## Prodigies 2471

Chapter 2471 Blue-Clad Woman; Becoming a Ranked Name

Lin Xun gave it some thought, and his overall appearance swiftly changed.

At his current level, no one would be able to see through his true face unless they had an innate talent in this regard or were an Ancestor of a Path.

He then teleported toward Tiger's Den City.

The entrance was guarded by a group of soldiers. Like in Origin City, all of them were Emperors with a powerful aura.

In particular, their leader was a Ninth Realm Ancestor, which made one wonder what mistake this expert had made that demoted them to this situation.

Before the gates, many people had gathered to read the black talismans posted on the city wall.

As Lin Xun got closer, he saw a lifelike portrait drawn on each black talisman, and under the portrait were the details of the criminal.

The talismanic notices were all stamped with different rune seals.

"These seals represent the authority of different Immortal Imperial Clans, and each clan has a unique seal. From the one stamped on a notice, people would know which Immortal Imperial clan issued it," the green sparrow informed Lin Xun through transmission.

In the Great Thousand Battle Domain, the forty-nine Immortal Heavenly Passes were controlled by different Immortal Imperial Clan forces.

They were like the makers and enforcers of laws and order, the kind of existences that countless cultivators had to look up to with awe!

The people wanted on these black talismans were all menaces who had violated the rules in the Immortal Heavenly Passes and were regarded as sinners.

“There have been more and more of these wanted savages recently.”

“Heh, aren’t you a bumpkin? Every once in a while throughout history, there would be a bunch of Emperors who come here from the Great Thousand Worlds. It's inevitable that there are menaces among them who completely disregard rules and regulations.”

“Makes sense. They are Great Emperors who call the shots in their respective world like overlords. How could they stand being tied by the rules of the Great Thousand Battle Domain?”

The people in the area discussed in low voices without scruples.

“Look there, the number one wanted criminal is still Cang Fusheng. This hasn’t changed in eight thousand years...”

"According to the rumors, he was already a supreme eighth realm Emperor when the bounty on his head was posted due to him killing some Eternal True Realm’s nobles in the eighteenth Immortal Heavenly Pass. But up until now, after eight thousand years, no one has been able to deal with him. On the contrary, he has continued to kill quite a number of formidable experts from Immortal Imperial Clans. Truly a top elite among menaces!”

“The number two, Blade Bearer, has remained in this rank for a long time as well. His identity is the most mysterious among all the wanted criminals. So far, no one knows where he's from, we only know that his terrifying blade cultivation knows no bounds, and he can slay Ninth Realm Ancestors like killing chickens!”

Listening in on the people's discussion, Lin Xun also realized that the talismanic notices were arranged in a specific order.

The highest ranked was a person called Cang Fusheng. The portrait depicted an unrestrained man with long flowing hair who wore a wide-sleeved white robe. His feet stepped on a broken world while a seven-inch golden-colored bronze coffin floated above his head.

At a glance, this person radiated a lofty and arrogant air as though he was the only hegemon in the whole wide world!

Cang Fusheng's wanted notice said that he came from Manjushri Starfield, which was ranked third in the Great Thousand Worlds, and that he was extremely powerful at the peak of the supreme eighth realm.

The reward for him was thirty million first-grade cosmic origin crystals!

Lin Xun pondered, "It's been eight thousand years and he still hasn't left. Is there an even deadlier hunt waiting for him in the Eternal True Realm?"

Below the highest notice was the bounty for the mysterious second ranked Blade Bearer. This person wore a bamboo hat and was covered in an obscure aura of chaos, making it impossible to see his appearance. The thing that stood out was the rusty battle blade on his back.

According to what was written on this black talisman, Blade Bearer was only a supreme seventh realm Emperor. However, in the last one thousand years, he had frequented different Immortal Heavenly Passes and killed many formidable Ninth Realm Ancestors.

No one knew his background and origin, so he was simply known as Blade Bearer.

The reward for him was twenty-seven million first-grade cosmic origin crystals.

This fellow...is also a ruthless one... Lin Xun commented in his heart.

With his current cultivation, he no longer paid attention to people around his generation, but this Blade Bearer was different, for one could tell at a glance how extraordinary he was.

Lin Xun continued to look through the list.

There were over a hundred of black talismans with profiles of different wanted criminals. The reward for each of them was huge.

“It's been eight thousand years and Cang Fusheng still hasn’t stepped into the ninth realm. If he had, then he would have gone to the Eternal True Realm...” rang a pleasant voice as Lin Xun was viewing the notices.

He turned his head and saw a woman clad in blue next to him. Dressed up as a man, she was fiddling with the folding fan in her hand. Her eyes were bright, her teeth pearly white, and her skin was smooth and fair. The way she was dressed up added a sprightly, unbridled air to her demeanor.

Noticing Lin Xun's gaze, the blue-robed woman didn't care and just continued, “As for Blade Bearer, whose movements and whereabouts are always secretive, I'm afraid that he has already stepped into the eighth realm. He cannot be as simple as stated in the wanted notice.”

Lin Xun was startled. This blue-robed woman seemed to know the situation of the Great Thousand Battle Domain like the back of her hand.

Many people nearby had also heard her remark. One of them immediately asked, “Could it be that you've seen Blade Bearer?”

“I haven’t, but it can be speculated,” replied the blue-robed woman calmly, her eyes clear. “Given the strength Blade Bearer has displayed, it would be a total joke if he couldn’t enter the eighth realm in the span of a thousand years.”

Many people inwardly agreed.

“However, whether it’s Cang Fusheng or Blade Bearer, they are ultimately wanted criminals. They may be very famous, but they aren’t necessarily the most powerful in this Great Thousand Battle Domain.” The blue-robed woman's speech took an abrupt turn that immediately aroused everyone’s interest.

“Then, Fellow Daoist, who in your opinion is the current strongest in the Great Thousand Battle Domain?” someone couldn't help but ask.

“Hard to say.” The blue-robed woman's tone then became thought-provoking, “But when the Battlefield of the Gods located near the forty-ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass shows itself, perhaps we will be able to find out who is the strongest on the Emperor path.”

The Battlefield of the Gods!

The expressions of many people slightly changed upon these words.

Lin Xun was also curious, so he just asked the green sparrow via voice transmission.

The latter quickly replied, “This is an extremely far-fetched legend that was circulated a hundred thousand years ago. It was said that outside the forty-ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass, there is a mysterious forbidden area called the Ruins of the Gods where the supreme secret treasure of the previous epoch is buried, and when the Battlefield of the Gods appears in these ruins, it means that supreme treasure is about to emerge.

“Putting aside the credibility of this legend, the Ruins of the Gods is already the most terrifying and mysterious forbidden area in the Great Thousand Battlefield. Over the past one hundred thousand years, not single person has been able to walk out of it alive, no matter their cultivation.

“As for this so-called supreme secret treasure, it has never appeared at all, so no one knows if the rumor about it is true or not.”

Upon learning this, Lin Xun wondered about the intention of the blue-robed woman for mentioning the Battlefield of the Gods. Could it be that she had gotten wind of something and thought that this battlefield was about to appear?

Right at this moment, a line of soldiers suddenly walked out from the city and stopped in front of the gate.

One of them took out a new talisman, and with a wave of this soldier’s hand, it shot out like a black streak a black stream and stuck itself above the gate.

Moreover, this brand new notice took the ninth position!

The scene instantly caused a sensation in the area, drawing all gazes.

"Ling Xuanzi? Why haven't I heard of this person before?"

“He killed the lord of Origin City three months ago? Too ferocious, that's an Ancestor of a Path!”

“Heavens, he's only a supreme seventh realm Emperor, yet he started a bloodbath in Origin City and trampled through the City Lord’s Residence!”

A clamor rose as everyone gawked with their jaws agape.

Meanwhile, a cold flash imperceptibly crossed the depths of Lin Xun's eyes.

Clearly, what had happened in Origin City had been spreading like a storm and reached Tiger’s Den City!

It was foreseeable that in the following period of time, his wanted notice would appear in more and more Immortal Heavenly Passes.

Lin Xun's expression was unmoving as he raised his eyes to take a closer look.

The portrait on the black talisman was him standing midair during his fight before the City Lord’s Residence in Origin City.

It came with a detailed record of the crimes he had committed, such as how he had gone on a killing spree after returning from the Trial World, and then set off a bloody storm in Origin City.

The reward was six million first-grade cosmic origin crystals, ranking ninth among the listed of the wanted.

The issuers were the Wen and Heng Immortal Imperial Clans. Both of their seals were imprinted on the notice.

“According to what’s written here, this person has only appeared in the Great Thousand Battle Domain half a year ago, yet he’s caused such a bloodshed. We definitely have an absolute monster here!”

“Can't you see, this Ling Xuanzi is actually from the Ancient Nebula Road, a declining place...”

The crowd discussed in astonishment.

The blue-robed woman suddenly said, "The Ancient Nebula Road is actually not simple. Hundreds of thousands of years ago, it was ranked first among the Great Thousand Worlds. Countless heaven-defying giants emerged from there, to the point that back then, no one in the Great Thousand Battle Domain dared to provoke a Great Emperor from the Ancient Nebula Road."

Many people were unimpressed, "So what if it was once glorious? The currents will always be dispersed by wind and rain in the end. Nowadays, the Ancient Nebula Road is even struggling to keep its position in the Great Thousand Worlds within the top one hundred."

The blue-robed woman shook her head, her voice laced with a hint of sentiment. “You are making it out to be too simple. Forget it, all these things...are indeed clouds of the past now...”

Lin Xun was a little surprised. This blue-robed woman seemed to know quite a lot of secrets about the Ancient Nebula Road, which was rare.

Hmm?

Lin Xun suddenly squinted as he sensed a bone-piercing chill quietly appearing nearby. It was extremely obscure.

However, the biting frost in its murderous intent was unrivaled.

Chapter 2472 Assassination and Charity

Frost?!

The first thing popping up in Lin Xun's mind was the legendary assassin of Empty Hidden World who had never once appeared. However, he quickly dismissed it.

Because in this split second, an illusory figure suddenly flew straight toward the blue-robed woman next to him, thrusting a sword at her! The sword qi shooting out from it was incomparably fast, silently piercing through the heavy fabric of space.

The strangest thing was, as it approached, the outside world seemed to be cut off. Everyone else in the area appeared unaware of it like they were in a different plane. Only Lin Xun, who was closest to the blue-robed woman, was alerted right away, and was astounded by the attack.

The assassin was definitely a top expert that was even more terrifying than Crane. This surprise sword strike seemed to be the masterpiece that had been perfected through one’s whole life, concentrating every bit of energy at a point while locking up this small area like an invisible cage. Anyone who was confined to this space would find it impossible to avoid the attack!

This assassination art was simply on par with Creation on how marvelous it was. Imbued with the essence of the killing dao, the sword strike was bizarre and merciless to an unimaginable degree. Its target had absolutely zero chance of survival.

In this dangerous moment, that blue-robed woman finally seemed to notice it. She quickly raised her jade fan to block. However, her reaction had been a little too slow. The matchless sword qi shattered the fan with a bang, reducing it to powder. Meanwhile, the sword qi’s momentum remained the same as it kept going!

Bang bang bang!

The protective energy layers on the blue-robed woman burst in succession. As her face paled, the various defensive treasures on her also exploded at once, unable to endure the sharpness of the sword strike.

The series of movements happened in an instant! The attacker displayed a ferocity that most cultivators had never seen in their lives, one that far surpassed Empty Hidden World's Crane. Even Lin Xun got caught up in the sword's momentum. It was as if it wanted to grate away this whole area along with the blue-robed woman!

BOOM!

This sword finally broke through the last of her defensive layer, about to stab into her flesh. At this critical juncture, in a swift, magical flash, a finger appeared atop the sword qi and flicked out.

Clang!

A deafening clash ensued. What seemed to be a slight flick of a finger smashed down like a divine hammer of a hundred thousand pounds, blasting the sword's powerful momentum as well as its overwhelming killing intent into disarray. The sword qi issued a buzz that tore people's eardrums as it collapsed.

That finger flick was naturally Lin Xun's. In the nick of time where lives were at stake, he had blocked the attack and, at the same time, braced himself to take on the full impact of its supreme killing intent.

As a matter of fact, he had been left with no other choice. The might of the sword had also enveloped the spot where he stood. No matter whether the blue-robed woman could block it or not, Lin Xun would definitely still suffer the repercussions.

Rumble!

Despite having successfully stopped the strike, the horrible killing intent that filled the sword surged into Lin Xun. Bizarre and overbearing, it instantly tried to destroy his internal organs, meridians, and acupoints, as well as his True Self Emperor World.

Lin Xun took a deep breath, his eyes profound as his whole cultivation sprang into operation like a great abyss, grinding away that killing intent bit by it until it was completely erased.

