

Prodigies 2511

Chapter 2511 A Flash of Green Light

The ancient well spewed mist, and atop it sat an illusionary old daoist, cross-legged in meditation, softly chanting scriptures. Beside the well, the Taiyi Sword was inserted into the ground at an angle, its blade stained with blood.

It was an eerie scene that ordinary cultivators would never witness, because in the past, anyone who dared approach this forbidden zone had almost certainly met their death. Now, the fourth successor of Fangchun Mountain, Ling Xuanzi, stood before it.

Boom!

The earth trembled. The void collapsed. Ling Xuanzi's gaze burned like twin torches, locked on the old daoist with terrifying intensity.

"Just now...was that you howling like a ghost?" he asked expressionlessly.

Wreathed in a rain of radiant light, the old daoist's figure remained indistinct. Facing Ling Xuanzi's questioning, he responded in an indifferent tone, "It has been a long time since anyone dared to speak to me this way. Young man, you should watch your tongue. If you think you can do whatever you want just because you've transcended the Ancestor Realm...you'll only end up a laughingstock."

He had been sealed here since the previous epoch, for millions of years. During that vast stretch of time, he had seen countless peerless giants who had transcended the Ancestor Realm venture into this place.

And what became of them? Some fled in panic like stray dogs. Others died on the spot. Not once had he encountered someone worthy of his attention!

"A laughingstock?"

Upon hearing this, a radiant smile appeared on Ling Xuanzi's youthful and handsome face, and then...

He rolled up his sleeves...

Extended his right hand...

And, in an outrageously crude manner, swung a slap at the old daoist.

Bang!

A surge of obscure dao light erupted from the ancient well in defense, but it was instantly shattered by the blast of wind that came with the palm strike. The old daoist, still sitting cross-legged atop the well, burst apart like a bubble, utterly obliterated.

The strange thing was that the next moment, the old daoist's figure reformed once more. As if infuriated by that outrageously crude slap, he roared, "Young Man, do you have a death wish?"

Boom!

Before his voice had even faded, Ling Xuanzi swung another slap, reducing the old daoist to pieces once more. "Old bastard, I do have a death wish. What are you going to do about it?"

His voice dripped with disdain and his expression was filled with unrestrained contempt. The old daoist's form gathered once more, his voice colder than ever, "Young man..."

Bang!

He had just said two words when he was slapped to pieces again.

"Come on! Hit me! Destroy me!" Ling Xuanzi sneered, his eyes flashing with violent gleam. Wearing a careless grin, he said, "Old bastard, if my master hadn't suppressed me back then, a piece of trash like you wouldn't even be worthy to stand before me. Got that?"

His tone was icy and menacing.

As the old daoist's figure reformed once more, Ling Xuanzi casually waved the Three Thousand Vicissitudes.

Shua!

The horsetail whisk that was brilliant like starlight and as radiant as snow and ice swept into the air like a river of time. It cast forth a grand vision of the rise and fall of eras and all worldly things fading into illusion.

In the blink of an eye, the old daoist's figure exploded again. Before the scattered rain of light could recondense, it was swept into the illusion of vicissitudes and obliteration. It was ground away inch by inch until it completely vanished into nothingness!

"Hahaha, you are too naive, young man. What you destroyed was nothing more than a wisp of my aura."

From the depths of the ancient well, the old daoist's mocking laughter echoed. "If you really have the guts...do you dare step in and fight me for real?"

"You think I don't dare?" Ling Xuanzi let out a cold snort and lifted his foot, preparing to step into the ancient well.

However, the next moment, he sneered, withdrew his steps, and said, "Old bastard, do you really think I'd fall for such a cheap trick?"

"Whether it's a trap or not doesn't matter. What matters is that you don't dare. You're afraid. No matter how arrogant you are, deep down, you know you're not confident enough to defeat me. That's the truth, whether you admit it or not." The old daoist's calm voice echoed from the depths of the well.

Ling Xuanzi nodded, his expression dimming as he let out a sigh, "You're right...completely right..."

It was as if he suddenly remembered something painful. He stood there silently, lost in thought, a trace of loneliness clouding his handsome features.

This sudden shift caught the old daoist off guard. After a pause, he sneered coldly, "Weren't you very arrogant earlier? What's with the sudden cowardice?"

Ling Xuanzi sighed again, "I just remembered something. You and I...we're not that different."

"You were suppressed too?" the old daoist asked, a heaviness in his voice.

"Yes, by my own master. If it weren't for that, my current cultivation in the great dao would never have been limited to just this." Ling Xuanzi then asked, "What about you? How were you suppressed?"

The topic had clearly shifted, and the tense atmosphere subtly changed.

Despite that, the old daoist didn't seem to notice anything off. After a moment of silence, said aloud, "Do you really want to know?"

"Why not?" Ling Xuanzi said casually. "At this moment, neither of us can do anything to the other. Might as well chat."

There was another pause before the old daoist finally spoke, "The woman I loved most...was taken by the founder of the Taiyi Sect."

His voice seethed with a fury and hatred so deep that not even the passage of countless years could wash it away.

Ling Xuanzi fell speechless.

"Back then, I became the laughingstock of the world, drowning in humiliation. To take revenge, I stormed the Taiyi Sect alone." At this point, the voice twisted with madness and spite, "I swore that unless I utterly destroyed that pair of adulterous dogs, I would no longer call myself human!"

Ling Xuanzi couldn't help but ask, "And then what happened?"

"Yes....I failed..." The old daoist's voice was thick with bitterness and frustration, "Not only did I fail, but even the treasure marked with the Epoch Seal that I obtained through great hardship was also snatched away by that damned pair...I..."

The old daoist could no longer continue. It was clear that the memories of the past had wounded him too deeply, leaving behind hatred etched into his bones and soul.

Ling Xuanzi sighed, "So, you're even more pitiful than me. Your woman was taken, and your reputation ruined. You went to take revenge and got suppressed instead. Even your treasure was seized. Tragic...truly tragic!"

By the end, his lips twitched, unable to contain a smile. His shoulders began to shake, and he looked like he was doing everything he could not to burst out laughing.

"Sigh... You're still young. You simply don't understand. The cruelest thing in this world isn't losing your pride or your love, it's living on while all those you hated are long gone...What revenge? What release of hatred? What cleansing of shame? It's all meaningless now!"

The old daoist's voice was dull and stifling.

At that moment, Ling Xuanzi couldn't hold back anymore. He erupted into laughter, "Hahaha! Hahahaha..."

His laugh was incredibly sharp and jarring in this heavy atmosphere.

From the depths of the well came a furious roar, "Fellow Daoist, are you mocking me?"

"No, I...I just couldn't hold it in. I mean, you said it yourself...this green hat can never come off.[1] It's just too tragic...Hahaha..."

As he spoke, Ling Xuanzi burst out laughing again. His grin stretched all the way to his ears. In the end, he was clutching his stomach and pounding the ground with his fist, laughing so hard like a lunatic that tears even welled in his eyes.

Only then did the old daoist realize he had been played. His fury boiled over. “You little bastard! You dare to humiliate me like this? When I get out, I’ll grind you to dust!”

The deepest scar in his heart had been ripped open and cruelly mocked. It was like a sharp blade stabbing into his chest, driving him mad with rage.

The ancient well began to tremble violently as a terrifying and murderous aura erupted from its depths.

Buzz~~

Beside it, the Taiyi Sword vibrated with a sharp clang, unleashing countless sword qi that slashed down toward the bottom of the well. However, even its powers couldn’t suppress the violent shaking of the well.

Ling Xuanzi stopped laughing and his expression shifted into one of burning anticipation as he murmured, “If I hadn’t provoked you like this, how else would you be willing to come out at any cost? But you, old fellow...are indeed pitiful.”

In the end, Ling Xuanzi couldn’t help but grin again. He waited, but despite the furious shaking of the well, the old daoist still didn’t emerge. Ling Xuanzi couldn’t help but frown.

“Old Green, are you even capable?” Ling Xuanzi shouted, “Come on, show me your true strength! Break out and destroy me!”

“Old Green!”

Hearing this deeply humiliating name, the old daoist in the ancient well was so furious that he nearly coughed up blood. He roared toward the heavens, "You bastard, I swear, if I don't kill you in this life, I'm not human!"

Ling Xuanzi burst into laughter again. "You said the exact same thing back then. You swore to kill the one who put that green hat on your head, but in the end, you lost both your woman and your army. In my opinion, you're better off staying sealed here. At least that way you won't embarrass yourself in front of the world. Imagine it, when people find out that the mighty demon of the last epoch has changed his surname to 'Green'...won't they laugh so hard that their stomachs burst?"

"I'm...going...to...kill...you!"

The old daoist in the well was clearly mad with rage. Each word exploded like thunder from the depths of the well, shaking the forbidden zone to its core. The sound alone would have shattered the minds of ordinary cultivators and torn their souls from their bodies.

However, Ling Xuanzi only laughed harder. "Old Green, don't be like that. Even if you make me die of laughter, you're still stuck in that ancient well. You'll never be able to inherit my dao."

Surprisingly, even under this provocation, the old daoist only roared toward the sky and did not show himself.

It was then that Ling Xuanzi realized this old fellow who had survived the last epoch hadn't accumulated enough power to break the seal yet!

After thinking it over, Ling Xuanzi decided not to stay any longer.

However, before leaving, he raised a finger and traced patterns in the air, inscribing a profound and mysterious array onto the ancient well. Then, he put his hands behind his back, chuckled and strode away.

"Old Green, if fate allows us to meet again, I promise I'll carve you a legendary tombstone that'll make the world remember your name forever! Hahahaha..."

His voice echoed through the heavens, gradually fading into the distance.

After a long silence, a stream of radiant light rose from the depths of the ancient well, condensing into the figure of an old daoist. He stared in the direction Ling Xuanzi had left, his eyes brimming with icy, boundless hatred. "The day I break free, I'll wipe out your entire clan!"

After another long while, he lowered his head and looked at the outer wall of the well. The moment he saw it, it was as if he had been struck by lightning! His entire body trembled uncontrollably, and a thunderous, rage-filled roar erupted from his throat, shaking the heavens and causing the entire Dao Ruins to quake violently.

On the wall of the well, countless intricate dao runes surged and flowed, forming a single dazzling and vivid character: Green.

Chapter 2512 Returning to the City

In the starry void outside the Dao Ruins, Lin Xun's group hadn't waited long before they saw a handsome young man come out from the distant ruins and walk toward them. Treading the void while holding a horsetail duster in one hand, he looked like he was taking a stroll.

Seeing this, Lin Xun secretly heaved a sigh of relief, but at the same time, he couldn't help but be vigilant.

Toward this temperamental and unpredictable Fourth Senior Brother, he was both apprehensive and on guard. In the situation that the other party refused to continue with the terms of their bet, it would definitely cause no end of trouble.

In just several steps, Ling Xuanzi swiftly arrived in front of them, where he looked at Xiang Xiaoyuan and Yue Duqiu with a friendly smile.

"Are you two friends with my junior brother? Very good. I saw how you put yourselves at risk to help him, which I will never forget. This is a small token of my appreciation, I hope you don't mind," Ling Xuanzi said amiably and flipped his palm. A dozen Dao Accumulation Pearls that had come from Ancestor-level evil spirits appeared, which he then presented to Xiang Xiaoyuan and Yue Duqiu.

The two were dumbfounded and didn't know what to do. This unimaginably strong expert had previously killed his way to the area of the Dao Ruins that everyone regarded as a place of utter despair. Now, not only had he returned unharmed, but he had also brought out a bunch of Dao Accumulation Pearls of rare quality!

"Take it." Ling Xuanzi smiled and stuffed the treasures to the duo. Then, he turned his gaze to Lin Xun, rubbed his nose, and sighed, "Junior Brother, do you really have to look at me like I'm a thief?"

Lin Xun pointed to the distance and said expressionlessly, "A private talk?"

Ling Xuanzi agreed straightforwardly, "As it happens, I also have a lot of matters to sort out with you."

The two fellow disciples immediately teleported to a faraway spot. Xiang Xiaoyuan and Yue Duqiu glanced at each other, and were sensible enough not to disturb them.

However, their thoughts couldn't help but wander off.

Has this senior brother of Lin Xun...defeated Evil God Dishen sealed at the bottom of that ancient well?

Why does Lin Xun seem to dislike this unfathomable expert?

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Lin Xun directly asked, "Back in the Return Dominion, you already had the ability to break free from the Dao Endless Pagoda's restraint?"

Ling Xuanzi laughed, "I thought you had known about this long before, Junior Brother."

