

Amidst a horrific collision, a figure was smashed to a bloody pulp, brutally snapping bone and muscle alike. The figure was flung backwards, destroying the nearby table, chairs, and other furnishings.

However, the figure struck by the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron didn't belong to Wen Shaoheng, but Granny Xue, who had managed to step in at the final moment to block the attack!

Chapter 2443 The Majesty of Dantai

Death brushed past his shoulder at that moment.

However, the thrill of being on the edge of death almost made Wen Shaoheng's soul leave his body.

Out of instinct, he rushed out of the hall, desperately fleeing towards the City Lord Residence while shouting, "Murder! Ling Xuanzi murdered someone—"

His terrified scream tore through the night of Origin City like a thunderbolt.

Inside the hall.

With a deafening rumble, Granny Xue was crushed by the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron until blood spurted from her nose and mouth as her skin popped like a balloon. It was impossible to tell how many of her bones had been broken or pulverized.

She screamed in a frenzy, "Ling Xuanzi, how dare you kill in the city, you are dead meat!"

"What about you? Is it worth it to sacrifice your life for him?"

Lin Xun frowned as he gazed in the direction Wen Shaoheng had fled.

He had previously been resolved to take down Wen Shaoheng next, but who could have expected the fatally injured Granny Xue to once again stand in his way, allowing Wen Shaoheng to escape.

By the time Lin Xun was ready to give chase, it was already too late.

Granny Xue hissed, "My life was given to me by the young master. Why should I fear dying for him?"

She refused to give up and struggled frantically, as if determined to take Lin Xun down with her.

Under normal circumstances, Lin Xun wouldn't be confident of killing someone much stronger than a Ninth Realm Ancestor in a short span of time.

But now...

The severely injured Granny Xue was no threat.

Plop!

A dao sword burst from the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron to take Granny Xue's life. She was completely engulfed by the vast sword qi as she turned into ashes and scattered in the wind.

Lin Xun picked up the belongings Granny Xue left behind and turned to leave.

.....

It was a turbulent night for Origin City.

Wen Shaoheng's screams caused quite a commotion in the city, alarming countless Emperors, who quickly turned their attention to the incident.

Soon after, Heng Tianshuo and his subordinates arrived at Tianyu Building under Wen Shaoheng's guidance.

However, Lin Xun was already gone.

"Esteemed Uncle, Ling Xuanzi has violated the city rules by committing murder in the city and even Granny Xue died because of him. Such a heinous person must be eliminated as soon as possible!"

Wen Shaoheng's pale face was terrifyingly grim.

After all, he had almost been assassinated earlier!

The sudden and close brush with death still rattled him deeply, while Granny Xue's death drove him into a rage that bordered on madness.

Heng Tianshuo's expression didn't look good either.

What happened tonight undoubtedly proved that Ling Xuanzi didn't give a damn about him, the city lord!

"Go, let's have a look at Ling Xuanzi's lodgings."

Heng Tianshuo waved his hand and teleported everyone away.

Although it was late into the night, the first floor of the inn was still very lively.

Lin Xun and Dantai Feng were engaged in a drinking competition, and they had already finished nineteen jars of divine liquor. Meanwhile, a group of cultivators nearby watched and cheered the two of them on.

Although both of them had extremely high cultivation, the divine liquor sold in the inn was made from various divine materials, making it rather potent.

By now, the two of them were completely drunk, but neither of them showed any signs of giving up.

When Heng Tianshuo, Wen Shaoheng, and their group arrived, they couldn't help but be taken aback by the sight of this scene.

What was this?

Meanwhile, the noisy and lively atmosphere of the inn suddenly froze as if a cold wave had swept in. Everyone could feel a bone-chilling murderous intent.

They raised their heads only to be shocked by the sudden appearance of Heng Tianshuo.

Alarmed, the group couldn't help but wonder what was going on.

Lin Xun naturally also saw Heng Tianshuo, Wen Shaoheng, and the others. Despite this, his expression remained calm and composed.

"Go go go, continue drinking!"

Dantai Feng merely glanced at Heng Tianshuo and the others, before he picked up his cup and clamored to continue the contest.

Bang!

Wen Shaoheng slapped a table beside him, shattering it to pieces as he said in a stern voice, "Everyone else apart from Ling Xuanzi, scram now!"

The atmosphere immediately turned stiflingly silent.

Dantai Feng seemed to be startled as well. He shook off half of his drunkenness with a frown, stood up, looked at Heng Tianshuo, then at Wen Shaoheng, and frostily said, "Who are you telling to scram? Dare to say it again?"

The group of Emperors nearby also revealed unfriendly expressions.

Already furious, Wen Shaoheng could no longer contain his anger and was about to slap Dantai Feng for daring to talk back.

However, his wrist was grabbed by Heng Tianshuo.

Wen Shaoheng was taken aback. Before he could do anything, Heng Tianshuo asked, "Have you guys been drinking here all this time?"

Dantai Feng was clearly much less relaxed in the face of Heng Tianshou. However, his air of self-confidence didn't waver as he nodded, "Yes, is something the matter, Elder?"

Heng Tianshuo's eyes flashed like lightning as he scanned everyone present. In the end, his gaze stopped on Lin Xun as he said, "A murder occurred at Tianyu Building earlier, where a Ninth Realm Ancestor servant belonging to the Wen Clan was killed, and even Wen Shaoheng almost met his demise. Wen Shaoheng has claimed that Ling Xuanzi is the culprit."

Dantai Feng burst out into laughter as if he had heard the biggest joke of the year. "Ling Xuanzi and I have been drinking here the whole time. How could he have committed the murder?"

The nearby crowd also laughed.

All of them could prove that this was true!

"So, does that mean young friend Dantai intends to vouch for this person?" Heng Tianshuo deeply looked at Dantai Feng. Evidently, he had already figured out Dantai Feng's identity.

Wen Shaoheng was also startled when he heard the word 'Dantai.' His eyes flashed in recognition as he began to frown.

Dantai Feng answered without hesitation, "I'm not vouching for him, but everyone present knows that Ling Xuanzi has been drinking with me here. The inn owner and the server can also testify."

Wen Shaoheng coldly snorted. "Friend, you probably have no idea that Ling Xuanzi has mastered the art of creating dao clones. How can you be certain that the person you're drinking with now isn't using you?"

Dantai Feng sneered. "I'm the one who walked into this inn and initiated contact with Ling Xuanzi. How is that using me? Is your brain broken?"

Wen Shaoheng was immediately triggered. His expression turned chilling as glared at Dantai Feng, "Do you really think that you can cover up for that bastard because your surname is Dantai?"

Dantai Feng's expression also darkened as he faced the other party without backing down in the slightest, "Wen Shaoheng, don't think that you can do whatever you want just because you're from an Immortal Imperial Clan. As far as I know, in the Eternal True Realm, your Wen Clan still isn't powerful enough for you to act with such impunity!"

Lin Xun couldn't help but be surprised at this scene. Only now did he realize that Dantai Feng's background was far greater than he had imagined.

His courage to stand up to Wen Shaoheng fully proved this.

"Alright, alright."

Heng Tianshuo stepped forward to stop the two who were on the verge of fighting. He said, "No matter who the murderer is, I will definitely punish them severely as the city lord. Let this matter end here."

"Esteemed Uncle." Wen Shaoheng was obviously unwilling to accept this outcome.

Heng Tianshuo patted his shoulder and said, "The murderer will definitely pay the price. What are you worried about?"

With these final words, he turned around and led his group away.

Wen Shaoheng resentfully glared at Lin Xun one final time before also following.

As they walked back into the night, Heng Tianshuo frowned and asked, "Do you know what relationship there is between Ling Xuanzi and Dantai Feng?"

Wen Shaoheng shook his head. "Ling Xuanzi and I entered the Great Thousand Battle Domain together from the Kun Earth Realm Gate. I had no idea that he would end up together with that Dantai fellow."

Heng Tianshuo pondered. "It seems that we'll have to investigate the relationship between them before the trial begins..."

"Uncle, the Dantai Clan is merely a newly established Immortal Faction in the Eternal True Realm and has very few people. Why do we have to care about them?"

Wen Shaoheng didn't understand.

"You don't understand. Dantai Feng's grandfather is that very Dantai Changkong, who is currently famous in the Eternal True Realm and is no ordinary Immortal cultivator. With his supreme perseverance, he spent ten thousand years subduing a complete third grade Heaven Rank origin law power. How could someone who did that possibly be ordinary?"

Heng Tianshuo's eyes seemed to turn impossibly deep as he continued, "At that time, Immortal-level cultivators from no less than eight Immortal Imperial Clans joined forces to seize that origin law power, but in the end, they failed to take the Heaven Rank origin law power away from Dantai Changkong. It was also after this battle that he became known as one of the foremost hegemony among the Immortal-level cultivators.

"Although the Dantai Clan established by Dantai Changkong only has a history of three thousand years so far, if this trend continues, they are very likely to become a top-tier faction that controls Heaven Rank origin law power."

At this point, Heng Tianshuo couldn't help but sigh. It was a truly legendary feat for a single person to not only establish himself in a place like the Eternal True Realm, but even build such a mighty faction. Dantai Changkong...was undoubtedly terrifying beyond imagination!

"Hmph, he's just an outsider." Wen Shaoheng was obviously not convinced.

"Countless powerful experts have entered the Eternal True Realm throughout history. Yet, how many of them have single-handedly carved out a kingdom for their clan like Dantai Changkong?"

Heng Tianshuo glanced at Wen Shaoheng. "It's best to avoid provoking such people."

Wen Shaoheng fell silent.

"Of course, tonight was unexpected, to say the least. In my opinion, Ling Xuanzi probably doesn't have strong ties with Dantai Feng. Once the trial begins, your revenge...will naturally be settled in due time."

With these words, Heng Tianshuo disappeared into the darkness of the night with his men.

.....

Back at the inn.

The atmosphere was cold and cheerless with no hint of its previous liveliness.

"Brother Dantai, thank you for earlier."

Lin Xun clasped his hands together in thanks. He and Dantai Feng were the only ones left as everyone else had already dispersed.

"What's there to thank? I should be the one thanking you for being a kind samaritan in Gathering Netherworld."

Dantai Feng couldn't help but chuckle.

"To be frank, Wen Shaoheng is right." Lin Xun thought for a moment and said, "My true body killed his elderly servant."