“Huh?”

That assassin seemed to be caught off guard, never expecting that his masterpiece of a sword strike would actually be countered, and even its power was forcefully suppressed and dissolved.

“Die!”

This assassin pulled a classic move in spite of what he shouted. After all, he was a supreme expert in his field. After his first strike failed, he withdrew his sword and transformed into an illusory shadow that sped toward the horizon.

“Hmph!” How could Lin Xun allow the assassin to escape? His hand made a grabbing gesture.

Boom!

A massive hand swept through the air, blotting out the sky like a curtain of eternal night and locking up the whole world.

The area outside the city gate crumbled in explosions. The soldiers and cultivators nearby were all alerted, and their faces drastically sank.

What a terrifying power!

As Lin Xun's gigantic palm was about to cover that assassin, the latter’s figure suddenly flickered. There was a series of clangs as from his hand, a sword qi slashed out left and right hundreds of times in mere seconds, each of them infinitely sharp with concentrated killing intent.

The massive palm was riddled with holes and then torn apart. Taking advantage of this opportunity, the assassin teleported far away.

Lin Xun hesitated. Unfortunately, I’m not in a position to reveal my full strength because I need to conceal my identity...

In this moment of hesitation, a deep and icy voice resounded from within Tiger's Den City, "Criminal, where do you think you are running?!"

Countless violet lightning bolts erupted. A magnificent figure appeared in mid-air, bathed in the lightning storm, with a might so great that the soldiers and cultivators in the area had difficulty breathing. Shock ran through their hearts as they felt an incomparable pressure.

That assassin had run extremely far away, but at this instant, he suddenly shuddered as if electrified. Because a blade of violet lightning had teleported through the void and struck him with a destructive power, knocking him back! As the assassin staggered, the magnificent figure bathed in lightning had shot toward him.

RUMBLE~

Eye-catching lights of law power danced on the palms of the figure. The heaven and earth were ripped apart and became a torn picture. As his two hands crossed, the law power transformed into all sorts of complex lightning and thunder energy, forming a sea that speedily blanketed down.

“Damn it!” That assassin could only let out a short scream before the sky-blotting violet bolts enveloped him. His physical shell burst, and his spirit was destroyed.

An Ancestor of a Path!

Lin Xun's heart flinched, knowing that the person who had appeared was a true Emperor Ancestor. Only someone who wielded a complete grand dao law could display such might and power. This person’s aura was even stronger than that of Heng Tianshuo.

“Youran, are you alright?” A tall, handsome, and dashing-looking young man in violet clothes hurriedly walked to the blue-robed woman with a concerned expression.

“I'm fine.” The blue-robed woman's eyes were clear, and there was nothing but tranquility and calmness on her bright and ethereally beautiful face.

The unexpected assassination attempt did not seem to have surprised her too much. However, facing the care and attention of the violet-clothed young man, her ink-black brows imperceptibly furrowed in what seemed to be reluctance.

Rumble!

The Ancestor of a Path returned and landed on the ground. The entire field was silent.

The blazing violet lightning had converged and transformed into a majestic middle-aged man. Wearing a tall crown and traditional outfit, he resembled an ancient monarch. His aura was as lofty as a mountain. When he blinked, the sparks in his eyes emanated a domineering power that could crush everything.

This was the might of an Emperor Ancestor!

“Greetings, City Lord!” the soldiers at the gate solemnly saluted in unison.

The nearby cultivators revealed a look of realization.

Peng Qianhe!

Emperor Ancestor Qianhe, coming from the Immortal Imperial Peng Clan, was currently presiding over Tiger’s Den City. Rumor had it that he had already reached the peak of the Emperor Ancestor Stage and could break into a higher immortal level at any time!

Lin Xun also knew the other party’s identity as he had heard about him on the way here. The Peng Clan, like the Wen, Heng, and He Clans, was one of the four great Immortal Imperial Clans. It wasn’t at all inferior to the Wen Clan, where Wen Shaoheng was from, and the Heng Clan, where Heng Tianshuo was from, in terms of heritage and strength.

“He killed that assassin with a single move. Truly impressive.”

“I wonder who that assassin was?”

"The man who saved that girl is also a formidable one as well, blocking that assassin in the nick of time and then hindering his escape. If it hadn’t been for him, the assassin would probably have fled the scene..."

Voices of discussions arose as the situation had calmed down. As the previous commotion had startled many cultivators outside this area, they had caught the qi fluctuations and were also rushing over.

“Miss Youran.” Peng Qianhe, surprisingly, also walked up to the blue-clothed woman before anything else with a hint of apology in his gaze. “My failure to take everything into consideration is to blame. I didn’t expect that someone would dare to carry out an assassination attempt right outside the city gate. You must have been scared.”

Despite being an Ancestor of a Path, he was very polite and respectful to her, which took Lin Xun aback a little.

“I'm alright, thanks to this brother's timely help,” said the blue-robed woman, whose gaze softened as she turned to Lin Xun. “Thank you very much.”

Peng Qianhe finally turned to Lin Xun. His eyes had regained the previous authority as he nodded, “Your strength is commendable, little friend. I’ll make sure to reward you fairly for saving Miss Youran.”

Lin Xun shook his head, “Forget about it. I just happened to be next to her, and I did it to protect myself.”

He was only telling the truth. Peng Qianhe was stunned and couldn't help but take another look at Lin Xun.

Right at this moment, the violet-clothed young man, who had just hurriedly arrived earlier, coolly said, "Credit must be given where it’s due. Otherwise, people will laugh at our Peng Clan for not knowing etiquette. Just tell us what kind of repayment you want, and the Peng Clan will satisfy you as long as it’s within our capability."

He called it a repayment, but there was a flavor of dispensing charity between the lines. From the discussions of the surrounding people, Lin Xun had learned that this violet-clothed young man was also a member of the Peng Clan named Peng Tianxiang. He was a supreme Great Emperor who was quite prestigious in Tiger’s Den City.

The city lord, Peng Qianhe, was his third uncle. Before Lin Xun could reply, the blue-robed woman frowned and said coldly, “Peng Tianxiang, watch the way you talk.”

Peng Tianxiang smiled wryly, “Youran, I just want to express my thanks to this...benefactor on your behalf.”

Next to him, Peng Qianhe laughed out loud, “Miss Youran, even though Tianxiang worded it a bit inappropriately, he means well. Please don't misunderstand him.”

“There is no need for you two to labor over this. I want to personally repay him,” the blue-robed woman's tone was permeated with displeasure, even when talking to Peng Qianhe.

Even so, Peng Qianhe kept a smile on his face and showed not a trace of annoyance. From this, it was increasingly clear how extraordinary the blue-robed woman's background was.

"My dao brother, I know you must have doubts in your heart. How about we enter the city and have a drink together? Let it be a chance for me to express my gratitude in person." The blue-robed woman looked at Lin Xun with a friendly expression.

Obviously, she was grateful from the bottom of her heart for his previous intervention. However, Peng Tianxiang's gaze darkened as he watched. He swept an icy glance at Lin Xun, transmitting a silent warning. It was as if so long as Lin Xun dared to agree to her offer, he would be making an unforgivable mistake.

Chapter 2473 Banquet

Lin Xun raised his brows. How could he not somewhat see what was going on here?

If he agreed to the blue-robed woman's invitation, then it could be said that he would offend Peng Tianxiang and perhaps even invite the enmity of Emperor Ancestor Peng Qianhe.

He wasn’t scared, but he didn't want to get in trouble over this.

Therefore, without even thinking about it, he declined, “No need. I still have something urgent at hand, so I’ll take my leave now.”

He left straight away after saying that.

His crisp and straightforward exit stunned the blue-robed woman, Peng Qianhe, and Peng Tianxiang.

The blue-robed woman had wanted to keep him, but he had disappeared into the city. Her brows shot up as a hint of surprise crossed her face.

Over recent years, everyone she met always tried to butter up to her. Even some conceited experts in the Eternal True Realm would be extra polite and courteous in front of her.

Yet, this guy...was avoiding her like she was the plague!

“Heh, he’s actually one smart fellow. He understands that he can't afford our hospitable repayment as a small character from the Great Thousand Worlds,” laughed Peng Tianxiang gleefully, very pleased by Lin Xun's choice.

He then turned to the blue-robed woman with a bright smile, “Youran, didn't you say you wanted to see the Three Inch Lotus Fish of Tiger's Den City for yourself? I searched every corner and found two of them, one yin and one yang, for you. They are now being cared for in the City Lord’s Residence, let's go and watch them together.”

Peng Qianhe also smiled, “That pair of Three Inch Lotus Fish is indeed amazing. One yin and one yang, they create a perfect, natural dao harmony, truly a rare find. Should you find yourself taking a fancy to them, you can just keep them.”

The blue-robed woman shook her head, “Having just experienced an assassination attempt, I just want to rest. By the way, Senior, I hope that you’ll investigate that assassin.”

With that, she left by herself without having ever spared Peng Tianxiang a glance again.

Peng Tianxiang wanted to chase after her but Peng Qianhe stopped him, saying, “Can't you see that Miss Youran isn’t in the mood? To be exact, you’ve been overly proactive and eager, which makes her fed up and want to avoid you.”

Peng Tianxiang's face clouded over. “Third Uncle, you know better than me that this is a perfect opportunity. Many people will be lining up to pursue Youran after she leaves this city, so this period of time is very precious. How can I not seize it?”

Peng Qianhe laughed, “Us cultivators don’t fear battle and death, nor do we fear dangerous trials and tribulations, but oftentimes, we find love to be the hardest to grasp. We may have the power to alter the world, but none of it can be used to help in the matter of love.”

After a pause, he said, “Miss Youran is an intelligent woman of noble origin known throughout the whole Eternal True Realm. Capturing her heart...won’t be easy; it’s not something you can do in a rush.”

Peng Tianxiang let out a long sigh and said under his breath, “Then what do you think I should do, Third Uncle?”

Peng Qianhe laughed out loud, “I have never encountered such a thing in my life so I have no experience. Out of all the women that I fancy, which one of them didn’t obediently jump into my arms?”

Seeing Peng Tianxiang's unsightly expression, Peng Qianhe stopped laughing, “Although I have no idea how to capture Miss Youran's heart, I know what she cares about the most now is the identity of that assassin. Instead of bothering her everyday, why don't you do the investigation and help her out? You may receive unexpectedly satisfactory results at the end of it.”

Peng Tianxiang's eyes lit up. He nodded, “Your words are of wisdom!”

Peng Qianhe advised him, “Remember, don't cause trouble with her benefactor; it will only leave her a negative impression of you.”

He then thought for a moment before continuing, “Perhaps, you can lower your stature a little and sincerely befriend him, learn what his needs are, and scratch his itch with precision no matter how you actually look down on him inside. And when Miss Youran learns about it, she will surely look at you in a different light.”

Peng Tianxiang frowned. In the end, he inhaled deeply and said, “You are right, Third Uncle. For Youran, I can do anything.”

Peng Qianhe corrected him, “Not anything. You think the way she thinks, worry about what she worries about, and gently assimilate yourself into her life by quietly supporting her. In this way, she will not resist your presence again.”

These words struck Peng Tianxiang like an enlightenment. He couldn’t help but sigh and bow deeply to his uncle in admiration. The ancient sages really did not lie when they said ‘ginger is spicier the older it gets.’

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A wide range of colors hit one’s eyes the moment they were inside Tiger’s Den City. Ancient buildings packed the sides of the streets: restaurants, teahouses, medicinal material stores, pill stores, weapon stores...and each of them was like a luxurious palace. People hurried to and fro, and there was an endless stream of horses and carriages.

Compared to Origin City, Tiger’s Den City was surprisingly much more prosperous.

Even Lin Xun was taken aback for a good moment. As someone who had spent the last three months crossing treacherous places, the hustle and bustle of the city was undoubtedly relaxing. He no longer had to be on alert at all times.

“Fresh dragon turtle meat, slaughtered on the spot! Captured from the Illusory Water Lake, this dragon turtle was a true Emperor monster!”

Hung at the entrance of a spacious restaurant was a golden dragon turtle as big as a hill. It had been disemboweled alive, and currently, its tendons and skin were being removed, and its flesh and blood being harvested.

“Only a thousand first-grade cosmic origin crystals for a plate of Saint monster-beasts’ hearts and livers! All from a total of 108 kinds the purest Saint-King monster-beasts! Their hearts and livers were removed when they were still alive and roasted with different divine flames, then complimented by the rarest and most delicious ingredients in the world! The flavor of this dish cannot be topped!”

Yelling and hawking resounded endlessly. The things peddled here were hard to see in the outside world, opening up even Lin Xun's eyes.

