Prodigies 2581

Chapter 2581 The First Heaven Domain

Half a month passed. By now, Lin Xun had thoroughly sorted out the injuries all over his body. Although he was nowhere close to becoming fully healed, he could at least move freely. In addition to cultivating, he also gave Xia Zhi divine medicines every day. Although the effect was not great, this was the only thing he could do for her currently.

Xia Zhi was different from the other cultivators in the world. She needed to heal and repair her injuries on her own. This was due to the shackles of fate sealed in her. Even Lin Xun was unable to interfere with this.

Fortunately, in Yunying Village, there were no worldly disputes, so he was able to spend his time and energy on cultivating and taking care of her.

"Big Brother Daoyuan."

Xiao Xi had come again. The little girl would deliver brewed medicinal tonics every day at the same time. By now, these tonics were no longer useful from Lin Xun’s point of view, but he truly appreciated the intentions behind the action.

After drinking the medicine, he smiled and said, "Xiao Xi, come here and let me see if you have made any progress in your recent cultivation."

Xiao Xi's big eyes lit up as she said, "Yes!"

Outside the stone house was an empty courtyard with old trees and lush flowers. Not far away was a big river that wound around Yunying Village like a verdant jade belt.

Yunying Village should actually be considered a small tribe with around a thousand residents whose families had lived here for generations. In the past, they made a living by hunting and collecting herbs.

The men, women, and children in the village have all been cultivating since childhood, and the skills they practiced had been passed down from a long time ago. Since arriving here, Lin Xun had learned a lot of information.

For example, the vast mountain range where Yunying Village was located had been called Fallen God Ridge since ancient times. This range encompassed hundreds of thousands of miles of territory.

The city closest to Yunying Village was called Qingliu City. It was said that the city was built by the body of a Qingliu tree that had awakened and cultivated to the immortal level.

Qingliu City was one of the three hundred and sixty cities located in the Water Cloud State. Whereas Water Cloud State was one of the countless states in the Donglai Region.

Donglai Region, Xixia Region, Beifeng Region, and Nanhuo Region together constituted the vast territory of the First Heaven Domain of the Eternal True Realm! In other words, Lin Xun had indeed arrived in the Eternal True Realm!

However, Yunying Village had been located in the depths of the Fallen God Ridge for generations, and the villagers' understanding of the First Heaven Domain was quite narrow. There were mostly rumors that had been passed down by word of mouth.

This prevented Lin Xun from learning more specific information. No matter what, being able to arrive at the Eternal TRue Realm alive was already good news for Lin Xun.

Buzz!

In the courtyard, there was a wave of aeth qi. Xiao Xi's petite figure exuded a powerful aura as she began to practice a boxing technique. Her moves were swift and fierce, and the wind coming off her fists was so strong that the air made a buzzing sound.

Lin Xun stood aside and watched quietly. Xiao Xi was only twelve years old, but she had already achieved the great perfection of the Cyclic Derivation Stage, and her dao foundation was extremely solid and strong.

At such a young age, she had such a superb and amazing dao. If she had been placed in the Ancient Nebula Road, she would definitely be called a gifted and talented person. However, according to Xiao Xi, there were many people who were more powerful than her in the entire Yunying Village.

This had surprised Lin Xun at first. After observing for a bit, he vaguely understood why. Although Yunying Village was just a remote village in the mountains, it was located in the First Heaven Domain after all, so the innate conditions were too good.

The rich aeth qi between heaven and earth, and the natural treasures and magical herbs hidden in the mountains were far beyond what could be found in other worlds. Moreover, the aura of the dao here was solid and strong, filled with a perfect, flawless, and divine magical charm, which was incredibly helpful for cultivation.

Creatures who were born here were destined to have the starting points of their cultivation journey to be far better than those from other worlds by far!

After all, this was the Eternal True Realm. In the eyes of the cultivators in the countless worlds of the universe, this place was like the legendary eternal kingdom, the world of gods, and the supreme holy land in the eyes of any cultivator.

Even ordinary people could prolong their lives here and have a lifespan far beyond the ordinary! If the rest of the universe was a series of simple stone houses, then the Eternal True Realm was a castle cast from divine gold.

In the rest of the universe, once a war between Emperors occurred, it could easily destroy the world and cause unimaginable disasters. However, in the Eternal True Realm, a battle between Emperors could only destroy mountains and split a river at most due to the incomparably strong laws that existed.

The ones who could really destroy the world and pick the stars and the moon were cultivators at the immortal level!

For example, Xiao Xi was already at the perfect Cyclic Derivation Stage, but the fist force she released could only make the void tremble and the air blast around a bit. If this had happened in the Ancient Nebula Road, cultivators at the Cyclic Derivation Stage were able to split mountains and rivers with their power.

After a while, Xiao Xi got out of her stance and stood still. A layer of crystalline sweat beads had already soaked her little face. She asked immediately, "Big Brother Daoyuan, what do you think?"

Lin Xun praised, "Not bad, within a month, you can definitely try to breach the King Stage. However, the boxing method you practice needs to be adjusted. A fierce and sharp dao is not suitable for you..."

As he spoke, he took out a jade slip, probed into it with his spiritual consciousness, recorded his instructions one by one, and then handed it to the girl, "Take this and take a good look, maybe it can help you."

Xiao Xi took the jade slip and said happily, "Thank you, Big Brother Daoyuan."

Lin Xun smiled and rubbed the little girl's head. Xiao Xi had come to deliver medicine every day, so he also wanted to compensate her for her kindness. Recently, he had been giving her some cultivation guidance.

Village Chief Wuchuan had come over from a distance and smiled and reminded her, "Xiao Xi, go back and practice first."

Xiao Xi hummed in assent and her petite figure flew away like a butterfly.

"My friend, how are you recovering?" Wuchuan asked.

Lin Xun said, "My injuries have recovered a little and it no longer affects my walking."

Wuchuan looked happy and said with relief, "This is good news. You should pay more attention to Miss Xia Zhi. When she entered Yunying Village, I noticed that her injuries were extremely serious, but she still held on and insisted on guarding you all the time. I repeatedly advised her to rest well, but she didn't listen. I can see that you are the one she cares about most in her heart."

Lin Xun took a deep breath and nodded seriously, "I will!"

Wuchuan smiled and continued, "I know that people like you must be extraordinary, and even your attainments in the dao are likely far more powerful than I can imagine. You and Miss Xia Zhi will definitely leave here sooner or later, but before that, can you promise me one thing?"

Lin Xun was stunned and said, "Please speak, Senior."

Wuchuan seemed to be a little hesitant. After a moment of silence, he finally said, "Three years from now, Qingliu City will launch a selection battle. By then, anyone under the age of eighteen who are at the King Stage can participate in it. If they can stand out, they can be sent to the Donglai Region's Liangyi Academy to practice...

"Xiao Xi's parents passed away a long time ago when she was just a child. Since then, she has grown up with me. She has just turned twelve years old this year. Within three years, she will definitely be able to step into the King Stage..."

Lin Xun vaguely understood what he was getting at and said, "Senior, do you want me to help Xiao Xi enter Liangyi Academy?"

Wuchuan hurriedly shook his head, "That's not necessary. I just want you to take her with you when you leave and send her to Qingliu City so that she can participate in that selection process."

Lin Xun smiled and said, "Senior, don't worry, I will definitely help her."

Wuchuan seemed to be relieved, and said in a self-deprecating manner, "People in our Yunying Village have lived in these deep mountains and old forests for generations. Most of them have little knowledge, have never even stepped out of the Fallen God Ridge, and know nothing about the outside world. To be honest, I have lived for hundreds of years and have only been to Qingliu City once. That place... is really prosperous."

At the end, his eyes could not help but show a hint of longing, "I am old and have nothing else to ask for, but I don't want Xiao Xi to be trapped in this mountain range for her whole life. She is still young and has a long way to go in the future. How can she not go out to broaden her horizons?"

Lin Xun couldn't help but sigh in his heart. Parents all wished for the best for their children. Although Wuchuan was Xiao Xi's grandfather, his care and expectations for her were not necessarily any different from a parent’s.

Wuchuan left not long after. Lin Xun turned back to the room, came to the bed, and looked at Xia Zhi who was still asleep. He couldn't help but quietly clench his hands.

He would never forget the green bone knife, black ruyi, golden divine seal, and silver hairpin that had suddenly appeared in the strange stretch of starry sky...

After pondering over this, he had come to the conclusion that the owners of these treasures had to be from the same force. Furthermore, that same force had the power to control and drive the starry sky beasts!

He would never forget the Ten Immortal Giants who had attacked both him and his fourth senior brother. The Wang Clan, the Fu Clan, the Chi Clan, the Qi Clan, the Zhongli Clan, the Mu Clan...

"No matter who you are, this feud must be repaid with blood!" Lin Xun's black eyes became filled with cold and determined murderous intent.

Time in seclusion always passed faster than expected. Before they knew it, two years had passed in a hurry.

Yunying Village was isolated from the world, and no disturbances had occurred, making Lin Xun's life peaceful and fulfilling.

In addition to cultivation, he also took care of Xia Zhi, and occasionally went into the mountains with the villagers to hunt and collect herbs. As time went by, most of the villagers became familiar with the existence of Lin Xun and Xia Zhi, and regarded them as one of their own.

This kind of life was quiet and simple. For Lin Xun, who had experienced many hardships in the world, it could be regarded as a rare period of rest. It allowed him to calm down and think about his future cultivation path, review his past experiences, and fix any shortcomings he came across.

What made Lin Xun happy was that during the two years that had passed, although Xia Zhi still hadn't woken up, the spider web-like cracks on her body had quietly healed and disappeared. This undoubtedly proved that her serious injuries were getting better little by little!

Chapter 2582 Black Mo

The morning sunlight cascaded down from the cloudless blue sky.

In a clean, spacious courtyard in the distant mountain range, a group of youngsters was sitting cross-legged in meditation, breathing in and out the aeth qi essence of heaven and earth.

The older ones were seventeen to eighteen years old, while the younger ones were still little kids in open-crotch pants.[1]

At this hour, the old, experienced villagers had already gone into the mountains, either to hunt for food or to collect herbs.