Lin Xun frowned, "It's a serious matter we're discussing here. I suggest you stop being cheeky and get serious."

The corner of Ling Xuanzi's lips twitched a little. He took a deep breath to suppress his displeasure and nodded seriously, "Alright. That's correct. Actually, I took the initiative to enter the Dao Endless Pagoda, firstly to honor the gamble I proposed, and secondly to take a look at the hidden mechanics in this supreme treasure that Master left behind."

Lin Xun squinted, "So, did you find out anything?"

Ling Xuanzi sighed softly as if lamenting and shook his head, "This treasure is just like our Master, I don't understand it and I cannot figure it out."

"I see." Lin Xun then suddenly asked, "All these years, you've been watching my every move?"

Ling Xuanzi rubbed his forehead, "I expected you'd ask this. My dear junior brother, I'm not a perverted peeping tom. Also, am I really such a terrible guy in your eyes?"

Lin Xun raised his brows, "I'm the one asking questions, not you."

Ling Xuanzi raised his hands with a look of resignation, "Okay, you ask, I answer. After all, who told you...to be my little junior brother?"

There was nothing but helplessness in his voice. His little junior brother clearly still had prejudices against him!

If the other party was someone else, or even when facing that Evil God Dishen in the ancient well, Ling Xuanzi absolutely would not have suppressed his temper like this. Anyone who dared to treat him the way Lin Xun did would have earned a slap.

However, facing Lin Xun... Ling Xuanzi could only endure in patience. Meanwhile, seeing his senior brother acting meek and swallowing his insult, Lin Xun became more and more wary inside.

He continued to question, "Since you are so strong and fearless of being imprisoned by the Dao Endless Pagoda, why did you have no intention to leave? I'm sure you know that I'll hand you over to Second Senior Brother or Master when I meet them, and they'll definitely deal with you."

A dispirited Ling Xuanzi said powerlessly, "I made the bet, so I have to accept defeat. What's more, Zhong Qiu can't kill me even if he wants to, while Master would never kill me."

What he meant was very clear. He had no fear of his second senior brother Zhong Qiu, and he firmly believed that his master would never kill him.

"Really?" Lin Xun asked.

Ling Xuanzi huffed, "This is the part where I tell the old stories of our Fangchun Mountain in detail, Junior Brother.

"Although I entered the sect later than Eldest Senior Brother, Second Senior Brother, and Third Senior Sister, the only disciple who could make me apprehensive in the entire Fangchun Mountain was Eldest Senior Brother.

"The one who can push me to my wits end is Third Senior Sister.

"The one that I cannot endure the sight of is Second Senior Brother."

Lin Xun was surprised, "And why can you not endure seeing him?"

"Too arrogant." Ling Xuanzi narrowed his eyes as a strong displeasure surfaced on his handsome face. "I, Ling Xuanzi, who was praised by Master as the most talented in all of history, am not even as conceited as him. All in all, whenever I see him, I just want to beat him up."

Lin Xun was speechless. This was really a baffling and weird reason. He then asked, "Why did Third Senior Sister put you at your wits end?"

There was a bitter smile in Ling Xuanzi's eyes, "You can ask Third Senior Sister when you see her and hear it from her. In short, she's a person who, no matter what she does, you can never have the idea of hating her."

Lin Xun sank into a long silence before he said, "Fourth Senior Brother, let me ask you one last time, was it really just you honoring the terms of the bet?"

Ling Xuanzi gazed at him for a good while, then suddenly scoffed at himself, "Junior Brother, let me ask you something. If I were to break my promise, would you...be able to stop me?"

Lin Xun shook his head.

With a bright smile, Ling Xuanzi wrapped his arm around Lin Xun's shoulders. "Let me put it this way, I may be the worst among demons, but I will not harm the members of Fangchun Mountain. That is my bottom line and also the reason why Master had only imprisoned me back then. It doesn't matter if you believe me or not, you'll understand one day."

Saying that, he patted Lin Xun's shoulder. Lin Xun frowned and glanced at the frivolous Ling Xuanzi, "If you lie to me, I won't ever call you Fourth Senior Brother again."

The latter stiffened, then wailed, "Junior Brother, for you, I almost threw my life away fighting that whiny old bastard. Can't there be more trust between us fellow disciples?"

Mentioning this, he himself burst out laughing in amusement, "You have no idea, that old bastard is actually the unluckiest thing alive. Not only was he forced to wear a green hat, but he also got imprisoned for countless years, hahaha! I almost couldn't bear beating him up..."

He hugged his belly as he couldn't stop laughing, "Well, when I was leaving, I left him a special character, and now I think he probably won't ever be able to forget me. But that's fine, how could I let him off easy after he offended us of Fangchun Mountain?"

Lin Xun had an odd look on his face as he was tongue tied by this revelation.

This was Evil God Dishen they were talking about. How could such an unimaginably terrifying existence be reduced to a miserable green-hat wearer in the mouth of Fourth Senior Brother?

“Ahhh, let’s not talk about him. But you need to pay attention, Junior Brother. Considering the old bastard’s cultivation, he will probably only take a few more years to break free. At that time, the first person he will be looking for is you,” Ling Xuanzi stopped laughing. “On another note, you can relax. As long as the situation does not involve Fangchun Mountain’s honor, I won’t come out to bother you again, unless...”

“Unless what?” asked Lin Xun.

“Unless you beg me to help.” Ling Xuanzi blinked, his face full of smiles.

“Do you think that’ll ever happen?” jeered Lin Xun.

When confronting Evil God Dishen, he had never thought of using Ling Xuanzi’s power even in the moment he had almost fallen to danger.

It wasn’t that he was stubborn. Instead, this idea of asking his senior brother for help hadn’t even come to his mind at all. Moreover, he was already prepared to use Time Stopping to kill a way out at that time.

Ling Xuanzi was unconcerned by Lin Xun’s response. He smiled broadly, “Your pride and courage deeply move me, Junior Brother, so I’ll just have to switch to another method.”

“What method?” asked Lin Xun.

“I’ll just beg you to let me help!” Ling Xuanzi laughed out loud. Turning into a streak of light, he disappeared into the Dao Endless Pagoda.

Lin Xun was stunned. A long time later, he let out a light sigh and whispered in his heart. I hope it’s really as you said, that you’re only honoring the terms of the gamble.

He then looked in the distance. The turmoil in the Dao Ruins had quieted at some point. Even the aura of those evil spirits was nowhere to be sensed. Compared to before, it appeared much colder.

“Looks like that Evil God Dishen ate a big loss at the hands of Fourth Senior Brother and had to lie low again.” Lin Xun shook his head and went back to Xiang Xiaoyuan and Yue Duqiu.

The matters in the Dao Ruins were no longer relevant to him. The most urgent thing to do now was return to Taiyi City.

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Taiyi City was cheerless, and the atmosphere was incredibly tense. These days, many cultivators had left the city in a hurry due to the fear that the scourge in the Dao Ruins would spread to this place.

As the participants of the trial returned to the city after a blood bath to kill their way out, they also brought back news that made people feel even more alarmed and heavy.

Especially today, the ruckus in the Dao Ruins was so overwhelming that blood light erupted and spread all over the universe above. The sound of screaming and roaring was like thunder from the nine heavens.

Even those in Taiyi City could feel that terrifying aura of destruction from so far away. Everyone felt as though the sky was about to collapse.

However, to their surprise, the bloody turbulence didn't flood out from the Dao Ruins. On the contrary, it gradually fell silent!

At the same time, more and more trialists had returned alive afterward. The sudden change took everyone aback.

Even City Lord Bai Jianchen, who had long been prepared for battle, had never expected it. The scourge that was clearly so close to erupting would actually fizzle out like that.

It started out with a bang and ended with a whimper, was how everyone felt about the whole thing. Did something unexpected happen that caused this? Bai Jianchen just couldn't guess as to why it happened this way.

Of course, the absence of a calamity was naturally a heavenly good thing for the entire Taiyi City!

“What? Lin Xun held back the vast majority of the evil spirits all by himself so that those trialists had a chance to return with their lives?”

When the news spread that Lin Xun had fallen into a heavy siege in the Dao Ruins, the whole city was thrown into shock. Many found it unbelievable.

“Where is he now?” There were also countless people who were concerned about his safety.

Chapter 2513 Banquet

A tremor ran through Taiyi City as all sorts of discussions arose.

In a restaurant a Great Emperor who had participated in the trial lamented, “I think Lin Xun has lost his life in the Dao Ruins. You don't know how overwhelming the situation was, sky-blotting evil spirits were rushing toward him and him alone like crazy...”

“It can't be helped. We were unable to fend for ourselves at the time, let alone coming to his rescue.”

“Speaking of which, us survivors should all be grateful to Lin Xun. If it hadn't been for him attracting the vast majority of the enemies by himself, very few trialists could have made it back from the Dao Ruins!”

Similar talk resounded in different parts of Taiyi City. Since Lin Xun hadn't returned in a long time, everyone thought that this supreme Great Emperor, whose notoriety had once shaken Taiyi City, had fallen in the Dao Ruins.

This made people sigh with emotions.

However, this was the Great Thousand Battle Domain. The number of dazzling Great Emperors who were buried here in eons could not be counted. In the end, they turned into a pile of bones and vanished into the river of ages.

Perhaps many years later, they would be gradually forgotten.

“If you ask me, Lin Xun wouldn’t be able to live for long if he returns anyway. Don’t forget that he has thoroughly offended the Immortal Imperial Wen, Heng, and Luo Clans.” In the city, a man who was dressed luxuriously sneered, “Who, in all history, ever has a good ending after they go up against Immortal Imperial Clans?”

“What the f*ck did you say?” Peng Tianxiang was furious after he heard that from a distance, pointing and cursing at the man. Next to him, Dugu Youran was gazing at the sky in a daze.

The well-dressed man slightly faltered, but he still stubbornly stuck his neck out, “I’m just telling the truth. No matter how angry you are, Fellow Daoist, it can’t change the fact that Lin Xun has fallen.”

Dugu Youran suddenly said, “The trialists from the Wen, Heng, and Luo Clans, I haven’t seen any of them return alive.”

Peng Tianxiang was stunned, “That indeed seems to be the case.”

The well-dressed man, on the other hand, laughed out loud, “With the power of these three Immortal Imperial Clans, it is absolutely impossible for them to fall.”

As he was speaking, there was a sudden cry of alarm nearby. From beyond the sky, three rainbows were streaking toward them with eye-catching brilliance. The one at the head of the group was clearly someone that no one had expected.

“Lin Xun!?” The well-dressed man’s jaw dropped at once. His expression belonged to someone who was seeing ghosts in broad daylight.

“Brother Lin!” shouted Peng Tianxiang excitedly, his eyes glowing with heartfelt delight.

Dugu Youran’s lips curled up as she secretly heaved a sigh of relief. As I thought, this fellow...cannot die so easily.

“It really is him!”

“Didn’t they say he was surrounded by an army of evil spirits? Don’t tell me he killed his way out?!”

The area boiled as many people opened their eyes wide.

At this moment, countless people in the entire Taiyi City had also noticed this, and without exception, they were all stunned. He actually survived under such a desperate situation?

Specifically, the trialists who had personally seen Lin Xun being besieged felt like they were witnessing a miracle at the moment. It simply felt surreal.

Swish!

Lin Xun swiftly landed among the people.

The well-dressed man blurted out, “How could you possibly still be alive?”

Before Lin Xun could speak, Yue Duqiu said coldly with a frown, “You couldn’t wait for all of us to die in the Dao Ruins, did you?”

The man quickly shook his head and smiled awkwardly, “I... I was just so surprised that I said the wrong thing. Please don’t misunderstand.”

Xiang Xiaoyuan asked, “You’re from the Wen Clan?”

“Eh...” the well-dressed man instantly looked uncomfortable.

Peng Tianxiang also understood and laughed coldly, “So you are. No wonder you talked so unpleasantly just now!”

The well-dressed man's manner became even more awkward. He hurriedly turned, intending to leave the scene.

Lin Xun suddenly and good-naturedly advised him, "You don't have to wait. Before I returned, I saw with my own eyes the experts of the Wen, Heng, and Luo Clans get annihilated."

Boom!

The whole area was thrown into a commotion as the news frightened countless people. Trialists who were weaker than those from the three great Immortal Imperial Clans had escaped with their lives, while they were wiped out?

"There is no way!" the well-dressed man's face drastically changed.

"It's up to you whether to believe it or not," commented Lin Xun who then paid no more heed to this man. He walked toward Dugu Youran, "Thank you for your reminder earlier, Miss."