He strolled through the streets, visiting some treasure stores and trading houses. Several hours later, he had left his footsteps in all the large-scale stores in the city.

From Origin City to Tiger’s Den City, he had not only passed through many dangerous battlefields but also collected a lot of treasures in the last three months.

Thanks to the nice accumulation, he sold everything he couldn’t use for a total of over six million first-grade cosmic origin crystals.

However, to buy the eight Yellow Spring Beads sold in this city, he quickly spent nearly five million...

This rate of spending gave Lin Xun a heartache.

It couldn't be helped as a treasure like the Yellow Spring Bead was too pricey. There were about only eight of them sold by all the businesses, large or small, in this entire city.

“Green Sparrow, what’s the trial in this Tiger’s Den City again?” asked Lin Xun, who was in a quiet inn room he had just booked that offered a separate space pocket.

The green sparrow didn’t have to think. “It’s a very simple one. You only need to collect ten thousand pounds of Green Cast Golden Dipper Stone for the City Lord’s Residence. It’s a divine material for refining upper spirit-grade Emperor treasures.

“This ore can be collected in an ancient ruin several dozen thousand miles away from this city, but the distribution is extremely sporadic. It will probably take quite a while to collect ten thousand pounds.”

“I see,” said Lin Xun. “Is it sold on the market?”

The green sparrow said, “I'm afraid not. Everyone knows it’s necessary to pass the trial. Even if someone does sell it, the price is bound to be outrageous.”

Lin Xun thought about it and said, “Let's try buying it first. If I can't collect enough from buying, then it won’t be too late to mine it myself.”

Then, he suddenly asked, “By the way, do you know who that woman in blue is?”

The green sparrow sneered, “Who in the Eternal True Realm doesn’t know Dugu Youran?”

Its voice carried an indescribable flavor.

Dugu Youran? Now that’s quite a special name.

Thinking so, Lin Xun asked, “What’s her background?”

“You’re her savior. Why don't you go and ask her yourself?” The green sparrow’s attitude was clearly abnormal. It seemed unwilling to discuss Dugu Youran.

“What savior? Even if I didn’t do anything, she probably had the means to resolve it.” Lin Xun's eyes became profound.

Although that assassination attack struck incredibly fast and suddenly, Lin Xun had keenly noticed that the blue-robed woman wasn't scared at all despite the panic she showed on her face.

Obviously, she had a card that could neutralize the danger.

The reason why he had acted was nothing more than to save himself. After all, if that sword had erupted with its full power, then he, who had stood right next to Dugu Youran, would be bound to get hurt.

"As long as you know this," said the sparrow. "Not to mention that assassin, even Peng Qianhe just now couldn't hurt her if he wanted to. In short, her identity is very special, and the only thing you need to remember is not get too close to her, or else, I don't know how many characters like Peng Tianxiang will put their lives on the line to fight you."

"What exactly is her identity?" Lin Xun frowned. What the sparrow said actually piqued his curiosity.

The green sparrow was impatient, "You'll know if you poke around yourself. I can only tell you that between the respective clans behind that woman and my young miss, there has always been competition and confrontation. Now you get it, right?"

"Oh," said Lin Xun. "I don't."

The green sparrow was angry. "It's fine if you don't. I won't waste my energy explaining it to you anyway."

As the two chatted, the string of bells hanging in the room suddenly rang, spilling pleasant tinkling sounds.

This was a copper bell condensed from restrictive power. It notified the room owner when they had visitors.

A surprised Lin Xun got up and opened the restriction to be greeted with a bright and enthusiastic voice coming from outside the room.

“I, Peng Tianxiang, have humbly come for a visit. Are you in there, Dao Brother?”

Lin Xun's eyes glinted. Why is this guy here? Does he want to threaten me and make sure I won’t contact Dugu Youran?

While thinking this, Lin Xun had opened his door to see a handsome, violet-clothed Peng Tianxiang.

The guy was wearing a shameful expression. Not waiting for Lin Xun to speak, he cupped his fist and bowed, “The way I spoke to you outside the city was disrespectful, and I apologize for that. I hope you didn’t take it to heart.”

Lin Xun was stunned, “You are here...to apologize?”

Peng Tianxiang looked solemn and sincere, “That’s one of the reasons. I would also like to invite you to a banquet.”

Lin Xun was puzzled, “Banquet?”

Peng Tianxiang smiled mysteriously, “Yes, a banquet that only belongs to supreme characters like you and me. Ordinary cultivators are not qualified to attend at all.

“I don’t mind letting you know one thing beforehand, Dao Brother. At the banquet, a shocking secret will be revealed!”

Chapter 2474 Seeing Right Through

Lin Xun was caught off guard and had to take a closer look at Peng Tianxiang.

When they first met, this guy was lofty and arrogant.

Now, his attitude had taken a complete turn, full of warmth and hospitality. Lin Xun couldn’t help but wonder what this was about.

Peng Tianxiang hurriedly said, “Dao Brother, I know you must have developed an unpleasant feeling about me, but please believe that I’m here to offer my most sincere apology.”

Lin Xun thought for a moment and suddenly smiled strangely, “You're chasing after Dugu Youran?”

Peng Tianxiang was shocked inside. What a keen intuition this guy has!

“Sure enough, it didn’t escape you, Dao Brother,” Peng Tianxiang revealed a bitter smile. “I won’t hide it, I have been in love with Youran for a long time, head over heels under her charm. My heart and mind are so attached to her that sometimes I overreact out of fear. That’s why I offended you before, even though it was not my intention.”

After a pause, he said, “I’ve come here to seek your understanding. After all, you saved Youran. If she knows about this, then maybe...it will change her impression of me in a positive way?”

At the end of his sentimental question, he sighed long and hard.

It finally dawned on Lin Xun as everything made sense now.

He laughed, “You’ve really given this a lot of thought, Fellow Daoist, but I'm afraid that there’s not much I can help you with. I still need to collect Green Cast Golden Dipper Stone for the trial...”

Before he could finish his words, Peng Tianxiang waved his hand generously, “If you agree to go to the banquet, then the trial won’t be a problem!”

He took out a purple jade token and handed it to Lin Xun, “Dao Brother, this is the talisman that the participant will receive after passing the trial, please take it.”

Hearing this, even Lin Xun was moved a little, “How...how can I possibly?”

Peng Tianxiang chuckled, “It's just a token. Consider it as an expression of my good will.” He shoved the token to Lin Xun in a manner that refused objections.

“Then I'll gladly accept it.” Lin Xun smiled. He hadn’t expected that the matter of the trial would be resolved just like this.

Peng Tianxiang responded with a hearty laugh.

Right at this moment—

“Why are you here?” rang a melodious voice.

Not far away, a stunning, delicate Dugu Youran in a blue robe was leisurely walking over. There was a hint of unexpectedness in her black, twinkling eyes and a slight frown on her face.

Peng Tianxiang also found this unexpected, “Youran, didn't you go back to the inn to rest?”

Dugu Youran's expression was as tranquil as water as she said, “Do I need to report everything I do to you?”

Peng Tianxiang hurriedly put on an apologetic smile, “Youran, please don't misunderstand. I’m just here to apologize to this dao brother. Since he saved your life in my territory, how can I not show my gratitude?”

Maintaining a smile on his face, he swept a hinting glance at Lin Xun.

Getting it, Lin Xun said, “That's right. Not only did Brother Peng give me the token for passing the trial, but he also invited me to a banquet as an apology. His sincerity makes me feel very flattered.”

This was what they called returning the favor.

Dugu Youran was stunned and couldn't help but look at Peng Tianxiang one more time, “I didn't expect you to be so attentive.”

The few words actually energized Peng Tianxiang's spirit. His heart was stirred with excitement, and he felt as though he could cry.

During these last several days, he had spent untold efforts on Dugu Youran, but what he had always gotten in return was a resistant and perfunctory attitude from her.

However, just now, she finally gave him a compliment!

Even if it was just one sentence, Peng Tianxiang was over the moon, feeling like the sky had cleared up!

A bright smile was splattered all over his face, “It’s just what I’m supposed to do. I...just want to do something for you and lighten your burden.”

Dugu Youran imperceptibly frowned, causing Peng Tianxiang's heart to jump. He immediately shut up as he recalled his third uncle Peng Qianhe's advice about trying not to go overboard!

He immediately stepped aside and said, “Youran, you’re here to talk to him, right? You guys chat, I'll go to the City Lord’s Residence and check if the identity of that assassin has been found out.”

He then smilingly cupped his fist toward Lin Xun, “Dao Brother, I will send someone to escort you to the banquet in the evening. Please show up.”

After saying that, he turned and left, directly and dashingly.

Lin Xun was surprised by the way he acted. Has this guy...been enlightened?

“Fellow Daoist, do you want to talk right here?” Dugu Youran looked at Lin Xun and joked.

Lin Xun inwardly sighed.

After hearing what the green sparrow said about this woman, he really didn't want to get involved with her in any way. It would only bring him endless troubles if her admirers knew about it.

Pondering a little, he said, “Miss, if you’re also here to apologize, then it’s not necessary. In fact, we both know that you’d be able to safely resolve that assassination attempt yourself even if I hadn’t acted.”

Dugu Youran's eyes lit up as she laughed out loud, “You seem to be wary of me, Fellow Daoist. Forget it, I won’t force you, but we will definitely meet again.”

Dropping those words, she actually turned and left as well.

Lin Xun was stunned for a moment. Then, he shook his head and closed the door.

Outside the inn.

Dugu Youran took a deep breath. Twice in a row she had taken the initiative to express her gratitude to Lin Xun, but twice in a row she had been rejected. It gave her doubts ...

They didn’t know each other and had never met before, so why was this person so wary of her?

What a strange guy.

After some thought, she quietly flipped her palm, and a light-green jade mirror appeared. There was a face reflected in it – clearly Lin Xun's real face!

Hmph, Ling Xuanzi ah Ling Xuanzi, do you really think that your disguise can fool me? Dugu Youran's lips curled up. I'd like to see if you’ll still dare to reject me next time...

While pondering, she put away the mirror and said with cold eyes, “Come out.”

From a nearby tea house, Peng Tianxiang stepped out with an embarrassed look, “Youran, I'm just here to have a cup of tea. I didn’t...”

Dugu Youran turned her head and looked straight at Peng Tianxiang, “I’ve been aware of what you want for a long time. Let me remind you that anyone who wants me like you do will, without exception, face a lot of trouble.”

“I understand,” said Peng Tianxiang seriously.

How could he not know that in the Eternal True Realm, there were many amazingly talented individuals chasing after Dugu Youran, who worshiped her as a goddess and always flocked around her like stars wanting to surround the moon.

Among them, there was no lack of dazzling and matchless geniuses whose backgrounds and cultivation were not inferior to his. Some might be even stronger!

This meant that the first thing one needed to consider before pursuing Dugu Youran was the competition!

“You don't understand,” Dugu Youran sighed softly. There was a hint of sadness on her face as she walked off.

“How can I not understand?” Watching as her silhouette became farther and farther away, Peng Tianxiang's eyes flickered dimly, “But no matter what, I definitely won’t give up. No matter who my rivals are, I will never withdraw. I will show you who is the best person for you!”

.....

In the inky night, the City Lord’s Residence was brightly lit and colorfully decorated.

In the central area was a massive lake with a beautiful view that was covered in aeth qi all year round.

Today, this area was lively, hosting a gathering of a good number of Great Emperors.

The lake showed a pure turquoise color, gleaming ethereally under the vast mist of aeth qi.

In the vicinity stood various small mountains of spiritual beauty. Diffusing gorgeous hazes, they lined up around the lake like sky-piercing halberds.

Rooted on those mountains were ancient trees upon ancient trees that rose up to the sky. In addition to them, there were also pavilions, silver waterfalls, and springs. The scenery looked like it had been carefully arranged with a concept in mind.

Standing next to the turquoise lake, Lin Xun looked all around and secretly nodded in approval. This was indeed a rare feng shui treasure land, housing thick and vast aeth qi and steaming law power.

In an ancient pavilion not far away, Peng Tianxiang was having a great talk with a group of Great Emperors over wine.

Those Great Emperors, no matter who they were, all demonstrated excellent manners as well as their own charm and authority, which showed how extraordinary they were.

Most of them, like Lin Xun, came from different planes of the Great Thousand Worlds.

Even when faced with a character from an Immortal Imperial Clan such as Peng Tianxiang, they behaved naturally without the slightest hint of subservience.

This was the confidence of a supreme Great Emperor, far from what an ordinary Emperor could ever attain.

“Brother Jin, come come come, let me introduce you to these fellow daoists.” Peng Tianxiang got up and greeted Lin Xun with a warm smile.