Dantai Feng was stunned. He looked at Lin Xun in silence for a long time, before he asked with a strange expression, "So, you're saying I was mistaken and was used by you?"

Lin Xun nodded. "You can put it that way."

Dantai Feng smiled bitterly. "Since you've been so honest, what else can I do?"

In truth, he felt greatly relieved inside because he had been somewhat suspicious earlier. After all, someone like Wen Shaoheng would never seek revenge for no reason. Lin Xun's honesty had completely dispelled his doubts.

He picked up a jug of wine and smilingly said, "Come, let's continue drinking. If you get me drunk first, I'll let this small matter go. Otherwise, I'll immediately go to the City Lord Residence and report you!"

Lin Xun also grinned in response, "Sure, let's see who falls first."

Dantai Feng was a good-natured person and a friend worth making, which was why Lin Xun had decided to be honest. At the same time, it was also a test.

Fortunately, Dantai Feng's reaction didn't disappoint.

Chapter 2444 Surging Hidden Currents

When the sun finally rose again, a drunken Dantai Feng was assisted back to his room.

Lin Xun's eyes were also fluttering a little. After slowly walking back into his room, he circulated his cultivation to disperse the alcohol, before exhaling a breath of turbid air.

In the room, his true body chuckled as he put the clone away, before he fell into deep thought.

Although he had failed to assassinate Wen Shaoheng, he had at least killed Granny Xue, a formidable individual who was far more powerful than a Ninth Realm Ancestor. At the end of the day, it could be said that he had at least gained something from the whole affair.

Moreover, he also obtained a considerable fortune from Granny Xue, where the amount of first-grade cosmic origin crystals alone numbered over three hundred thousand. In addition, there were several Emperor-grade weapons of excellent quality and a variety of divine materials and medicines that added up to quite a staggering value.

Among the spoils, a certain black, conch-shaped treasure soon caught Lin Xun's attention. Layers of strange dao patterns were branded on the conch. When power was injected into it, the strange dao patterns began to transform into a line of mysterious text.

"In half a year, Frost will arrive and eliminate the target. Remember to have your young master prepare the remaining two million cosmic origin crystals."

The text made Lin Xun fall into thought, realizing that Crane's defeat hadn't brought the assassination to an end, but instead, drew out an even more powerful Frost!

Lin Xun asked, "Green sparrow, do you know Frost from Empty Hidden World?"

"Frost?" The green sparrow appeared to be startled. "Could it be that Empty Hidden World is still planning to assassinate you?"

Lin Xun nodded. "I believe so."

The green sparrow was stunned for a while. After some time, it finally said, "You may be about to encounter a seriously deadly threat."

It then began to tell Lin Xun about some of Frost's feats.

Frost.

A Supreme-Emperor-rank assassin from Empty Hidden World who was ranked fourth among them, and a mysterious woman who made even Ninth Realm Ancestors fearful.

It was said that her assassination dao had reached the level where it could threaten an Ancestor of a Path, making it horrifyingly terrifying!

It was also said that Frost had never failed a mission and was more than a level above Crane in strength.

It was also said that...

These various horrific rumors shrouded Frost in an air of mystery and terror.

Towards the end, the green sparrow couldn't help but curiously remark, "Crane was already terrifying enough. With Frost now dispatched as well, I wonder how much Wen Shaoheng spent."

"All of this only proves that he intends to fight until one of us perishes." Lin Xun's eyes gleamed coldly. "When the opportunity arrives, I won't let him escape a third time!"

Anyone who was targeted by a mysterious and unfathomable assassin faction would be afraid to sleep at night.

Furthermore, Lin Xun only had Wen Shaoheng to thank for this!

Moreover, he had also disrupted Lin Xun's plans. He originally planned to achieve his cultivation breakthrough in the city, but that was no longer possible now.

.....

The assassination attempt on Wen Shaoheng stirred up the entire Origin City early the next day, creating a giant commotion.

"How dare someone commit murder in the city?! Is he tired of living?"

Many clicked their tongues in disapproval.

"That's not even the least of it. Wen Shaoheng is a noble figure from an Immortal Imperial Clan and an expert from the Eternal True Realms. Who would dare to disrespect him, let alone assassinate him? Ling Xuanzi must be sick in the head!"

"However, you have to admit that Ling Xuanzi is a fearsome individual. Not only did they fail to catch him in the act, it's even rumored that City Lord Heng Tianshuo wasn't able to do anything to him. That's honestly remarkable."

The city was abuzz with discussion.

After all, it had been a long time since such an astonishing incident had occurred in the city.

Coupled with the fact that the target, Wen Shaoheng, hailed from an extraordinary background, it was easy to imagine how big of a commotion it was.

The furor continued for many days.

When Lin Xun's fellow travelers from the Kun Earth Realm Gate, Xing Mutian, Starry Jade Emperor, Mad Scholar Emperor, and Ning Daozhi arrived in Origin City, they were also immediately bombarded by the news.

For a time, all of them couldn't help but feel dumbstruck.

While the deaths of Fang Xuanzhen and his party was already pretty shocking, the fact that Ling Xuanzi had even gone to try and assassinate Wen Shaoheng in the city was akin to piercing the sky and left them in deep disbelief.

After some searching, they soon found Lin Xun in his inn.

Unlike what they expected, instead of being worried and nervous after such a big incident, Lin Xun appeared relaxed as if nothing had happened. They couldn't help but inwardly admire his mettle.

Despite this, none of the four dared to talk too much with Lin Xun and instead consciously distanced themselves. It was clear to anyone that Lin Xun was in a delicate situation. He was like an impending calamity, and no one wanted to be caught in the crossfire.

After all, it would be an absolute disaster for any of them if Wen Shaoheng thought they were in league with Lin Xun.

With regards to their reactions, Lin Xun merely observed but didn't say anything. It was human nature to seek good fortune and avoid evil. Moreover, he wasn't really friends with any of them and naturally didn't mind if they kept their distance.

Meanwhile, Wen Shaoheng hid in the City Lord Residence and never appeared in the city again.

Lin Xun had also long since abandoned his plan of killing Wen Shaoheng in the city. Heng Tianshuo might have opted to hold back the first time because of Dantai Feng, but it was unknown if he would do so next time.

In the following days, Lin Xun pretty much locked himself in the room. Although he was unable to achieve a cultivation breakthrough, he invested all of his time and energy into solidifying his dao and studying his various inheritances.

Time continued to flow and two months passed by in a flash.

Group after group of cultivators continued to arrive at Origin City. Among them, there was no lack of individuals who were more terrifying than the likes of Ning Daozhi, Xing Mutian, and Starry Jade Emperor.

In truth, this wasn't out of the ordinary. Every month, a group of formidable experts above the Emperor Stage would pour into the eight realm gates leading to the Great Thousand Battle Domain.

Many among them were heaven-defying titans whose names were well-known throughout their respective worlds. After all, not just anyone could fight their way from the Ancient Nightmare Battlefield to Origin City.

As more and more experts poured into Origin City, the city's atmosphere grew increasingly austere. While a lake might be able to contain many dragons, when there were too many dragons, a slight movement from any one could easily cause a scuffle or conflict to break out.

Fortunately, Origin City had Heng Tianshuo at its helm, so the worst didn't come to pass.

However, it was clear to everyone that with so many terrifying individuals now gathered in the city, trouble would occur sooner or later.

Thankfully, the Secret Realm of Trial's opening was rapidly drawing near.

To Lin Xun's surprise, Dantai Feng and his group left in a hurry before the Secret Realm of Trial opened. They had supposedly collected enough star sources to continue their journey without needing to participate in the trial.

It made Lin Xun finally realize that Dantai Feng was indeed someone who didn't have to worry about money. After all, how could any ordinary rich person possibly buy so many of those incredibly expensive star sources?

In fact, he probably had way too much money to spend!

Before leaving, Dantai Feng personally came to bid goodbye to Lin Xun. "If Brother Ling arrives at the Eternal True Realm, you can come visit Mount Qingyuan of the Dantai Clan so we can drink again."

Lin Xun agreed with a smile.

As he watched Dantai Feng leave, the latter suddenly turned his head, winked and smilingly said, "Brother Ling, I've heard that the Ancient Nebula Road only has a single supreme Emperor named Lin Xun and have never heard of anyone called Ling Xuanzi."

Lin Xun was taken aback. However, Dantai Feng merely laughed heartily as he departed.

After a while, Lin Xun also chuckled silently before he turned around to return to his room.

Over the next few days, the city was busy like never before despite the stifling atmosphere. Many experts had finally left their rooms and visited tea houses and restaurants to gather information. After all, there were only a few days left until the Secret Realm of Trial finally opened.

One day, Lin Xun walked out of the room and was approached by a smiling server. "Elder, the list of trial participants has just been released. Would you like a copy?"

Surprised, Lin Xun asked, "How much?"

"A thousand cosmic origin crystals." The server then quickly explained, "Please don't think that I'm being greedy. This list is from the City Lord Residence and has a lot of valuable information. I'm confident you won't be disappointed."

Lin Xun pondered briefly and decided to buy a copy. With a wide smile on his face, the server left to find other customers.

Lin Xun chose a random seat on the first floor, ordered a pot of wine, and began to study the list. He soon revealed a slightly surprised expression.

Over six hundred experts were participating this time, with the weakest among them at the fifth realm Emperor Stage. In fact, even Ninth Realm Ancestors seemed to be rather common.

However, Lin Xun completely ignored all of this information as he scrutinized the names of those labeled as 'supreme.'

There were fifty-four supreme Emperors, and each one was an unrivaled titan from their respective worlds among the Great Thousand Worlds.

Their cultivation levels ranged between the fifth and eighth Realms.

Lin Xun couldn't help but inwardly shiver. He noticed that almost all of these supreme Emperors were from the top ten worlds of the Great Thousand Worlds.

In fact, almost twenty of them were from the top-ranked Divine Ascension Starfield!

From this, it was easy to imagine how powerful the Divine Ascension Starfield was to be ranked first among the Great Thousand Worlds. They definitely lived up to their reputation.

However, Lin Xun also discovered that although there were many supreme Emperors, not a single one had reached the ninth realm!

Lin Xun thought to himself, "It seems that the ninth realm is a giant wall to overcome for the supreme Emperors..."