Dugu Youran was taken aback, simply never expecting to receive words of gratitude from Lin Xun.

She wondered if he had been stimulated by something that made him abnormal in the head because otherwise, how could he...thank her?

Too strange! Completely unlike his character!

After holding her tongue for half a day, she grunted, "Who told you to be my benefactor? How would I return the favor if you die, right?"

Lin Xun was dumbfounded. This woman was still thinking about repaying him? Didn't this mean that this trouble magnet would keep popping up around him in the future?

He hurriedly said, "Please don't! We're already even after this, so you don't need to return anything."

Dugu Youran burst out laughing as the normal Lin Xun in her impression had returned. She raised a brow and smiled teasingly, "We are only even if I say so. Otherwise, people will deem me an ungrateful brat and speak ill of me behind my back, which I cannot agree to."

Lin Xun's head started to ache.

Peng Tianxiang, on the other hand, laughed heartily, "Brother Lin, Youran is only saying all this because she considers you a friend. Now that you have come back safe and sound, it's undoubtedly a joyous event. Let's go, we'll have a big celebration, I'll be the host."

"Right, these two friends as well, please come along." He enthusiastically extended an invitation to Xiang Xiaoyuan and Yue Duqiu.

"Good." Lin Xun was quick to agree. He needed to loosen up after such a ferocious battle.

"Aren't I invited?" asked Dugu Youran.

Peng Tianxiang gave a start. Then, he revealed the brightest ever seen on his face and said lovingly, "Youran, how could I possibly forget you?"

When Lin Xun saw this, he suddenly no longer wanted to go...

Even after they left, the well-dressed man still stood there with a lost look, waiting like a man who had turned to stone hoping for his wife to return.

However, the curtain of night dropped without any trace of the trialists from the Immortal Imperial Wen, Heng, and Luo Clans. It hit him with the despairing realization that what Lin Xun had said was most likely true!

In fact, on this very day, the news of Lin Xun's return as well as the annihilation of the three Immortal Imperial Clans' experts swept through Taiyi City like a storm.

“Lin Xun’s coming back alive is already a miracle, but on top of that, none of the cultivators of the three great Immortal Imperial Clans has returned. Why does this feel...so surreal?” Many hearts were in turmoil.

The three teams belonging to the three great Immortal Imperial Clans consisted purely of supreme Great Emperors and were presided by several Ancestors of a Path.

Such lineups were considered top-tier among all the trialists, but despite that, none of those powerful experts survived!

Someone speculated, “Maybe Lin Xun had a hand in this? After all, there is deep enmity between them.”

However, this idea was quickly refuted. Someone snorted, “Are you kidding? Lin Xun was trapped deep in a heavy siege. It’s already inconceivable that he made it back. Where would he have the ability to hunt and wipe out the people of the three Immortal Imperial Clans? What nonsense!

“With such a wild imagination, why didn’t you say that Lin Xun smoothed out the scourge in the Dao Ruins and resolved the crisis facing Taiyi City? Use your brains before making accusations!”

If Xiang Xiaoyuan and Yue Duqiu heard this, they would have given a thumbs up and praised this person’s wisdom.

Because while the person who had dealt with the scourge in the Dao Ruins wasn’t Lin Xun, he was inextricably linked to him.

It could even be said that without Lin Xun, the chaos that would sweep through Taiyi City would have been avoidable!

While the city was in an uproar, a restaurant was beautifully lit and filled with pleasant instrumental music.

It was a banquet. On the table in front of Lin Xun, Xiang Xiaoyuan, Yue Duqiu, Dugu Youran, and Peng Tianxiang were precious brews and a wide variety of dishes, all of which were the restaurant's top-notch delicacies.

Even for cultivators with abundant cosmic origin crystals, it was difficult to be able to enjoy these delicacies as many of the ingredients were in limited supply.

Even noble figures from Immortal Imperial Clans like Peng Tianxiang needed to make reservations in advance.

However, with the presence of Dugu Youran, all of this was no longer a problem.

The restaurant even offered a divine brew that they had treasured for many years. It was said to be a superb product preserved from the previous epoch, obtained by chance from a forbidden cave by a trialist who had entered the Dao Ruins a long time ago.

This banquet was an eye-opener for Lin Xun. There were no such ingredients on the Ancient Nebula Road, let alone having the chance to taste them.

Wine cups touched raucously. Everyone had a great time eating and chatting.

Only Dugu Youran seemed a little distracted. When the banquet was approaching its end, she suddenly raised her cup and looked at Lin Xun with a smile, "I'd like to propose a toast to Great Benefactor Lin."

Without waiting for him to agree, she threw her head back and poured all the wine down her throat. Lin Xun was stunned for a moment before he also raised his cup and drained it.

Seeing this, Dugu Youran laughed so happily that her eyes became two crescent moons. She then poured herself another cup and said to the crowd, "This one is a toast to everyone."

By now, even Peng Tianxiang noticed that something was amiss. He couldn't help asking, "Youran, is there something on your mind?"

Right at this moment, an invisible pressure suddenly surged in like a bitter wind, dispersing the lively atmosphere of the banquet.

Everybody stiffened in unison. At some point, a tall, handsome man in refined clothing had appeared in the hall. With the might of a dragon and the elegance of a phoenix, his dashingness was unmatched!

Accompanying his presence, a terrifying pressure spread out, elevating him up like a god from the heavens. He became the only light in this spacious hall.

Peng Tianxiang stopped breathing for a moment. His fingers trembled, and the cup in his hand almost fell out.

Xiang Xiaoyuan and Yue Duqiu both uncontrollably displayed deep apprehension. Their expressions carried shock and doubt.

Even Lin Xun's pupils slightly constricted. This person is extremely dangerous!

Meanwhile, Dugu Youran, revealed an imperceptible trace of helplessness.

Chapter 2514 Yun Muzhe

The atmosphere of the hall quieted down, the music had also stopped at some point, all due to the sudden arrival of the refinedly-dressed man.

He was indeed extraordinary: tranquil eyes, peerless elegance, and his every movement was in tune with the almighty dao. It gave people the feeling of impeccability, that he was the embodiment of the dao itself.

“My apology for interrupting your celebration.” The man appeared peaceful, cupping his fist and bowing slightly as soon as he arrived. His expression was apologetic and without a shred of overbearingness.

However, anyone here could see the absolute pride and confidence underneath his modest attitude.

Peng Tianxiang seemed to recognize the other party as he jumped to his feet. There was a rare nervous look on his face as he said with caution and awe, "It's...it's nothing at all, Dao Brother."

He actually lost control of his emotions!

The refined man smiled faintly, "I recognize you, you are the young genius of the Peng Clan's main branch."

Peng Tianxiang, overwhelmed by the praise, asked in surprise, "You know who I am?"

It was as if being known by the refined man was something to be proud of.

At this point, everyone could tell that the refined man's identity was not simple. Peng Tianxiang was from an Immortal Imperial Clan, but he displayed not a hint of his usual loftiness in front of this man.

"Couldn't you at least wait for me to properly finish this feast?" Dugu Youran interrupted before the refined man could answer Peng Tianxian, her voice dripping with frost.

"I have no choice, Youran, the situation is urgent," the refined man smiled wryly. "The patriarch has ordered that he sees you within ten days, or I will be called to account. The old man's temper...no one knows better than you."

Dugu Youran was so exasperated that her brows touched one another, "What exactly is it that he must call me back?"

The refined man sighed, "That, I really don't know."

"He isn't planning to matchmake me with someone again, is he?" Dugu Youran seemed frustrated. She stood up and said, "Fine, let's go back. Worst case scenario, I'll just sneak out again."

The refined man made no comment on this, but his lips twitched imperceptibly.

When Dugu Youran passed by Lin Xun on the way out the door, she sneakily winked at him with a crafty look in her eyes and transmitted in a way that only he could hear, "Brother Lin, I can only find the chance to repay you after you come to the Eternal True Realm now. The next time we meet, don't be too surprised by what you see."

Her voice still lingered when she already disappeared outside the hall.

The refined man was about to leave as well when he seemed to remember and stopped in his tracks. He turned to Lin Xun. "I suppose this is Fellow Daoist Lin Xun?"

The latter nodded, "That's me."

The refined man smiled, "I've heard about some of your deeds, and I like your character. Should you encounter any trouble in the future, you can report my name, as I do have some influence in the Great Thousand Battle Domain."

His words were modest, but between the lines was absolute conceit. Lin Xun was stunned and couldn't help but smile, "I appreciate it."

"Are we going or not?" Dugu Youran's impatient voice rang outside the hall.

"Coming." The refined man laughed heartily and marched out while he said, "My name is Yun Muzhe, don't forget."

Even after he left, his voice still resounded.

"What unique elegance. He's really out here to steal hearts," lamented Yue Duqiu.

Although Yun Muzhe's appearance was brief, his might and style put people to shame. He was undoubtedly an extremely powerful existence.

“That’s because he is Yun Muzhe, the number one legend of the Emperor path in the Eternal True Realm, one of the ten supreme Emperor Ancestors of the Seventh Heaven Domain! He has only cultivated for only seventy-six hundred years, but his strength is so domineering that it forces countless old monsters to admit inferiority!”

As Peng Tianxiang muttered this, his eyes were radiating fervor as well as admiration that came from the bottom of his heart.

“Do you know? If a supreme Emperor Ancestor like him were to visit my Peng Clan, my grandfather, who has been in seclusion forever, would be the first to come out and personally welcome him!”

Those few words caused Yue Duqiu to gasp, shaking him to the core.

While he had long guessed that Yun Muzhe was extraordinary, he hadn’t expected the halo on the other party to be so dazzling!

Xiang Xiaoyuan obviously had heard some rumors about this person as she exclaimed, “So he’s one of the ten supreme Emperor Ancestors of the Seventh Heaven Domain! It’s no wonder. Though his speech and demeanor are humble and polite, there’s an imposing and invincible air about everything he does...”

Lin Xun suddenly asked, “Are there very few supreme Emperor Ancestors in the Eternal True Realm?”

Peng Tianxiang didn’t miss a beat, “Few! Very few! Less than one such legend might emerge from ten thousand supreme Emperors.

“I heard that on the supreme path to the Ancestor Stage, there exists only one chance to certify one’s dao: fail and there will never be another one again. The average supreme Great Emperors cannot even grasp it, while those who are strong enough to do so will undergo an unpredictable tribulation!

“This tribulation is regarded as the ultimate dao tribulation, and in the history of the Eternal True Realm, countless heaven-defying geniuses have perished under it!

“Yun Muzhe, as someone who has crossed the ultimate dao tribulation, is no different from a deity in the eyes of all the beings in the Eternal True Realm.”

Lin Xun finally understood. He always knew it was extremely difficult to become a supreme Emperor Ancestor, but he hadn't thought that such characters were few and far between even in the Eternal True Realm.

Yue Duqiu was curious, “From what you just said, it sounds like there are no supreme Emperor Ancestors in the first six Heaven Domains.”

“There are,” said Peng Tianxiang, “But whenever one appears, the major immortal powers in the Eighth Heaven Domain will appear right away and take them to the Eighth Heaven Domain to cultivate.”

Yue Duqiu was visibly stirred. From the fact that even immortal giants from the Eighth Heaven Domain all vied for such characters, one could imagine how special the realm of Supreme Emperor Ancestor was.

Peng Tianxiang sighed, “Alas, at the end of the day, the first six Heaven Domains cannot compare to the Seventh Heaven Domain, let alone the lofty Eighth Heaven Domain. It all comes down to the difference in cultivation resources.

“In the Seventh Heaven Domain, obtaining a Heaven Rank law is already enough to benefit an Immortal Imperial Clan endlessly. At least, their members won't have to worry about condensing immortal law power after they transcend from the Ancestor Stage onto the immortal path.

“The Eighth Heaven Domain takes it another step further as it can produce ninth grade Heaven Rank laws!

“In comparison, even Earth Rank laws are already uncommon in the first six Heaven Domains, not to mention Heaven Rank ones. Some Immortal Imperial Clans there tend to engage in bloody conflicts over a certain law.”

Peng Tianxiang sighed and lamented between sentences, while Xiang Xiaoyuan and Yue Duqiu were unable to calm their hearts as they listened.

Lin Xun, on the other hand, was contemplating his own matter.

He had more than a few law powers under his belt, such as the Phoenix Flame of Order, the nirvana law power and the netherworld law power that it revived, as well as the immortal dao laws from the last epoch... Furthermore, there was also Wushuang, the law spirit that had survived from the last epoch.