Lin Xun’s character was a bit resistant to this kind of gathering. His main purpose of coming here was to see what Peng Tianxiang's so-called shocking secret was.

Since ‘Ling Xuanzi’ had been put on the wanted list, Lin Xun could only borrow Toady’s identity again.

“Ladies and gentlemen, this is Fellow Daoist Jin Duyi, a supreme seventh realm Great Emperor with unparalleled combat strength. Just today, outside the city gates, his timely intervention helped Miss Youran resolve a danger,” Peng Tianxiang introduced Lin Xun with a smile.

The gazes of those supreme Great Emperors all fell on Lin Xun. They nodded smilingly.

Lin Xun also greeted them one by one.

Peng Tianxiang revealed a mysterious smile,“Brother Jin, why don't you have a seat first. After everyone has arrived, I’ll have a big event to announce, but right now, please excuse me as I have a very honorable guest to welcome.”

After saying that, he left the scene.

Lin Xun casually sat down and drank to himself. He had no interest in getting to know and befriending anyone.

When the others saw this, they also dismissed the idea of starting conversations with him. Who of them, as supreme Great Emperors, didn’t have a bit of pride?

Thus, Lin Xun found himself in a comfortable state of leisure.

Shortly afterward, there was suddenly a small hubbub in the distance.

In that direction, a slender figure in blue was walking in. In the bright light of all the lamps, Dugu Youran’s fair and beautiful face radiated a striking luster that should only exist in fantasy.

Holding a feather fan, she was taking steps so light that they were almost imaginary. Although she was dressed up like a man, she exuded a unique and unrestrained beauty that made her stand out.

Lin Xun was dumbfounded. Doesn't this woman always seem repulsed by Peng Tianxiang? Why did she also come here?

Could she be the very honorable guest that Peng Tianxiang has mentioned?

While Lin Xun pondered this, the group of Great Emperors in the pavilion had stopped talking. Unexpectedly, they quickly got up from their seats and greeted the blue-robed woman with respect.

Of course, there was also visible curiosity, admiration, astonishment, and fervor in their expressions.

Chapter 2475 Unexpected Guests

There were several other extremely beautiful supreme female Emperors here, both the temperament and charisma of whom could be described as top-tier.

However, even they were amazed when laying eyes on Dugu Youran. The latter carried a natural noble bearing that gave her an unparalleled, transcending beauty even when she was dressed up like a man.

Lin Xun also got up from his seat as he didn't want to draw attention as the odd one out.

"Youran, please take your seat." Peng Tianxiang accompanied Dugu Youran with every step, personally escorting her to the main seat in the center.

However, when Dugu Youran passed Lin Xun, she suddenly blinked and smiled.

"Well, what did I say today? I said that we would meet again, and sure enough," she said and turned to Peng Tianxiang without waiting for Lin Xun's response. "As the host of this banquet, of course you should take the main seat. I can just sit here."

With that, she sat down on an empty chair next to Lin Xun.

The crowd was stunned.

Peng Tianxiang glanced at Lin Xun and then at Dugu Youran. Only after a long time did he muster a smile, “Alright, that works! Everyone, please take your seats as well.”

He also took his seat.

After everyone had settled down, he smiled, “Now that everyone is here... I'm sure all of you have been curious about the ‘shocking secret,’ so I won't keep you in suspense any longer. This matter concerns the Ruins of the Gods that’s located outside of the forty-ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass.”

The introduction caught the whole attention of everyone present.

Only Dugu Youran looked calm, seemingly having already guessed what Peng Tianxiang was going to say.

“According to the latest message I’ve gotten from my clan not long ago, news has leaked from an unknown Eternal Divine Clan that in at least ten years and at most thirty years, the legendary Battlefield of the Gods will emerge in the Ruins of the Gods!”

Saying this, Peng Tianxiang's voice turned serious, “At that time, only those who have put their names on the Battle Stele of the Domains will be qualified to enter the Ruins of the Gods and step into that battlefield.

“The message I received also says that whoever stands out in the Battlefield of the Gods will have the chance to obtain a supreme fortune!”

The hearts and minds of the crowd were shaken, completely captivated by this news.

Someone couldn't help but ask, “If I may, Brother Peng, what kind of supreme fortune will it be?”

Peng Tianxiang chuckled, “I dare not speculate, but I did hear that it’s the most valuable piece of fortune in the Great Thousand Battle Domain after the destruction of the last epoch!”

The most valuable!

The crowd keenly realized how special this fortune was.

Of note, while the Great Thousand Battle Domain was treacherous as a home to many battlefields, it also buried many fortunes and secret treasures that hadn't been explored.

Those related to the Battlefield of the Gods were already special, so when one was being described as 'the most valuable,' people could only imagine how extraordinary it would be!

Peng Tianxiang said, "But it's too early to be happy. In order to participate in the Battlefield of the Gods, you must first be able to leave your name on the Battle Stele of the Domains. This hurdle alone will eliminate the majority of experts.

"And even when one is qualified, what awaits will be competition with the most terrifying characters. From what I know, many powerful supreme experts in the Eternal True Realm have already made preparations to take part in this."

His reminder was like a pot of cold water poured over the heads of the crowd, causing their expressions to change.

All of the people here were supreme Emperors who were not worried about getting their names on the Battle Stele of the Domains.

However, knowing they were to go up against supreme figures from the Eternal True Realm, the pressure became quite heavy.

Although most of them were giants from the Great Thousand Battle Domain and possessed strength that towered over their respective realms, deep down, they knew full well how terrifying the supreme figures from the Eternal True Realm were.

For example, Peng Tianxiang right here, who was a member of the Immortal Imperial Peng Clan, was already someone who demanded their respect.

As for Dugu Youran, her status was so honorable that it made them feel ashamed. She was at a level so high that they could never climb up to reach her!

Meanwhile, Lin Xun couldn't help but frown.

He didn’t feel pressured, but instead rather puzzled. What kind of fortune existed in the Battlefield of the Gods that even the supreme experts in the Eternal True Realm would want to become involved in this competition?

Was it related to the last epoch?

“What’s that face, Ling Xuanzi? Don’t tell me you’re curious as well?” Dugu Youran next to him suddenly transmitted her voice teasingly.

Lin Xun imperceptibly stiffened. Without a change in his expression, he transmitted back, “So you’ve already seen through my true identity. Very discerning eyes you have.”

Dugu Youran lifted her cup and took a small sip before she whispered, “Worry not. I'm not so bored to reveal your identity at this time. After all, you saved me.”

Lin Xun sighed in his heart. The green sparrow was right, this woman was definitely a troublemaker who gave anyone who got involved with her a big headache.

Dugu Youran asked, “Fellow Daoist, I'm quite curious about the Ancient Nebula Road. I heard you're from there, so I wonder if you've heard of a supreme Great Emperor named Lin Daoyuan?”

Lin Xun was silent for a moment before he replied, “What exactly do you want to know?”

Dugu Youran revealed a smile that brightened her whole beauty, “Never mind, now isn’t an appropriate time to discuss this. But I will have to bother you again should I have the chance in the future.”

Although they communicated through voice transmission, how could it go unnoticed by Peng Tianxiang's gaze? Especially when he saw Dugu Youran's occasional bright smile, his heart burned with uncontrollable jealousy and he almost couldn’t suppress his anger.

However, remembering his third uncle Peng Qianhe's instructions, Peng Tianxiang still held back.

Steadying his mental state, he continued with a smile, “But don't be discouraged. In addition to this matter, I also have some good news that I would like to share with all of you.”

The crowd all looked over, even Lin Xun and Dugu Youran.

Feeling Dugu Youran's gaze fall on him, Peng Tianxiang instantly felt much better. In high spirits, he was about to speak when...

A series of deafening rumbles suddenly echoed. In the dark horizon, there was an eye-catching silver chariot fast approaching at void-crushing speed.

It was so fast that gusts of silver light flared on the surface like fire. From the chariot’s dazzling glow, an intimidating aura spread.

The turquoise lake rippled violently, shooting green light into the sky and triggering a shocking phenomenon.

The many experts of the City Lord’s Residence, who were serving as guards and maids on the surrounding aeth mountains and in the vicinity, were terrified.

This was the City Lord’s Residence!

Who dared to be so unrestrained as to fly over in a chariot?

Peng Qianhe, who had been sitting in the City Lord’s Residence, was alerted right away and appeared out of thin air. His face was shrouded in a gloomy chill.

However, when he got a clear look of that chariot, the gloom on his face turned into astonishment. He looked somewhat incredulous.

With a whoosh, a carpet of golden light unfurled from the chariot, forming a bridge from the sky.

Next, two figures walked out from the chariot.

One of them looked purely divine. Enveloped by golden flames, he resembled a monarch on patrol.

His aura was unbridled, flamboyant, and extraordinarily outstanding. He had long, golden hair. Even his pupils were two golden blazing suns, which was overwhelming to look at!

“Rong Xiangli!” Peng Tianxiang's face instantly darkened. The wine cup in his hand was silently reduced to powder.

Rong Xiangli!

He was an unprecedented expert from the Immortal Imperial Rong Clan, an anomaly amongst supreme Great Emperors.

Many people gasped. This was Rong Xiangli? His might was even more terrifying than in the rumors. He was like an ancient god of war descending the mortal world, looking down on everyone and everything!

Next to Rong Xiangli was a figure wrapped in wisps of chaos qi. What was revealed was only a vague outline and a pair of eyes as bright as the sun. Every time they blinked, they flashed with sky-burning rays of light.

“Zhu Lin!” Peng Tianxiang narrowed his eyes, unable to maintain his composure when he saw this person.

Other people might not know, but he was very clear who Zhu Lin was. The latter was the chosen son of the Immortal Imperial Zhu Clan and hailed as ‘peerless’ among all Great Emperors of this clan. He was extremely powerful and fierce!

He was not inferior to Rong Xiangli in any way.

Now, as the two of them had come in a chariot, their purpose was as clear as day!

Silence reigned over the area.

The supreme Great Emperors from the Great Thousand Worlds were feeling shocked and uncertain. On the contrary, Lin Xun was very calm, because he had zero idea who the sudden newcomers were.

Even if he did, it wouldn’t have any effect on him.

However, Lin Xun noticed that Dugu Youran had sighed softly, and an imperceptible hint of annoyance flashed on her face.

“I didn't expect your arrival, young friends. You truly caught this old man off guard.” Peng Qianhe greeted the new guests with a smile.

Obviously, the identities of Rong Xiangli and Zhu Lin were both so extraordinary that even he, an Ancestor of a Path, had to personally welcome them with courtesy.

“We have been presumptuous to come here out of the blue. I hope you won’t be offended, Senior,” replied Rong Xiangli with a polite smile. There was not a shred of arrogance in his manner.

Zhu Lin, on the other hand, only nodded before directing his gaze to Dugu Youran in the pavilion.

In that instant, his indifferent and conceited demeanor vanished. He walked over with a sunny smile on his face.

“Miss Youran, you are really here,” he said, directly ignoring everyone else in the pavilion including even Peng Tianxiang as he stopped next to Dugu Youran.

Peng Qianhe watched from a distance with a faint but icy glint in his eyes. In the end, he sighed inwardly. The current situation was no longer under his control.

Even if he was the master of the City Lord’s Residence, he couldn't use his authority to intimidate the two noble young masters that came out of nowhere.

Peng Tianxiang, however, was unable to hold back. He shot up from his seat and said with a frosty expression, “Zhu Lin, this is a private banquet. Don't you think it's rude to have come uninvited?”

Zhu Lin snorted out a loud laugh, “So what, Peng Tianxiang? Do you intend to drive me out?”

There was provocation in his eyes.

Peng Tianxiang was just about to say something when Peng Qianhe rushed in and took over, “Since they are here, they are our guests, so let’s not sweat over it. Come, Little Friends, please take your seat.”

“I cannot agree more, Senior. We are here as guests, not to cause trouble.” Rong Xiangli also walked into the pavilion with a smile.

Seeing this, Peng Tianxiang's face became even more somber.

Chapter 2476 The Right Amount of Ruthlessness

Through only a few sentences of conversation, Zhu Lin's domineering aura hit everyone present in the face and made them feel like they were sitting on pins and needles.

Rong Xiangli seemed to be smiling, but the might accompanying his every movement also put people under pressure. It was hard to ignore when even a powerful Ancestor of a Path like Peng Qianhe didn’t easily dare to offend these two.

This made people lament inside. The Eternal True Realm was too scary. Peng Tianxiang alone was already a character to be feared, but now, two guys stronger than him had arrived and disregarded him completely!

The atmosphere was heavy.

Dugu Youran couldn't help but frown and glanced at Zhu Lin, “This is the territory of the Peng Clan. Don't you think you’re being rude?”