Lin Xun was in a rattan rocking chair in the courtyard. His eyes were idly squinted, and his demeanor leisurely and cozy. The early morning wind brushed past him, carrying the smell of fresh grass. The gentle sunlight sprinkled on him, not blinding but instead very comforting.

It had been two years.

He had become a teacher trusted by the whole village. This courtyard was the school, and the youngsters in the village were his students.

What he needed to do was instruct these students to cultivate.

Initially, the villagers had been worried and unsure because of how young he looked, and since his cultivation had been damaged, he seemed unreliable.

However, as Xiao Xi's cultivation skyrocketed in less than three months, placing her far ahead of her peers thanks to Lin Xun's frequent instructions, the village finally realized how frightening his attainments were despite his weak appearance.

This led to them to come to his door with all kinds of mountain products and wine so that their children could also cultivate under him.

Lin Xun naturally wouldn't refuse. He then taught the youngsters according to their aptitude while providing answers to any questions they had.

He even imparted different daos and techniques to them according to their physique and temperament.

With his current cultivation, his mastery of the complete Immortal dao from the last epoch, as well as the various arts he had acquired along the way, he was now a case of 'being able to understand everything from just fathoming one thing.' Not to mention teaching these children, guiding Emperor experts was absolutely not a big deal for him.

Moreover, he was still the first supreme All Daos Ancestor in all of history!

The progress of the children had been obvious. Many villagers were overjoyed as it even exceeded their expectations. Therefore, they treated Lin Xun with heartfelt admiration and hospitality like he was one of their own.

Village Chief Wuchuan was pleased to see this. He often lamented that when the youngsters grew up, they would definitely have higher achievements and go much further than the elders on the path of dao.

"Emergency! The chief along with many others have been trapped by a large demon near the Fallen God Pool!" a hasty and anxious shout suddenly resounded in the distance, breaking the tranquil atmosphere.

Fallen God Pool!

The youngsters meditating in the courtyard became restless.

"Do not be distracted. Continue cultivating. I'll go and take a look." Lin Xun stood up from the rocking chair. As his casual voice rang through the yard, it seemed to spread a power that directly impacted people's hearts. The youngsters quickly calmed down.

He looked at Xiao Xi, “Xiao Xi, help me look after this place.”

“Yes!” Xiao Xi had grown into a graceful young girl over the course of two years. She not only looked delicate but also strong and lively, having none of the pure childlikeness she did in the past.

Swish!

Lin Xun vanished into thin air.

“Fallen God Pool... That place has been a zone of great perils since forever. How did the chief and the others get trapped there? The situation cannot be good...”

The youngsters started discussing as soon as Lin Xun left. Many were very anxious.

One of them couldn't help but wonder, “Say, do you guys think Master Lin can handle this?”

Master Lin was the honorific that the village children used to call Lin Xun.

Another said in a low voice, “My father said that although Master Lin possesses all kinds of legacies and unimaginable wisdom, his injuries are too severe. It's been two years since he came to our village, and he still hasn't completely healed by now.

“When the adults talk about Master Lin, they all seem sorry for him, believing that his injuries have most likely affected his dao foundation. They think it’d be very difficult for him to ever recover completely.”

“So to speak, Master Lin won’t be able to deal with this?”

“Who knows? No one has ever seen Master Lin make a move. What's more, he’s still injured. Even if he was very powerful before, now... Alas!”

While the youngsters had the utmost respect and admiration for their teacher, they all knew that he was injured. In these past two years, they had never seen him in action either, which made them have little confidence in what he was about to do.

“Why don't we go with him and help out as much as we can? There's always strength in numbers!” someone proposed.

“You are reckless!” Xiao Xi scolded as she glared at the proposer. “Master Lin just told us to focus on cultivating. Whoever dares to think nonsense again, I'll beat you up!”

The group shut up at once.

Xiao Xi was now the leader of the village youngsters as her strength dominated every single one of her peers. To them, she was an authoritative figure.

“If Big Brother Daoyuan decides to act, it means he can definitely bring Grandpa and the others back safe and sound!” murmured Xiao Xi.

When no one was around, she still preferred calling Lin Xun Big Brother Daoyuan.

.....

The Fallen God Pool, perennially shrouded in blood-colored fog, had been regarded as the most perilous place since the beginning of time.

A long time ago, a powerful expert from Qingliu City once came and inquired about it, but after entering the blood-red area of the Fallen God Pool, this person had never emerged again.

This incident had even caused a sensation in Qingliu City, attracting numerous cultivators to come find that expert, but none dared to venture into the perilous zone again.

At the moment, Village Chief Wuchuan and around seven other villagers were being trapped in the blood-red fog. They had difficulties breathing, and their cultivation bases had been confined by a strange suppression that prevented them from even moving a finger.

“We’re finished... Dead...” somebody said bitterly.

They had been hunting a monster-beast. Who would have thought that the beast would lure them to the Fallen God Pool area instead?

When they decided to return, it was already too late.

It wasn't because they were careless. Instead, the monster-beast, although being at only the quasi-Emperor Stage, had the ability to deceive and mislead people's hearts. As a result, their minds had been unconsciously muddled, causing them to be led to this place.

“Chief, what do we do now?” a person asked Wuchuan.

Wuchuan's stalwart face was also covered with gloom. Only after a long silence did he whisper, “What else can we do? We can only...leave it to fate...”

Hearing the despair seeping out from his voice, the others couldn't help but feel a deep sadness rising from their hearts.

Whoosh!

Suddenly, a black figure shot out from the thick scarlet fog and transformed into a fierce beast. It had the features of lions and tigers while also being covered in ebony scales. It had glossy-green pupils and a blood-red horn on its head.

Wuchuan’s group was frightened. They instantly recognized it to be the same ferocious beast that they had been chasing before—the Black Mo![2]

Buzz~

As soon as the Black Mo appeared, its fur radiated circles of bizarre, black spirit light that enveloped the group of humans.

Their eyes instantly glazed over, and their consciousness became muddled.

The Black Mo's green eyes glowed with a strange color as it emitted a mysterious, heavy voice, “Ten thousand feet forward is the Fallen God Pool, at the depths of which there is a divine herb that grows on law power. If any of you can harvest it for me, I will allow you all to leave.”

“Go.” The beast waved its claw, and the blood-red fog instantly separated into a path.

Manipulated, Wuchuan’s group started treading along the path like puppets. The Black Mo followed closely behind.

Before long, a black pool that had a radius of around a thousand feet appeared in their vision. All around the pool were piles of rotten bones that belonged to not only humans but also many other races. The sight of densely packed bones that had been here for who-knew-how-long would make anyone shudder.

Above the pool water, wisps of blood-red fog were stagnant, eerie, and intimidating as they resembled chains of heavenly law power.

This was Fallen God Pool, a perilous place of unknowns!

The Black Mo kept a good distance from the pool as it chanted, “Use your cultivation to leap into the pool one by one. Remember, do not touch those wisps of blood-colored fog.”

Wuchuan’s group seemed to be oblivious to the danger as they approached it step by step.

Right at this juncture, there was a swish. A handsome figure suddenly appeared out of thin air, blocking the villagers’ path. It was none other than Lin Xun.

“Chief, I’m here to bring you all back,” he said with a smile.

The casual, normal sentence, when falling into the ears of Wuchuan’s group, rang like the wonderful sound of the almighty dao. It was filled with a deafening, sacred power of enlightenment.

Boom!

Wuchuan’s group only felt like something was thundering in their spirits, breaking the shackles that controlled their minds. They instantly came to their senses from the muddled state.

Lin Daoyuan?!

They were first stunned to see Lin Xun, and then, when the realization hit them, their expressions changed and chills ran through their hearts. They knew that if he hadn’t appeared, they would likely have entered the vicious and unfathomable Fallen God Pool without being able to control themselves.

“Why are you not affected by the curse in this place?” The Black Mo's green eyes locked onto Lin Xun from far away, startled and angered by his abrupt appearance.

“Little friend, be careful of this monster-beast. It has a secret spirit technique that makes it an expert at bewitching people, pulling them into a dream without realizing that their life will be at its mercy!” Wuchuan quickly reminded Lin Xun with an apprehensive look.

“Don't worry, Chief. This beast can't make any waves,” Lin Xun laughed warmly.

His words were nonchalant, but the contempt within them took Wuchuan’s group aback.

Their impression of Lin Xun during these years had always been that of a humble and peaceful person. This was the first time they had seen him so domineering and lofty.

The distant Black Mo let out a low, obscure roar. From its fur, circles of ebony light rippled out, seeking to envelope Lin Xun.

“This beast does not know its own limitations,” uttered Lin Xun with disdain in his eyes.

Boom!

Those circles of ebony light suddenly shattered and dispersed like they had been swept through by a hurricane. Following that, the Black Mo let out a miserable, harrowing hiss.

Its eyes exploded, and blood spurted out from its mouth and ears. It fell on the ground, twitching violently as its shrieks echoed through the skies and earth.

Lin Xun made a grabbing gesture in the air, and the huge body of the Black Mo swiftly became the size of a hand before falling into his palm.

Wuchuan’s group was immediately dumbstruck, jaws and eyes agape.

Chapter 2583 Cursed Law Power

Wuchuan asked in shock, “Your cultivation has recovered, Little Friend?”

Lin Xun shook his head, “Not yet, only about half of it.”

Only half of his full strength!

Wuchuan’s group exchanged glances in a stupor. Lin Xun had yet to fully recover, but he could already toy with the Black Mo in the palm of his hand. Just how powerful would he be once his strength came back in full?

“Please show mercy, Senior. I’ll willingly submit to you if you spare my life! That’s the only thing I ask!” the monster-beast who had shrunken its size by many factors begged for mercy. It shivered continuously, looking more docile than a rabbit.

“There is a broken and impure law power distributed in the red fog here, so how are you able to come and go as you please?” asked Lin Xun.

This was exactly why he didn't kill the Black Mo on the spot.

“Many years ago, I happened to pick up a bone ring near the Fallen God Pool. While carrying it, I’m no longer afraid of the cursed power in this area,” said the Black Mo with an honest look before it opened its mouth and spat out a bone ring.

The object looked like it was polished from some kind of beast bone, coarse and simple. However, when held in the hand, it was heavy as if weighing ten thousand pounds.