So, according to Peng Tianxiang, I'm...richer than many Immortal Imperial Clans in the first six Heaven Domains in terms of the number of law powers I have?

"Brother Peng, if you don't mind me asking, what is the relationship between Yun Muzhe and Miss Youran?" asked Yue Duqiu.

"They probably count as cousins. As far as I know, Youran's mother comes from the Yun Clan where Yun Muzhe is." A flash of gloom surfaced in Peng Tianxiang's eyes. How great would it be if they were just pure cousins?

The banquet ended quickly afterward. Lin Xun didn't have much feelings about what had happened. Deep down, he couldn't wait for Dugu Youran to be taken away so that he could be spared from trouble.

In fact, if Yun Muzhe had been an arrogant and ferocious fellow, then there would already have been a huge trouble during this banquet.

"What are your next plans, Brother Lin?" Xiang Xiaoyuan and Yue Duqiu asked as they were parting.

"Continue onward, naturally," replied Lin Xun with a smile.

The scourge in the Dao Ruins seemed to have been quelled, but in reality, it could erupt any time in the future as long as that Evil God Dishen was alive. Therefore, it wasn't safe for him to linger in Taiyi City.

"Why don't we go together?" Yue Duqiu extended an invitation to Lin Xun.

“Yeah, we also plan to leave soon.” Xiang Xiaoyuan turned to him with a hopeful look.

This time, Lin Xun refused. It wasn't that he didn't want to, but that he didn't want to subject them to his issues again.

After all, the Luo Clan had long been informed of his appearance in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, and they definitely weren't willing to leave him alone on his future journey. At the same time, the Wen and Heng Clans were also worth being wary of.

“I would love to, but there are reasons I must refuse. I hope you two can understand,” Lin Xun apologized.

Although Xiang Xiaoyuan and Yue Duqiu were disappointed by his response, they vaguely guessed these reasons and couldn't help but sigh in their hearts.

“Then please take care of yourself, Brother Lin. Who knows, maybe we'll run into each other again in some of the next Immortal Heavenly Passes,” Xiang Xiaoyuan smiled.

“That's right. As long as you know that our thoughts will be with you!” Yue Duqiu nodded.

“Hey, aren't you guys going to ask me about my plans?” Peng Tianxiang couldn't help but insert himself into the conversation, “I plan to return to the Eternal True Realm immediately and strive for an opportunity to go to the Seventh Heaven Domain to train, so that I can see with Youran again...”

He revealed a longing, hopeful look toward the end of his speech.

Lin Xun gasped, this guy still wouldn't give up after experiencing so many hardships. Such love, such sincerity...was simply soul-stirring!

He couldn't find it in him to rain on the other party's parade, so he patted Peng Tianxiang's shoulder and encouraged, “Do your best, but within your ability.”

The latter's eyes were firm, "I will!"

As Lin Xun and the others bid farewell in the inky night, before an ancient teleportation array in the City Lord's Residence, Bai Jianchen smilingly cupped his fist, "I won't keep the pair of you. I wish you a safe journey."

Inside the array, Dugu Youran mumbled helplessly, "I'd rather have some twists and turns along the way, Uncle Bai."

Bai Jianchen was speechless. How could he not see that Dugu Youran didn't want to be brought home like this?

"Even if there are twists and turns, there won't be any delays with me here," said Yun Muzhe next to her with a big, handsome smile.

Dugu Youran rolled her eyes.

Bai Jianchen and Yun Muzhe looked at each other and laughed. The next second, the teleportation array emitted a strange rumble.

At the same time, Yun Muzhe's voice was transmitted to Bai Jianchen's ears, "Uncle Bai, I don't want to see that man called Lin Xun appearing in the Eternal True Realm. I hope that you can help me realize this small matter, and I will compensate you generously in the future."

The smile on Bai Jianchen's face stalled. He was about to say something when Yun Muzhe and the faint smile on his face vanished from the array together with Dugu Youran.

Chapter 2515 The Truth According to Luo Ling

In the deep dark night, Bai Jianchen stood with his hands on his back, frowning in silence. His snow-white hair fluttering behind him in the wind, while his handsome youthful face flickered dimly.

He knew Yun Muzhe's details better than anyone else and was well aware of how terrifying a supreme figure he was.

The other party might act humble and courteous in front of him, treating himself as an elder, but Bai Jianchen knew that in Yun Muzhe's eyes, he was no different from anyone else. The younger man did not hold him in high regard and treat him with sincerity.

Heaven was without compassion as it saw everything as expendable. This saying meant that Heaven was neither humane nor inhumane, it merely viewed and treated everything in the same way.

Such was, in Bai Jianchen's opinion, Yun Muzhe's mindset; because he was strong enough to think like that. In the eyes of supreme Emperor Ancestors, there was no difference between tiny ants and powerful Emperors.

Therefore, hearing such a request from Yun Muzhe right before his departure, which was uttered so suddenly and seemingly casually, Bai Jianchen was caught off guard, astonished even.

Just what on earth would incite the hostility of a figure like him toward a young man from the Ancient Nebula Road?

Bai Jianchen couldn't guess the reason, but he was certain that it was not Dugu Youran. With Yun Muzhe's character, there was no way that he would have killing intent out of jealousy or competition over a woman.

If one looked at Yun Muzhe in this manner, then they would be severely underestimating such a legendary supreme Emperor Ancestor. Moreover, he was Dugu Youran's cousin, and the two had been cultivating together since they were little.

If he had revealed the slightest romantic affection toward her, then the Dugu Clan would have been most happy to see them become a couple instead of racking their brains to arrange one blind date after another for her like they had been doing.

It was no exaggeration to say that one had to have a brain fart if they thought Yun Muzhe was someone who was obsessed with women.

Therefore...what could possibly be the cause of his killing intent?

After a long silence, Bai Jianchen sighed softly. A flash of determination surfaced in his eyes.

.....

Bidding farewell to Xiang Xiaoyuan and the others, Lin Xun returned to the inn. He took no break before he summoned the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron and released Luo Ling, who had been imprisoned in it.

Previously, in the Dao Ruins, he had killed all the experts from the three great Immortal Imperial Clans but had captured Luo Ling alive in order to pry out information about the Luo Clan!

Her aura was feeble as she lay on the ground, her tall and slender figure making a delicate curve.

Lin Xun had to admit that her appearance was extremely outstanding. With healthy, ivory skin and a clear, elegant beauty, it was not surprising Wen Shaoheng would fall in love with her.

Lin Xun leisurely sat down on a chair. "Since you're awake, let's talk."

Luo Ling lifted her head. There was nothing but indifference in her bright eyes as she said, "You think you can make me bow down because you captured me?"

Lin Xun smiled and pointed to the chair next to him, "Sit, and then we talk."

Luo Ling was silent for a moment before she struggled up from the ground and took the seat. Her face was pale and her breathing was weak, but her every movement was composed.

"I know there is a Spirit Locking Seal on your spirit, so soul searches will be futile," said Lin Xun casually as he looked at her.

"Since that's the case, why are you still spouting nonsense?" asked Luo Ling coldly.

"That does not mean I can't destroy you, though," said Lin Xun. "That's why I was able to kill Wen Shaoheng. Otherwise, why do you think the Wen Clan loathes me so much?"

Luo Ling was stunned, then she sneered, "Then why don't you do it and see if I'm scared of death?"

Lin Xun laughed, "I only want to talk about some trivial stuff, so you don't have to be so on edge. In fact, I know full well that while I'm in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, the Luo Clan will keep sending more experts to deal with me. However, this only means more and more opportunities for me to find out information I want."

He paused briefly, his eyes unfathomable, "After all, other people of the Luo Clan may not all be as fearless of death as you are."

At his remark, Luo Ling's expression faltered slightly, "What do you want to know?"

The smile on Lin Xun's face faded. He went quiet for a moment before he said, "Let's talk about the grudge between my mother and your clan."

Luo Ling was surprised, "You don't know?"

Lin Xun said, "I have only guessed some of it."

A hint of ridicule flashed through Luo Ling's beautiful face, "You actually have no idea why your mother betrayed her clan, huh? Interesting."

"Interesting?" Lin Xun's eyes instantly became chilling and deep as an abyss.

Luo Ling found herself suffocating, and the snide remark that had just reached her tongue suddenly couldn't be uttered.

Knocking on the table, Lin Xun blandly said, "I only want you to talk, not piss me off, so don't do that again. Your life may be precious to the Luo Clan, but to me, you're nothing more than a helpless prey to be slaughtered."

Luo Ling's face clouded over as an indescribable sense of humiliation welled up in her.

Only after a long time did she take a deep breath and say, "Whether you accept it or not, the current Luo Clan sees your mother, Luo Qingxun, as a traitor. A long time ago, she stole the Omega Secret-Realm left for us by the Omega Lord and fled from the Eternal True Realm under the protection of her elder brother, Luo Xingyan."

Deep anger flooded her expression as she continued, "Losing the Omega Secret-Realm means losing our core treasure, a pillar to us. It was from then on that the Luo Clan went on a decline, and in the years to follow, we have been subjected to countless humiliation."

Her words exuded immense hatred, "Before this happened, our clan was a towering hegemony in the Seventh Heaven Domain who wielded a ninth grade Heaven Rank law. Who dared to be disrespectful to us then?

"But now? Not only were we expelled from the Seventh Heaven Domain, but our position in the Sixth Heaven Domain has also become embarrassing!"

Reaching this point, her eyes were filled with bone-deep hatred as she stared deeply at Lin Xun and stressed every word, "All of this is thanks to your mother!"

Lin Xun looked unperturbed. One's stance depended on where one sat, so Luo Ling's narrative was naturally in favor of the Luo Clan.

He asked, "Then do you know why my mother took the Omega Secret-Realm?"

Luo Ling frowned, "Why even ask about something so simple? It was to usurp the clan head! Because the Omega Lord made a rule that whoever takes control of the Omega Secret-Realm will be the next leader."

“Oh?” Lin Xun’s gaze was cold, “However, the Omega Secret-Realm fell into my mother's hands, so why didn't she become the matriarch but instead...a traitor?”

Luo Ling said angrily, “Because she is a thief, she stole the treasure! How could such a thief be qualified for the position of clan head?”

Lin Xun asked expressionlessly, “You saw her do it with your own eyes?”

Luo Ling was stumped, but she then laughed derisively, “Our elders personally went through that time themselves, and it has long become the consensus of everyone in the Luo Clan, so how could it possibly be wrong?”

Lin Xun repeated, “I only want to ask you, did you see it with your own eyes?”

Luo Ling's expression was gloomy and uncertain for a long time before she finally replied, “I didn't see it with my own eyes, but the history told by the clan elders cannot be wrong.”

Lin Xun couldn't help but snort out a laugh, “Clan elders? Yeah right. If they united and lied to cover up the truth, then how do you know if what you are told is true?”

Luo Ling also revealed a sneer full of ridicule, “I'm not going to argue with you, because the traitor is your mother, so of course you can't accept the fact that she's a traitor. But what you can't deny is that she stole the Omega Secret-Realm! And it is this loss that puts us in a state of decline and humiliation these countless years!”

Saying that, she exhaled deeply, “Also, no need to try to argue anymore. I’ve already said everything there is, so if you want to kill me, go ahead.”

Her face was calm and resolute.

Lin Xun stared at her for a moment and asked, “Nowadays, everyone in the Luo Clan thinks like you?”

Luo Ling didn't hesitate, "That's right!"

Lin Xun fell silent. No more words were spoken for a long time.

His abnormal behavior suddenly gave Luo Ling an idea. She said, "If you find this hard to accept and wish to atone for your mother's sin, I can ask the clan to give you a chance. As long as you hand over the Omega Secret-Realm and return to the Luo Clan with me, it already counts as redemption."

"Redemption?" Lin Xun laughed, but there was not a shred of warmth in his eyes, only utter frost. "The moment I was born, the Luo Clan destroyed everything I could have had. You probably aren't clear about it, but a long time ago, I have already sentenced the Luo Clan to death!"

When he was just born, his Origin Aeth Artery was dug out, and his parents disappeared in a bizarre way. He was then raised by Mister Lu in a difficult situation, only for Yanxing to appear out of nowhere and destroy that mine prison, along with which Mister Lu went missing...

Growing up, many of the fatal tribulations on his cultivation path were thanks to the Luo Clan! Whether it was the Nameless Esteemed Emperor, Heavenly Emperor Shi, Luo Xingfeng, or Luo Chen... There were just too many!