If anyone else had said this, Zhu Lin would have swung down with a slap. However, facing Dugu Youran, he nodded with a bright smile, “You’re right to reprimand me, Youran. I'll apologize.”

Saying that, he cupped his fist perfunctorily toward Peng Tianxiang, “Brother Peng, I’m sorry for being rude just now.”

Peng Tianxiang snorted coldly, obviously still nursing anger.

Zhu Lin didn't care at all. He swept a look around Dugu Youran, then turned his gaze to Lin Xun with a smile that revealed a row of shiny white teeth, “Can you give your seat to me, Fellow Daoist?”

His tone was frivolous, but straight to the point and overbearing. All eyes instantly fell on Lin Xun.

Peng Tianxiang suddenly slammed the table, “Zhu Lin, you are being outrageous. Brother Jin is my friend. Why should he give you his seat?”

Zhu Lin, however, directly ignored Peng Tianxiang. His eyes were fixed on Lin Xun as an icy hint gradually surfaced on them. “Refusing to give me face?”

Lin Xun had always wanted to stay out of this, but that was clearly impossible at this moment. He couldn’t help but let out a soft sigh in his heart. This Dugu Youran...is really a trouble magnet!

It was just a seat, but trouble fell on him out of nowhere just because he sat next to her. Where was the justification in this?

Even though Lin Xun had a good temper, in his bones, he was also a decisive and reckless menace when needed. How could he back down at a time like this?

He drained the wine in his cup before saying, “Respect is earned, not demanded to be given for no reason. If I were you, knowing that the lord of this place doesn’t welcome me, I wouldn’t be so shameless to come here and be disliked for nothing.”

Those words gave the hearts of all the Great Emperors present a jolt. They struggled to believe their own ears.

Even Peng Tianxiang was stunned. While he found Lin Xun's remark satisfying to the core, he was also aware that it would offend Zhu Lin!

Peng Qianhe only revealed an odd look in his eyes while staying quiet. He wouldn't get himself into trouble for the sake of an outsider.

Meanwhile, Rong Xiangli was visibly surprised as well and inclined to take a closer look at Lin Xun.

As for Zhu Lin, his face instantly dropped, and his eyes flared with a murderous intent that made the air around him stagnate. The almost substantial intent then pressed down on Lin Xun.

Dugu Yuran suddenly said, “If you dare attack, don't blame me for turning my back on you.”

Her expression had become as cold as frost.

Zhu Lin was dumbstruck, “Youran, who is he to you, and why are you defending him?”

Peng Tianxiang laughed coldly and seized the opportunity to ridicule him, “Brother Jin Duyi saved Youran, yet you want to force him to give up his seat, which is as good as embarrassing Youran.”

Seeing that Dugu Youran didn't deny it, Zhu Lin’s face clouded over in uncertainty. In the end, he gritted his teeth and said, “My attitude was wrong, but he humiliated me. I can’t leave this matter at that.”

“What else do you want?” Dugu Youran frowned.

“An apology,” said Zhu Lin without missing a beat. “As long as he lowers his head and admits his mistake, I will let it go. Otherwise, I can only teach him how to behave!”

Rong Xiangli, standing not far away, agreed indifferently, “Brother Jin's remark just now was indeed hurtful.”

Only now did Peng Qianhe smile and say to Lin Xun, “It's just a small matter, so little friend, can you take a step back and apologize to Young Master Zhu Lin? Let’s not make a mountain out of this mole hill and make everyone unhappy, don't you think?”

This was an attempt to smooth over the dispute. However, Lin Xun replied without thinking, “Out of the question!”

During his journey so far in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, had he ever been afraid of anyone? No! Not even when he killed Wen Shaoheng of the Wen Clan and an Ancestor of a Path, Heng Tianshou. Now, this bastard had come out of nowhere and dared to clamor with him! Simply not knowing his place!

Lin Xun indeed hated trouble, but he would never endure when he really ran into trouble. If he was scared of every little negative thing, then even if he could get to the Eternal True Realm, he wouldn’t be able to raise his head for the rest of his life!

There was only silence in the area as everyone had been caught off guard by his firm attitude. This Jin Duyi really has no intention to make any concessions at all!

Even Peng Tianxiang had to admire him. Who knew this guy was such a tough one? He showed none of it during our previous encounters...

Some people showed pity, some gloated, and some sighed in their hearts. One thing everyone knew was that there was no longer room to maneuver. Jin Duyi would definitely suffer!

Peng Qianhe smiled and said no more. Rong Xiangli, on the other hand, frowned with a profound look in his eyes.

At the same time, Dugu Youran transmitted to Lin Xun, “I've also been annoyed by this guy for a long time now. You can beat him up without worries, I'll take the blame for anything that happens.”

There was exasperation and anger in her voice.

Lin Xun was speechless. This whole situation started because of you!

He became even more determined to hurry up and leave Tiger’s Den City once the banquet was over. He needed to get away from this woman, the farther the better.

“You...you don’t know what’s good for you!” Zhu Lin was already surging with killing intent. His eyes erupted with a bizarre jade-green light that stabbed straight at Lin Xun like a pair of divine swords, aiming for the latter’s mind.

An ordinary Emperor’s mind would probably have collapsed under such a stare.

“Jade-Green Sword Pupils!” exclaimed a shocked Peng Qianhe. He had never thought that Zhu Lin would cast this treacherous secret technique right off the bat.

"What? It's really the Jade-Green Sword Pupils? This is a rare, horrid talent that can pierce into one’s state of mind and shatter it!"

“How terrifying! To think that such a sinister and mysterious talent actually exists...”

A shocked clamor ran through the area. No one could calm down from this unexpected event.

Rumor had it that the Jade-Green Sword Pupils was a baleful innate talent that only one out of billions of cultivators was born with. Whether it was in the Great Thousand Worlds or in the Eternal True Realm, people with extraordinary talents weren’t uncommon. Oftentimes, the more powerful one’s innate talent was, the higher the cultivation level they would reach.

Furthermore, some people who possessed rare talents, after becoming supreme Emperors, would develop divine talent abilities rarely seen in the world. For example, Five Aggregate Body, Featherlight Spirit Body, Dao Fetal Dharma Body, and Law Breaker Battle Blood were all extremely rare talents.

Each person who had one was considered to be born with Heaven’s luck and would grow to become a giant. They were always many times stronger than an average cultivator of the same realm.

The Jade-Green Sword Pupils was a rare natural ability from such an innate talent!

A grave look rose in Dugu Youran's beautiful eyes. She seemed to have not expected that Zhu Lin would start out with such a vicious move. His intention was obviously to abolish Lin Xun’s cultivation!

"Kneel! Apologize and repent!" shouted Zhu Lin as his gaze became more and more evil.

The green light in his eyes was chilling and piercing like a sword. He stared deeply at Lin Xun as though trying to control the latter’s entire body and spirit.

Dugu Youran was just about to say something, but Rong Xiangli stopped her with a laugh, “Don't worry, Youran, Zhu Lin knows what he’s doing. He will not endanger Daoist Jin’s life.”

His words had just dropped when suddenly, one was also uttered from Lin Xun's lips, “Scram!”

It was like the roar of a dragon, like the shout of a thunder god from the nine heavens above.

From Lin Xun, circles of sound waves rippled outward and shattered the sky and earth. Fragments of space then burst into countless arrows that shot straight at Zhu Lin's eyes.

This was a secret technique of grand dao utilization. Lin Xun’s entire cultivation had been poured into the word the moment he pronounced it. It imbued the mere word with horrifying mysteries of destruction.

Most marvelously, that ‘scram’ sounded light and breezy in other people's ears, but when falling into Zhu Lin's ears, it exploded like the call of death. Moreover, Zhu Lin never had dreamed Lin Xun would be able to resist under the assault of his innate power. As a result, he was caught completely off guard and was subjected to a horrifying impact.

Bang! Bang!

Zhu Lin's eyes violently burst into bits, leaving two bloody hollows. The splashing blood from those eyeballs filled the air with a tragic, metallic stench.

“AHHH!” Zhu Lin let out a mournful scream like a pig being slaughtered. He trembled from top to toe, covering his eyes with both hands as he howled, “My eyes, my eyes—!”

As he hissed and shrieked, he kept running his power in an attempt to repair his eyes, but new ones refused to form no matter how hard he tried. Seeing this, everyone realized that the ‘scram’ from Lin Xun's mouth had disabled Zhu Lin's innate talent!

As a matter of fact, the word he had uttered contained infinite wonders and brought together his entire cultivation. Even an Emperor Ancestor would be heavily wounded if caught off guard by it, let alone Zhu Lin.

It was true that his Jade-Green Sword Pupils were powerful enough to penetrate the opponent's mind, but how could an experienced menace like Lin Xun allow it to hit him? In one fell swoop, his counterattack had taken Zhu Lin by surprise.

“You wanted to destroy my mental state, so I disabled your talent. It’s only a fair payback,” said Lin Xun casually and calmly. “Let this be a lesson for you not to glare at people moving forward, or your eyes may just blow up.”

The field was dead silent except for the echo of Lin Xun's voice. Everyone was stunned, including Emperor Ancestor Peng Qianhe.

“He nullified the Jade-Green Sword Pupils with a mere word!”

“So strong!”

“No wonder he acts so tough. He has no reason to fear...”

“He directly disabled Zhu Lin’s innate talent. The clan behind him definitely won't let it slide!”

“Ruthless enough!”

Everyone present were also supreme Great Emperors, but to be honest, they knew that they wouldn’t dare to do the same if they were in Lin Xun’s shoes. In fact, they wouldn’t even have the guts to think about it.

That was why the decisive and merciless counterattack from Lin Xun had shocked them to the point their scalps went numb. With pale faces, they exchanged terrified looks.

Peng Tianxiang's heart was also going on a ride. He felt like he didn't know Lin Xun at all as the guy had utterly refreshed his cognition and imagination.

He even couldn’t help but wonder what would happen if he had offended this fellow outside the city gates...

Peng Tianxiang shuddered. He stopped thinking, not daring to dwell deeper into this scenario.

Chapter 2477 It Would be Unkind Not to Kill Him

Peng Qianhe gasped. Only now did he realize how vastly he had misjudged Jin Duyi, originally thinking that the latter was only a young man who had gotten lucky and saved Dugu Youran once. Now, it turned out that Jin Duyi was a true menace in every sense of the word!

Contrary to everyone else, Dugu Youran seemed a little odd. Staring at the screaming Zhu Lin whose eyes had exploded into two bloody holes, she was delighted inside. In fact, she would have burst out laughing with joy if this wasn't the right occasion.

His eyes exploded...

Hahaha, interesting!

Swish!

Rong Xiangli rushed over and slapped out his palm. There was immediately a flash of light, and then, a torrent of red vitality force surged into Zhu Lin.

Next, Rong Xiangli took out a green gourd, which poured out two drops of liquid that glowed with a holy luster. As they entered Zhu Lin's eyes, there were bursts of dao light as arcane law power condensed and restored Zhu Lin's eyes.

However, Rong Xiangli's face dropped. He could sense that while Zhu Lin's wound had healed, his natural talent had been completely impaired!

He shot Lin Xun a fierce stare, his voice chilling, "I didn't think you'd be this cruel. It was only a casual exchange, and yet you used such a vile attack and destroyed Zhu Lin's Jade-Green Sword Pupils talent. Simply unforgivable!"

"I must kill him!" roared Zhu Lin madly.

His heart was dripping blood and his face hideously twisted. The loss of his innate talent was a fatal blow to his dao path. His cultivation would be greatly affected from now on. Upon his declaration, he erupted with a horrifying might as he struck his palm in Lin Xun's direction.

Immediately, the sky and earth turned pitch black. A gigantic hand filled with the aura of sin appeared in the air and slapped down. From it, countless illusions of demonic gods whistled out with terrifying power. It was like the demon realm had appeared on earth!

"Great Demon Controller Palm Seal, the most supreme secret art of the Zhu Clan! This hand can easily pull the opponent into the boundless darkness of the demon realm where they'll suffer a life worse than death for eternity!" Color was drained from Peng Tianxiang's face.

However, Lin Xun didn't even look at the gigantic hand as he similarly deployed a palm strike.

Boom!

The execution was plain, but the moment the attack struck, it resembled a heavenly monarch descending the mortal world, blooming with an infinite killing force.

Rumble~

The ancient pavilion exploded. The heavy restrictions covering the City Lord's Residence sprang into operation to defuse the horrifying torrent of power. The crowd had retreated far away even much earlier.

In the sound of the collision, Zhu Lin was shaken as his full-body protective energy scattered from the shock. He found himself unable to run his strength no matter how hard he tried. Despite having abundant experience in battle, he had never encountered anyone whose aura put him under such a strong oppression.