Lin Xun could tell at a glance that there was a law power surging within this ring, and it clearly came from the same source as the one distributed in the blood-colored fog.

“Is there really a divine herb that draws on and stores law power in the Fallen God Pool?” asked Lin Xun casually as he put away the bone ring.

The Black Mo said, “I'm not quite sure, but since I got the ring, I've often had a dream of an herb swaying in the water of the Fallen God Pool, and each leaf on it has inexplicable law runes lingering on them...”

Lin Xun pondered, “Why didn’t you go in and explore it yourself?”

The Black Mo looked embarrassed, “I did try once, but I almost died.”

A villager angrily admonished, “You are scared to die, yet you lured us here?”

The Black Mo was aggrieved, “If you didn't have murderous thoughts toward me, how could you have been lured here?”

Wuchuan’s group was rendered speechless.

“In that case, it would be an unjust act if I kill you?” Lin Xun wore a strange smile.

The Black Mo hurriedly shook its head and said bitterly, “It’s different because you are here to save lives. Even if you kill me, Senior, it's for a reasonable cause. But please, now that I know my wrongs and want to atone, please give me a chance to live.”

A stream of light appeared, transforming into a restrictive rune as it circled around Lin Xun's fingers, and swiftly shot into the Black Mo's body. The latter wailed in pain and spasmed for a long time before returning to calm.

“Thank you for not killing me!” said the Black Mo, now looking submissively.

“From now on, you will stay in Yunying Village as its guardian beast. If you do so obediently, the restriction I left in your body will dissolve after a thousand years,” said Lin Xun. “But if you have other ideas during this period, your spirit will implode. Do you understand?”

The Black Mo fiercely nodded and secretly breathed out in relief. A thousand years wasn’t a long time, which it could afford to wait.

“Chief, is this arrangement sound?” asked Lin Xun.

“Couldn't be better,” Wuchuan laughed heartily.

“Then this is settled. Still, I have to ask you all to endure a little before we leave this place,” Lin Xun waved his hand, whisking Wuchuan’s group and the Black Mo into a spatial treasure.

Then, he gazed at the Fallen God Pool as an intimidating light surfaced in his eyes.

A long while later, BUZZ!

Following an order in Lin Xun's mind, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron whistled out, shrouded in a heavy rain of light as it sank into the Fallen God Pool.

The black water churned violently. Bizarre and creepy blood-red law power emerged from the waves like a dense patch of scarlet lightning bolts.

Lin Xun was astonished as he watched. It was no wonder that no one had been able to leave this place alive since the beginning of time. Just this kind of law power alone could kill immortal characters!

Boom!

The pool water tumbled as if completely boiling. Red wisps of broken law power bombarded the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, but they were nothing but sheep running into a tiger's mouth, getting swallowed up by the Nirvana law power no matter how many came.

The devoured law power all turned into a kind of ‘nutrients.’ The moment they entered the realm of the Nirvana law power, Law Spirit Wushuang, the Immortal dao law, and the Netherworld Order competed with each other to absorb them.

Lin Xun had long been accustomed to such a scene. He even gave nicknames to the Immortal dao law and the Netherworld Order, which were Little Immortal and Little Nether respectively...

In other words, the Nirvana law power was like a mother in whose womb Wushuang, Little Immortal, and Little Nether were being nurtured.

The law power ingested by the mother not only allowed her own body to metamorphose but also brought up three completely different laws.

Meanwhile, the Nirvana law power, who had been hosted in the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, had also invariably affected the latter in a subtle way that tempered it. As a result, this treasure had become more and more extraordinary with time.

Rumble~

Amidst the rolling waves, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron continued to sink to the bottom of the Fallen God Pool.

To Lin Xun's surprise, this pool was extremely deep. Only after over ninety thousand feet did he finally see a mysterious green-blue gleam through the cauldron’s power.

It came from a stark-white, complete skeleton sitting cross-legged at the bottom of the pool. They had clearly been human when they were still alive.

In the top of the skull, there was a sword hole!

The green-blue light was rooted in this sword hole. Upon closer inspection, it turned out to be a divine grass swaying in the water whose stem and leaves were as sharp as swords. There were eighteen leaves, each having a wisp of law power drifting around it that emitted a horrible, blood-red cursed aura.

It gave one the feeling that the slightest contact with this aura would lead to one being tainted by the most vicious curse in the world, and one’s heart demon would roam free, destroying their dao and their very life.

“It’s actually real...” Lin Xun was shaken. There was truly a divine grass that grew under the nurturing of law power!

This was nothing short of incredible.

What surprised him even more was that the Nirvana law power even took the initiative to come out. It transformed into a lotus pattern that enveloped the green-blue grass.

Kaboom!

Fallen God Pool immediately roared and tumbled violently, showing signs of collapsing.

“Hmm?”

Above a mountain extremely far from the Fallen God Pool, a delicate figure draped in a deep-purple cloak quietly appeared in the air. This person had long snow-white hair, fair and healthy skin, phoenix eyes, a slim waist, and an imposingly full bosom.

Her expression was cold as ice, and her eyes were just as bone-chilling. Her utterly gorgeous appearance carried an intimidating majesty.

As she seemed to be noticing something at this moment, her red lips were curled into an arc that indicated surprise. The next second, that elegant figure teleported, vanishing on the spot.

RUMBLE!

The area around Fallen God Pool suddenly exploded. The nearby mountains crumbled as a raging power torrent turned everything upside down that erased the clouds in ten directions.

Following that, Lin Xun shot out like a divine rainbow.

Inside his Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, there was now a green-blue divine grass that emanated blood-red cursed energy under the confinement of the Nirvana law power.

As for the skeleton that this grass had been rooted in, it had broken down and dissipated into nothingness along with the Fallen God Pool.

Having come here with the intention to rescue the village chief’s group, Lin Xun hadn’t expected to accidentally obtain an incredible fortune.

If his guess was correct, then the green-blue divine grass was actually transformed from the origin power of a cursed law. Its quality was very high and was by no means something Earth Rank laws could compare to.

He just didn’t know its exact rank yet, and he planned to figure it out after getting back to Yunying Village.

When Lin Xun was about to leave, a delicate figure abruptly appeared in the far void. The purple cloak was unable to conceal her excellent physique and towering breasts.

However, her expression was too cold, and her eyes were too sharp and intimidating. Normal cultivators would not dare to look straight at and assess her.

After a stunned moment, Lin Xun withdrew his gaze and turned to leave, but the woman blocked his path.

“It was you who took the Cursed Grass in the Fallen God Pool?” Her voice was low, but permeated with a unique, impelling force and majesty that could only be developed from a long time of being in a high position. Her background was clearly not simple.

Cursed Grass?

Lin Xun raised a a brow at the woman, “What is that?”

The gorgeous woman frowned, “Don’t pretend to be confused.”

Lin Xun laughed, "Why is it your business whether I’m pretending to be confused or not? You'd better get out of my way, or you’ll suffer the consequences."

He raised his foot and moved forward.

The woman’s frown deepened. Seeing Lin Xun getting closer step by step, she inhaled so deeply that her chest looked like they were going to burst through her clothes.

Surprisingly, however, she got out of the way in the end.

Lin Xun cast her a glance, “You’re a smart one.”

Leaving that comment, he left with his hands on his back.

As the woman watched his silhouette disappear, her cold, beautiful face clouded over.

She was one of the four vice leaders of Liangyi Academy, which was the number one organization in the Donglai Region, so she was tremendously influential and famous throughout the region. Yet, this world-shaking, gorgeous woman was currently unable to calm down.

Fallen God Ridge was merely a big mountain range located in a very far corner away from Qingliu City, while this city was merely one of the three hundred and sixty cities in Water Cloud State.

As for Water Cloud State, it was only one of the many states in the Donglai Region.

Therefore, with the identity of this cold beauty, let alone in this remote countryside, even the leader of Water Cloud State would have to give her the utmost respect that a deity demanded!

Even the most preeminent characters of the Donglai Region had to be courteous to her!

Despite all that, she had just been treated so rudely in the middle of nowhere, giving her a bad urge to strike.

However, she had ultimately suppressed it, because from the first moment she saw that person, she had subconsciously sensed a hint of something fatal!

Chapter 2584 A Threat

At Yunying Village.

Upon seeing Lin Xun return with Wuchuan’s group, the anxious villagers who had all been waiting erupted into a cheer, thrilled beyond measure.

As the crowd exchanged happy words, Lin Xun sensibly left them to it and returned to his courtyard.

“Master Lin, you're back!” the youngsters, who had been too occupied to focus on their cultivation, stared at their teacher with bated breath.

Lin Xun smiled, “It’s settled. You guys just continue cultivating.”

“Is everything really alright?” The little guys were stunned at first, and then they burst into a clamor with their eyes wide.

“I told you, nothing can trouble Master Lin!” shouted a little fatty excitedly.

“Liar! You said Master Lin was injured and something bad would likely happen!” another directly exposed the little fatty, causing the latter’s face to redden.

“I was just worried about Master Lin. I definitely didn't mean it in a bad way, so don't you guys talk nonsense,” argued the little fatty anxiously.

Seeing the scene spiraling into chaos, Xiao Xi immediately stepped out. With her brows raised high and her hands on her hips, she scolded, “What's all the fuss about? Stop yelling and focus on your cultivation!”

The kids shrivelled at once. They shut up and resumed meditation.

Lin Xun stroked Xiao Xi's head, “Well done.”

Xiao Xi looked up with a grin that revealed two rows of neat, pearly white teeth. Pride was written all over her pretty little face as she crisply said, “I won't let you down, Big Brother Daoyuan!”

Lin Xun smiled to show his approval and then walked into his room.

On the bed, Xia Zhi was still sleeping, her breathing long and steady. Even though there was a peaceful expression on her face that was stunning beyond words, it was still very pale.

This sent an emotional wave of pity and deep affection through Lin Xun's heart, while the hatred and killing intent suppressed in the depths of it started stirring up again.

"If I don't exterminate them one day, the hatred in my heart will never be resolved!" He took a deep breath. Only after his agitated mind calmed down did he withdraw his gaze from Xia Zhi and sit down cross-legged on the round mat next to the bed.

The Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron quietly emerged. Probing it with his spirit sense, he saw the state of the green-blue divine grass. Despite it being confined, the scarlet cursed energy drifting between the leaves still appeared appallingly creepy.

Having seen his fair share of law powers, Lin Xun quickly judged from this energy that the bizarre 'cursed law' was most likely Heaven Rank!

As for this law's exact grade, it was impossible to tell by relying on senses alone. This required further investigation.

However, since Lin Xun had yet to set foot on the immortal path, there was no way for him to comprehend the mysteries in the law power.

"Should I let the Nirvana law power swallow it...?" He was torn.

He wouldn't have hesitated if this was a normal Heaven Rank law, but the key was that this law was related to a cursed power. Furthermore, the fact that the divine grass was a transformation of an origin law power was simply magical, making even him somewhat reluctant to part with it.

Only after a long time did he make up his mind, "Whatever, let's keep it for now. I can just make this decision after I step onto the immortal path and study the mysteries of this law."

He then put away the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron as he intended to focus on cultivating for a while.

In the past two years, he had continuously nourished and repaired himself with various divine medicines and pills. Thus, the majority of his injuries had healed, and his cultivation had been rebuilt with the Great Dao Furnace Art.

Although he had only recovered to half of his peak by now, Lin Xun had a premonition that once he fully recovered, his strength would definitely undergo a metamorphosis.

Going through trials and tribulations and being rebuilt after a complete destruction, this was destined to be a rebirth, a nirvana. His cultivation was bound to become entirely different!

Suddenly, there was a commotion outside the stone hut.

“Wow, this older sister is so pretty.”

“Shut up, did you not see that she’s accompanied by the chief? She’s definitely an important person from a big city, so be careful what comes out of your mouth!”

“But...that older sister is really beautiful...”

Hearing these murmurs, Lin Xun couldn't help but frown. He stood up and walked out of the room.

When the youngsters in the courtyard saw him, they abruptly stopped discussing and honestly sat back down.

Meanwhile, near the village entrance not far from the courtyard, Wuchuan was talking to a woman.

The woman was clad in a dark-purple cloak. With fair and plump skin as well as an outstandingly gorgeous appearance, she was none other than the person Lin Xun had just met at the pool area.

An imperceptible flash of iciness crossed his eyes. He walked straight over.

At the same time, Wuchuan also noticed Lin Xun. Startled for a brief moment, the village chief then smiled warmly, “Little Friend, you've come at just the right time. Let me introduce, this is Lord Nie Qingrong from Liangyi Academy.”

At the same time, he transmitted to Lin Xun, “This woman asked for your whereabouts as soon as she came here. I was trying to think of a way to send her away, but I didn't expect you to come out...”

There was a bitter flavor in the transmission.

Wuchuan wasn't stupid. He had realized right away that Nie Qingrong’s motive was not simple.

Lin Xun nodded and said, “Chief, you can leave it to me. I’ll talk to Lord Nie in private.”

Wuchuan smiled, “Alright.”

At the same time, he gave Lin Xun a meaningful glance while transmitting, “Little Friend, if she is really from Liangyi Academy, then you have to be careful not to offend her. That’s the number one holy cultivation ground of the Donglai Region we’re talking about.”

With that, Wuchuan left the scene.

Lin Xun, on the other hand, turned to Nie Qingrong, “What do you want?”

The woman’s phoenix eyes gleamed, and the ice on her stunning face dissolved like a spring breeze had brushed past as she revealed a bright smile, “You don’t seem to like my presence very much?”

With an unperturbed look, Lin Xun rigidly said, “That is correct.”

Nie Qingrong's smile froze in mortification and anger. With her cultivation level, status, and appearance, she had never been treated like this in the Donglai Region.

After some moments of silence, she stopped smiling and stared fixedly at Lin Xun, “I came here with no ill intentions, Fellow Daoist. I only want to make a deal with you.”

"For your so-called cursed law? Out of the question. Not to mention that I've never seen such a treasure, even if I have it, I won’t trade it away," Lin Xun said outright. "Also, with your status and knowledge, you can’t tell me that you don't understand how precious such a law power is. Do you really have anything of equal value to make this kind of deal?"

His tone was casual but at the same time overbearing and stern.

Nie Qingrong was dazed. Biting her rosy lips, she said, “Fellow Daoist, while my academy may not be able to hoard this kind of law to itself, behind us stand quite a few powerful immortal giants of the Sixth Heaven Domain. I believe that they can satisfy your conditions, should you be open for negotiation.”

Immortal giants of the Sixth Heaven Domain?

Many names flashed through Lin Xun's mind: the Wen, the Heng, the He, the Peng, the Zhu Clans...and of course, the Luo Clan!

He asked, “Is the Luo Clan one of the backers?”

Nie Qingrong replied, "No. The Luo Clan might have once been a hegemon with a powerful foundation in the Seventh Heaven Domain who could even measure up to the immortal giants in the Eighth Heaven Domain, but nowadays... it has declined too far. Even in the Sixth Heaven Domain, its situation is not optimistic, so it no longer has the ability to meddle in the affairs of the First Heaven Domain."

Lin Xun inwardly breathed a sigh of relief.

It was not that he was afraid of the Luo Clan, but that two years ago, he had promised Wuchuan to take Xiao Xi to Qingliu City, so that she could participate in a selection process to enroll in the Liangyi Academy and cultivate there as a student.

If the Luo Clan was behind this organization, then Lin Xun would have to consider switching her to another school.

Nie Qingrong asked, “Fellow Daoist, what do you think of my proposal?”

Lin Xun shook his head, “What I said before was only a hypothetical situation. I have never seen the cursed law you mentioned.”

Nie Qingrong clearly didn't believe him, but she was also very apprehensive of him. In the end, she let out a long sigh, “Forget it. Seems that our Liangyi Academy has no fate with this kind of fortune, so I'll take my leave.”

She turned around, wanting to leave.

Lin Xun suddenly said, “Fellow Daoist.”

Nie Qingrong turned her head and looked at him.

The latter’s eyes were calm, his voice indifferent, “Regarding today's matter, I hope that you will keep it to yourself. Otherwise, I'm afraid that the Liangyi Academy won't be able to protect you even if it exhausts everything it has.”

Nie Qingrong stiffened slightly, and anger appeared on her fair face, “Is that a threat?”

A cold luster quietly rose in Lin Xun's black eyes.

Boom!

Nie Qingrong only felt a stabbing pain in her eyes. A great terror surged out from the depths of her spirit as she seemed to fall into an abyss. Her vision became filled with mountains of corpses and seas of blood, with gods falling and the almighty dao collapsing.

Her mind showed signs of crumbling as well. Endless despair overwhelmed her like successive tidal waves.

“You're a smart woman, so you know full well that you are a threat to me, and there’s no better way for me to erase it than killing you. However, since you and I have no grudges, I don't mind giving you a chance at life. I only hope that this matter ends here.”

When Lin Xun's voice rang out in her mind, Nie Qingrong instantly felt like she was being saved from drowning and snapped out of that endless despair.

A layer of cold sweat seeped out from her beautiful skin. She now looked at Lin Xun in a completely different way, with deep fear and awe as though she was looking at the god of the nine heavens!

It was only at this moment did she realize that her life was entirely at the whim of the other party.

Her cultivation, her identity, and her prestige...were probably pointless in his eyes, making her nothing more than a joke.

Taking a deep breath, Nie Qingrong lowered her head and whispered, “Thank you for showing mercy, Fellow Daoist. I won't forget a single word of what you said.”

“I hope so,” Lin Xun nodded and waved his hand. “You can leave.”

Nie Qingrong was being dismissed, but she no longer dared to even feel annoyed. Instead, she breathed out in relief like a weight had been lifted off her shoulders. After a polite bow, she hurriedly left.

Looking from afar, the back of her clothes had been soaked in cold sweat!

Chapter 2585 Fall Not into the Sorrow of Parting

After watching the other party leave, Lin Xun went back.

Previously, while displaying his killing intent to intimidate Nie Qingrong, he had also left a mark on her.

As long as she dared to go back on her word and do something to retaliate, he would be able to track her down right away!

From a distance, Wuchuan came over and asked worriedly, “Little Friend, is everything alright?”

Lin Xun laughed, “It’s but a small matter, Chief. You can rest easy.”

Wuchuan sighed with relief, “That's good, that's good...”

Time continued to pass, day after day.

Yunying Village remained ever peaceful like an isolated paradise on earth, undisturbed by the affairs of the outside world.

Gradually, Lin Xun had nearly forgotten about the matter with Nie Qingrong.

Spring went and autumn came, flowers blossomed and fell.

Another year had passed.

“Time really passes quickly.” In his moon-white clothes, Lin Xun stood with his arms crossed before the stone hut.

It had been over three years since he had come to Yunying Village. This period could have been called a peaceful vacation if it hadn’t been for Xia Zhi's coma.

The village children had all grown taller like bamboo shoots after the rain during this time. Having shed away some immaturity, they looked full of vigor and confidence.

It was especially true for Xiao Xi, who had become an elegant fifteen-year-old girl. Her beautiful black hair was coiled into a hairpin bun. The leather dress she wore could not hide her youthful spirit.

She not only looked lively but was also pretty with fair skin, a slender waist, and a pair of long straight legs. Due to being a cultivator, she glowed with a different kind of girly charm.

As a matter of fact, Xiao Xi's cultivation progress was indeed amazing. In just three years, she had speedily broken through multiple realms and set foot on the supreme path. Currently, she was a well-deserved eighth longevity tribulation King.

“Little friend,” Wuchuan hurriedly arrived with joy on his face. “My friend just informed me that Qingliu City will hold a selection competition in half a month!”

Lin Xun smiled, “That would be great. It's also time for Xiao Xi to go out and see the world.”

Wuchuan suddenly remembered something and hesitated, “Your injury...”

“It's mostly healed already, it won’t affect me in action.” Lin Xun mused, “Also, Chief, please accept this storage ring.”

He took out a ring and presented it to Wuchuan, “It contains some resources needed for cultivation. Consider it a gift of gratitude from me.”

Wuchuan was instantly on edge, "You won’t be coming back? But Miss Xia Zhi still hasn’t woken up, has she?"