Suddenly, a surprised cry rang out, "Absolute Sword Mountain!"

The three words seemed to give off an invisible pressure that made a strange silence fall over the previously noisy first floor.

All the guests shut their mouths and revealed shocked expressions as they looked towards the inn entrance.

Five figures appeared at the door and stepped in. The one in the center had the posture of a dragon or phoenix, wore a purple-gold crown, and a white jade sash around his waist. He was clearly extraordinary and gave off an overwhelming presence.

It was as if a king had arrived to tour the land!

Chapter 2445 Sheep Travel in Herds While Ferocious Beasts Prowl Alone

Upon getting a better look of the man, the atmosphere in the inn immediately turned increasingly silent as numerous people revealed shocked expressions.

Feng Junlin!

One of the Four Great Sword Emperors of Absolute Sword Mountain.

A legendary figure hailed as the Supreme Overlord Sword.

He was an individual with a sky-high reputation even among the top ten worlds of the Great Thousand Worlds.

Not long ago, Feng Junlin and his party caused quite a stir when they arrived at Origin City and multitudes of people went to pay their respects to him.

Nowadays, he was the most watched eighth realm Supreme Sword Emperor in Origin City, and was known as the invincible sword tyrant!

"Strong. An expertly controlled and restrained aura with a domineering will that seems to emanate from the bone. Based on presence alone, he's clearly far superior to others."

The evaluation shared by many invoked a feeling of deep wariness toward him. Everyone agreed that he was an extremely powerful and terrifying cultivator.

Feng Junlin was born with a pair of vertical pupils. With a purplish gold crown on his head, a jade-white sash around his waist, and an extraordinary air comparable to a dragon or phoenix, he was simply majestic and resembled a king wherever he went.

The four people following him also exuded powerful presences and their own unique charms. However, even talents like them appeared much dimmer in the brightness of Feng Junlin's light.

While flipping through the participant list, Lin Xun also noticed the arrival of Feng Junlin and his group. The latter's aura was so strong that even Lin Xun couldn't help but take a second glance.

Moreover, he had already roughly guessed the other party's identity.

In fact, information about Feng Junlin of Absolute Sword Mountain could be found in the very participant list Lin Xun was holding.

It was said that he came from the first-ranked Divine Ascension Starfield, was born with an exceedingly rare talent, and possessed unfathomable cultivation.

However, Lin Xun soon withdrew his gaze.

Although Feng Junlin was indeed very popular, according to the list, there were several individuals who could stand shoulder to shoulder with him in Origin City at the moment.

As soon as Feng Junlin arrived, his purple vertical pupils scanned the room as he said, "I heard that Ling Xuanzi, who tried to assassinate Wen Shaoheng, is staying at this inn."

Swish!

At his words, almost every gaze in the place swiveled to Lin Xun with varying expressions, realizing that Feng Junlin was here for Ling Xuanzi!

Lin Xun frowned, looked at Feng Junlin, and asked, "Yes, what is it?"

Feng Junlin looked over, sized up Lin Xun, and remarked, "A steady, solid presence and an extraordinary aura. Not bad, you do not disappoint."

The comment left everyone confused, unable to understand what was going on.

Beside Feng Junlin, a robed elder, who resembled an immortal, smiled and said, "Ling Xuanzi, my young master has heard about you and knows about your precarious situation. If you submit and serve my young master, he may be able to resolve some of your troubles."

The words sent the room into an uproar, shocking everyone present. The fact that Feng Junlin dared to interfere undoubtedly proved that he wasn't afraid of Wen Shaoheng. However, no one had expected that Feng Junlin was hoping to use this opportunity to recruit Ling Xuanzi!

For a time, many people revealed envious expressions. It was naturally an amazing opportunity to serve the Supreme Overlord Sword of Absolute Sword Mountain. At the very minimum, it guaranteed that one could advance further than before in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, and even reaching the Eternal True Realm alive would no longer be a difficult task.

Almost anyone would be tempted by this offer.

Some people inwardly sneered. Ling Xuanzi had dared to assassinate Wen Shaoheng in the city and even got away with it. How could such an unrivaled expert willingly submit to another?

Lin Xun was momentarily stunned. Soon after, he couldn't help but laugh and asked, "Do you understand the consequences of interfering in this matter?"

Feng Junlin smirked, finding Lin Xun's words ridiculous.

The robed elder also laughed and said, "Haha, it seems that Dao Friend still doesn't know the true might of Absolute Sword Mountain. I can tell you that yours is nothing but a small matter that can be easily solved by our young master. There is no need to even talk about any consequences."

There was an immense amount of arrogance and pride in his voice.

Everyone's hearts churned, startled by these words.

However, Lin Xun nonchalantly asked, "Is that so? Then may I inquire if you'll be able to fight against the threat of Empty Hidden World?"

Empty Hidden World!

The atmosphere suddenly turned strangely stifling.

Feng Junlin frowned.

The robed elder's and the other follower's faces changed slightly, but after a moment he calmly said, "Empty Hidden World is an assassin faction. After gaining the protection of Absolute Sword Mountain, I believe they will realize who they should and should not offend."

Lin Xun replied, "What if I told you that an assassin named Frost will come knocking at the door soon?"

Frost!

While many people didn't recognize the name, numerous others' expressions changed drastically, evidently aware of what a terrifying existence Frost was. At this point, even Feng Junlin's frown deepened.

The robed elder and the others could no longer smile as they looked toward Feng Junlin to seek his opinion. Evidently, the threat of Frost made them no longer dare to speak rashly.

Seeing this, Lin Xun couldn't help but chuckle. He poured himself another cup, drank from it, and said, "Isn't it a little too ambitious to use this matter to make me, Ling Xuanzi, submit? I advise you to leave quickly while there is still time, so that Wen Shaoheng will not find out and bear a grudge against you."

These words made the robed elder and the others look uncertain, feeling slightly embarrassed as a stuffy sensation filled their chests.

Originally, they had acted arrogantly and viewed Lin Xun as a man who was about to drown. They had tried to take advantage of this opportunity to make him submit and serve Feng Junlin.

Who would have thought...that he would be in such a huge mess?!

Frost's presence made this matter far too hot to handle. The situation was beyond their expectations and caught them off guard, making them feel embarrassed.

The faint hint of sarcasm in Lin Xun's response made them feel especially uncomfortable.

"What a pity."

Feng Junlin sighed softly, deeply looked at Lin Xun, and turned away. The robed elder and the others hurriedly followed.

Upon seeing this, the crowd couldn't help but feel that Feng Junlin's departure contained a hint of failure and shame.

Of course, no one dared to say anything. Regardless of whether Feng Junlin had lost face, he was still a terrifying individual whom they could not afford to offend. Their expressions inevitably grew complicated when they looked at Lin Xun again.

He tried to assassinate Wen Shaoheng and offended City Lord Heng Tianshuo. Now, it was revealed that he was even being targeted by the fourth-ranked legendary assassin, Frost, of Empty Hidden World...

Any one of these alone would have mentally crushed an Emperor expert, yet Ling Xuanzi still had the leisure to drink in such a situation!

Didn't he know that a catastrophe could strike him at any moment?

Lin Xun naturally couldn't be bothered with what others thought. When he finished his drinks, he returned to his room.

On that day, the news that Feng Junlin was shamed and fled from Lin Xun spread throughout Origin City, making the former a laughing stock among the people.

The news that Frost was targeting Lin Xun also made many people feel a chill in their hearts. To be targeted by such a legendary assassin even before entering the Eternal True Realm...how was he going to survive?

It was basically only a matter of time before Ling Xuanzi was finished!

However, the news about Ling Xuanzi only sparked a few discussions compared to the fast approaching Secret Realm of Trial. The majority were far more concerned about how many would survive the trial and how many participants would be able to collect enough star sources.

A few days later.

At dawn, the sound of a horn spread in the sky above Origin City. It was vast and heavy as if it had originated from deep in the past.

The Secret Realm of Trial was opening today!

In the city, every participant had already set off early in the morning and were now gathered at a huge square in front of the City Lord Residence, squeezed together to resemble a giant black undulating mass.

Although it hadn't reached the level of a sea of people, everyone present was a mighty Emperor expert who had trod on mountains of corpses and through oceans of blood. With slightly more than six hundred of them in total, their combined auras felt akin to a pantheon of gods descending upon the mortal realm!

Lin Xun drew quite some attention when he arrived. Wen Shaoheng was naturally among them, his eyes filled with deep, bone-chilling hatred.

Lin Xun merely glanced at Wen Shaoheng once as if looking at a dead man, which only made his expression grow increasingly dark and icy.

Feng Junlin and his group were also present, revealing a hint of coldness at his arrival. News of the shameful incident with Lin Xun had long made them a laughing stock in the city, making them feel disgusted as if they had swallowed a fly.

Lin Xun naturally didn't care about these things. He looked around and saw other familiar faces such as Xing Mutian, Starry Jade Emperor, Mad Scholar Emperor, and Ning Daozhi.

However, they seemed to deliberately avoid Lin Xun's gaze, as if they wanted to distance themselves from him. Unfazed, Lin Xun nonchalantly stood there and waited.

No one dared to approach, creating an empty area around him. It wasn't because they were afraid of him, but rather that they were afraid of being associated with him and implicated. In the eyes of the crowd, he had become the personification of trouble and disaster.

Lin Xun alone seemed oblivious to this as he stood there with his hands behind his back, exuding an air of calm confidence. In the distance, a thin hemp-clothed monk appeared. It was none other than Yunliu from the Little Thunderclap Temple of the Great Thunderclap World.

His clear eyes were tinged with a hint of profound Zen. Having observed the previous scenes, he couldn't help but smile wryly as a sentence emerged in his mind, "Sheep travel in herds, while ferocious beasts prowl alone!"

Heng Tianshuo appeared in front of the City Lord Residence, looking scholarly and refined despite being dressed in a plain robe. The space around him distorted as the aura of an Ancestor spread. It rapidly engulfed the entire area, causing countless Emperors to reveal startled expressions.

Amidst the silence, Heng Tianshuo said, "The Secret Realm of Trial will be opened for a month starting today. The rules are very simple; those who collect ten complete star sources will be permitted to step onto the ancient teleportation array and continue on their journey.

"The Secret Realm of Trial is divided into nine districts.