"This is impossible! How can someone from the Great Thousand Worlds have this kind of power?" shrieked Zhu Lin as his face drastically distorted.

Like a dark lord trying to destroy the world, his palms cast out thousands of hand shadows of the Great Demon Controller Palm Seal in succession. The entire City Lord's Residence quaked as the countless restrictions tossed and turned.

Facing this, Lin Xun merely thrust his palm at the sky. Under a thick layer of dao light, waves of power brewed and burst out. This palm strike resembled an ancient sacred mountain smashing down on earth. It arrived with petrifying visions of the sky collapsing, the planets shattering, and all the daos crumbling into demise!

All of Zhu Lin's attacks were also easily crushed under it. The next second, everyone saw Zhu Lin get sent flying through the air while blood spurted from his mouth nonstop.

Swish!

Lin Xun had gotten up from his seat and, in a flash, teleported in front of Zhu Lin, casually clutching his neck. Zhu Lin struggled desperately but couldn't move at all. His face took on the color of a pig's liver.

The area was dead silent. Zhu Lin, a supreme Great Emperor from the Immortal Imperial Zhu Clan, a dazzling world-class giant, had been restrained by the neck in just seconds like a dead dog!

Who would dare to believe this?

The battle prowess displayed by Lin Xun was equally frightening. He was as vicious as he was powerful, dominating a supreme Great Emperor at every turn. This was beyond what everyone could have expected.

"Scumbag! Kill me if you have the guts, or I guarantee that you will die without a place to bury your corpse!" roared a berserk Zhu Lin who seemed to have gone crazy. Under this kind of suppression, his mind and emotions had spiraled out of control.

Lin Xun's black eyes flashed with killing intent, “I didn't plan to kill you, but now it looks like you can’t be allowed to live.”

“Stop!” Peng Qianhe and Rong Xiangli rushed out almost immediately.

Peng Qianhe was feeling helpless. As a member of the Peng Clan, he more than wished for Zhu Lin to be killed, but he knew better. If this guy was killed on his own turf, then the force behind him would hold his entire clan responsible!

In other words, Zhu Lin could die, but not on the Peng Clan's territory!

Boom!

Peng Qianhe didn't hesitate to use the power belonging to an Ancestor of a Path right from the start. Blotting out the sky, it didn't aim to subdue Lin Xun, but instead to save Zhu Lin's life.

On the other hand, Rong Xiangli summoned a fiery red shuttle, which was clearly a terrifying Emperor-grade weapon from how sharp its aura was. It went straight for the back of Lin Xun's head!

Everyone was clear that if Lin Xun killed Zhu Lin, then he would suffer a fatal blow at the same instant. At this dangerous juncture, the Green Wood Dao Body and the Red Flame Dao Body shot out.

CLANG!

In a shocking clash, the fiery shuttle was blocked. At the same moment, the Red Flame Dao Body glowed as it faced Peng Qianhe's terrifying might head-on.

RUMBLE~

The sky above the City Lord's Residence fell apart, generating a raging torrent of destruction.

The spectators were dumbfounded. None of them had dreamed that Lin Xun would be able to dissolve such a deadly threat. It was just inconceivable.

The fact that the pressure of an Emperor Ancestor existence like Peng Qianhe had been forcefully stopped made everyone gawk in shock and disbelief.

Bang!

Lin Xun's true body had exerted his strength in the meantime, and Zhu Lin in his clutch instantly exploded, revealing a primordial spirit that resisted the power.

Spirit Locking Seal! Just like Fang Xuanzhen and Wen Shaoheng, Zhu Lin had used the Spirit Locking Seal at the brink of death.

Lin Xun wasn’t surprised as he had long been accustomed to this. He directly imprisoned the primordial spirit and swiftly stowed it inside the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron. The Phoenix Flame of Order then operated and ground away the primordial spirit into oblivion. This marked the complete death of Zhu Lin!

“You—!” Rong Xiangli was enraged. His face was a horrid green color, and his eyes wanted to spit fire. He had never thought Lin Xun would be so merciless and dare to kill without a scruple even in the face of threats.

“Imperious!” Peng Qianhe's beard and hair flared in fury. His face was also terribly gloomy.

Zhu Lin was dead. When this matter got out, even he as an Emperor Ancestor would be implicated and met with undeserved disaster.

Meanwhile, the group of supreme Great Emperor guests in the distance had been utterly stupefied, their eyes and mouths agape.

Zhu Lin came from an Immortal Imperial Clan! Regardless of his cultivation, his identity alone was enough to deter any cultivator from the Great Thousand Worlds from offending him. Despite that, Jin Duyi had not only disabled Zhu Lin's talent but also directly killed him. On top of that, not even Peng Qianhe or Rong Xiangli had been able to stop him!

Too terrifying!

Even Peng Tianxiang was so dumbstruck that his jaw almost fell to the ground. Even though he hated Zhu Lin and the way the latter acted, he had to admit Zhu Lin was superior to him in terms of status. Yet, the guy was dead just like that! That bloody scene had also shocked his scalp numb.

“He begged me to kill him, so I would look unkind if I didn’t, no?” said Lin Xun casually, his expression calm.

“Jin Duyi, you’ve just made a death wish!” Rong Xiangli's expression was terrifyingly morose, "You have no idea how serious the consequences you'll face for doing so! And you as well, your Peng Clan will surely be held responsible for this!"

Peng Qianhe's face darkened. He angrily said, “Jin Duyi, you are a criminal! Even the death sentence won’t suffice, I will subdue you and send you to the Zhu Clan for atonement!”

“Enough,” Dugu Youran raised her voice at the critical moment, her eyes like the frostiest gems and her beautiful face was full of an oppressive authority. “Zhu Lin was wrong first, and he reaped what he sowed. No matter what consequences there will be, his Zhu Clan can come to find me!”

Her words were declared clearly and calmly.

Everyone revealed a look of disbelief.

Zhu Lin's death would definitely anger the Zhu Clan, and everyone knew that the consequences wouldn’t be easy to bear, or else Peng Qianhe wouldn’t be so furious right now.

In spite of that, Dugu Youran said she would shoulder it all!

Only Peng Qianhe was secretly ecstatic and felt like a weight was lifted off his heart. With Dugu Youran claiming the responsibility, his Peng Clan would no longer have to worry about being implicated.

“Youran, during all these years, Zhu Lin has done a lot to you, but for the sake of an outsider, you’re dismissing his death...?” Rong Xiangli's eyes were filled with boundless fury.

He simply couldn't figure out why an intelligent woman like Dugu Youran would make such a stupid decision.

Dugu Youran coldly glanced at Rong Xiangli, “As I said, he reaped what he sowed. Also, Brother Jin is my benefactor. My family won’t criticize me harshly even if they know about my decision.

“And you, in the past, I didn’t want to make you look bad on account of my respect for your clan. But look at you now, judging me and telling me what to do? Who do you think you are?”

Hearing this, Rong Xiangli’s ego took a great hit. His face clouded over, and his eyes reddened with anger. In fact, Dugu Youran's reproach had cut so deeply that his entirety was in discomfort.

Everyone's heart trembled as they couldn't believe that Dugu Youran would go so far to defend Jin Duyi. it was clear that she had no intention to give Rong Xiangli any more face!

Peng Tianxiang, on the other hand, was grinning from ear to ear inwardly.

Zhu Lin is dead, great!

Rong Xiangli got reprimanded and suffered a mental blow, awesome!

But the one Youran is defending isn't me, not cool...

At this thought, Peng Tianxiang’s mood quickly went down.

Meanwhile, Rong Xiangli took several deep breaths, during which his expression gradually eased up. Finally, he said, “Youran, if my actions just now made you angry, then I can apologize. However, about today's matter, I can only say that Jin Duyi won’t be able to escape the blame!”

Chapter 2478 The Nine Great Heaven Domains

Dropping those words, Rong Xiangli whisked his sleeve and left. In truth, he was too embarrassed to stay any longer. Zhu Lin's death had caused him great mental trauma. On top of that, Dugu Youran's attitude had further humiliated and angered him, dealing a heavy blow to his dignity.

Seeing him leave, Peng Qianhe sighed with a complicated look in his eyes, “I’m afraid that today's matter won’t end here.”

“Senior, shouldn't you be beaming with joy instead?” said Dugu Youran flatly. “After all, the Peng Clan no longer has to worry about being implicated.”

Peng Qianhe's old face stiffened with embarrassment, “Neither the Zhu Clan nor the Rong Clan is a force my Peng Clan can afford to offend. Only you have the confidence to be fearless of them, Miss Youran.”

Peng Tianxiang intervened with a sincere expression, “Let's not talk about this. Don't worry, Youran, no matter what decision you make, I will always be on your side.”

With that, he gazed at Lin Xun, “Brother Jin, don’t put yourself under too much pressure either. Since Youran has stepped in, the Zhu Clan will need to weigh the consequences of offending her should they decide to deal with you.”

“Okay. Thank you for your hospitality today, Brother Peng. I'll take my leave first,” Lin Xun said and left straight away.

“Brother Jin, I'll go with you.” Dugu Youran hurried after him.

Watching her beautiful silhouette chasing after Lin Xun, Peng Tianxiang's heart clenched. He wanted to follow her.

“After such a serious matter, it's better not to bother Miss Youran today,” Peng Qianhe stopped his nephew.

“Alas!” Peng Tianxiang let out a long sigh.

.....

“Angry?”

The stars were shining brightly on the ink-black night. People and vehicles came and went in a constant stream on the bustling streets.

Catching up with Lin Xun, Dugu Youran said, “Again, I’ll handle this matter and won't let you get into trouble because of it.”

Lin Xun didn't look back as he said indifferently, “To put it bluntly, it happened because of you, so naturally you should be the one to deal with it.”

Dugu Youran raised her brows in amusement, “You're blaming me?”

“Blaming you? It’s not that serious. I just don’t want to be targeted by the bees and butterflies around you anymore, so...” He stopped and looked at her, “From now on, I hope that we don't interfere with each other. Let’s just go our own way.”

With that, he turned back and continued on his way.

Dugu Youran was dumbfounded. She had stepped in and taken the responsibility of killing Zhu Lin for this guy, yet he... Not only was he not grateful for it, but he also treated her coldly like she was a ferocious beast!

She immediately chased after him, ''Hey, aren't you worried that the Zhu Clan will find you? At least if you travel with me, you won’t have to worry about these kinds of troubles.”

“Traveling with you will only invite more trouble.” Seeing Dugu Youran catching up again, Lin Xun felt a big headache coming. Didn’t this girl know that she herself was the source of the trouble?

Dugu Youran snorted, “So that’s how you see me, Ling Xuanzi? Not scared that I’ll expose your identity to others?”

Lin Xun rubbed his brows and sighed, “Can you tell me the reason why you must keep bothering me like this?”

Seeing Lin Xun’s exasperated face, Dugu Youran was amused. Other people just wished to be around her at all times, but this guy always looked as though he disliked her and couldn't wait for her to buzz off.

Her limpid eyes darted around as she grinned, “It can’t be helped, who told you to be my benefactor?”

Lin Xun shut up at once and quickened his steps. In his mind, he had begun to plan his departure from Tiger’s Den City to get away from this human form of trouble.

Dugu Youran kept following him with a carefree and leisure demeanor, as if oblivious to the fact that she was the human form of trouble in his eyes.

Upon arriving at the door of Lin Xun’s inn, Dugu Youran finally stopped and smiled sweetly, “What happened today was not something I wanted, but since it already happened, it’s not in my character to let you suffer from undeserved consequences. I’ll do what I say, remember that.”

After dropping these words, she turned and left. Even though Lin Xun had rejected her with a cold face all the way to this point, she showed no trace of displeasure.

Lin Xun, who had entered the inn, now had the deepest understanding of the green sparrow’s assessment of her. This woman surnamed Dugu was indeed not someone one should get close to. Once one made this mistake, only trouble awaited!

In the room, the green sparrow gloated, “How is it? That Dugu is a tricky one, isn't she?”

Lin Xun wasn't annoyed, but instead asked, “Can you tell me about the Immortal Imperial Clans in the Eternal True Realm?”

The green sparrow said, “It's not like this is a secret. You'll know sooner or later anyway, so I’ll just tell you now.”

The bird then proceeded to speak eloquently.

The Eternal True Realm was extremely vast with its territory divided into nine heavens, which were also regarded as the Nine Great Heaven Domains. Each Heaven Domain was comparable to a boundless plane that encompassed uncountable pocket spaces and secret blessed lands.

Immortal Imperial Clans who controlled Earth Rank law were distributed in the First to Sixth Heaven Domains.

Immortal Imperial Clans that wielded Heavenly Rank law were distributed in the Seventh Heaven Domain.