Lin Xun smiled, “We’ve bothered everyone for three years, so it's about time I and Xia Zhi left, but don't worry, Chief, I'll come back to visit you all when I have the chance.”

Saying that, he stuffed the storage ring into Wuchuan's hand in a manner that left no room for refusal.

The latter looked both helpless and sad, smiling bitterly, “If I had known this, I wouldn't have mentioned Qingliu City to you.”

He could tell that Lin Xun was determined to go.

“Haha, there's no such thing as an unending feast. If we have to choose a day to end it, then it might as well be today. I'll take Xiao Xi and set out today,” laughed Lin Xun.

Although Wuchuan was reluctant to part, he knew he could not keep Lin Xun.

Lin Xun went back to his room and looked at Xia Zhi who was quietly laying on the bed. His eyes were tender as he murmured, “Xia Zhi, we cannot wait like this. You sleep at ease and leave the revenge to me.”

He originally planned to place Xia Zhi in his True Self Emperor World like before, but he changed his mind after some reconsideration.

Back in that strange starry sky, Evil God Dishen had been able to invade his True Self Emperor World without much effort. Having learned from that mistake, Lin Xun decided to play it safe this time and place Xia Zhi in the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron.

This treasure was his life-bound Emperor weapon. Even if he fell into distress, it still couldn’t be controlled by anyone else. Moreover, with the Nirvana law power in place, enemies wouldn’t be able to destroy it easily.

The cauldron could undoubtedly offer Xia Zhi the best protection.

Huh?

When Lin Xun put Xia Zhi into the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, something incredible transpired.

The Nirvana law power actually rained down light and surged into her!

This had never happened before. In fact, it had never occurred to Lin Xun that a meeting between Xia Zhi and the Nirvana law power would produce such a change.

His heart tightened, thinking that the Nirvana law power wanted to plunder the Law of Fate in Xia Zhi. However, after the Nirvana law power surged into her, it became wisps of light that only wrapped around the shackles that was the Law of Fate.

It was as though it was building a silk cocoon layer on the densely packed Law of Fate!

At the same time, a magical Nirvana force began to linger around Xia Zhi's life essence.

Lin Xun was shaken to see it. His eyes then lit up as he vaguely understood what was going on.

Back in that strange starry sky, in order to fight back against their enemies, Xia Zhi had disregarded everything and burned her life essence to the point the shackles of Fate in her had snapped.

Currently, the influx of Nirvana law power would most likely bring her a wonderful change, allowing her to realize a never-before-seen metamorphosis from her severe injury!

This was what ‘nirvana’ was all about: a rebirth in utter destruction.

For instance, Little Immortal and Little Nether, the two laws of the last epoch, had all been revived by the Nirvana law power!

It was very likely that Xia Zhi would also experience a similar process.

Reaching this conclusion, Lin Xun was both excited and remorseful. If he had known this, then he would have placed Xia Zhi inside the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron three years ago.

If he had, then she would probably have long awakened after three years of nirvana!

“It's not too late now, as long as she can wake up...” Lin Xun spent a long time calming down from the excitement.

Stowing the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, he walked out of the house.

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“Xiao Xi, let's go.” When Lin Xun and Wuchuan found Xiao Xi, the girl was ready with her things packed up.

“Yes!” Xiao Xi glowed with anticipation, “Finally I can see for myself what the outside world is really like.”

“Kiddo, you must listen to Big Brother Daoyuan on the journey. Do not cause him trouble. Also, make sure to take good care of yourself. Your parents left too early...” Wuchuan rambled on. The eyes of the weathered old man became red and watery. He was clearly reluctant to part with the girl.

“Grandpa, don't be sad. I will definitely come back to see you often,” said Xiao Xi cutely as she hugged Wuchuan's arm.

“Hahaha, that's not necessary. Grandpa is happy as long as you do well on your own.” Wuchuan took a deep breath and let out a bright laugh. He didn't want to shed tears in front of his granddaughter.

“Don't worry, Chief, I’ll take good care of her,” Lin Xun reassured him with a smile.

“Go, I’ll send you guys off.” Wuchuan led the way.

Without disturbing the villagers, the three left Yunying Village together.

It was only after seeing them off several thousand miles that Wuchuan stopped and waved his big hand, “This should be far enough. It’s time for us to say goodbye. Go now, you two.”

Lin Xun cupped his fist and saluted, “Farewell, Senior.”

During the past three years in the Eternal True Realm, Yunying Village had left him the best of good memories. Even though they were not powerful experts or important characters, Wuchuan and the simple, kind villagers had now taken up a big part of his heart.

“Grandpa, you can go back to the village now. You have nothing to worry about when Big Brother Daoyuan is with me,” Xiao Xi grinned as she waved her hand. Her pure, pretty little face glowed brightly.

“You, ah, you. The young really do not know sorrow, hahaha. Alright, I'm leaving.” Wuchuan then turned around with a smile and traveled back.

He didn't see the two tears rolling down Xiao Xi’s face as she watched his figure fade away. She mumbled, “Grandpa, I definitely won’t let you down...”

Lin Xun couldn't help but feel a little sentimental as well. The emotional scene between a grandfather and the grandchild tugged at his heartstrings and, at the same time, gave rise to envy.

Since he was little, he had never experienced this kind of familial intimacy.

After a long time, he patted Xiao Xi's shoulder, “No matter how high your future achievements will be, remember to come back often and see your grandfather, as well as Yunying Village where you were born and raised. That is your home, a place that will always be wide open for you even if you get lost on the path of cultivation.”

Xiao Xi nodded fiercely and wiped the tears on her face, “I will!”

She might not understand the true meaning in Lin Xun's advice yet, but as long as she carved it into her memory, she would definitely think back on it in the future and then relive this feeling.

Home.

This had once been a vague concept to Lin Xun, but ever since he had Xia Zhi, Zhao Jingxuan, and his child...he began to understand how important a place home was.

A place that belonged only to him, that nothing the world could ever replace.

Hmm?

When Lin Xun and Xiao Xi were about to set off, he sensed something and abruptly looked back.

There, on the mountain range in the horizon, he saw a group of figures. They were the villagers of Yunying Village, including the youngsters who had cultivated under his guidance in the last three years.

“Little friend, take care!”

“Master Lin, be sure to come back to see us when you can—”

“Big Sister Xiao Xi, we'll come find you one day, wait for us!”

A hubbub echoed from afar from the villagers who wouldn’t stop smiling and laughing. The children also followed suit and shouted toward the two.

“Please take care!” Even Lin Xun couldn’t help but feel a stir in his heart. He waved his hand to bid farewell.

At that moment, the sun was high on the sky, the mountains were verdant, and the sentiment of separation drenched his lungs and heart.

One day later, they arrived at the front of Qingliu City.

Upon the sight of the magnificent, ancient city basked in the sunlight, Xiao Xi’s eyes widened. Countless figures went in and out the city gate that was a thousand feet high. Some rode spirit beasts, some rode carriages, some tread on clouds, some teleported...

All sorts of living beings and cultivators came from all directions like they were going to a fair. The space between the sky and earth was filled with a variety of dazzling treasure lights and teleportation streaks.

Growing up, this was still the first time Xiao Xi had seen the city and so many cultivators in one place. It was as if all of a sudden, she had fallen into a big, colorful world, and it rattled her mind.

Lin Xun stood at her side and watched with a smile.

This was Xiao Xi's first true step into the world of cultivation. When one day, after she had witnessed all the prosperity as well as the ups and downs of the world, perhaps...

What she would miss more than anything would be her former self – that simple-minded and inexperienced little girl.

Chapter 2586 Fiasco at the Enrollment

Looking around for a while, Xiao Xi suddenly pointed above the city gate and said in surprise, "Big Brother Daoyuan, look."

It was a bounty list hanging on the wall above the gate.

On the list was a towering figure. His feet stepped on the stars, above him was a sword cauldron that rained billions of rays of lights, his eyes resembled abysses, and he exuded the might of a demonic god!

Underneath the figure, his description was written: "Lin Xun, disciple of Fangchun Mountain, Ancient Nebula Road. Vicious, evil, and ruthless..."

Words of judgment, amounting to over a thousand, packed the following rows. Lin Xun was clearly considered an immoral heretic, a treacherous criminal.

At the very end of the list, there was a row of different magical stamps that represented every Immortal Imperial force who was after Lin Xun.

This included the ten great immortal giants of the Eighth Heaven Domain such as the Fu, Qi, Zhongli, Mu, and a number of other clans.

There were also the Donghuang's Four Clans in the Seventh Heaven Domain, as well as the Sixth Heaven Domain's Wen, Heng, Zhu, Rong, and Luo Clans...

Probably anyone who saw such a wanted notice would jump out of fright and disbelief.

Even Lin Xun himself inwardly put his guard up when he did.

Qingliu City was such a remote city in Water Cloud State of the Donglai Region, yet this wanted list had been posted here. One didn't even need to think to know that similar wanted lists had been posted in the rest of the First Heaven Domain!

However, Lin Xun noticed that the people coming and going through the city gate seemed to have long been used to the sight of the wanted notice. Not many actually paid attention to it at all.

"Big Brother Daoyuan, why do I feel like that person looks a bit like you?" Xiao Xi twisted her head and stared at Lin Xun with her limpid eyes, comparing him to the figure on the list.

"You have discerning eyes, kiddo. You are right, that person is me," Lin Xun chuckled.

Xiao Xi pursed her lips and then laughed crisply, "I don't believe you!"

How in the world would any wanted criminal dare to admit his identity so calmly?

Moreover, after making careful comparison, she found that the two were vastly different and thus couldn't be the same person.

"Is that so?" an amused Lin Xun didn't explain any further.

In fact, let alone Xiao Xi, even a supreme Emperor Ancestor wouldn’t be able to see into his true identity unless they had some special talents or skills.

“Let's enter the city.” Lin Xun led Xiao Xi into Qingliu City.

The spacious streets in the city were crisscrossed. Exquisite ancient buildings lined up. Busy crowds shuttled to and fro like flowing water. Everywhere there were sounds of people yelling and hawking. It all painted a lively and prosperous scene.