The hatred had long been seared into Lin Xun's bones!

Luo Ling smiled coldly, "You only have your mother to blame. She grew bitter fruits, and your misfortune is one of them."

Lin Xun extended his hand, lifted Luo Ling's chin, looked into her eyes, and said seriously, "On the day I destroy the Luo Clan, I will also tell you that I, Lin Xun, is not who you should blame, but your Luo Clan is. That they grew this bitter fruit, and the misfortune that befalls you is called a well-deserved punishment."

Luo Ling's sneer remained the same, "Destroying the Luo Clan? With just you? You probably don't even understand what it means to be an Immortal Imperial Clan. No matter how much we have fallen, we're simply not something that you, a bumpkin from the Ancient Nebula Road, can shake!"

Buzz~

In Lin Xun's palm, a jade slip emitted a rain of light as it recorded what was happening.

“What are you doing?” Luo Ling frowned.

Lin Xun put away the jade slip and grinned, revealing two rows of neat, white teeth, “When the Luo Clan is destroyed, I will make you hear what you said today again as celebration.”

Looking at the calm and smiling Lin Xun, a chill inexplicably and uncontrollably crept up Luo Ling's heart.

Chapter 2516 Innate Talent's Third Stage

After calming down, Luo Ling's mind cleared up and she recalled many things.

Nowadays, Lin Xun was already a seventh realm supreme Great Emperor. In the Dao Ruins, he had even relied solely on his strength to wipe out the Emperor Ancestors from the Luo, Wen, and Heng Clans in succession!

Moreover, he carried in him the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer innate talent while was also in charge of the Omega Secret-Realm. Therefore, if he really could live to enter the Eternal True Realm...

Then he would definitely be a potential danger that the Luo Clan could not ignore, if not an immediate threat!

Furthermore, considering his current heritage and cultivation, as long as he didn't fall prematurely, his future achievements were destined to be incomparably terrifying!

The more Luo Ling thought about it, the heavier her heart became. She looked at Lin Xun and was about to say something when she saw him open his mouth. He said, “In order to fulfill my declaration when that day comes, I won't kill you, so I'll have to lock you up for the time being.”

Bang!

His words still echoed when Luo Ling got knocked unconscious.

With a wave of Lin Xun's hand, the valuables on her were siphoned off one by one, from storage rings to all sorts of treasures... Eventually, Lin Xun's gaze landed on a strange piece of jade.

The object was black with a small blood stain on its surface. Although the stain had long dried, it was still bright red and translucent, emitting a palpating aura.

The moment Lin Xun saw this object, he formed a marvelous connection with it. The aura flowing from this strange jade was actually the same as that of his Origin Aeth Artery!

“Looks like Luo Ling used this to track me...” Lin Xun fiddled with the object.

However, he couldn't find out anything else even after probing it with his spirit sense. This put a frown on his face. After some thought, he activated the power of his Origin Aeth Artery.

Immediately, the black jade buzzed. The blood stain seemed to come to life, turning into strands of blood that spread along the jade's veins. The scarlet lines gradually began to show signs of cracking, and finally...

Crack!

The black jade burst to pieces. A vast, blinding radiance with an obscure energy of time surged into Lin Xun's heart veins before he could react.

Boom!

Something seemed to explode in his head, introducing grand and mind-boggling scenes of battle.

In the starry sky, a glamorous portal opened up. In it stood a majestic figure bathed in divine golden flames, and by merely extending a hand, that figure pushed back a person who attempted to enter the portal.

The person who was pushed back was the Omega Lord, Luo Tongtian!

“Die!” Luo Tongtian erupted with boundless devouring power. Time torrents spread from him, causing the starry sky to distort, collapse, and shatter...

Time turbulence splashed and churned like a raging river. It accompanied Luo Tongtian, rushing murderously toward the glamorous portal.

Involving the law of time, that force was so powerful that it seemed capable of shoving everything into the destructive cycle of reincarnation!

However, Luo Tongtian’s opponent was even more terrifying. Wreathed in blazing golden flames, they tightly blocked the portal from within, their every move filled with supreme might.

Rumble~

The clash between the two reduced the starry sky into nothingness, leaving only the radiant portal.

Outside the portal was the Omega Lord. Inside the portal was the golden figure.

Exchanging blows, they used law powers that were completely beyond Lin Xun's imagination. He found them simply incomprehensible because they concerned immortality and time!

A long time later, Luo Tongtian was ridden with injuries, but he finally blew up the golden figure blocking the portal. There was now only a sky of dancing golden sparks.

“Neither can this Eternity Door stop my conquest!” The heavily injured Luo Tongtian roared with laughter.

However, he had just set one foot inside the glamorous portal when a dao bell covered in a vast area of chaos abruptly appeared.

Dong!

The bell sounded. The scene playing in Lin Xun's mind exploded along with this sound as it seemed incapable of withstanding the latter's boundless power.

Lin Xun's mind almost collapsed in the process. His spirit hurt so much he couldn't help but wince. That was merely a scene projected from a mark, yet it was filled with such a horrifying force. One could only imagine how inconceivable the power of that dao bell was!

When Lin Xun calmed down, another scene surfaced in his mind.

In the endless void, Luo Tongtian was dripping with blood, his figure blurry, as if he had suffered a critical blow. The glamorous portal was nowhere to be found.

However, not far away from Luo Tongtian, one figure was appearing after another. Each of them had the aura of an immortal overlord, reflecting worlds and overlooking an universe.

Lin Xun couldn't make out their details because those figures were too bright. They resembled gods from the nine heavens whose appearances could not be even glimpsed at.

"Heh, here to take advantage of my misfortune, aren't you? You useless things are unable to reach eternity yourselves, so you stoop to hindering others from doing that. Utterly shameless!" Luo Tongtian's laugh reverberated, his voice dripping with undisguised contempt and sarcasm.

"Fellow Daoist Luo, we will leave if you just tell us the principle of the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent and hand over the Omega Secret-Realm," one of the figures spoke indifferently like a heavenly lord announcing an order.

The others all directed their gazes to Luo Tongtian.

Luo Tongtian burst out laughing, "So this is the character of the immortal giants in the Eighth Heaven Domain? Even if I die, I will never let you lot stain this kind of power!"

He swiftly transformed into a massive abyss that stretched across the void and blanketed all of those immortal figures.

Boom!

The next second, the massive abyss crumbled to bits, sending the endless void into disarray. The scene also vanished from Lin Xun's mind, leaving him rooted to the spot in shock.

"Is that the fall of the Omega Lord...?" His mind tumbled.

That glamorous portal and that figure bathed in golden flames, Lin Xun had seen both of them a long time ago. They were in the scene that greeted him when he had first opened the Omega Secret-Realm in Feiyun Village.

In that scene, the Omega Lord had swung his fist at the skies and broken open the galaxis door, then engaged in a battle with a Star Road Divine General. Ultimately, he had failed to achieve victory.

Meanwhile, in the scene just now, the Omega Lord clearly opened the galaxis door again and killed that Star Road Divine General in golden divine flames.

However, he had just stepped into the galaxis door when that dao bell enveloped in chaos qi knocked him back and heavily wounded him! Then, a murderous ambush struck down, seeking to rob his innate talent and treasure.

When Lin Xun recalled that scene, chills ran down his spine. Those immortal overlords were simply too strong to be imagined!

From what the Omega Lord had said, those figures came from big immortal organizations in the Eighth Heaven Domain!

“So, the galaxis door is actually called the Eternity Door, and the disappearance of the Omega Lord is related to both that mysterious bell in that door and immortal giants of the Eighth Heaven Domain...”

Lin Xun now had a vague understanding of the events that had happened.

Hmm?

He quickly noticed the addition of a mysterious power in his Origin Aeth Artery that covered the power of restriction.

At the same time, a sense of enlightenment hit his mind.

“Blade of Time!”

This mysterious power was actually a taboo magical power that could reverse time and sever cultivation!

Lin Xun couldn't help but recall the fight between Luo Tongtian and Wei Mingzi in the Dao Ruins. The former's punch had sent Wei Mingzi back to his teenage years along with his dao!

The power of that punch was so incredible that it turned back time and deprived him of his cultivation.

Now, when obtaining this 'Blade of Time' talent, Lin Xun realized that Luo Tongtian's punch was probably imbued with this kind of power!

At the same time, he also noticed that this divine ability was sealed in a way that the current him could not touch.

According to the aura he perceived from it, he understood right away that in order to break the seal and obtain his heritage ability, he needed to awaken the third stage of the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer.

“Turns out this ability is linked to the third stage of my innate talent...” lamented Lin Xun even though he had calmed down.

Luo Ling probably had no idea that she had just delivered a grand fortune concerning the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer to him by mistake...

The strange black jade had vanished, but Lin Xun knew for certain that the Blade of Time ability was already in his possession. He would be able to use it right away once he awakened the third stage of his innate talent!

“There’s one thing though, Blade of Time belongs to the Omega Lord; it’s a skill that he realized himself. When my innate talent awakens to the third phrase, I should also be able to develop my own skill...

“Doesn’t this mean I’ll be able to master another divine skill related to time apart from Blade of Time?”

The thought of this gave him a strong sense of anticipation.

Time Stopping was already more than heaven-defying, so how powerful would Blade of Time be? And what kind of brand new ability would he awaken?

Huh? Lin Xun’s pupils suddenly shrunk. A deadly aura filled the entire room in an instant like a sudden flood.

He stormed forth, his entirety exploding with power, while the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron had emerged even before that.

CLANG!

There was a deafening collision as an overwhelming force crashed into the sword cauldron. The latter rumbled as it shook violently and was almost sent flying.

As for Lin Xun, he only felt his qi and blood churning. His whole body was experiencing a pain so severe that he let out a grunt. Despite that, he reacted extremely quickly, dodging before anything else.

However, the attack was intense, horrifying, and seemingly omnipresent. No matter how he evaded, he could not get rid of it.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Shocking collisions constantly resounded. The enemy was clearly a storm of bizarre sword qi that appeared from thin air. Under their bombardment from all directions, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron buzzed nonstop, and sparks flew.

Lin Xun appeared to be in quite a state of disorder and peril. Due to being caught off guard, he would be quickly suppressed by the dense sword qi whenever he tried to regain balance. His situation was dreadfully passive.

If it wasn't for the sword cauldron, he probably wouldn't be able to withstand this rain of stabbing sword qi that came out of nowhere and was vicious to the extreme!

Chapter 2517 Erasing a Threat

Boom!

The restrictive power covering the room shattered immediately, shooting light sparks in all directions. Immediately following that, the entire inn exploded. Eye-piercing sword qi erupted like a storm of rainbows in the ink-dark night, incomparably terrifying as they were splendid!

Terrified screams rang out in the vicinity as many frightened cultivators ran away, creating a chaotic scene. However, the commotion was soon overpowered by a series of earth-shattering collisions.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Struck by a gale of sword qi, the sword cauldron that was wreathed in billions of dao light rumbled continuously. The destructive energy they created swept through heaven and earth, so powerful that it caused the void to crumble.

At this time, Lin Xun who had been in a passive state finally gained balance. His eyes were profound as icy glints swam in them. His handsome figure was enveloped in vaporizing radiance and hazy dao light. His entirety seemed to have turned into a huge abyss that spanned across the world!

Above his head, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron rotated and boiled like a frantic furnace as it suppressed, crushed, and wore out the sword qi one by one.

Clang!

A sword suddenly flew out from inside the sword cauldron and chopped at a far place. It was a teahouse in the neighborhood, which had suffered an impact when the battle first broke out and collapsed. The guests inside had all escaped in fear.

Chopping at it, the Limitless Abyss Sword tore out a huge crack in the rubble. The boundless sword energy radiated so much pressure that the void around burst nonstop.

At the same time, a muffled grunt rang out. A slender silhouette that was as light as smoke and as faint as an illusion emerged. It flickered many times before it finally escaped the sword energy's assault and stood firmly in the air.

Looking closely, it was clearly a woman shrouded in black light. Her face was plain and ordinary, and her aura couldn't be more normal. Even if she was seen clearly by people, she wouldn't leave any impression on them at all.

Frost!

In the distance, Lin Xun's eyes grew colder and colder as he figured out the other party's identity.

It was indeed a huge surprise that this supreme Emperor assassin from Empty Hidden World would strike at this time. What was even more terrifying was her assassination method.

She was much more powerful than Assassin Crane, appearing without a sound and performing an extremely horrifying way of killing in a sudden manner. Her terror knew no bounds.