The Eighth Heaven Domain was managed by the ten oldest Immortal Imperial Clans, each of whom mastered a Heaven Rank law that could be considered supreme. These ten ancient Imperial Clans were also known as the Ten Immortal Giants!

The ninth heaven, rumored to be the cardinal territory where the Eternal Divine Clans resided, was also called the Ninth Divine Heaven.

Since the beginning of time, virtually no one had been able to enter the Ninth Divine Heaven. To the countless beings in the Eternal True Realm, that place was where true immortality was!

All of that was how the Eternal True Realm's territory was divided.

In order to judge how powerful and influential an Immortal Imperial Clan was, one only needed to see which Heaven Domain it was located in and what status it held in said domain. For example, the Luo Clan, who controlled the eighth grade Earth Rank lightning law, was located in the Sixth Heaven Domain.

According to the green sparrow, the Luo Clan had been entrenched in the Seventh Heaven Domain when Omega Lord Luo Tongtian was still around! It even had the chance to compete with the Ten Immortal Giants at the Eighth Heaven Domain back then, which could be considered a supreme glory.

However, everything changed after Luo Tongtian's disappearance. In less than a thousand years, the Luo Clan's power had declined drastically. In order to survive, they had to migrate from the Seventh Heaven Domain to the Sixth.

Up until this point, their status in the Sixth Heaven Domain had shrunk a great deal. They were currently far from being a match for Immortal Imperial Clans that controlled ninth grade Earth Rank law.

Like the Luo Clan, the four great Immortal Imperial Clans of Wen, Peng, He, and Heng were located in the Sixth Heaven Domain.

In general, both those four and the Luo Clan were already first-tier among the Immortal Imperial Clans that controlled Earth Rank law. However, they still couldn't be considered apex existences.

Zhu Lin, who Lin Xun had killed tonight, was from the Zhu Clan who wielded ninth grade Earth Rank law. Therefore, this clan was among the hegemonic powers of the Sixth Heaven Domain.

The Rong Clan behind Rong Xiangli was on par with the Zhu Clan. This was the reason why Peng Tianxiang and Peng Qianhe had endured their discontent when facing Zhu Lin and Rong Xiangli: their clan's status was inferior!

"So to speak, Dugu Youran is a noble from the Seventh Heaven Domain?" asked Lin Xun.

"That's right," the green sparrow nodded. "In the Seventh Heaven Domain, there are many Immortal Imperial Clans that govern Heaven Rank power, and her clan is a very outstanding one among them."

"No wonder..." Lin Xun recalled how Peng Tianxiang, Rong Xiangli, Zhu Lin, and the others treated Dugu Youran. There was more than just respect in their attitudes; there was also a sense of fear.

From this, one could infer that there was a world of difference between Earth Rank laws and Heaven Rank laws!

The green sparrow lamented, "Of the two law powers you wield, one is very likely a fifth grade Earth Rank, while the other is definitely a Heaven Rank law. It's a pity that you haven't stepped onto the

immortal path yet, or else these two law powers could allow you to build an immortal career in the Seventh Heaven Domain."

Lin Xun suddenly asked, "What about the Yuan Clan? How is it when compared to the Dugu Clan?"

On this subject, the green sparrow began to talk in ambiguous terms, "The Yuan Clan and the Dugu Clan have always been rivals. It's not at the level of having deep hatred, just that neither of them is willing to admit that the other is better. Their competition over these countless years has permeated into the bones of their respective clansmen."

After a pause, it reminded Lin Xun, "Since my young miss regards you highly, if she knows that you became involved with the Dugu Clan, she will...certainly have ideas. So, I advise you to quickly cut Dugu Youran off and get as far away from her as possible."

Lin Xun almost rolled his eyes, "Why are you saying it like I'm her underling? She lost to me at Cangwu Mountain."

The green sparrow disdained, "Hmph, that's because my young miss was kind-hearted and didn't use her killer card! Do you really think she couldn't defeat you otherwise?"

Lin Xun was too lazy to argue with this conceited and smug bird, so he just said, "Whatever."

Killer cards? Who didn't have a few up their sleeves?

He asked, "By the way, where is the Battle Stele of the Domains?"

From Peng Tianxiang's speech at the banquet on the Battlefield of the Gods, Lin Xun understood that if he wanted to go there, then the first step was to put his name on the Battle Stele of the Domains.

As early as in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, he had learned from the green sparrow that the ranking of each cultivator on this stele would also affect the ranking of the cosmic realm in the Great Thousand Worlds where they came from!

For example, the current number one of the Great Thousand Worlds was the Divine Ascension Starfield, and at second rank was the Celestial Mystic Starfield. These rankings were based on the rankings on the Battle Stele of the Domains.

The green sparrow said, “There are a total of nine of them scattered in different Immortal Heavenly Passes. They are rumored to be a type of mysterious domain stele preserved from the previous epoch.

“These steles are shrouded in a mysterious law power that’s capable of communicating with the law power covering the entire Great Thousand Battle Domain. Only experts with solid cultivation and extraordinary attainments on the Emperor path can leave their names on them. They are truly something magical.”

The bird paused a little before it continued, “From what I know, there is a Battle Stele of the Domains in the ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass.”

“The ninth Immortal Heaven Pass?” Lin Xun raised his brows as this reminded him of the agreement he had made with Xiang Xiaoyuan and Yue Duqiu at Origin City.

Chapter 2479 The Wonders of Immortal Matter

“I wonder why Xiang Xiaoyuan and Yue Duqiu invited me to travel with them...” Lin Xun mused.

Those two both possessed extraordinary battle prowess among supreme Great Emperors. This was especially true for Xiang Xiaoyuan who had many obscure energies about her. Even Lin Xun did not dare to underestimate her.

Therefore, whatever their goal was for inviting him to act together with them, it was clearly not something small.

Lin Xun then shook his head and decided to stop thinking about it. He was only at the second Immortal Heavenly Pass at the moment. Who knew how long it would take to reach the ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass?

He flipped his hand, and an ancient copper lamp with a mottled and dull color appeared. This treasure had been found in the Ninth District of the Trial World in Origin City. Although its spirituality had long been worn away, it still contained immortal matter.

Lin Xun had collected over a dozen treasures like this one in the Ninth District.

“These are for you,” he handed half of them to the green sparrow.

“For me?” The latter was dumbfounded, somewhat caught off guard. “You’re...really giving them away?”

“You don't want them?” asked Lin Xun teasingly.

“Only fools wouldn’t.” The bird flapped its wings, casting a green light that stored the treasures. Then, it said in delight, “Something is off here. Why are you suddenly so generous? Could it be that you found your conscience somewhere?”

“Even though it’s your young miss’ request that you guide the way for me, how could I possibly ask you to work for free? Consider those a token of my appreciation,” explained Lin Xun casually before he tossed a bronze fragment into the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron.

Crack!

The fragment shattered to bits as soon as it fell into the sword cauldron. The immortal matter contained within was melted away by strands of crystalline, violet Phoenix Flame of Order.

At the end of the process, only a fine strand of gray light remained that emanated a pure immortal energy. It was merely one strand, but the aura it gave off was like a towering sacred mountain, so solid and boundless that it was seemingly capable of crushing heavens!

“This is immortal matter?” Lin Xun carefully sensed it with a profound look in his eyes.

He had learned that immortal matter was a unique material produced naturally in immortal dao sources. As a result, it was immensely valuable. Only supreme immortal characters could go into the land of immortal dao sources to collect this treasure.

Generally speaking, immortal dao sources were extremely rare even in the Nine Great Heaven Domains of the Eternal True Realm, which made immortal matter seem even more precious.

The greatest use of immortal matter was in crafting immortal-grade tools. Other than that, it could also be used to refine an immortal body.

A perfect immortal-grade tool could even evolve into a world that utilized the power of a ‘domain’! As a matter of fact, the quality and power of an immortal-grade treasure was classified by its domain power.

Rumor had it that every Immortal Imperial Clan used law power as its foundation, and used an immortal-grade treasure as its ultimate guardian. There were even some Immortal Imperial Clans with heritages so deep that they possessed more than one immortal-grade treasure!

The green sparrow had once casually mentioned that the Wen Clan, which Wen Shaoheng came from, was in control of an immortal-grade treasure called the World Burying Coffin. This weapon had petrifying power, capable of destroying and burying a big world with a single attack.

“While it looks insignificant, this amount of immortal matter can fetch a sky-high price you could never imagine in the Eternal True Realm,” the bird informed Lin Xun.

“A sky-high price? How much is that exactly?” he asked.

“At least...ten million first-grade cosmic origin crystals, I think?” replied the green sparrow. “But normally, no one sells it. After all, it's a treasure that even immortal experts diligently seek.”

Lin Xun was dazed, “In that case, the total value of the treasures I just gave you...”

The green sparrow was instantly on guard, “You already gave them to me, you can’t just change your mind now!”

Lin Xun's lips twitched. He decided to shut up, worried that his mouth wouldn't be able to resist asking for those treasures back...

Right at this moment, there was a change in the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron that caught his attention.

The strand of immortal matter was being melted little by little and absorbed by the sword cauldron. The latter emitted a strange buzzing sound that was like a joyous cheer. Lin Xun keenly noticed a slight change in the texture of the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron. It seemed to have gone through a substantial consolidation!

Whoosh!

Lin Xun immediately took out a broken flying sword and threw it into the sword cauldron. With a series of cracking noises, the broken flying sword was quickly refined into a strand of immortal matter. The sword cauldron roared nonstop like a young beast waiting to be fed as it greedily devoured that strand of immortal matter.

Lin Xun's eyes lit up. He hadn't expected that his sword cauldron would be able to absorb immortal matter. This was undoubtedly something unimaginable!

Eyes wide, the green sparrow yelped in surprise, “Your life-bound Emperor weapon is too perverse... Normal treasures simply can't withstand the power of immortal matter; they would be blown up by it. Don’t tell me this is because your cauldron carries two different law powers?”

Lin Xun agreed with this speculation. When he crossed the tribulation in the Ninth District, the sword cauldron had been constructed anew in that supreme lightning tribulation and became something incredible.

One might think it was an Emperor Dao Ultimate Weapons, but it didn’t actually resemble one, for the power of an Emperor Dao Ultimate Weapons wasn’t even as terrifying as the sword cauldron.

Lin Xun clearly remembered that during his last tribulation, when the sword cauldron was being reconstructed after bursting into pieces, it had magically been nurtured by the Phoenix Flame of Order and the Nirvana law power.

Perhaps being infected by the auras of these two law powers was the reason why the sword cauldron had become so different. By now, it was even able to withstand and absorb the energy of immortal matter!

If it kept on metamorphosing like this, then sooner or later, it might just turn into an unfathomable immortal-grade weapon of many wonders!

Lin Xun was one to follow something through once he had started it. He threw all the remaining treasures that contained immortal matter into the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron.

Crack! Crack!...

There was a series of breaking sounds inside the sword cauldron where light was erupting and energy was exploding. The treasures were melted one by one in what seemed to be a purification process, gradually leaving behind the purest strands of immortal matter.

As the sword cauldron continued to integrate those strands into itself, it emitted endless buzzes that sounded like happy cheers.

After the time it took for one incense stick to burn, under the watchful eyes of Lin Xun and the green sparrow, a marvelous engraving appeared in the inner wall of the sword cauldron. It was like a mark of the almighty dao, diffusing a drizzle of immortal light so holy that it looked surreal.

Lin Xun noticed right away that the nature of the sword cauldron had undergone a great transformation, and its quality and power had changed as a result.

Immediately, he took out a crimson battle blade, which was an extremely precious upper spirit-grade Emperor weapon. It stored within itself a world-defying offensive power that could easily cleave mountains, break seas, and split skies. He controlled the sword cauldron to suppress it.

Clang!

With a mind-piercing sound, the crimson blade sustained cracks and looked as though it was about to shatter to pieces! Lin Xun instantly stopped with shock in his heart.

He didn't use his true power as it was only a casual test, yet the upper spirit-grade Emperor blade had seemed utterly useless! From this, one could see how terrifying the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron was post transformation.

Even the green sparrow couldn't help but gasp. It stared intently at the sword cauldron and muttered, "I have lived hundreds of thousands of years, but have never seen a treasure this bizarre. It cannot be measured by common sense at all, too perverse..."

The bird then turned its gaze to Lin Xun, and only after a long time did it say, "Of course, you're even more perverse."

Lin Xun, who was in a great mood, generously overlooked its rude assessment. In his mind, he had already decided to collect more immortal matter whenever the chance arose. Then, maybe he would be able to repair the Broken Blade, the Three Thousand Vicissitudes, and the Dao Endless Pagoda one by one...

The next morning, Lin Xun left the inn before dawn and arrived outside the east gate of Tiger's Den City, where there was a space port.