In Lin Xun's eyes, the entire city was covered in an invisible, heavy restrictive power. It was just like a super-large convergence array pulling in aeth qi from all directions, looking quite spectacular.

However, in terms of scale, this city was far inferior to Chaotian City in the Great Thousand Battle Domain.

After all, Chaotian City was occupied by many Immortal Imperial Clans while also being managed by Law Spirit Haotian. There, almost any random person on the street was a menace above the Emperor Stage, and there was no shortage of immortal experts either.

Meanwhile, Qingliu City, despite being in the First Heaven Domain of the Eternal True Realm, was ultimately a very remote area. The cultivation levels of the beings in the city also greatly varied.

There were longevity tribulation Kings like Xiao Xi, and even Saints and quasi-Emperors. There were also Emperors, but they were not a very common sight.

After a brief analysis, Lin Xun understood why.

This was only a small city in a corner of the First Heaven Domain. At the end of the day, unlike in the case with the Great Thousand Battle Domain, Emperors were certainly not as common as dogs here.

Besides, the Eternal True Realm was beyond vast. There were countless beings who had taken up residence here for generations, and it was impossible for everyone to reach the Emperor Stage. Emperors would be worthless otherwise.

Enjoying the city scenes, Lin Xun took Xiao Xi on a stroll.

Since it was her first time leaving Yunying Village into the outside world, everything she saw and felt was novel to her. Walking the streets, her pupils kept shifting left, right, and around, as though just two eyes were not enough for this moment.

Lin Xun smiled as he patiently accompanied her. He also spent money generously along the way.

Every treasure that Xiao Xi gave more than a glance, he bought. They ranged from divine materials and resources to pills and exotic treasures...

Even if they didn't seem to be very useful, he still bought them without blinking.

During those years in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, he had amassed hundreds of millions of first-grade cosmic origin crystals, so this small amount of money was nothing at all.

The spending went on until Xiao Xi felt bad and repeatedly discouraged him from spending any more.

Lin Xun said yes, but when he came across treasures that were suitable for her, he would buy them without hesitation.

After wandering around for several hours, Xiao Xi finally somewhat adapted to the bustling atmosphere. Her eyes shining brightly, she said, “Big Brother Daoyuan, if one day I have the ability, I will definitely help Grandpa and the others move into the city to live.”

This was a very pure, innocent wish.

Lin Xun smiled, “You can definitely do it.”

While chatting, the two arrived in front of a grand and solemn old building.

This was the City Lord’s Residence. All the young girls and boys who were qualified to be in the selection would first register at the City Lord’s Residence. Following that, they would go through a test before entering the final selection.

Those who passed the selection would be sent to Liangyi Academy to cultivate!

Every ten years, Qingliu City would organize such a selection, and every time, it would attract countless youths from the territories around the city.

However, there were only ten spots, making it an extremely fierce competition.

When Lin Xun and Xiao Xi arrived, there was already a sea of people around the City Lord’s Residence, so densely packed that there was almost no space.

“Only those who wish to register can enter the City Lord’s Residence. The rest of you wait outside!” bellowed a guard in black armor who was maintaining order at the scene.

“Xiao Xi, go ahead. I'll wait for you here,” said Lin Xun.

What was scheduled for today was only the registration and the test. The selection round would be hosted three days later.

Xiao Xi took a deep breath, nodded, and walked straight up. Her petite figure quickly disappeared inside the City Lord’s Residence.

Lin Xun stood outside, reviewing his options while he waited.

Back then, before he had entered the Great Thousand Battle Domain, Emperor Ancestor Yunyuan of the He Clan had sent him an invitation, hoping that if Lin Xun successfully arrived at the Eternal True Realm, he would go to their clan and become an attendant to a supreme Great Emperor there.

The reason was to help that person compete for a law power that was produced in a secret realm of chaos.

At that time, Lin Xun didn't turn the invitation down. His idea was that being an honorable guest of the He Clan would allow him to avoid many risks and simultaneously utilize their connection to get information on the Eternal True Realm and the Luo Clan.

However, the situation was different now. His identity had been fully exposed in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, making him the target of many Immortal Imperial Clans in the Eternal True Realm.

If he ventured to the He Clan under this circumstance, there would only be harm and no good.

In a worst-case scenario, the He Clan would find out his identity. There was no telling what would happen then!

Therefore, he could only give up on joining them.

I wonder if Eldest Senior Brother and the others are still in the Sixth Heaven Domain...

Recalling what he had learned in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, Lin Xun couldn't help but look forward to meeting up with his senior brothers and sisters of Fangchun Mountain again.

However, he quickly calmed himself down and temporarily suppressed the idea of finding his fellow disciples.

He was only in the First Heaven Domain. Although he had already been here for three years, he had always stayed in Yunying Village and therefore was simply a stranger to everything else in the Eternal True Realm.

It was imperative that he take no action yet, but instead understand and familiarize himself with the Eternal True Realm as soon as possible. Only then could he better plan his next journey.

The most crucial thing to take into consideration was the fact that his strength hadn't completely recovered yet. No matter how badly he wanted to exact revenge now, he could only endure for the time being.

In the end, Lin Xun decided to do only two things before traveling to the Sixth Heaven Domain.

The first thing was to completely unlock the restriction sealing the bronze box left by Mister Lu.

This treasure hid clues related to his mother Luo Qingxun. Over the years, Lin Xun's dao bodies had been trying to crack it, but they had only managed to solve half of the heavy restrictive seals.

The second thing was to break through in his cultivation.

As long as he could step onto the immortal path before he went to the Sixth Heaven Domain, then without a doubt, the threat that those Immortal Imperial Clans posed to him would be greatly diminished!

In that case, after he entered the Sixth Heaven Domain, he would have the confidence to even challenge the Luo Clan and test its power!

Just as Lin Xun was deep in thought, there was suddenly a chaotic noise of fighting inside the City Lord's Residence, with angry rebukes and screams mixed in it.

"What's happening?"

"Is there a fight?"

The crowd waiting outside the City Lord's Residence was alerted, stretching their necks and releasing their spirit senses to investigate.

A cold glint flashed in the depths of Lin Xun's eyes as he seemed to figure out the situation before everyone else. He vanished into thin air.

Inside the City Lord’s Residence.

A handsome youth in his late teens who was dressed luxuriously shouted angrily, “How dare you kill my personal escort?! Seize this little bitch for me!”

Next to him, one of his escorts was lying in a pool of blood that slowly dyed the ground red.

Not far away was a group of guards of the City Lord’s Residence. They were murderously striding toward a young girl who had a fair, pretty, and smart-looking face and was dressed in leather clothes. It was none other than Xiao Xi.

However, her expression was filled with anger, and her limpid eyes burned with rage, “I’m here to sign up for the selection, but you guys tried to grab me and take me away. Where is the sense in this?”

"Sense? In this City Lord’s Residence, I make the rules!" declared the finely-dressed, handsome young man with contempt before revealing a savage smile. “It’s your honor and blessing that you caught my attention, but you refused a toast to only drink a forfeit. I was going to make you my concubine, but I’ve changed my mind. Guards, whoever captures her, she’ll be your slave to toy with however you like!”

The order was said in a chilling, ruthless voice.

The crowd of young people who were here to register stood in the distance, quiet like cicadas in winter as they looked at Xiao Xi with pity.

Out of all the people to offend, why must you choose the young master of the City Lord’s Residence?

Chapter 2587 The Little Bastard and The Old Fogey

The handsome young man in luxurious clothes was Qin Huiran, the youngest son of City Lord Qin Xiaotong. He possessed excellent aptitude and intelligence, but his temperament was that of a violent playboy. With a love for cruelty and conflicts, he was a bully in Qingliu City.

Not to mention the general cultivators, even some dignified characters in the city didn’t easily dare to offend this young man.

Now that Xiao Xi had killed Qin Huiran's personal escort and enraged him, the crowd reckoned that she, who was clearly not from a big clan, was as good as doomed.

“Capture this chick for the young master!” Those guards' faces were hideously ruthless as they approached Xiao Xi.

Having keen and experienced eyes, they knew right away from Xiao Xi’s leather outfit that she was not a noble, and instead was most likely from a remote tribe in the vicinity of Qingliu City.

Such a small character posed no threat to them at all.

The look of anger mixed with panic on her face gave them a sense of thrill, like that of a cat when it toyed with a mouse.

They had to admit that the young master had good eyes. The cheap clothing could not conceal the natural beauty of the girl in front of them. She was pretty and full of life, and had a pair of long, straight, and slender legs. In a few years, she would definitely mature into a great beauty that could topple nations.

As Xiao Xi was slowly forced into a corner, she shuddered with fury. Seeing that she was about to be surrounded, she couldn't endure it any more, “I'll risk my life with you!”

Boom!

She raised her hands and charged forward. With dao light streaming around her, she looked as though she was putting her life on the line.

The guards all revealed looks of disdain. It was truly hard for them to take a small character of the longevity stage seriously.

One of the guards struck out, grabbing at Xiao Xi's throat in an attempt to capture her in one go. The moment he extended his hand, however, there was a snap. His tendons and bones had burst and caused his hand to fall limply. He wailed in pain.

Immediately following that, the other guards surrounding Xiao Xi issued muffled grunts one by one and collapsed on the ground like all of their bones had been broken.

The whole field lurched into silence. The spectators were so appalled by the sudden occurrence that they almost thought their eyes had issues. After all, this was inside the City Lord's Residence, and all of these guards were its elite soldiers who were above Saint-King Stage. Furthermore, many of them were on the supreme path!

Despite that, they had all fallen down without a sound in the blink of an eye!

Right at this moment, Lin Xun suddenly appeared and stood in front of Xiao Xi, who had also been struck dumb.

He asked in a warm voice, "Are you alright, kiddo?"

Looking at him, the panic and anger on Xiao Xi's face dissipated. Her eyes were slightly red as she said, "Big Brother Daoyuan, did I cause you trouble?"

Lin Xun was concerned and sorry as he replied, "Trouble? Something this trivial? Just leave it to me."

He then turned around and looked at the finely-dressed youth who wasn't far away.

"What do you want!?" the stupefied Qin Huiran was alarmed. His face faltered as he coldly said, "This is the City Lord's Residence, yet you've not only trespassed without authorization but also injured our guards. Are you tired of living?"