Lin Xun asked himself what would happen if he didn't have the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, and the answer was that he would have been gravely injured as soon as the assassination attempt broke out!

In fact, even Emperor Ancestors like Heng Tianshuo and Wen Taolue wouldn't have been able to block it!

"Finally got you..." Without any delay, Lin Xun controlled the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron to suppress the distant Frost.

Kaboom!

This side of heaven and earth was instantly covered in terrifying dao light and steaming haze as Lin Xun went all out right from his first attack!

He could no longer tolerate this latent threat around him. If she lived, he'd probably have to be on constant guard in his future journey. While it wouldn't be to the point he'd have trouble living normally, still, he found it extremely repulsive.

Frost's expression was calm, but the look in her eyes was grave.

She waved her hand and drew out a black sword that moved like a whip. The flexible blade swept up a torrent of sword qi, sharp and ferocious to the extreme.

However, the sword qi was crushed to bits in the blink of an eye, unable to hinder Lin Xun's attack in the slightest.

Frost sighed in her heart.

The key of assassination was the element of surprise. It was to be unrivaled in secrecy in order to give the target the deadliest blow without them realizing it. It was like the sudden descent of eternal night, engulfing the light of day so fast that people couldn't guard against it.

Once exposed, it was the same as losing its greatest power.

As a supreme Emperor assassin, Frost was naturally well versed in the way of killing, and was even more aware that after she was exposed, she had already lost her strongest means. In a frontal confrontation, she was destined to fall into a passive and unfavorable situation.

Swish!

Frost seemed to be a decisive character as she chose to flee at the first opportunity. The escape arts that an assassin of her caliber had mastered was also the best in the world. If she was bent on running, then even an Ancestor of a Path could not stop her!

"The next time we meet, I will take your life!" Frustration washed through her as she fled.

This was the first time she had missed since she had become an assassin. It dealt quite a blow to her who had always been confident.

She had locked on Lin Xun as early as when he left from the third Immortal Heavenly Pass. After tracking all the way and trekking for two long years, she had finally managed to find the opportunity to assassinate him in this ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass.

Who would have thought...that an assassination attempt that had taken so much time and effort had failed?! Nothing upset and annoyed her more than this.

Huh?

Frost's heart trembled as she suddenly sensed a deadly danger.

Because in this same moment, Lin Xun cast Time Stopping. By the time Frost reacted, a matchless sword qi had appeared in her pupils and kept getting bigger until it filled them out.

I'm dead!

The second this thought arose in Frost's mind, she was cleaved in half by the Limitless Abyss Dao Sword. In the splash of blood was her primordial spirit that had been ground to dust. The monstrous sword qi flooded the area she was in, producing deafening rumbles.

The countless alert cultivators who had been watching from a distance away were shaken by this scene. They all froze, trembling in both body and soul.

What a terrifying sword might!

Lin Xun stood in the void, his heart was without a ripple as his deep black eyes reflected the scene of Frost being killed.

From the fact that he had to resort to Time Stopping to keep the other party, one could see how difficult Frost was to deal with. Even Emperor Ancestors such as Heng Tianshuo, Wen Taolue, and Luo Shentu were no match for her in terms of trickiness.

However, Lin Xun deemed this use of Time Stopping to be worth it!

It was easy to dodge a spear thrust in the open, but hard to guard against an arrow shot from ambush. Since ancient times, the scariest people were probably assassins that'd kill out of the blue.

"Who dares commit murder in the city?!" a cold shout suddenly resounded. It came from a big group of City Lord's Residence guards who were rushing over like a black torrent.

Lin Xun frowned. He scanned the surroundings to find that it was no longer possible for him to hide or run.

“Lin Xun?”

“It's this person again!”

“This guy is simply a moving disaster...”

Recognizing Lin Xun right away, those guards made grim expressions and furrowed brows. At the same time, apprehension and gravity crossed their faces.

The other day, forces of the three Immortal Imperial Clans of Wen, Heng, and Luo had gathered in Taiyi City to deal with Lin Xun. It subsequently set off a bloody killing spree that had stirred an uproar.

Lin Xun had displayed a heaven-defying battle prowess at the time, shaking the entire city. Not only did the blood of the three great Imperial Clans' experts he killed form a river, he had also rendered their leaders, three Ancestors of a Path, helpless.

Therefore, when the guards found that it was Lin Xun who had been fighting in the city today, how could they not be afraid?

He was a name on the Mythic Rankings of the Battle Stele of the Domains.

He was a heaven-defying menace who dominated Wen Taolue, an Ancestor of a Path, in a head-on fight while only being at the seventh realm of the Emperor Stage.

He was a legend who had miraculously survived a heavy siege in the Dao Ruins.

When this series of halos gathered in one person, who would dare to underestimate him in the slightest, even if he was from a dilapidated plane like the Ancient Nebula Road?

The atmosphere was solemn. Armed, armored, and emitting intimidating auras, the ocean of City Lord's Residence guards had already locked off this area.

Farther away, many cultivators were clicking tongues and smacking lips as they waited to see what would happen next. Yes, they had also recognized Lin Xun. While astonished, they couldn't help but feel that this menace...was too capable of causing trouble!

This was only the first day that he had just returned from the Dao Ruins, yet he made such a big ruckus again. He simply had no respect for the City Lord's Residence.

"Lin Xun, last time it was our city lord who intervened and resolved a calamity for you. But look at this, you aren't thankful at all and even took a mile. Don't you think you are...too lawless?" said the guard commander heavily, his eyes gleaming icily.

"An assassin from Empty Hidden World attacked me, I was merely passively defending myself." Lin Xun's expression was flat.

Empty Hidden World!

These three words seemed to cast a spell as they shook all the guards present. As their faces slightly changed, there was already a hubbub of exclamations in the distance.

Empty Hidden World was the most mysterious assassin organization in the Eternal True Realm with a very ancient heritage. All these boundless years, no target of theirs had ever survived!

Even Immortal Imperial Clans were generally unwilling to mess with Empty Hidden World. They treated it like a scourge, a savage beast who they didn't want to so much as touch.

"From what I know, there are never any survivors after an assassin of Empty Hidden World strikes. Are you certain what you said is true?" The guard commander wore a dim, uncertain expression.

Lin Xun sneered, "As luck would have it, I have fought with two assassins of Empty Hidden World from the time I entered the Great Thousand Battle Domain until now. The previous one was called Crane, while the one just now was called Frost. If you don't believe me, go investigate and see if these two will ever appear again in the future."

His words caused a sensation in the area. Everyone revealed astounded expressions of disbelief.

Crane! Frost!

If the mere sound of the former's name could strike fear into Great Emperors below the ninth realm, then that of the latter was enough to daunt even Ancestors of a Path!

Now, however, it was implied that both of them had died at the hands of Lin Xun alone. The meaning behind this was appalling.

"Frost actually failed..." gasped the guard commander, his eyes glazing over. When he looked at Lin Xun again, the apprehension in his manner had heightened.

After a moment of silence, he said to Lin Xun, "We will investigate this matter thoroughly, but before that, please follow us to the City Lord's Residence. Once we have collected enough evidence to prove that you aren't the initiator, you'll regain your freedom."

These words were impeccable, showing that he was both doing his due diligence and giving Lin Xun respect.

From this, it was apparent that he was also extremely apprehensive of Lin Xun. If it were any other cultivator, he probably wouldn't say a word and instead would directly swarm up and restrain the target.

Lin Xun frowned, "I plan to leave Taiyi City tomorrow, so I don't have much time to wait for you guys to gather evidence."

The guard commander's face grew unsightly, "Lin Xun, I advise you not to make things difficult for us, or none of us will like the consequences."

If Lin Xun insisted on going against them, then there would be only one option left: to use force!

Chapter 2518 Seeing Bai Jianchen Again

Tension permeated the atmosphere. Waves of killing intent quietly filled the region.

Even though the guards' expressions were heavy and apprehensive, none of them retreated.

After all, starting from the moment they became the guards of the City Lord's Residence, their destiny was out of their control.

Lin Xun's expression was the same as before, without any emotional fluctuations. He refused to concede because only hell knew what he would face once he entered the City Lord's Residence.

Just as Lin Xun was about to say something, an indifferent voice rang out, "The person who died just now was indeed Empty Hidden World's Frost."

Accompanying the voice, Bai Jianchen, who looked like a handsome white-haired youth, arrived from the distance.

"Greetings, City Lord!" The guards were all relieved. Facing Lin Xun had put immense pressure on them, so Bai Jianchen's appearance gave them confidence.

"All of you step back. I'll talk to him alone." Bai Jianchen turned his gaze toward Lin Xun.

The guards immediately withdrew.

Bai Jianchen asked, "Let's find a place and have a drink?"

Lin Xun thought about it and nodded.

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In a pub, Lin Xun and Bai Jianchen sat opposite each other across a table, on which were a pot of old wine and two snacks.

Bai Jianchen personally filled a cup for Lin Xun before asking, "You're leaving tomorrow?"

Lin Xun replied, "It is time to leave, or else I'm scared I'll become a scourge hated by everyone in the City Lord's Residence."

Bai Jianchen couldn't hold back a laugh. He raised his cup and clinked it with Lin Xun's, then threw his head back and drained the wine.

Savoring the flavor on his tongue, he said, "Every Immortal Heavenly Pass operates under rules, but those who are bound by the rules are generally non-threatening characters, while those who can cross the rules are almost always people of important backgrounds. For instance, when an expert from an Immortal Imperial Clan commits murder in the city, even the city lord will turn a blind eye to it."

Lin Xun raised a brow, a little unclear about what Bai Jianchen was getting at.

"I just want to tell you that while you aren't from an Immortal Imperial Clan in the Eternal True Realm, I can turn a blind eye to what you did just the same." Bai Jianchen laughed, "Of course, Youran is part of the reason, but more importantly, I'm not absolutely certain that I can keep you in Taiyi City."

This was tantamount to announcing his recognition of Lin Xun's battle prowess!

Lin Xun said, "You flatter me, Senior."

Bai Jianchen smiled, "I believe in my judgment. On this note, I might as well be blunt that Frost only dared to make a move in the city because she had my tacit approval."

Lin Xun's pupils shrank. He started to examine Bai Jianchen closely.

The latter appeared calm and nonchalant as he continued, "Frost had already planned to attack as early as the other day during your intense battle with Wen Taolue's bunch. I was the one who had stepped in and stopped her, or else the assassination attempt would have happened much earlier."

Lin Xun frowned, "What about tonight?"

Bai Jianchen laughed, "Getting rid of a threat right here in Taiyi City should be a good thing for you, no?"

Lin Xun said, "But what if I lost and died?"

Bai Jianchen finished another cup of wine before answering casually, "If you did, then it'd be just as great; I could report a mission complete to a certain person."

Lin Xun became more and more puzzled. He raised his brows, "There is someone else beside Frost who wants to deal with me? And only when I die will you be able to report that the task is done?"

Bai Jianchen nodded, his eyes gleaming with a complicated look, "Correct."

Lin Xun asked, "So to speak, you want to deal with me as well?" Neither joy nor anger could be spotted in his demeanor. Or rather, not a shred of emotion was shown.

Bai Jianchen chuckled, "Taiyi City is my territory. If I want to kill you, then I could have mobilized all the forces of the City Lord's Residence and laid down a dragnet around you at the same time that Frost attacked. Would you be able to escape under those circumstances? You may have some trump cards up your sleeves, but do you think that I, Bai Jianchen, don't have some as well?"

Lin Xun fell silent for a moment before he replied, "But in my opinion, Senior, even if you exhaust everything in your arsenal, you still won't be able to detain me... Not even if you use some trump cards that I don't know about."

Bai Jianchen was stunned, seemingly taken aback by Lin Xun's answer. He stared at the latter for a long while before revealing a bitter smile, "That's why I didn't do it, as you could see. The reason is what I stated just now: I wasn't absolutely certain."

Lin Xun sighed, "All in all, you gave up on trying to kill me simply because you were unsure you'd succeed, right?"

Bai Jianchen said, "Mhm. Though I knew that this would raise your rejection and hostility, I didn't want to hide the truth from you."

With that, he drank another cup of wine and lamented, "There is no goodwill without a reason. As a city lord, I am willing to be here discussing these things with you for only two reasons.

"One, I can see that Youran regards you as a good friend – whether there's love in it, I cannot speculate – but just from this point alone, I don't want to make things difficult for you. Otherwise, I wouldn't have interfered in your battle with the three great Immortal Imperial Clans a few days ago.