Those who held a token for passing the trial could board the Sun-Moon Shuttle here and travel toward the next destination.

The so-called Sun-Moon Shuttle was a kind of flying shuttle that was imprinted with a unique rune pattern, thus possessing the magical abilities of space jump and teleportation.

Furthermore, only the rune patterns on Sun-Moon Shuttles could sense the direction of the next stop from far away during the journey. Therefore, even the most powerful characters had no choice but to leave on this shuttle.

When Lin Xun arrived at the port, a Sun-Moon Shuttle was already moored at the dock. After handing over the token Peng Tianxiang had given to him, he smoothly boarded this strange treasure boat.

The space in the boat was beyond large. Upon boarding, Lin Xun saw that there were already dozens of Emperor experts waiting, and there were no familiar faces. Finding a random place to sit down, he closed his eyes.

After leaving Tiger's Den City, one would need to pass through about a dozen dangerous and bloody battlefields before they could reach the third Immortal Heavenly Pass. Lin Xun didn't need to worry about anything since he had the green sparrow as his guide, so he fell into contemplation.

My current cultivation is already strong enough to fight an Ancestor of a Path like Heng Tianshuo. I wonder if I can truly rely on just my own strength to trample on the heavenly rift that are those at the Ancestor of a Path when I reach the Fusing with the Dao Realm...

The Fusing with the Dao Realm was the eighth realm of the Emperor Stage. However, Lin Xun was only barely at the early seventh realm. No one knew how long it would take for him to step into the Fusing with the Dao Realm.

Although the Great Thousand Battle Domain is dangerous, it is a most valuable place to train. I don't have to consider the possibility of failing to break through to the Fusing with the Dao Realm before arriving at the Eternal True Realm...

Lin Xun was certain of this.

It had only been half a year since he had entered the Great Thousand Battle Domain, but he had already gained a lot of experience and opportunities. Even his cultivation had advanced by leaps and bounds. Under these circumstances, as long as there were no unpredictable drastic events along the way, it was only a matter of time before he broke into the eighth realm.

"Huh, what a coincidence. Did Fellow Daoist Jin also plan to leave today?" A heavenly melodic laughter rang out, permeated with delight as it entered Lin Xun's ears.

Lin Xun's imperceptibly froze. He could already feel a big headache coming.

Chapter 2480 The Falling Flower's Affection

Before Lin Xun even opened his eyes, a faint, elegant aroma, like the subtle scene of orchids, drifted into his nose. Unfortunately, instead of feeling soothed, his mood only worsened. He kept his eyes shut, pretending not to notice anything.

The next moment, he realized with dismay that the woman who had been giving him headaches had shamelessly sat down beside him.

“I’ve only heard of people covering their ears when stealing a bell, but I’ve never seen anyone pretend not to know by keeping their eyes shut.” A soft melodious voice sounded, carrying a hint of mockery.

Lin Xun sighed and finally opened his eyes. Turning to look at the fair, ethereal, and radiant face beside him, he said dryly, “This is called ‘out of sight, out of mind.’”

The beautiful woman in the azure robe, disguised as a man, was none other than Dugu Youran. She pursed her lips into a smile, revealing pearly white teeth as her eyes curved into crescents. “But your eyes are open now,” she pointed out.

“Which is why my mind is annoyed,” Lin Xun said flatly.

Dugu Youran raised an eyebrow. “That’s fine, as long as I’m happy.”

Lin Xun had no words. He shut his eyes again. He had left in such a rush earlier just to avoid this troublemaker Dugu Youran, but who would have thought that she had followed him all the way! Now that they were both aboard the Sun-Moon Shuttle, he had no means of escape.

However, Dugu Youran wasn’t the least affected by Lin Xun’s cold shoulder. She continued as if nothing had happened, “Last night, I used some of my connections to let the Zhu Clan know where I stand. So don’t worry, they won’t be coming after you again.”

Lin Xun was slightly startled but still kept his eyes closed and didn't respond. He wasn’t afraid of trouble, but he was afraid of endless trouble. Unfortunately, Dugu Youran...was simply a walking disaster, the source of trouble!

She muttered, “Ling Xuanzi, if you don’t open your eyes soon, I’m going to shout your identity to everyone here.”

Lin Xun’s eyes snapped open, his expression clearly displeased. He stared at the dazzling beauty beside him and said coldly, “Are you not worried that I might suppress you in a fit of rage?”

She leaned back, smacking her lips, “Oh no! You’re going to suppress me. Should I start screaming now?”

Lin Xun’s forehead twitched.

“Alright, I was just teasing you. Look how angry you are. Is that really necessary?” Dugu Youran said with a bright smile.

Just then, a surprised voice called out, “Youran, you’re here too.”

The smile on Dugu Youran’s face froze. Her slender and graceful figure stiffened. Then, the cheerful look on her face vanished.

Lin Xun almost burst out laughing. Serves you right!

The person who had come was Peng Tianxiang. Lin Xun immediately stood up and greeted him warmly. “Brother Peng, welcome! Come, have a seat.”

Without hesitation, he gave up his spot.

Dugu Youran was about to stand up when Lin Xun gently pressed her shoulder and made her sit back down. “You two know each other. Since fate brought you together, you should sit and catch up properly.”

Peng Tianxiang shot Lin Xun a grateful look and sat down in the seat Lin Xun had just vacated, beaming, “What a coincidence! Brother Jin is here too! Perfect! Traveling together will keep the journey from feeling too lonely.”

Lin Xun chuckled and nodded repeatedly, then took the seat across from them. Looking at Dugu Youran, who now resembled a frost-wilted eggplant, he felt immensely satisfied.

Dugu Youran’s expression darkened, and after a moment, she gave a cold snort, “Is it really a coincidence? No one would believe that.”

Peng Tianxiang looked a little awkward, but he still said enthusiastically, “Youran, I also brought that pair of three-inch lotus fish, have a look.”

As he spoke, he took out a jade gourd and offered it to her.

Dugu Youran closed her eyes. “I’ve got a long journey ahead. I’d better rest. If there’s nothing important, please don’t disturb me.”

Peng Tianxiang put away the jade gourd. His gaze was gentle as he softly replied. “Then rest well. As long as I’m here, I won’t let anyone bother you.”

Lin Xun could tell that Dugu Youran seemed to be grinding her teeth... He nearly burst out laughing, and secretly gave Peng Tianxiang a thumbs up. The young man gave him a subtle smile, clearly encouraged and full of confidence.

“Brother Jin, I’ve done some asking around. We can take this Sun-Moon Shuttle straight to the Third Immortal Pass.” Peng Tianxiang said, turning back to Lin Xun. “This way, we can avoid a lot of unnecessary trouble and danger.”

Lin Xun was surprised. “How long will the journey take?”

“At least a month. Two at most.” Peng Tianxiang said after a moment of thought.

Lin Xun fell silent. Does this mean I will have to put up with Dugu Youran for at least a month?

By this time, the treasure ship was buzzing with excitement. The Emperor-level cultivators aboard the so-called Sun-Moon Shuttle were all grinning with delight. To them, being able to avoid the perils and attacks on the road ahead was the best outcome they could hope for!

Peng Tianxiang, this noble descendant, was showered with endless praise and flattery. With the girl he adored sitting beside him, he practically radiated with joy. However, both Dugu Youran and Lin Xun appeared somewhat distracted, each weighed down by their own troubles.

Swoosh!

Before long, the Sun-Moon Shuttle transformed into a streak of light and soared through the skies. Just as Peng Tianxiang had said, the journey was calm and smooth, without a hint of danger along the way.

Clearly, Peng Tianxiang, a noble descendant of an Immortal Imperial Clan, had mobilized his clan's influence behind the scenes to ensure this smooth journey.

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A month later, they arrived at the third Immortal Heavenly Pass, Fengji City. As soon as they arrived, Lin Xun and Dugu Youran stepped off the Sun-Moon Shuttle and let out a sigh of relief.

"We've finally arrived." Lin Xun said with a long breath.

Though the journey had been smooth, traveling alongside Dugu Youran made Lin Xun feel his head ache from time to time.

"Yes, we're finally here." Dugu Youran echoed, her voice tinged with weariness.

For her, the presence of Peng Tianxiang had made the trip feel endless. No matter how she rebuked, criticized, ridiculed, or mocked him... He remained unfazed. Instead, his affections only grew deeper and his attentiveness more persistent. It left her frustrated and exasperated.

“Haha, the lord of Fengji City is a senior of the He Clan and has a good relationship with my Peng Clan. Once we enter the city, I’ll arrange lodgings for both of you,” Peng Tianxiang said warmly.

“No need.” Lin Xun and Dugu Youran voiced in unison.

Peng Tianxiang was taken aback for a moment, then said boldly. “Please, don’t turn me down. It’s just a trivial matter, just leave it to me.”

However, Lin Xun did not want to continue traveling with Dugu Youran, so he said bluntly, “I’ve got other matters to attend to, so I’ll take my leave first. Brother Peng, just make sure Miss Youran is settled.”

With that, he left in a hurry.

Peng Tianxiang was visibly moved, his heart swelling with gratitude. Brother Jin, Brother Jin, how could I not see that you’re helping me be alone with Youran?

You’re a true brother!

At that moment, Dugu Youran quickened her pace and headed straight toward the city gate.

“Youran, wait.” Peng Tianxiang quickly chased after her.

“Why are you still following me? Do you have any idea how much patience it took to tolerate you this whole journey?” Dugu Youran finally snapped, her gaze sharp with irritation.

Peng Tianxiang froze, flustered. “Youran, I only wanted to do something for you. My intentions are as clear as the sun and moon, the heaven and earth can attest to it. I have absolutely no hidden motives.”

Dugu Youran let out a long sigh. This guy...is like a leech. He clearly plans to cling to me forever.

“Miss Youran! What a coincidence! I was just on my way to find you, who would have thought I’d run into you here?”

Just then, a silver-robed youth stepped out of the city gate. He was tall and handsome, with sword-like eyebrows and star-like eyes. Seeing Dugu Youran, he beamed in surprise. Peng Tianxiang’s expression immediately soured, a flicker of wariness in his eyes.

Dugu Youran rubbed her brow. Now she understood why Lin Xun saw her as a walking disaster. No matter where she went, there were always guys who clearly came prepared yet acted like it was all just a ‘coincidence.’ It was simply impossible to guard against them, and it was utterly exasperating!

For example, this silver-robed young man. There was no way his appearance was just a coincidence, right? Only a fool would believe that!

Not long after the silver-robed youth appeared, a hearty laugh echoed across the heavens, “So it really is you, Youran. I heard from Rong Xiangli that Zhu Lin had the audacity to disrespect you and offend your savior right in front of you. How outrageous! If I ever encounter anyone from the Zhu Clan again, I’ll be sure to demand justice on your behalf!”

From the sky descended a tall, striking figure clad in flowing white robes and a tall crown. Radiating heroic presence, he was like a dragon among men. His presence stirred a commotion at the city gate.

Peng Tianxing’s face darkened. The silver-robed youth frowned with hostility.

Despite that, the white-robed man paid them no mind. He landed gracefully and walked toward Dugu Youran with a warm smile. “Youran, allow me to protect you from now on. That way, people like Zhu Lin won’t be able to upset you again.”

That one sentence was extremely domineering, completely disregarding Zhu Lin! Clearly, this white-robed man came from an even more formidable background!

However, this was far from over. A moment later, another person came, a purple chariot rumbled through the clouds. Its rider was clad in golden armor like an emperor on patrol. He tore through the sky and landed gracefully.

Then came the clear cry of a crane. A handsome man in black was sitting astride a majestic crane, floating down from the sky. In an instant, the area outside Fengji City became crowded with powerful figures.

Unfortunately, Peng Tianxiang's face looked as though he'd swallowed a fly.

"See? If you follow me, it'll only bring a lot of trouble." Dugu Youran sighed, feeling a tinge of sympathy for Peng Tianxiang.

Peng Tianxiang forced a smile, one more pitiful than a man in tears, and he said, "I don't care."

Those words drew a wave of hostile glares. Peng Tianxiang froze under their gazes, but he gritted his teeth and remained at Dugu Youran's side without backing down an inch.

"Let's go," Dugu Youran said softly.

She felt a little bad. Although Peng Tianxiang had annoyed her endlessly, he had stayed by her side the whole way and she couldn't help but feel a hint of appreciation. With that, she walked leisurely toward the city gate.

From beginning to end, she didn't even spare a glance at the radiant figures who had come to greet her. Peng Tianxiang was overjoyed, grinning from ear to ear as he followed closely behind, completely unfazed by the murderous glares around him.

Instead, he felt deeply touched. Miss Youran does care about me after all!