With that, he waved his hand, "Men, execute this criminal!"

Many guards around the City Lord’s Residence had already been alerted and rushed into the main hall. At the moment, they were all looking at Lin Xun with harsh eyes and their weapons ready.

“Sir, are you going to surrender, or do we have to make you?” said one of the guards icily.

Bang!

His voice still echoed when the entire person got sent flying, then fell to the ground paralyzed and could never get up again. Many paled as they hadn't even been able to see Lin Xun’s attack.

“I only intend to deal with the one responsible, so do not force me to kill you,” said Lin Xun indifferently.

The hearts of the standing guards trembled, their expressions dim and uncertain.

"What are you doing?! Attack! Kill him! Quick!" shouted Qin Huiran when he had a feeling that the situation wasn’t good for him. At the same time, he ran toward the doors to the outside.

“Little bastard, didn't you say that you make the rules in this City Lord’s Residence? Why are you fleeing?” Lin Xun's eyes flashed with contempt as he grabbed through the air.

Instantly, Qin Huiran looked like a small insect being viciously clutched by an invisible hand, which swung him down at the ground before Lin Xun.

When he struggled to climb up, Lin Xun stomped on his back. The sound of bones breaking rang out.

Despite the unbearable pain he was in, the young master of the City Lord’s Residence maintained a ferocious attitude as he shrieked, "You're finished, dead! Once my father gets here, both you and that little bitch will die!"

Bang!

Lin Xun's expression was unperturbed. He exerted force in his toes, and Qin Huiran only felt as though a million swords were stabbing his heart. The infinite pain almost tore him apart. He opened his mouth wanting to scream, but he couldn't make a single sound.

At this moment, he finally panicked.

“Friend, have mercy!” The guards also panicked, worried that Lin Xun would really kill their young master. They now looked at him with shock and apprehension written all over their faces.

In all their life, this was the first time they had encountered such a menace who dared to wreak havoc in the City Lord’s Residence. On top of that, the other party looked too calm. He clearly had no fear!

“Big Brother Daoyuan, how about we just leave this at that? I'm fine,” suggested Xiao Xi worriedly.

Lin Xun gently said, “You have to remember in case you have to face this kind thing again in the future: retreating means weakness. Give these people an inch, they will take a mile and look down on you. Just stand aside and see how I deal with this matter.”

As this was Xiao Xi’s first time setting foot out of Yunying Village, her experience and knowledge of the world was no different from a blank sheet of paper.

Lin Xun felt the need to teach her some things through this matter, for in the future when he was no longer by her side, she would have no one to protect her like this anymore.

“Mhm,” Xiao Xi took a deep breath and stood to the side. Having calmed down, she understood that Lin Xun was doing this entirely for her sake.

“His Lordship has arrived—!” an announcement resounded before long.

Instantly, there was a commotion inside and outside the City Lord’s Residence. All the onlookers blocking the neighborhood instinctively moved to make a path.

Everyone then saw a dignified man in a violet robe come in stride, followed by a group of subordinates. He was the lord of Qingliu City, Qin Xiaotong, who was viewed as a juggernaut by the citizens.

Upon seeing the situation in the main hall, Qin Xiaotong's expression took on a touch of gravity, and when his eyes fell on Qin Huiran who was under Lin Xun's foot, his face became livid.

"Fellow Daoist, you really have no respect for me, committing violent acts in my territory, do you?" Qin Xiaotong's eyes were lightning sharp as he scanned Lin Xun, seemingly trying to figure something out.

However, he frowned after seeing how bland and ordinary the latter's aura was. He couldn't judge Lin Xun's strength at all.

"Passing judgment without knowing the full situation first, is this how you normally act, old fogey?" Lin Xun was devoid of emotion. "The reason why I didn't kill this little bastard and waited here is to give you, his father, a chance to redeem for him, but that seems unnecessary now."

Qin Xiaotong's heart tensed up and his expression drastically changed, "Let's talk it out, Fellow Daoist. As long as you let my child live, I promise that whatever you've done will be forgiven!"

The crowd around smacked their lips. It was out of their expectation that this young man would still act so tough even in the city lord's presence.

"Brother, show forgiveness where it is possible. If you take a step back, you may find it to be a blessing," someone couldn't help but advise Lin Xun.

"That's right, this is Qingliu City. The little girl won't be able to participate in the selection if you offend the city lord."

"Friend, making amends with his lordship and releasing Young Master Qin is the wise thing to do here. Don't act on impulse."

Many chimed in, seemingly to pacify Lin Xun, but it was clear that they were speaking in favor of Qin Xiaotong, the powerful city lord who ruled this place.

How could Lin Xun not understand this? He sneered, “How about I take your lives in exchange for this little bastard's?”

The crowd shut up at once, their expressions twisting into something unsightly out of mortification. They believed that Lin Xun didn’t know what was good for him, that he clearly had a death wish!

“What exactly do you want?” Qin Xiaotong stressed each word with an ashen face.

“What I want is simple. If you personally cripple this little bastard’s cultivation, then I'll pretend that our conflict never happened.”

“You... Don’t go overboard!” Qin Xiaotong's beard flared in rage, his eyes glowing red. If it wasn't for the fact that Qin Huiran was captured, he would have attacked.

Lin Xun smiled faintly, “You think I only dare make such a demand because I have this little bastard as a hostage?”

The crowd couldn't help but inwardly roll their eyes. Why is this even a question?

Qin Xiaotong was thinking the same thing. The very next second, Lin Xun raised his foot and kicked Qin Huiran. The latter rolled to Qin Xiaotong's feet.

“I've changed my mind. Not only do I want to cripple this little bastard, but I also want to cripple you, old fogey,” Lin Xun casually said.

Seeing his son being released so easily, Qin Xiaotong was stunned. Then, he laughed ecstatically and said with a savage expression, “What the hell do you think you are? I will send you on your way now!”

He strode out and made his move.

Kaboom!

A vast and violent Emperor aura spread from him, sending chills through everyone in the vicinity.

However, Lin Xun merely responded with a palm strike. It instantly shattered the pressure released by Qin Xiaotong and proceeded to slap him to the floor. The man ended up falling flat on his face.

The whole audience was quiet, gawking in a stupor.

What happened?!

The hallowed city lord of Qingliu City, an Emperor expert with monstrous power and authority, actually got dominated like he’s a little fly?

“You...” Qin Xiaotong's face flushed red. Distress surfaced in his eyes as he finally realized that something was amiss. His opponent was not an ordinary person, but instead a well-concealed tough nut!

"You’ve only now realized? Too late." Lin Xun's eyes were cold and eerie.

He was about to attack, but right at this juncture, an old but vigorous voice rang out, “Young man, it's better to squash enmity than to drag it on. Can you give this old man face and stop here?”

In the echo of the voice, the withered figure of a tall old man appeared in the hall. A terrifying pressure also began to fill the grand hall.

The spectators inside and outside the City Lord’s Residence stopped breathing in shock and trepidation. Immediately after, they recognized the identity of the old man. Their eyes went wide open as they uncontrollably showed looks of awe.

Huo Xingdu!

Water Cloud State encompassed over a hundred cities, and Qingliu City was only one of them. Meanwhile, this old man named Huo Xingdu was the lord of Water Cloud State.

He was a mighty Emperor Ancestor of monstrously lofty status!

Chapter 2588 There is Always a Higher Mountain

Huo Xingdu's arrival was no different than the descent of a legendary existence for the people present. Upon seeing him, their faces became filled with awe.

The Water Cloud State encompassed three hundred and sixty cities. Having the capability to be the lord of such a territory, the impression of might had long been carved into the hearts of every cultivator during these countless years.

“My lord, please save my poor child!” Qin Xiaotong, who had been knocked down by Lin Xun's slap, broke the silence, shouting excitedly like he had finally found a lifeline.

Huo Xingdu frowned. He directed his gaze at Lin Xun and asked, “What do you think of my proposal, Little Friend?”

Everyone couldn’t help but look over at Lin Xun. Even Lord Huo Xingdu is here now. How can you not give him face?

Contrary to their expectations, he ignored Huo Xingdu and turned to Xiao Xi, “Do you think that little bastard is stupid?”

Xiao Xi was stunned for a moment before she answered, “Definitely not.”

He asked, “Then do you think that old fogey is stupid?”

She answered, “Anyone who can take on the role of a city lord is definitely not stupid.”

Lin Xun nodded, “You're correct. They're looking pitiful now because they provoked me, but if I weren’t here this time, what do you think would have happened to you?”

Xiao Xi shivered when she imagined the possibility. If she was captured, then how would she fight back with her strength?

In that scenario, she probably would be subjected to humiliation and torture that would make her want to die, but it would be a situation in which she could not die!

“Similarly, if any of those onlookers were in your shoes, their fate would be doomed to be miserable as well. Whereas this pair of father and son would just keep on enjoying a good life with their status.”

When Lin Xun said these facts out loud, the expressions of the onlookers all became a little awkward. Because this was the reality!

There weren’t that many miracles in this world, and Qin Xiaotong and Qin Huiran were by no means stupid. The only reason they had fallen into distress this time was because they had kicked a tough nut.

As a matter of fact, who would have thought that a plainly dressed young girl would be followed by a well-hidden, powerful expert?

“Young man, what do you mean by this?” Huo Xingdu's face became unsightly. Being left hanging by Lin Xun in front of a big crowd was a severe provocation to his dignity. This kind of treatment, to someone with his status, made him feel extremely uncomfortable.

"What do I mean? If it was your daughter in this situation, would you still be screaming ‘it's better to squash enmity than to drag it on’ like you just did?" Lin Xun's lips curled in a sneer. “In that scenario, suppose someone suddenly jumped out and advised you to take a step back and call it a day, how...would you feel?”

Huo Xingdu grimly said, “After all is said and done, you're still not going to give this old man face?”

The atmosphere of the hall became oppressive.

“I only tried to reason with you on the basis that there's no injustice or enmity between us, but you're threatening me with your so-called face,” Lin Xun couldn't help but laugh as he gazed deeply at Huo Xingdu. “More like...I gave you face, but you shamelessly refused it.”