"After entering the Secret Realm of Trial, your identity tokens will guide you to your corresponding district. Only in the correct district can you use your identity token to open the secret realm door and leave.

"Lastly, I wish to caution once more that many Emperors have died in the Secret Realm of Trial!"

With that, Heng Tianshuo waved his hand and a team of soldiers in heavy armor walked out.

Chapter 2446 Land of Exile

The leader of this group of soldiers was a mighty and majestic man wearing dark blue heavy armor.

He was the head of the city guards and was a powerful figure who was only one step away from becoming an Ancestor of a Path. His name was Heng Zhan.

"Next, I will take you to the Secret Realm of Trial."

Heng Zhan's cold eyes were like lightning, and he waved the bronze halberd in his hand. An astonishing bolt of lightning, the void exploded, and an ancient and mottled dao altar appeared in front of everyone with a rumbling sound.

Boom!

A huge divine light swept out from Heng Zhan's hand, pierced through the void, and tore a wide space vortex on the dao altar, leading to the unknown.

"Let's go!"

The powerful and intimidating Heng Zhan was the first to step onto the dao altar along with his group of heavily armored soldiers. Then, over six hundred other Emperors who were participating in the trial entered one after another.

Watching them leave one by one, Heng Tianshuo's eyes flashed with a cold light, and he murmured in his heart, "Ling Xuanzi, if you violate the order of the city, then you will pay the price of death..."

...

The void shifted, and the stars began to turn.

Walking in the space vortex from the altar was like going back in time. Every step one took was going towards the ancient times. An aura of antiquity hit everyone in the face, and they all felt that the spacetime in this vortex was in disorder. It was as if they had experienced the passing of countless years within an instant.

In front of their eyes were glimpses of various elegant eras. They were colorful and magnificent arcs of light. Occasionally, one could see star fields flying beyond them.

No one knew how much time had passed, but everyone was shocked when they were spat out of the vortex, arriving at a cold expanse of space.

"Is this the 'Land of Exile'?"

Someone exclaimed that at the edge of the universe. There was an extremely huge world that was shaped like an isolated island lying in the depths of the starry sky. Sporadically, it would release the aura of antiquity.

From time to time, a bright and huge star would fall into that huge world as if being pulled into it, and then disappear in the blink of an eye, as if it was swallowed up.

That star was humongous, but in front of that huge world, it was like a mere bug that was being swallowed up casually.

This strange scene made countless people feel their hearts drop to their stomachs. This was the Secret Realm of Trial, also known as the Land of Exile!

"It is said that this world was originally a kingdom of gods in the last epoch. It was inhabited by gods and many incredible mythological figures."

Someone whispered, "But with the end of that epoch, this kingdom of gods suffered from unprecedented blows and destruction. Now, it is regarded as a land of exile that is hated by gods and ghosts."

"I have also heard that, since ancient times, many immortals have entered it to explore the mysteries of the last epoch, but without exception, they all fell there."

A Ninth Realm Ancestor said solemnly, "The reason is that the Land of Exile is full of strange disasters that deliberately target immortals. Anyone who enters will die. Only those in the Emperor Stage will not have to worry about encountering such strange disasters."

Everyone was talking about what they knew, and it was obvious that they had heard about many things related to this Secret Realm of Trial. The leader of the guards. Heng Zhan, guided everyone as they flew through space. Before long, they quickly arrived at the mysterious world in the distance.

Boom!

Just then, a huge star passed by with an enormous burning tail behind it as it fell into that world. In the blink of an eye, it was as if it had been swallowed and disappeared! This scene of the world swallowing another star made the crowd restless again.

This mysterious Land of Exile had existed since the end of the last epoch and had experienced the countless passing of years.

Naturally, it exuded an unknown and mysterious atmosphere.

"You should all know that this Secret Realm of Trial is divided into nine major areas, each of which is full of different dangers. What you have to do is to collect star sources and then survive." Heng Zhan continued, his voice rumbling like thunder, "Remember, you only have one month."

Swish!

As soon as he finished, someone took the lead to rush out, move through the void, and bolt into the Secret Realm of Trial. Immediately afterwards, other people rushed out one after another, and almost all of them were traveling in groups.

No one retreated or hesitated. They were all powerful experts who had experienced countless battles and had gone through the arduous path of becoming an Emperor. Whether it was in terms of state of mind or courage, they were all extraordinary.

Divine lights glowed, and Feng Junlin and his party also set out, attracting many sidelong glances. In addition, Lin Xun also noticed that there were many powerful experts who were not inferior to Feng Junlin in terms of temperament and power.

Some were on green gourds as huge as ships, wearing daoist robes with large sleeves fluttering. When they opened and closed their eyes, the area around them was filled with primal chaos qi.

Some looked as if they were carved from flawless marble with graceful demeanors and were bathed in the holy divine light, resembling figures from a dream. With every step they took, golden dao lotuses would bloom under their feet.

Some were assembled fierce gods or demons with cold eyes like knives. They whipped up a monstrous and fierce aura as they swept across the starry sky, fierce and boundless.

Some of them even looked weak and ordinary at first glance, but when they walked, they were in harmony with heaven and earth, resonating with the dao, and there were faint dao chanting sounds emanating from them.

Some...

Almost everyone was at least a supreme eighth realm Emperor. Although their powers were different, they all had an invincible and arrogant demeanor. It was impossible for Lin Xun not to pay attention to them.

That was until he saw Wen Shaoheng leaving with a group of other Emperors. Lin Xun couldn't help but be surprised by this. After all, other experts such as Grandma Xue, who had previously followed Wen Shaoheng, had all been killed by him.

Despite that, Wen Shaoheng had somehow gotten another posse of Emperors to follow him, which seemed a bit inconceivable. However, for Lin Xun, the fact that Wen Shaoheng was also participating in the trial was good enough for him.

Because this time, he would not give the other party a chance to leave alive! Soon, Lin Xun also took action as he moved through the void, and soared away.

This schmuck probably doesn't know that once he enters the Secret Realm of Trial, a dead end awaits him...

When he saw Lin Xun also move forward, Heng Zhan's eyes showed a trace of barely perceptible pity.

Soon, all the cultivators who were participating in the trial had disappeared in the Secret Realm of Trial.

...

This was a primal world full of wilderness with high skies and vast clouds and towering ancient peaks and tall mountains everywhere. However, there was not a single blade of grass here, resulting in a dry and desolate scene.

No sign of life!

No breath of the dao!

It was like a ruined world that was left behind in the destruction of endless years.

Crash~

The void rippled, and Lin Xun appeared. The first thing he saw was such a desolate and primitive world. However, before he could take a closer look, there was a sudden change—Boom!

A peerless and sharp divine arrow tore through the sky, suddenly bursting out from the void on one side. It was incredibly fast. Lin Xun waved his sleeves, and with a bang, the divine arrow exploded three feet in front of him, and particles of light rain fell.

Unfortunately, this was just the beginning. Then, the ground suddenly collapsed, and countless dense and bright sword qi swept out. At the same time, from the southeast, northwest, and northeast of Lin Xun, terrifying attacks roared towards him.

There was a golden divine whip that smashed through the void, resembling a golden dragon coming out of the abyss.

There was a glittering jade ruyi shuttling through the sky. It reflected the phantoms of sacred mountains, covering the sky and the sun.

There were bronze bells rumbling, bowls emitting thousands of feet of rosy clouds, and axes that split the void and chopped down angrily...

In an instant, all directions were completely covered by a terrifying offensive power. Each technique being activated was extremely terrifying. Each Emperor-grade weapon flashed with a brilliance that could destroy the world.

When all of this burst out at the same time, it looked as if Lin Xun and the stretch of area he was standing on were going to be wiped out! It was too terrifying and happened too quickly. Who would have imagined that such a disaster would come upon them just after entering the trial ground?

Furthermore, after being ambushed with no warning, even Lin Xun had no way to retreat or avoid it. Despite that, there were very little fluctuations in his expression. The only change that was visible was that his eyes had become extremely cold.

Suddenly, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron roared out, shining brightly, flowing with billions of lights, and evolving into a great abyss that spanned the world. Then, Lin Xun jumped up and charged in one direction, releasing all his dao to the utmost. There was no need to hold back!

Being surrounded was not scary to him. He just needed to seize a target and kill it as soon as possible.

Boom~

This world was in turmoil, completely chaotic. Many terrifying powers and treasures covered that stretch of space, destroying that area directly.

The violent aura of destruction raged, and the nearby thousands of miles of mountains and rivers were razed to the ground in an instant. The void acted like paper as it was being easily crushed to pieces.

A voice sounded in the smoke and dust, "What's going on?"

"He should be dead..." sounded another low voice in the nearby area.

"Let's fight together. Not to mention a supreme sixth realm Emperor, I'm afraid we can easily kill any Ninth Realm Ancestor."

A quiet conversation sounded, and one figure after another appeared in the rolling smoke and dust, and their auras were extremely terrifying. There were more than twenty people present!

Where Lin Xun was originally, a huge gully had been blasted out, bottomless, and it was filled with a torrent of destruction, raging and roaring.

"Haha, with the full-strength attack we had been planning for a long time, isn't it easy to kill this guy?"

A skinny old man smiled and twisted his beard. He held a shining ancient seal in his hand, which was extremely powerful. He was a Ninth Realm Ancestor.

"No, something's off. If Ling Xuanzi is dead, where are the spoils?"

Someone interjected with surprise, "Could it be..."

The skinny old man holding the ancient seal was also startled and was about to release his spirit sense to investigate. At this moment, a large slender hand appeared out of thin air, immediately grabbed the skinny old man's neck and twisted it gently.

Crack!

A head was snapped off, and blood spurted out like a spring, dyeing the void red.

Immediately afterwards, the skinny old man's figure was shattered, turning into countless pieces of flesh and blood that fell to the ground. In the blink of an eye, these pieces of flesh and blood were incinerated one by one, turning into a burst of pungent and smelly smoke.

Ashes and smoke!

In addition, where the skinny old man was originally standing, a tall figure had appeared out of thin air.

Chapter 2447 Demon God!

The place suddenly fell so silent that even a pin dropping could be heard. That tall figure, with disheveled hair, torn clothes, and pale cheeks, looked quite embarrassed. This person was naturally Lin Xun.

Although he had resolved and resisted most of the power of that sudden and terrifying attack from before, he had inevitably been injured. Even so, when everyone saw this, they were stunned and dumbfounded.