"Two, you carry too many secrets that prevent me from figuring you out, but that's not important. I just know that the power you have is probably much stronger than I imagined. As long as you live, you will definitely achieve great things in the future. The cons of having you as an enemy outweigh the pros, so I'd rather be honest with you about everything. Even if it causes you to spurn me, at least...you won't hold a grudge against me."

Bai Jianchen said clearly and frankly. Hearing the whole story from him, Lin Xun had to admit that he didn't have the heart to fall out with Bai Jianchen anymore.

He asked, "Then can you tell me, who is it that wants to kill me? Who is it that even you can't refuse?"

Bai Jianchen let out a long sigh and raised his cup, "Drink first."

Lin Xun didn't pursue the matter. He raised his cup and drank with the other party.

After the whole pot of wine was finished, Bai Jianchen suddenly asked, "Who do you think, in this Taiyi City, can make me feel compelled to deal with you?"

Lin Xun said casually, "Certainly someone that you can't afford to offend."

Bai Jianchen smiled and got up, "It's getting late, I should go. Should one day you live to appear in the Seventh Heaven Domain, let me invite you to another drink."

He turned to leave.

That was when Lin Xun seemed to have guessed something and asked, “Yun Muzhe?”

Bai Jianchen stopped in his tracks and burst out laughing. Instead of giving a direct answer, he went around it, “In this world, there is no goodwill without a reason, same goes for ill intention. There must be a reason behind this, but I cannot guess and am also too lazy to. If you have the chance, then...ask the person yourself.”

He left straight after that. His snow-white hair fluttered in the dark night.

“Senior, it won't be long before Evil God Dishen in the Dao Ruins breaks free. You should be careful.” Lin Xun got up and watched the other party leave.

Bai Jianchen waved his hand without looking back to show that he understood.

Only after he was out of sight did Lin Xun sit back in his chair. He ordered another pot of wine and started drinking to himself.

Slowly processing Bai Jianchen's words just now, Lin Xun's expression flickered. He only knew after this conversation that there was such a treacherous truth hidden behind Frost's assassination attempt!

“Is it really him?...” Lin Xun thought back to the scene when Yun Muzhe appeared at the banquet.

He carefully recalled the latter's every move, but was unable to see where exactly he had offended this dazzling supreme Emperor Ancestor of the Seventh Heaven Domain.

“I've heard about some of your deeds, and I like your character. Should you encounter any trouble in the future, you can report my name, as I do have some influence in the Great Thousand Battle Domain.”

“My name is Yun Muzhe, don't forget.”

The image of that figure in refined clothing and his voice who had the might of a dragon and the elegance of a phoenix was still vivid in Lin Xun's mind.

To think that that graceful and courteous man had most likely harbored killing intent toward him very early on.

"In this world, there is no ill intention without a reason. There must be more behind this..." Lin Xun remembered what Bai Jianchen had said before leaving and fell into thought.

A long time later, he drained the remaining wine in the pot and left the pub.

"Green Sparrow, compile all the information you have on Yun Muzhe for me, the more detailed the better." In the night, Lin Xun walked down the streets of the city with his hands on his back.

"How do you know that I know this person?" The green sparrow was surprised.

"He's one of the ten supreme Emperor Ancestors of the Seventh Heaven Domain. It'd be strange if you knew nothing about him." Lin Xun laughed as he walked into a store. He had a great harvest in the Dao Ruins, and he wanted to sell all the treasures that he had no use for.

"Alright," the bird agreed.

When the long night finally passed, Taiyi City ushered in a brand new day.

After Lin Xun woke up in the inn, he immediately went to the City Lord's Residence to hand in the amount of Emperor-level evil spirits' Dao Accumulation Pearls needed to pass the trial.

The guards of the City Lord's Residence had complicated looks on their faces when they saw Lin Xun. Their eyes were filled with apprehension and even awe.

Last night, after City Lord Bai Jianchen's confirmation, it had finally hit them that the legendary assassin, Frost of Empty Hidden World, had died at Lin Xun's hands.

As a result, they didn't dare to show the slightest negligence in front of him. Very quickly, Lin Xun received a token to open a teleportation array and left straight away.

The Emperor path was difficult. His journey in the Great Thousand Battle Domain was destined to be a long one.

Taiyi City was merely a pass on this journey. On the next road, he would face countless dangers and challenges. However, Lin Xun was fearless as he set off on this day.

"This menace has finally left..." The soldiers guarding the teleportation array heaved a sigh of relief after seeing his figure disappear.

At the same time, their eyes were flooded with sentiment.

To think that young man from the Ancient Nebula Road was able to make such a big name for himself. If there was a day that he really arrived at the Eternal True Realm, what kind of dazzling light would he bloom with?

"Lin Xun, ah, Lin Xun, those people from the Wen, Heng, and Luo Clans never returned from the Dao Ruins. They were exterminated by you, weren't they...?"

"And the scourge that was snuffed out in the Dao Ruins, did it also have something to do with you?"

"Regardless, I look forward to the day you arrive at the Eternal True Realm, should there be that day..." muttered Bai Jianchen in the City Lord's Residence, his snow-white hair dancing in the wind.

Chapter 2519 Eighteen Years Later, In Front Of Chaotian City

In the second year after Lin Xun left Taiyi City...

In the Dao Ruins, a scourge left from the previous epoch completely erupted.

The Taiyi Sword next to the ancient well crumbled inch by inch. Its wail resounded through the universe, stirring the stars.

From inside the well, a huge, disheveled figure covered in black shackles of law power crawled out. The second it emerged, its might swept across the entire ancient ruins. Countless evil spirits, corpses, blood...were turned into a flood of power that got swallowed up by that huge figure.

In the end, the Dao Ruins that could be compared to a big world cracked before it collapsed into dust and disappeared from existence.

On this day, Evil God Dishen made a loud return after endless years in imprisonment!

On the same day, the ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass was plunged into a bloody turmoil. Its whole universe was dyed red as the number of stars that exploded could not be counted.

No one had expected Evil God Dishen's momentum to be so vigorous right after he broke free. Every time he lifted his hand, stars were burned and the heavens were crushed. This was a catastrophe that put all beings into misery.

Some speculated that this evil god, who had been sealed back in the last epoch, had transcended the Ancestor Stage. No one knew exactly how powerful he was.

Taiyi City was in jeopardy.

Even though Bai Jianchen had activated the protective power covering the entire city, he was only able to keep it up for less than two hours before Evil God Dishen smashed all the barriers with a slap.

The huge Taiyi City was completely exposed in a defenseless state!

Seeing that the ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass was about to be struck down, a group of fearsome figures from the Eternal True Realm arrived. Together, they battled Evil God Dishen above the stars.

They were reinforcements that Bai Jianchen had invited beforehand. He had been making these preparations since as early as a year ago when Lin Xun and the other trialists returned from the ruins.

From this day onward, sand and stones flew, gloomy winds roared, and the color of blood filled the sky. The battle above the heavens was intense, sending blood-stained star fragments falling down from time to time.

This situation lasted for three whole years with no outsiders being able to get close to the battle zone. An Emperor Ancestor, in an attempt to collect the blood of the evil god, rashly barged into the periphery, only to be reduced to ashes in a matter of moments.

It was because this battle had gone far beyond the level of the Ancestor Stage. It was a grand match of the ages on the immortal path that even Bai Jianchen was not qualified to be a part of.

During those three years, blood flowed into a river and colored the universe red. Taiyi City was torn apart, becoming many floating ruins in the void.

The immortal figures suffered great losses in this battle, with five of them falling one after the other. Their corpses and blood scattered, piercing holes in the starfield.

Immortal-grade weapons and unimaginable treasures exploded in violent collisions, dragging down that starry sky with them...

Three years!

The outcome of this horrifying battle was not published. According to hearsay, Evil God Dishen was cut up into a dozen pieces, sealed, and taken away by the immortal figures.

There were also rumors that the old evil god didn't fall, but only suffered a heavy blow, and his true form had quickly fled at the last moment and started lying low again.

The only thing for certain was that Taiyi City had been destroyed. This ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass had completely disappeared from the Great Thousand Battle Domain.

The three years of struggle had broken off the path from the eighth to the ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass, leaving only a dilapidated and desolate trail.

When the news of the matter spread, it threw the entire Great Thousand Battle Domain into an uproar. Upon hearing about it, Lin Xun's heart tumbled.

Taiyi City was destroyed, the state of Evil God Dishen was unknown, and the ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass was turned into dust of the past... How many beings had suffered and perished in this scourge?

After only a brief moment of feeling sentimental, Lin Xun resumed on his trek to the Eternal True Realm.

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Time flowed by, year by year.

Lin Xun walked alone among the vastness of the Great Thousand Battle Domain, breaking through one treacherous battlefield after another, entering one Immortal Heavenly Pass after another...

He passed through seas of blood and climbed through mountains of corpses. Accompanied by bloody storms and honed between life and death, he became a supreme sword whose peerless brilliance and sharpness were well hidden in its scabbard.

During that time he had ushered in a realm tribulation outside the eighteenth Immortal Heavenly Pass that triggered wildly abnormal phenomena.

After seven days and seven nights fighting it, he had ultimately stepped into the eighth realm of the Emperor Stage, Fusing with the Dao, in one fell swoop!

Fusing with the Dao, the fusion of one's various daos into oneself.

If the five thousand plus types of laws in his mastery were compared to bright, precious pearls, then Fusing with the Dao would be making his cultivation a string that strung these pearls together into a perfect necklace.

After this important breakthrough, Lin Xun spent a year to completely solidify this realm through bloodshed and killing.

Over these years, he had been in a constant state of fighting. In the process, he became an unrivaled menace in the mouths of many people due to the overwhelming amount of opponents he had killed.

Nowadays, as soon as he appeared with the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron suspended above him, he would be recognized right away without having to announce his name, and his enemies would flee in fright.

Above the gate of every Immortal Heavenly Pass he had gone through, there was a wanted notice of him at the highest spot, taking first place whether in the ranking or the reward!

The original first rank, Cang Fusheng, had become second...

Due to the commotion this matter caused, Lin Xun had to cover his tracks and change his identity every time he entered an Immortal Heavenly Pass. Otherwise, he would be faced with the full force of the respective City Lord's Residence.

There were also some self-proclaimed powerful experts who attempted to kill him to write their legend. Without exception, they all ended up in failure.

This only served to heighten Lin Xun's reputation. His opponents' blood forged his undefeated record. If it wasn't for the fact that immortal characters very rarely appeared in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, then someone would probably have hunted and killed him long ago.

Despite Lin Xun's invincible feat, he also encountered many perils. They weren't human-made, but instead were bizarre and unsettling natural calamities along his rush through some incredibly treacherous battlefields. Almost all of them were related to things left from the previous epoch.

Many times, he had to resort to Time Stopping and the extinguishing law fire to defuse the danger!

Corresponding to this, however, every experience became a rare refinement ritual that strengthened not only his cultivation but also his mentality. Moreover, he had also harvested many fortunes and treasures along the way. His wealth had long been incalculable.

In the ninth year after Lin Xun left Taiyi City, he was traversing a cold universe. From time to time, he would run into corpses that floated in the starfield whose blood had long dried up.

After so many years of honing, the corpses under his feet were now countless while their blood paved his road forward. His entire aura had precipitated like it had been hammered thousands of times.

When he was still, he resembled a resting abyss, unfathomable.

When he moved, he was like an overlord descending the world, demonstrating a sharpness that penetrated the nine heavens and ten earths!

A while ago, he had been ambushed by an Ancestor of a Path. Relying only his own combat strength and the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, he had annihilated the other party!

This was a major turn, and even more so, a grand feat of breaking the heavenly rift.

The realm of an Ancestor of a Path was a heavenly, insurmountable rift that towered over the Emperor Stage.

Now, Lin Xun no longer had to rely on his trump cards to overcome it. It was not merely fighting back, but actually suppressing and killing such a powerful opponent!

If word of this got out, then definitely, all worlds would be shaken and countless old monsters would quiver with fear.

However, for Lin Xun, the improvement had occurred as naturally and smoothly as running water.

After all, he was now at the mid supreme eighth realm of the Emperor Stage. After years of fighting and conquering, his battle prowess had gone through too many metamorphoses to count.

Even the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron had shown miraculous changes over and over again as it was bathed in the blood of Emperors over the years.

“It's been nine years...”

Lin Xun was sitting cross-legged on an ancient star. Winds that carried sand swept by, blowing his hair around. He was in a relaxed state. Drinking from a wine gourd, he enjoyed a rare period of peace.