"Not dead!?"

"How could he...he still be alive?"

"Old Ancestor Long Yuan was killed just like that..."

Screams could be heard everywhere.

Who dared to imagine that someone could survive under the siege of more than twenty Emperors?

The most terrifying thing was that just by reaching out his hand, Lin Xun snapped the neck of a Ninth Realm Ancestor, took off his head, crushed it into ashes, making his victim die instantly.

Shocking!

An invisible chill of horror surged into the hearts of these Emperors like a tide, making their scalps numb. What kind of ruthless person was this?

"I have no grudges against any of you, so why do you want to ambush me here?" Lin Xun's eyes were terribly cold. He had seen everyone's faces clearly. All of them were unfamiliar, and he had not seen them before.

However, no one answered. Everyone's expression was cold.

"Go! He is already injured and is not invincible. This is a good time to kill him!"

After the initial shock, these remaining Emperors approached Lin Xun from different directions.

Any Emperor who was able to fight their way to Origin City and participate in the trial were ruthless characters with iron hearts and had many experiences in killing. Many of them were ambitious to the core and tyrannical beyond comparison. All of their paths were drenched with blood.

Various divine lights were glowing, and some powerful Emperor-grade weapons were charging up. The treasures that these Emperors had in their possession were naturally extraordinary and terrifying.

There were sharp swords and bronze umbrellas that covered the sky, thousand-foot-long divine whips, and seals that were like sacred mountains... All of them were dazzling, revealing splendid power and suffocating killing intent.

Anyone would admit that this was a group of terrifying characters. If they were sent to the Ancient Nebula Road, they would be able to run rampant and look down on the heavens.

"Ling Xuanzi, I'm not afraid to tell you that any expert who enters the Secret Realm of Trial will kill you without hesitation if they have the chance. Even if you struggle, it will be in vain."

An eighth realm Emperor who looked like a teenager declared this calmly with an arrogant demeanor reminiscent of a god looking down at an ant.

Lin Xun raised his eyebrows and then revealed a sneer, "Really? Then I don't mind treating this place as a grave and burying my enemies."

His black hair fluttered, his eyes flashed like cold lightning, and he no longer suppressed himself. He released his aura, and it was like a surging ocean, sweeping across the vast land. Everyone's expression

froze. Lin Xun was not afraid even in such a situation. This made their hearts feel cold, and their expressions became extremely solemn.

"Kill!"

Without hesitation, they attacked together. The ancient bronze umbrella covered the sky, the seal of the sacred mountain sank the earth, and various Emperor-grade weapons flew through the air. It was like a gargantuan, terrifying tidal wave!

In addition, the most terrifying thing was that there were several secret treasures that had exploded with vicious and cruel power at this point. They were so strong that they were definitely able to seriously threaten Ninth Realm Ancestors.

At the same time, there were also various mysterious forbidden arrays emerging, spreading, and covering the sky. Obviously, among this group of people, there were people with extraordinary attainments in dao runes who were activating formations.

Within an instant, the world fell into chaos again, the earth sank thousands of feet, and all the mountains disappeared. The void collapsed, and a surging torrent of power spread out. Wherever it passed, there was a terrible scene of destruction.

More than twenty Emperors had attacked together, and not one of them held back. All of them were ruthless to the extreme, and their fighting spirits were strong. Now they were attacking with all their strength, which was enough to frighten both ghosts and gods.

If it were anyone else, even a Ninth Realm Ancestor who was stable at his level, they would definitely die at this moment. No one would be able to avoid such an encirclement and the resulting siege was too terrifying.

Despite that, Lin Xun had already fought his way out of the siege and was prepared, so how could he willingly be trapped again? At the start of everything, his figure flashed, and he reappeared thousands of miles away in a strange manner.

His opponents were very ruthless. They were using special techniques, Emperor-grade weapons, arrays, secret treasures... Basically, everything they had was being used against him. All of this would be able to kill any Ninth Realm Ancestor without any issue, and such a display may even threaten the life of an Ancestor of a Path.

If this was not the Secret Realm of Trial, then these attacks would definitely destroy the cosmos and the plane of the world!

"He actually avoided our attack... There he is!"

Everyone looked up and saw Lin Xun. Their hearts sank and they felt a chill permeating their very bones.

At this moment, although Lin Xun was standing there alone, he looked like a hungry vortex able to swallow the world. His posture was supreme as if he was looking down on the world. Everyone glanced at each other and revealed ruthless looks.

"Die!"

For beings like them, a thousand miles away could be reached with a single move. If they allowed Lin Xun to escape this time, it was likely they would never find such an opportunity again in the future.

Moreover, Lin Xun still had not yet revealed anything during the fight that would make them completely afraid of him, so they still had hope of killing him.

At this moment—Boom!

Lin Xun had taken the initiative to attack. With one step, the world trembled, the stars shifted, and he attacked with an overwhelming divine brilliance. The Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron roared, like a swallowing abyss, appearing above his head.

His move was simple and direct. Sword qi slashed out, and it spanned three thousand miles. The sword light rolled over the ground, and mountains thousands of miles away were blown away.

Puff!

The man in the front was torn apart before shattering completely, and his Emperor-grade weapon exploded into a blood mist, crushed by the unparalleled and sharp sword qi.

Boom!

When Lin Xun raised his hands and feet, there was a sound of landslides and tsunamis rumbling. The light around him was overwhelming. He was like a demon god, unparalleled in the world, and he slashed out sword qi that resembled landslides and tsunamis one after another, showing the true meaning of life and death with a sword.

In an instant, three more Emperors died brutally! Bloody mist filled the air, and the two terrifying Emperor-grade weapons and the power of many arrays were also shattered. Dao light was exploding, and the horror being unveiled was boundless!

Lin Xun had forcibly opened up a bloody path through the ambush with his supreme killing means.

"Is this guy...still human? How can he...be so strong?" Some people were terrified, and their souls were trembling.

Buzz!

A huge seal as heavy and majestic as a sacred mountain fell down. This was a well-known Emperor-grade weapon, and it had the power to suppress the universe and shatter the sun and the moon.

However, Lin Xun's murderous intent was overwhelming, and the dao covering his body was brilliant, eclipsing the sun, moon, and stars. It was as if a god had come to the world, slapping the sky with a palm and knocking the seal away. Cracks appeared on the erstwhile weapon!

"Just who are we trying to go against?!" exclaimed someone.

The Emperors who were originally calm and composed were all horrified at this moment. They were now regretting their decision. Only when they had faced their target head-on did they realize how terrifying Ling Xuanzi was!

Boom!

The Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron roared, and the lower half of a Ninth Realm Ancestor who had participated in the ambush suddenly became a ball of bloody mist, completely obliterated. He screamed miserably, and the upper half of his body flew backwards as his hair fluttered around him. Panic was painted on his face.

Unfortunately for him, a sword suddenly flashed out from the sword cauldron and smashed apart the remaining half of the body, killing him instantly.

Someone in the field screamed in fear, "Save me!"

However, he saw a divine light bursting out of Lin Xun's eyes, interweaving into a pair of clanging divine swords. They slashed out in the void and drew a large 'X.'

Immediately, another tyrannical figure was killed. This was a sixth realm supreme Emperor. Because they were in the same realm, that person had erroneously believed that he had nothing to fear from Lin Xun. Who would have thought that he would be killed by Lin Xun after a single, measly encounter?

Many people's hair stood on end and their faces turned pale. This guy was simply a god of slaughter. They had really provoked a demon king who should never have been roused.

In fact, at this moment, Lin Xun did look extremely terrifying. He activated his skills flawlessly while using the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron to open the way. He killed people in all directions with surging dao light surrounding him and swallowing thousands of miles.

With every gesture, he revealed an invincible and crushing style! All the mountains and valleys in the area turned into dust, destroyed as if they were made of tissue paper. How could his opponents fight against that?

The battle had just started, but Lin Xun had transformed into a veritable demon god. So far, six Emperors had died gruesome deaths on the spot.

A demon god!

Everyone screamed in their hearts, their faces pale, and they felt powerless. They couldn't help but tremble as they had never been so scared as they were now.

Puff!

Blood splashed, yet Lin Xun's expression was indifferent as his eyes flashed with cold lightning. The Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron roared as it smashed another person to a miserable, sad death.

The powerful combat power he showed at this moment was shocking as it was enough to kill an Emperor at any time. In actuality, they were torn into pieces, destroyed in both body and soul. The slaughter fest continued, and Lin Xun's heart was filled with a sort of nameless anger.

Ever since he had entered Origin City, he had tried to stay low-key and not cause trouble. Who would have thought that he would be ambushed and attacked as soon as he entered the Trial World? If he had not been strong enough, he would have suffered immediately.

In this situation, whenever Lin Xun attacked, he was ruthless and extremely cold.

"Ah..."

"Go!"

"Run!"

Amid the screams of fear, the remaining cultivators all fled in panic and rushed in all directions. Now everyone knew that this was a pure demon, and becoming his enemy was the same thing as begging for death. Even Ninth Realms Ancestors were vulnerable against him!

"Want to leave? Too late!"

Lin Xun snorted coldly. Since he had chosen to take action, he would kill without mercy and uproot all of these would be problems.

"Dao Friend, please spare me. I know I was wrong. I shouldn't have been instigated to attack you." An old man was caught up and begged for mercy with a pale face, almost kneeling right then and there.

Lin Xun didn't even look at him. He pressed out a finger and the old man's forehead was pierced immediately. Blood spurted out as the horror on his face solidified. The old man fell straight into a pool of blood.

Boom!

Suddenly, an ancient bronze umbrella that covered the sky and the sun fell down, and millions of lights fell with it. They were divine chains, intertwined under the sky, as if they were made of divine gold, dazzling as they suppressed Lin Xun.

This was a powerful Emperor-grade weapon that could cover the entire sky. It formed a terrifying domain field that imprisoned mountains and rivers. Being shrouded in it was like being thrown into a hell that was a pure prison.

"This evil bastard has been suppressed, everyone, kill him quickly!" screamed a middle-aged man who looked like a scholar.

This ancient bronze umbrella was one of his great killing weapons. At this moment, it had unexpectedly trapped Lin Xun in it. As the scholarly man recited ancient obscure scriptures, the ancient bronze umbrella seemed to revive from silence, surging with strange symbols like a tide, releasing an endless imprisonment!

Chapter 2448 The Might of One Man was Unmatched

Seeing Lin Xun trapped, many cultivator's expressions lit up with excitement. Without hesitation, they unleashed all sorts of Emperor-grade weapons, aiming to kill him on the spot.

This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

“Activate the forbidden weapon! Kill him!” someone shouted viciously, eyes filled with hatred.

“Everyone, we’ve got no way out. No one can escape this world. If we don’t kill him now, even if we survive today, we’ll still die when we cross paths with him again!” A black-robed man growled, his face grim.

As he spoke, he spat out a strange talisman, like a mouthful of scarlet blood.

It rapidly expanded, transforming into a blood-red diagram tens of thousands of feet wide. It pulsed with a malevolent aura, as if it could crush the earth and obliterate the heavens. Within it, terrifying illusions unfolded. It was like an apocalyptic scene of demons rampaging across the world.

The formation descended with the ancient bronze umbrella, sealing Lin Xun inside, trying to refine him into nothing but pulp and blood. Screams echoed like wailing ghosts as blood mist churned.

“Hurry! This is our only chance! Kill him now! Don’t hold back, destroy this bastard!” screamed someone screamed in a frenzy.

Seeing this, the crowd was swept up in the moment. Their earlier fear had now transformed into ecstatic bloodlust and desperation.

Lin Xun’s brow furrowed. The ancient bronze umbrella was no ordinary Emperor weapon. It was imbued with a strange will, possibly the remnant aura of an Ancestor of a Dao Path. Furthermore, the blood-red talisman was no common artifact either. It contained countless forbidden spells and the phantoms of myriad spirits howling within, making it deeply sinister.

“Kill! We must kill him!”

With a chorus of furious shouts, dozens of Emperor-grade weapons roared to life, slicing through the heavens and unleashing divine brilliance. A terrifying killing intent flooded the skies, shaking the world.

It was like a catastrophe had descended. Explosions, divine light and destructive force erupted in all directions, ripping through the land and leaving devastation in their wake.

“This time, he’ll definitely die, right?” someone muttered, trembling.

“No, he...he...he’s not dead!”

But then, everyone was aghast.

In the distance, a radiant torrent of dao light surged into the sky. Lin Xun had seized the ancient bronze umbrella and teleported to another area.

The terrifying siege hadn’t even touched him. Instead, it obliterated only the surrounding area.

“No—!” The scholarly man cried out in horror.

With a causal wave, Lin Xun suppressed the ancient bronze umbrella into the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, and the scholar who had been connected to it spat out blood, his face going pale.

The sight left many trembling with fear.

He had seized an Emperor weapon with bare hands!

“Don’t panic! He’s still trapped within the formation of my Great Blood Demon Talisman!” The black-robed man roared. “Everyone, act quickly! Let’s get rid of him once and for all.”

Everyone looked up, and sure enough, they saw the blood-colored talisman surging where Lin Xun stood, forming rippling waves of blood-colored light that suppressed him from all sides.

“Kill!”

Everyone struck again, unleashing secret treasures without hesitation. The sky was instantly flooded with dazzling, multicolored divine light.

Buzz!

An ancient dao sword emerged from Lin Xun’s Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, radiating flowing purple brilliance. It slashed straight toward the blood-red talisman.

The sword swept across the air like a rainbow arc, ringing with sharp clanging sounds. Though the blood-colored talisman was an exceptional treasure, it began to fracture under the force of the strike, fine cracks spreading rapidly across its surface.

Finally, amidst a blinding burst of divine light, the talisman shattered with a thunderous crack, disintegrating into a rain of blood-colored light that scattered across the sky.

Lin Xun let out a silent sigh. He had originally intended to subdue the talisman for himself, but the situation had been too tense so he was forced to destroy it with brute force.

“My treasure!” the black-robed man cried in anguish, as if his beloved possession had been torn from his soul.

In that instant, Lin Xun began his counterattack.

He moved like a god descending upon the mortal realm, unstoppable and divine. The Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron surged with terrifying might, crushing Emperor weapons mid-air and shattering mountains and seas. His every strike radiated boundless, devastating power.

The battle instantly turned one-sided. Hope vanished. The remaining Emperors no longer dared to fight and scattered in terror.

They had tried everything—sieges, powerful treasures, and overwhelming forces, but Lin Xun remained unscathed.

Under such circumstances, who wouldn't realize that they were no match for Lin Xun?

"Fellow Daoist, wait! We can talk! Name your price. I am willing to pay anything! Just spare my life!" A cultivator pleaded desperately as Lin Xun caught up.

Before he could even finish, Lin Xun struck him down with a single palm, reducing him to a bloody smear.

Without pause, Lin Xun continued his hunt.

There were only a dozen or so Emperors left. They fled in every direction, but Lin Xun had already committed their auras and appearance to memory. There would be no escape.

Boom!

The No-Nonsense Bow was drawn. With a thunderous roar, the Biluo Arrow streaked into the sky like a bolt of lightning.

Hundreds of miles away, one of the fleeing figures exploded midair, obliterated by the arrow. He was dead before he even knew it.

One more down!

Lin Xun turned and vanished in another direction.

His next target was a woman in blue. She seemed to sense the looming danger, and while fleeing, she suddenly bit down hard and spat out dozens of mouthful blood essence. Instantly, a string of red bells in her hand glowed ominously and, as if having been fed full, let out a strange, chilling ringing sound.

Meanwhile, the woman in blue seemed to have lost more than half her life force and had become extremely weak. She clearly paid a terrible price. She then crushed the red bell with all her might.

Bang!

A gorgeous rain of red light shimmered and vanished into the void.

At that moment, Lin Xun's hair stood on end and his muscles tensed. It was as if a sense of fatal danger was piercing his chest like a blade.

It came without warning!

His mind stirred violently. Without hesitation, he summoned the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron to shield himself.

Clang!

With a deafening boom, a fine red needle, as thin as an ox's hair was narrowly blocked by the cauldron, and then exploded on impact. The resulting shockwaves were so fierce that Lin Xun staggered backward under the blast.

In the distance—Pu!

The woman in blue coughed up blood, despair clouding her eyes.

That needle was her trump card, the strike she had poured half her life into.

Yet it was still blocked!

"I'll kill you!" She shrieked, burning the last of her life force as she charged at Lin Xun.

Clearly, she wanted to destroy Lin Xun with her.

Lin Xun's expression remained indifferent. His strength surged to its peak and a palm cleaved across the air. The woman in blue exploded mid-fight, her body and soul annihilated.

Without stopping, Lin Xun pressed on with his pursuit.

"Fellow Daoist, why must you go so far?!"

Soon after, a man with gray hair and beard was caught. In his panic, he cried out miserably.

Lin Xun ignored him. With a single step, he lashed out a kick that shattered the old man's head, killing him instantly. However, when he turned to hunt down the remaining enemies, they had already scattered in different directions.

After all, Lin Xun was fighting alone, and he had no intention of revealing his five dao bodies just yet, so he couldn't split himself to chase them all at once.

He came to a halt, his eyes as cold as ice. Despite that, there was no anger in his heart. As long as they remained in this Secret Realm of Trial, he was certain that, sooner or later, he would kill them one by one.

He turned back, retracing his steps. Meanwhile, the remaining survivors were gripped by terror. They had never tasted such despair.

They were dominant figures, ruling territories with unchallenged might, wielding boundless power, and looking down on all living beings. Unfortunately, now, they fled like stray dogs, with nowhere left to hide.

The contrast was crushing.

The battlefield lay in ruins and the heavens and earth shattered.

Lin Xun returned, preparing to gather the spoils of war. However, just as he was about to begin, he suddenly sensed something and coldly snorted, "Taking advantage of the situation? You have a death wish!"

The moment his voice rang out, he moved like an immortal god descending. He unleashed surging dao light and charged out, more terrifying than a divine wrath.

He thrust out his fist!

Boom!

In the distance, the void howled and exploded, and a figure was violently shaken and thrown backward.

It was a young man in a luxurious robe, panic flashing in his eyes. His face darkened and he barked, "Ling Xuanzi, I have no grudge against you. Why did you attack me?"

"You think you can touch my trophies?" Lin Xun said coldly as the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron roared out.

In an instant, the young man was crushed into a mist of blood.

Lin Xun casually raised his hand and collected the man's storage treasure.

Afterward, Lin Xun's gaze turned sharp as lightning as he swept his eyes across the surroundings and declared coldly, "You're free to watch from the shadows. But if anyone dares to harbor any foolish thoughts, don't blame me for showing no mercy!"

His voice rolled out like thunder, spreading far and wide. Then he turned and began to clean up the battlefield.

Before the battle, Lin Xun had already sensed many terrifying auras hidden in the shadows, silently observing. As long as they didn't interfere, he couldn't be bothered to chase them down.

Who would have thought that when he returned just now, he discovered that the young man in the luxurious robe had tried to loot his battlefield. Lin Xun could not tolerate this.

Hidden in the distance, many cultivators' expressions turned ugly. They were furious at Lin Xun's blunt warning. Despite that, no one dared to step forward.

After witnessing the terrifying slaughter he had unleashed earlier, none of them had the courage to challenge him directly. One by one, many of them quietly withdrew.

Not long after Lin Xun finished cleaning up the spoils, a low and hoarse voice suddenly echoed from afar, "Ling Xuanzi, you're going to suffer a great calamity. You should pray for yourself!"

A murderous glint flashed across Lin Xun's eyes. He immediately sent his spirit sense sweeping toward the source of the voice, but the place was already deserted.

"Pray for myself? We'll see who can walk out of this place alive!"

A boiling killing intent surged within Lin Xun. His previous experience had made him well aware that a hidden, deadly storm was targeting him, and he no longer intended to stay low-profile.

Shua!

Without hesitation, Lin Xun teleported away and left the area. After all, a great battle had just erupted here, and lingering would only bring more trouble.

Half an hour later.

Deep within a rugged, desolate mountain range Lin Xun casually set up a restriction, then released a wisp of primordial spirit from the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron. It was the primordial spirit of an old man he had captured during the fierce battle. He was a cultivator at the eighth realm Emperor Stage.

Lin Xun's gaze was calm yet piercing as he asked bluntly, "Will you answer my questions yourself, or do I need to search your spirit?"