On the path of seeking the dao, what could not be rid of was loneliness and isolation. Over these years, he walked alone, fought alone, resisted all the bloody killing alone, sat alone in silence, and drank alone...

If he seriously counted, a full thirteen years had passed since the moment he set foot in the Great Thousand Battle Domain's Origin City!

The vast majority of these seemingly fleeting years had been taken up by killing and fighting. Other than that, it was only rushing on the road.

“Three cups lead to the great dao, one bowl of wine harmonizes with nature. On every journey, the only thing that cannot be betrayed is fine wine.”

At the end of the long period of leisure, Lin Xun smiled and emptied the gourd. Then, he leaped to his feet, and his solitary figure disappeared into the sandstorm.

He set out once again on this glorious but lonely and dangerous road.

Since time immemorial, countless heroes from the Great Thousand Worlds had competed here in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, but less than one in a thousand had actually made it alive to the Eternal True Realm.

Lin Xun was fearless on his way, fighting all kinds of enemies and seeing all kinds of laws in existence. As he traveled silently by himself, all the flashiness was sieved out and washed off of him, returning him to the most basic state.

When he got tired and weary, he would sit in meditation anywhere in the void, and then get up again and continue forward.

.....

Eighteen years later.

In a universe shrouded in a sacred energy a road built with countless stars stretched like a divine rainbow through the void.

“This road is known as the Thousand Star Road! At its end is the forty-ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass!”

A group of radiant figures appeared, all looking excited when they saw this road that emitted a brilliant starlight.

They were a group of wayfarers who had been wandering through the Great Thousand Battle Domain for many years. Through countless storms and bloodshed, they finally arrived here.

“The Thousand Star Road that leads to Chaotian. We’re finally here, finally grasping the chance to travel to the Eternal True Realm...”

“Years have flown by, and we’ve suffered all there is to suffer. One day, we will surely certify our immortal dao!”

These figures, each emitting a powerful aura, sighed with emotion as they wasted no time stepping onto the Thousand Star Road. Their anticipation and excitement were hard to conceal.

At some point, the Thousand Star Road resonated with bursts of heavenly dao sounds, hitting one's ears as if they were living, conscious scriptures. Like the preaching from ancient gods, they jolted the travelers with enlightenments.

Right ahead was watery fluid starlight, bright and clear, which was accompanied by mysterious and hazy clouds that welcomed one to a holy city.

When seeing the outline of this city, everyone was besotted. It was because this city was called Chaotian. It was the forty-ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass of the Great Thousand Battle Domain, the final checkpoint before the Eternal True Realm!

Chapter 2520 Rising Storm; He Comes Solo

Starlight vaporized under billions of rays of sunlight.

As the final pass, the ancient city at the end of the Thousand Star Road was vast and magnificent in a way that far exceeded any city before it.

It seemed to be made of a single piece of cemented gold, gleaming with a cold luster. Vaguely, crimson halos could be spotted, resembling dots of blood.

According to legend, those dots were the blood of generations of Emperor experts who had fallen during the various wars since ancient times. There might even be blood of immortal characters among them.

Of course, the blood had long dried up and lost all of its essence. Otherwise this city would be shrouded in murderous intent so heavy that made it unapproachable.

The huge city gates were tens of thousands of feet high, capable of accommodating even the members of the Ancient Giant Spirit Clan. Spacious and majestic, they radiated a heart-shaking oppression.

They were a pair of doors forged by Galaxy Sand mixed with immortal matter, which was why they easily inspired awe in people.

This was Chaotian City, a place that countless cultivators had dreamed of visiting for eons!

Rumor had it that Chaotian City was like a port. As long as one arrived here, they had the opportunity to rocket upward and ascend to the Eternal True Realm!

At this moment, many figures had gathered in front of the magnificent city gates. Each of them exuded a powerful aura and extraordinary might. Some displayed peerless elegance, some full of bravado, some like a fairy from Heaven, some like a monarch on a royal patrol...

Every single one of them was so powerful that it caused hearts to tremble.

When the group of figures that were covered in radiance and carrying excitement arrived and saw this scene, they all couldn't help but feel their pupils contract and calm down.

Since the beginning of time, anyone who was able to enter the Great Thousand Battle Domain was definitely a terrifying expert of the Emperor Stage.

More than that, those who were able to trek all the way from the first to the forty-ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass were always the most outstanding among Emperors. They were no-nonsense menaces, less than one of whom could be found among ten thousand!

“Worry not, everyone, Chaotian City is different from other places. Even the worst mass murderers won't be treated with enmity here, much less becoming wanted,” someone casually said in a lowered voice.

There had always existed an iron rule in Chaotian City that prohibited killing and conflicts. Even noble figures from the Eternal True Realm would be suppressed once they violated this rule!

Unlike the other Immortal Heavenly Passes, the law of Chaotian City was not maintained by its City Lord's Residence, but instead a law spirit!

This law spirit was called ‘Haotian,’ and was rumored to come from an Eternal Divine Clan that existed in the Ninth Heaven Domain a long time ago.

Haotian had been presiding over this city for countless moons and was always impartial, showing favor to no one. Anyone who caused trouble in the city would always be heavily punished as quickly as possible!

“Not bad, even enemies with a deep-running blood feud between them would never dare to act out in this city.”

“I heard that a powerful figure from some Immortal Imperial Clan in the Seventh Heaven Domain was killed on the spot by Haotian for committing violence in the city.”

Amidst the murmurs, all of the newly arrived cultivators relaxed.

“Look, Cang Fusheng is here!” a loud voice suddenly rang out near the city gates, causing agitation.

The crowd looked over and immediately saw a man walking leisurely in the distance. He had an unrestrained air around him, dressed in white and wearing his long hair loose. Above his head, a seven-inch, gold-colored bronze coffin was suspended.

At a glance, this person exuded overwhelming arrogance that seemed to declare that the world belonged to him! Many people revealed unusual expressions.

In the past eight thousand years, Cang Fusheng's name had resounded over the Great Thousand Battle Domain. He had at one point topped the wanted list, having countless experts die at his hands.

However, no one had been able to do anything to him so far.

One reason was his extremely terrifying battle prowess at the peak of the supreme eighth realm of the Emperor Stage. The other reason was his hard-to-track whereabouts and the fact that he rarely showed himself in front of people.

Originally, everyone had thought that he had long left the Great Thousand Battle Domain for the Eternal True Realm. Who on earth had expected that he'd appear before Chaotian City today?!

It wasn't until Cang Fusheng disappeared into the city gates that someone laughed, "This fellow is too bold."

"This is Chaotian City after all. Those Immortal Imperial Clans who are hunting him won't dare to act in the city at all, and that's why he's so fearless," someone softly explained.

"Even Cang Fusheng has shown up here after such a long absence. It probably has to do with the Battlefield of the Gods," someone speculated with a strange look in their eyes.

"That's for certain. They've been saying that in at least three months and at most a year, the number one forbidden area, the Ruins of the Gods, will reveal a portal that lets cultivators in, and at that time, the rumored Battlefield of the Gods will also be there!" someone lamented.

Chaotian City had been in a state of flux for a while now, with numerous unique top experts coming here, waiting for the Battlefield of the Gods to appear.

These visitors even included many overlords from the Eternal True Realm who planned to participate in the fight over the fortune therein.

It was worth repeating that for eons now, the Ruins of the Gods had been regarded as the number one forbidden area of the Great Thousand Battle Domain. Those who dared to barge into it without permission had no chance of survival, including immortal characters.

Furthermore, in the rumors, the Ruins of the Gods was home to a supreme secret fortune that belonged to the previous epoch.

The emergence of the Battlefield of the Gods also meant the reveal of this supreme secret fortune!

Therefore, it hadn't been in just the recent period of time but at least over the last ten years or so, all cultivators who arrived at Chaotian City chose to stay behind, forgoing the opportunity to directly go to the Eternal True Realm in order to wait for the Battlefield of the Gods.

Nowadays, Chaotian City had become a scene of hidden dragons and crouching tigers. Any rando on the street was likely to be a deeply hidden menace.

Even some old relics who had lived for who knew how many years threw away their dignity to take part in the competition over this fortune.

“That...that can’t be Blade Bearer, right?” someone suddenly exclaimed in astonishment.

Many people near the city gates looked over and saw a man wearing a bamboo hat. He was obscured by an aura of chaos that made it impossible to see his face. The only thing visible about him was the rusty war blade on his back.

Inexplicable chills ran down everyone’s spine the moment they laid eyes on him. They felt clearly the dangerous aura that poured out from the man with the bamboo hat.

He quickly disappeared, but there were already discussions in the area.

“It’s got to be him, Blade Bearer, the most mysterious person on the wanted list!”

“I didn’t expect that even he would show up...”

“It’s already astounding to imagine how many terrifyingly experts will be there when the Battlefield of the Gods appears.”

The voices of discussions were mixed with emotion.

“What’s strange is that Lin Xun, who is now the number one on the wanted list, hasn’t been seen around here at all so far. It couldn’t be...that he’s fallen, right?” someone suddenly speculated.

Lin Xun!

The atmosphere around the city gates instantly quieted down as the various cultivators here felt their hearts tumbling.

In today's Great Thousand Battle Domain, this name represented the most fascinating and legendary supreme Great Emperor.

He was an absolute menace who raised a commotion whenever he was mentioned!

Regarding the bloody feats that he had single-handedly created, there were simply countless. To this day, no one in the entire Great Thousand Battle Domain hadn't heard of or didn't know of him.

"How could such a terror of a person have fallen?" a person's eyes gleamed suspiciously. "But I heard that recently, someone in the city has declared to take Lin Xun's head as long as he rears his head at the Battlefield of the Gods!"

Another was unimpressed, "Many people have said something along the lines, but isn't that Lin Xun still alive and kicking?"

"No, the person who declared it this time is a supreme Great Emperor from the Seventh Heaven Domain, a leading figure in the younger generations."

"Nan Tianzheng?"

"Yeah, it's him!"

Silence filled the area in a second. Nan Tianzheng had declared with his own mouth that he was going to take Lin Xun's life? People were unable to stay calm after hearing this.

At the moment in Chaotian City, Nan Tianzheng was definitely one of the most dazzling supreme Great Emperors in the Immortal Imperial Clans' camp.

He came from the Nan Clan, an Immortal Imperial Clan that ruled an eighth grade Heaven Rank law. He himself was a peak supreme eighth realm Emperor who carried a heaven-defying bloodline and a horrifyingly deep heritage.

It was said he didn't even consider Emperor Ancestors to be his opponents!

Perhaps it was impossible to judge who was better in a head-on confrontation between him and Lin Xun, but without a doubt, Nan Tianzheng's background and identity were enough to pose a fatal threat to the latter.

"What caused him to say that?" someone couldn't help but ask.

"How do people like us know what those Immortal Imperial Clan nobles think? But..." a thin, scholarly-looking man sneered with a hint of gloating. "Heh, as far as I know, the number of people who want Lin Xun dead is by no means small. After all, who told him to kill like a maniac on his way? Whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad!"

Right at this moment, an emotionless voice rang out from the Thousand Star Road, "You view me as an enemy?"

The question was uttered lightly, but flavor in the words stopped everyone mid-conversation, and they looked over in unison.

There, they saw a handsome man in moon-white clothes. He was closing the distance between them leisurely as if taking a stroll. His long black hair fluttering behind him, he looked indifferent and ethereal. The green wine gourd in his hand added a lazy and unrestrained touch of an idle cloud to his demeanor.

There was not a hint of might or aura around him, but his appearance sent the field into utter silence and caused everyone to stare with wide eyes. Some already couldn't help but reveal apprehension on their faces.

The scholarly-looking man's face also changed. Then, he seemed to suddenly think of something and coldly laughed, "I didn't expect that you, Lin Xun, would live to make it to Chaotian City. Truly disappointing."

The newly-arrived man was none other than Lin Xun.

Since he had left Taiyi City, it had been eighteen years of trekking and fighting before he finally arrived in front of Chaotian City. Moreover, he did nothing to conceal his true identity or appearance.

“We are still outside the city. You aren't scared that I will kill you?” Lin Xun's eyes were deep as he gazed at the scholarly-looking man and took a step forward.

The latter stiffened.

“What do you want?” Like an overly frightened rabbit, the man bolted into the magnificent city gates with a whoosh.

“Why did you run?” Lin Xun laughed teasingly.

A burst of laughter followed around the city gates. The cheeks of the scholarly-looking man immediately turned red. He was so mortified that he just wanted to drill himself into a crack in the ground.