The old man, reduced to nothing but a wisp of primordial spirit, had long abandoned any thoughts of resistance. Upon hearing Lin Xun's words, he answered without hesitation, "Fellow Daoist, please ask whatever you wish. I will tell you everything I know. I only beg for a swift end!"

Chapter 2449 Being Schemed Against

Half an hour later—Bang! With a wave of his sleeve, Lin Xun wiped out the old man's primordial spirit.

The man had already answered everything he asked, and Lin Xun was certain that the old man had not concealed anything from him. The truth was simple.

Back in Origin City, several Emperors had already been secretly won over by Wen Shaoheng, who offered them irresistible terms that no one could decline.

If they managed to kill Lin Xun in the Secret Realm of Trial, they would earn the right to become Wen Shaoheng's guards and accompany him to the Eternal True Realm.

Even if they refused to submit to Wen Shaoheng, as long as they cooperated to kill Lin Xun, they would still be rewarded with ten star sources! Ten star sources! By market value alone, they were worth fifty-five first-grade cosmic origin crystals!

More importantly, possessing them meant they could safely leave Origin City and continue their journey toward the Eternal True Realm.

This revelation surprised Lin Xun. How could Wen Shaoheng possibly afford to be so generous? However, he quickly realized that the reason why Wen Shaoheng dared to make such promises was because he had the backing of Heng Tianshuo!

Everything became clear at once. With City Lord Heng Tianshuo acting as a guarantor, even the proudest Emperor-level figures would find it hard to resist such temptation.

This also explained why Lin Xun, from the moment he entered the Secret Realm of Trial, had been besieged by countless enemies. He also finally understood why those people had been clamoring earlier. On these trial grounds, no matter who encountered him, they would regard him as prey.

“People die for money; birds die for food. Though this is an old saying, it remains an unchanging truth...”

Lin Xun’s dark eyes gleamed coldly. He didn’t fear Wen Shaoheng’s schemes, but he had to take the threat posed by Heng Tianshuo, a true Ancestor of a Path, seriously.

“If you see me as your enemy, then I will not hesitate to destroy you...” In Lin Xun’s heart, he had already sentenced Heng Tianshuo to death.

Next, he began counting the spoils of war. In the previous battle, he had killed more than a dozen Emperors. Among them three were Ninth Realm Ancestors, two supreme Emperors, and several ordinary Emperors.

The treasures he seized were astounding. There were over three million first-grade cosmic origin crystals, five Yellow Spring Beads, and more than twenty Emperor-grade weapons and ancient treasures.

He also had a mountain of divine materials and other rare items. Lin Xun estimated that they were worth at least another million first-grade cosmic origin crystals. In addition, there were miscellaneous items, such as secret manuals, cultivation techniques, and elixirs.

“It’s a good harvest.” Lin Xun smiled in satisfaction.

What he lacked most now was wealth. Only by gathering enough Yellow Spring Beads could he thoroughly refine the nine netherworld runes.

Then, Lin Xun took out the ancient bronze umbrella. It was a magical treasure, imbued with mysterious forbidden dao runes, capable of veiling the heavens and enveloping the eight directions. Its name was the Skyholding Umbrella.

Originally, it had housed the willpower of an Ancestor of a Path, but now, that willpower had already been destroyed by Lin Xun. The reason Lin Xun took special notice of this treasure was because the ancient bronze umbrella faintly exuded traces of an immortal aura, which was an extraordinary characteristic.

Without a doubt, it was a severely damaged immortal-grade weapon. Yet, even in its ruined state, its power was still stronger and more terrifying than most Emperor-grade weapons. However, what Lin Xun truly valued was the immortal matter contained within the umbrella.

From what he knew, immortal matter was incomparably precious and valuable. Even in the Eternal True Realm, it was considered a rare treasure of heaven and earth, capable of tempering immortal-grade weapons!

After examining the umbrella for a while, Lin Xun made up his mind and prepared to set out.

Buzz—

The identity token floated into the air in front of him.

Sensing it carefully, Lin Xun immediately noticed a wisp of aura emanating from the token, guiding him toward a distant direction.

According to the rules of the trial, within one month, only those who entered the district indicated by their identity token could unlock the path leading out of the Trial World.

This Secret Realm of Trial was divided into nine major districts, meaning that only after Lin Xun entered the designated district could he leave this place. However, at this moment, he still did not know exactly which district he would be heading toward.

Shua!

With a flash of movement, Lin Xun followed the guidance of the identity token.

“Each of the nine major districts has different dangers scattered within. The places where star sources are buried tend to be areas of frequent danger,” said the green sparrow, hiding within the sachet. It gave Lin Xun advice along the way.

“Among them, the most terrifying is the ninth district. From ancient times to now, anyone who enters has never returned alive. Fortunately, in this era, the City Lord’s Residence no longer sends trial participants to the ninth district. After all, it would be no different from sending them to their deaths.”

Hearing this, Lin Xun’s heart sank. “You’re saying that...the districts the trial cultivators enter are arranged by the City Lord’s Residence?”

“Of course,” answered the green sparrow without hesitation.

Lin Xun’s face immediately darkened. A strong premonition surged within him. He had most likely already been plotted against by that cunning old fox Heng Tianshuo!

“Are you suspecting...” The green sparrow quickly caught on, its tone changing drastically. “If that’s true, isn’t this basically over for us?”

Lin Xun took a deep breath and forcibly suppressed the murderous intent boiling in his heart. He asked grimly, “Green sparrow, do you know what kind of danger lurks in the ninth district?”

“It’s said that the ninth district was once the core land where the gods of the last epoch resided. But after the catastrophe that destroyed that epoch, it became the most bizarre and ominous place in existence.” Realizing how grave Lin Xun’s situation might be, the green sparrow no longer dared to hold anything back and revealed everything it knew.

However, after listening carefully, Lin Xun realized that everything the green sparrow knew was merely hearsay. No one truly understood how terrifying the ninth district was because from ancient times until now, everyone who entered it had perished.

Even beings at the immortal level were no exception! This only deepened the murderous intent surging in Lin Xun's heart, and his expression grew darker and more forbidding.

If he were to speak honestly, he had never once offended Heng Tianshuo. Even so, Heng Tianshuo had still arranged such a ruthless and vicious scheme against him, and all for Wen Shaoheng's sake. It was clear that they had no intention of letting Lin Xun live!

"The priority now is to seize star sources. When the trial nears its end, it won't be too late to find a way out..."

Lin Xun did not change direction.

Based on what he knew, to reach the ninth district, one first had to pass through the first to eighth districts. Only then would they reach the deepest part of the trial grounds. Along the way, there would still be plenty of opportunities to gather star sources.

An hour later, Lin Xun abruptly stopped, a look of surprise flashing across his face.

Before him, a vast expanse of gray mist spread out, permeating endless time and space. Even though Lin Xun possessed the All-Seeing Eye, which was capable of seeing through illusions and disguises, he found himself unable to pierce through the mist that filled the surroundings.

However, within that gray mist, he could faintly sense an overwhelming force that was a million times more powerful than the movement of stars and the cosmos. Before this power, even an Ancestor of a Path would be like an ant, crushed with a single breath!

The green sparrow said, "This is the boundary barrier of the trial grounds, which is similar to the spatial crystal wall separating the big world and the small world."

“So, behind this gray mist is the first district?” Lin Xun asked thoughtfully.

“Yes, with the identity token in your possession, you can safely pass through this barrier. There’s no danger to you.” The green sparrow answered.

“I see.”

Lin Xun quietly exhaled in relief. The power within the gray mist was unimaginably deadly, enough to wipe out an Ancestor. If he had stepped into it blindly without the protection of the badge, he would have been instantly annihilated.

Without any hesitation, he took a step forward and vanished into the mist.

.....

The first district.

The mountains stretched endlessly, the land scarred by countless gullies and ravines. This was a world like a desolate ruin. Whether it was the mountains, rocks, or earth, everything exuded a bleak and withered aura of death.

The air was thick with a suffocating murderous intent that weighed heavily on the heart. Fierce winds howled like countless sharp blades, carving terrifying cracks into the mountainsides.

“What a terrifying murderous aura,” Lin Xun murmured.

After stepping through the gray mist, he arrived in this world.

The murderous aura here surged like countless raging knives, wreaking havoc across the land. If an ordinary cultivator entered, they would be shredded into pieces before they even had a chance to react.

The place was utterly barren. After traveling for hundreds of miles, Lin Xun had yet to see another soul. All he could see were only bare mountains, crumbling rocks, and an overwhelming silence.

Gusts of fierce wind swept by like raging swords, sharp and terrifying. Even Lin Xun had to mobilize his cultivation base just to feel somewhat at ease.

“What are the signs that indicate where star sources are buried?” he asked.

Star sources were the origin power of stars, containing profound mysteries of the great dao.

Over countless ages, this Trial World would occasionally swallow stars from the cosmos.

Once fallen, these stars would undergo strange transformations, condensing into star sources infused with various law attributes and become buried throughout the land.

Some star sources were incomplete, while others were fully intact, and the attributes they contained differed greatly.

Some star sources were of such excellent quality that they could even nurture and give birth to incredible great dao secrets.

In the eyes of cultivators, star sources were not only supreme treasure for comprehending the great dao, but also rare and precious materials for tempering Emperor-grade weapons.

Through refining star sources, weapons could not only be strengthened but also inherit the mysteries of the dao laws contained within them. It was a wondrous phenomenon.

This was why star sources were so incomparably valuable.

The green sparrow answered without hesitation, “Life force, wherever there is life, there will be star sources buried. Look around, these trial grounds are a dead land where not even a blade of grass grows. If there’s a sign of life, it will be noticeable right away.”

Lin Xun understood and nodded silently.

Suddenly, a ferocious bird streaked across the sky, its wings spanning over a thousand feet and stirring up a roaring windstorm as it soared over from the distant horizon.

A group of people could be seen riding on its back. At first, they seemed merely curious to see a lone figure traversing this wasteland, their faces flashing with strange expressions.

However, the moment they recognized Lin Xun, their expressions underwent a dramatic change. Shock, excitement, and undisguised greed appeared on their faces. It was as if they had unexpectedly stumbled upon the prey that had been eagerly awaiting!

Chapter 2450 Yue Duqiu

The ferocious bird streaked across the sky with great force, its momentum fierce and aggressive as it approached Lin Xun.

Lin Xun immediately halted, his gaze calm as he looked up, and a faint trace of cold amusement curling at the corners of his lips.

Someone else treating me as prey?

How coincidental.

To Lin Xun, were they not just another group of prey delivering themselves to his doorstep?

He understood that these people clearly had no idea about the bloody slaughter that had unfolded at the entrance of the trial grounds. Otherwise, they would never have dared to approach him with such arrogance.

“Hahaha, Ling Xuanzi, I didn’t expect to run into you here.” On the back of the ferocious bird, a tall, thin man in luxurious robes laughed loudly, his gaze fixed on Lin Xun with fearless intent. The others behind him looked equally eager to make a move.

This group was anything but ordinary. They hailed from the same faction, led by the luxurious-robed man who was a seventh realm supreme Emperor.

At his side were two Ninth Realm Ancestors. Among the trial participants, such a lineup was considered exceptionally powerful and not to be underestimated.

"I'm happy to meet all of you as well," Lin Xun replied with a radiant smile.

This response caught the group off guard, their expressions flickering with confusion.

As far as they knew, Ling Xuanzi had once tried and failed to assassinate Wen Shaoheng, and the only reason he survived the City Lord's Residence's killing attacks was because he had benefited from Dantai Feng's protection.

In their eyes, Ling Xuanzi was only a sixth realm supreme Emperor and far from someone worth fearing. Moreover, he hailed from a deteriorating place like the Ancient Nebula Road. Even if he had a backer, it was nothing worth mentioning.

It was precisely this judgment that gave them the confidence to confront Lin Xun so brazenly. However, his calm and unflustered demeanor made an uneasy feeling rise in their hearts.

At that moment, a low, magnetic voice filled the air, "Fools. Ling Xuanzi just slaughtered over a dozen Emperors, including supreme Emperors and Ninth Realm Ancestors. And yet you still treat him as prey. Do you have a death wish?"

The voice echoed between heaven and earth, like the sound of the great dao. In the distance, a figure appeared out of thin air. He was a handsome man in a flowing black daoist robe, his sleeves fluttering. As his eyes opened and closed, primal chaos qi churned around him.

Beneath his feet floated a colossal green-skinned gourd the size of a small boat, exuding an extraordinary and transcendental aura.

Lin Xun's brows knitted slightly.

The expressions of the luxurious-robed man and his group all changed drastically. Shock flickered across their faces, and a chill gripped their hearts.

Is this true?

Is Ling Xuanzi truly that terrifying?

Although the man in luxurious robes had called them fools, they recognized his origins and status at a glance. There was no way someone of his stature would bother to lie to them.

In an instant, they instinctively retreated, putting distance between themselves and Lin Xun, as if facing a savage beast.

"Are you planning to help them?" Lin Xun asked, a faint glint in his eyes as information about the other party surfaced in his mind.

He was Yue Duqiu.

An eighth realm supreme Emperor, also known as Great Emperor Zhuliu. Like Feng Junlin, he hailed from the Divine Ascension Starfield, which was ranked first among the Great Thousand Worlds.

Born into an extraordinary lineage, gifted with extraordinary talents, and cultivating the profound dao for over nine thousand years, he had a deep and unfathomable foundation. Yue Duqiu was also one of the few individuals participating in the trial whom even Lin Xun regarded seriously.

After all, a cultivation at the eighth realm Supreme Emperor Stage was impossible to ignore.

However, Yue Duqiu simply smiled, handsome and transcendent in his black daoist robes, "I'm just giving them a friendly reminder, Otherwise, they'd die without even knowing how."

The expressions of the man in luxurious robes and the others grew uglier, but they dared not show any disrespect. Lin Xun merely gave Yue Duqiu a glance, then turned and left without saying a word.

Watching Lin Xun's figure disappear into the distance, Yue Duqiu fell into a momentary silence, seemingly lost in thought.

"Fellow Daoist, is Ling Xuanzi truly that fearsome?" The man in the luxurious robes finally couldn't help but ask.

"Don't believe me? Then go ahead and try. Just remember, this time I warned you out of kindness since we all come from the Divine Ascension Starfield. Next time...you'll have to fend for yourselves."

After speaking, Yue Duqiu stepped onto this massive green gourd, and vanished into the air. The man in the luxurious robe and the others exchanged looks, all breaking out in cold sweat. Just moments ago...they had been standing at the very edge of death!

.....

Lin Xun continued his journey, traveling thousands of miles across desolate terrain. Gradually, the faint scent of blood filled the air. Scattered fragments of treasures, shattered weapons, and traces of fierce battles appeared along the way.

Clearly, he had entered a dangerous region. Even Lin Xun became visibly more cautious.

Before long, a vast lake came into view. Golden starlight churned within the lake, its dazzling brilliance dyeing the heavens and earth in a resplendent golden hue.

However, what was truly terrifying was the sharp, destructive aura emanating from the lake. It distorted the surrounding space, creating a constant hissing and tearing sound.

Even from a distance, the aura felt like countless blades scraping against the sky, and the starlight was so blinding that it stung the eyes.

At this moment, clusters of figures had already gathered around the lake, each one looking vigilant and alert. Clearly, some incredible treasure lay hidden within the lake.

It was also here that Lin Xun keenly sensed a surge of vibrant life force rushing toward him. It made him realize that, within the lake covered in golden starlight, there was a star source!

“I’ve been wandering around this area for quite some time. Only here is the qi of gold particularly oppressive, and the great dao manifests. Judging from this, the star source buried deep within this lake must surely be imbued with the law power related to the dao of gold.”

“I wonder what dangers lie hidden in the lake...”

“Earlier, someone tried to enter and was instantly obliterated by the golden waves. It was horrifying beyond words.”

Hearing these murmurs, Lin Xun immediately understood. Someone had already tried to seize the star source, but they perished without a trace. No wonder so many Emperors had gathered here, yet none dared to take action. Everyone was waiting for the right opportunity.

Lin Xun’s arrival drew many gazes. Just like the group led by the man in the luxurious robes earlier, these cultivators looked at him as if they had found a fresh piece of prey.

He ignored them. Among those gathered around the lake, there were no figures worthy of his attention. His gaze shifted to the golden lake.

In that moment, he clearly sensed a terrifying concentration of the aura of the dao of gold deep within the lake. It was so dense that it was almost tangible, radiating an astonishing aura.

However, he also detected lurking dangers hidden within the golden starlight. For example, malevolent presences that were indistinct and obscured by the golden starlight, their true nature impossible to discern.

“Everyone, Ling Xuanzi has shown up here. Why don’t we join forces to capture him? Then we won’t have to risk our lives fighting over the star source in this lake?”

Suddenly, a cold voice rang out. The speaker was an old man in a crane cloak, leaning on a serpent-shaped cane. He radiated the unmistakable aura of a Ninth Realm Ancestor. After hearing that, many cultivators turned their eyes toward Lin Xun, ready to take action.

Everyone knew that Wen Shaoheng had promised a great reward for anyone who killed Lin Xun: ten star sources and the chance to leave Origin City. If they wished, they could even follow Wen Shaoheng to the Eternal True Realm!

This was a temptation that few could resist.

At that moment, Lin Xun’s figure blurred. In the blink of an eye, he appeared before the old man in the crane cloak. With a deafening rumble, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron descended from the sky, crashing down to suppress and kill.

Everyone was stunned. Ling Xuanzi is too fierce and domineering. He attacked without even exchanging words!

The old man in the crane cloak snorted coldly, raising his serpent-shaped cane and striking out with all his strength. The blow carried terrifying force, as it was the full power of a Ninth Realm Ancestor. Normally, an Emperor would have had to avoid such an attack.

However, with a thunderous crack, the serpent-shaped cane was shattered, exploding into a rain of brilliant light. The old man’s face changed drastically. There was no time to dodge, and he could only brace himself and take the blow head-on.

Boom!

The heavens collapsed and the earth split, the destructive force unleashed spread violently, crushing and tearing apart the void, resulting in a thunderous explosion.

In the wake of the collision, the old man in the crane cloak was completely overwhelmed by the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron. His skin and bones were shattered inch by inch, and he let out a miserable scream. In the end, he was utterly destroyed, both his body and soul obliterated!

The bloody and domineering event left the Emperor-level figures near the golden lake so terrified that they nearly fainted.

Who would have imagined that such a powerful Ninth Realm Ancestor could be killed in the blink of an eye?!

Was this something that a mere sixth realm Emperor could do?

At that moment, the greed and murderous intent in everyone's heart faded, replaced by chilling dread, and their gazes toward Lin Xun shifted completely.

"Who else wants to try?"

Lin Xun's eyes flashed like cold lightning, scanning the crowd.

No one dared to meet his gaze. The murderous aura he exuded had deeply unsettled these Emperor-level figures.

"If you don't want to die, leave now." Lin Xun's voice was icy as he issued his command, making it clear he intended to claim the golden lake for himself.

Many exchanged grim glances, but no one dared to challenge him. They suppressed their resentment and slowly withdrew.

"Brother, we've had our eyes on this star source long before you arrived. You can't just show up and claim it all for yourself. Don't you think you're looking down on us?" A voice suddenly spoke out in anger.

Boom!

Lin Xun extended his hand in a swift, grabbing motion. A massive hand imbued with terrifying power shot through the air like the sky itself, seizing the man effortlessly.

There was no chance for resistance, let alone struggle. It was just like an eagle grasping its prey! The man, an ordinary seventh realm Emperor, was insignificant in Lin Xun's eyes.

"Go, enter the lake and test its depth. If you survive, it's your good fortune. If not...it's just bad luck," Lin Xun said calmly.

The remaining cultivators watched the scene, all in agreement.

"You...actually dare treat me like this! My senior brother will definitely kill you!!" The man screamed in rage, fear evident in his voice. He had never imagined that a mere casual remark would lead to his demise.

Lin Xun didn't even react to the threat. Such words held no weight with him. He waved his hand casually.

Swoosh!

The man was tossed straight into the golden lake.

The man was no fool. Upon hitting the lake, he immediately tried to swim to the surface. Unfortunately, just as he broke through the water, a massive golden vortex appeared, pulling him back into the depths. He vanished in the blink of an eye.

The onlookers gasped in shock, their faces changing drastically. Even Lin Xun's pupils contracted slightly at the sight.