These words were more than discourteous; they carried scorn and insult. The spectators’ eyes widened in disbelief. This guy has lost his mind! Is he really not scared of death, slandering Lord Huo Xingdu like this?!

Meanwhile, Huo Xingdu's old face had turned livid, his eyes boiling with killing intent. Having lived for so long, this was the first time he had encountered someone this arrogant and unruly.

Boom!

A terrifying Ancestor energy erupted on him. His might became as vast as the sky as its pressure caused the entire hall to shake violently. The surrounding cultivators quickly retreated far away with horrified expressions.

Lin Xun, on the other hand, seemed oblivious to it as he indifferently said, ''Resorting to violence after you’ve been embarrassed? If that’s your choice, then I will have to cripple your cultivation as well, old fool."

“That’s some big talk!” Huo Xingdu laughed out of utter anger and was about to make a move.

“Stop!” an icy voice suddenly resounded, followed closely by a woman who walked into the hall. She was clad in a dark-purple cloak, her inky hair was coiled in a bun, and her beauty was stunning. Her absolutely outstanding bearing made her the focal point of the entire field the moment she appeared.

Those onlookers, however, were creeped out after merely a glance at her. They quickly lowered their heads afterward like servants seeing the king, as if to take another glance at her would be a great blasphemy and a sin.

The furious Huo Xingdu also looked surprised. He immediately walked toward her and bowed, “Madam, have you been startled?”

Seeing this, the entire crowd felt dizzy, their hearts reeling. Someone as lofty as Lord Huo Xingdu is acting so humble?!

At this point, anyone could see that the stunning woman who had suddenly appeared had an extraordinary identity. Otherwise, how could she make the lord of Water Cloud State bow his head?

However, the woman paid no attention to Huo Xingdu. Instead, she came straight to Lin Xun and performed a meek bow, her voice soft with a trace of awe in it, “It’s been a year, Dao Brother, it’s great to see you again.”

The crowd was stunned silent, their jaws almost dropping. What...what’s going on?!

Huo Xingdu, who was still in a humble posture of salutation, felt like ten thousand horses were galloping in his mind as utter confusion took over him.

Could it be that he...had offended a...deeply hidden big shot?

The thought of it caused him to stiffen. The muscles on his cheeks seemed to be paralyzed, and the expression on his old face looked even uglier than someone blubbering. What the f*ck have I gotten into?!!

“It's you, you’re that beautiful big sister!” exclaimed a dumbstruck Xiao Xi.

How could she have forgotten this gorgeous, purple-clad woman who had appeared in Yunying Village a year ago? This person was precisely Nie Qingrong, a vice principal of Liangyi Academy.

“After a year, you’ve grown so pretty, little sister,” replied Nie Qingrong gently.

All the people in the grand hall currently looked as though they had been struck by lightning, stupefied at what they were seeing. It was not hard for them to realize that Lin Xun’s and Xiao Xi's background was far higher than what they thought it was.

“You're here to advise me to end this matter here as well?” Lin Xun frowned.

After his warning to Nie Qingrong a year ago, nothing had changed or happened to him or Yunying Village up until now, which undoubtedly showed how smart this woman was. She hadn't divulged anything about the matter between them, much less taken any retaliatory action.

This alone had changed his impression of her in a positive way, but if she was here to persuade him to stop, then it would be a different story.

Nie Qingrong hurriedly explained, “Please don’t misunderstand. I’m here because Liangyi Academy’s disciple selection in Water Cloud State this year has fallen under my responsibility. I really didn’t expect to see you here, Dao Brother.”

“I see.” Lin Xun understood. It was reasonable for Nie Qingrong to be here for the selection as a vice principal of Liangyi Academy.

Right at this moment, Huo Xingdu walked over and bowed with shame on his face, his voice trembling, “This old man was blind to offend you, but it was not my intention. I hope that you’ll allow me to atone for my actions!”

He bowed so low that his head was almost about to touch his feet.

His humble gesture of atonement caused jaws to fall to the ground. Was this still the supreme lord of Water Cloud State who everyone viewed as a god?

Qin Xiaotong also froze in place, chills roaming all over him like he had fallen into an ice cave. All the scenes that had been transpiring before his eyes gave him an extremely bad feeling, as though a disaster would befall him at any moment!

Meanwhile, Lin Xun looked at Huo Xingdu, who was bending his knees in front of him, and sneered, “So, only under this circumstance will an ‘old man’ like you learn to be humble and risk your so-called face?”

Huo Xingdu buried his head even lower, his voice hoarse and bitter, “Please don't be angry, my lord!”

Right now, even Nie Qingrong was acting respectful and even fearful, so who was he to put on airs? How could he dare talk about his so-called dignity? He had forsaken his old face!

In the eyes of true behemoths in the Eternal True Realm, an Emperor Ancestor was nothing more than a toy in their hands who they could destroy at whim.

“To quell my anger is quite simple: you only need to personally cripple the cultivation of this father and son pair,” said Lin Xun casually.

Plop!

The horrified Qin Xiaotong, who had just climbed up with difficulty, directly fell to his knees again. He knocked his head against the floor, wailing, “Please spare my life, please spare my life!”

Lin Xun paid him no heed and asked Xiao Xi, “What are your thoughts now, kiddo?”

“Ah...” Xiao Xi was about to say something, but Lin Xun stopped her with a smile.

“Whatever they are, keep your opinions in your heart. As your cultivation grows, you'll slowly understand the logic behind this,” he said before leading her straight out of the hall. Throughout this exchange, he never spared Huo Xingdu or Qin Xiaotong another look.

“You will settle the matter here. If you can’t do it in a satisfactory way, then I'll do it for you.” Nie Qingrong glanced at Huo Xingdu tellingly before she turned and chased after Lin Xun and Xiao Xi.

It wasn't until Nie Qingrong's stunning figure disappeared that Huo Xingdu raised his head. His expression was horribly chilling, and his eyes glowed with an intimidating light that said he wanted to eat someone alive.

“Qin Xiaotong, do you know your crime?” His voice was ruthless.

“My lord, I...” Qin Xiaotong’s face was white as a sheet as he was already out of his wits. The second he opened his mouth, Huo Xingdu struck out his palm.

Bang!

Qin Xiaotong spat out blood and convulsed. Like a poked ball, his cultivation deflated quickly until there was nothing left. He looked like he had aged countless years at once.

“Don't blame me, you brought this all on yourself,” said Huo Xingdu as he turned his gaze to Qin Huiran who was not far away.

The youth in his late teens had also long been scared witless. Under Huo Xingdu's stare, his eyes rolled up, and he actually fainted.

“Worthless trash!” Contempt crossed Huo Xingdu's eyes as he flicked his finger.

Bang!

Qin Huiran's cultivation had also been crippled completely.

Huo Xingdu ordered, “Men, come and throw these two out. From now on, the position of Qingliu City Lord will be handed over to a different person!”

Immediately, the group of guards who had previously been obedient to the father and son duo marched out and dragged them away.

Witnessing all of this, those who had gathered in the vicinity struggled to return to their senses for a long time. The shock in their hearts spread uncontrollably to every inch of their bodies. Before this, who would have dared to imagine that this dispute would end in such a bizarre manner?

Chapter 2589 Everything Codex

In Qingliu City.

While walking the bustling street, Xiao Xi was absent-minded.

The matter just now had given her too much of a shock. She needed time to calm down.

To this, Lin Xun remained quiet.

This was perhaps the price of growth.

Even the most empty canvas would gradually become a picture under the trials and tribulations of the world.

“Dao Brother,” the stunning purple-clad Nie Qingrong caught up with them.

She had skin as fair and smooth as butter, a charming appearance, a huggably slim waist, and an ample bosom. However, in stark contrast to this peerless beauty was her ice-cold temperament.

“Just get straight to the point.” Lin Xun stopped walking and looked at Nie Qingrong, not surprised that the other party would follow him out.

Nie Qingrong lowered her phoenix eyes and softly said, “From what I saw, your little sister was going to sign up for the selection? Does this mean she has plans to cultivate under Liangyi Academy?”

He nodded, “Indeed.”

Nie Qingrong took a deep breath as if to gather courage, and finally looked straight at Lin Xun, “Dao Brother, if you can trust me, I wish to help you with this.”

Lin Xun asked, “And why do you want to help?”

Nie Qingrong deliberated for a moment before she replied, “Would you believe me if I say I want to form good karma with you, Dao Brother?”

He said, “I believe you.”

The way he responded without thinking took Nie Qingrong aback. She had originally been prepared to patiently explain her reason, but now, she was actually at a loss for words.

“Kiddo, do you want to go with her and study at Liangyi Academy?” Lin Xun looked at Xiao Xi by his side.

The young girl was clearly excited from how bright her eyes were, but she still hesitated, “I’ll listen to you, Big Brother Daoyuan.”

This scene suddenly reminded Lin Xun of Zhao Jingxuan.

Back in the Ancient Wasteland Domain, Ao Zhentian had come to Star Chess Sea to take Zhao Jingxuan to the True Dragon World and participate in the Thousand Dragon Celestial Assembly. Zhao Jingxuan had been exactly like Xiao Xi now, giving the same response despite her excitement.

The memory of this put a smile on Lin Xun’s face. He said to the young girl, “Then go.”

He had put some thought into this matter and figured that under Nie Qingrong’s care, Xiao Xi definitely wouldn’t be bullied in Liangyi Academy. This was precisely why he had been so quick and affirmative in his reply to Nie Qingrong’s question. It was an expression of goodwill on his part.

Nie Qingrong obviously also felt uplifted, her eyes gleaming like a beautiful autumn lake. She softly said, “With her talent, this little sister can definitely shine bright in Liangyi Academy.”

Lin Xun said, “I just hope that she leads a safe life.”

Nie Qingrong was stunned for a moment. Then, she guaranteed, “Don't worry, Dao Brother. No one can bully her in Liangyi Academy.”

There was absolute confidence in her voice.

“I just happen to have nothing to do at the moment, so I wonder if Liangyi Academy welcomes me, an outsider, to pay a visit?” asked Lin Xun.

Nie Qingrong's eyes lit up, and her gentle voice took on a hint of joy, “It’s the academy’s honor to be graced by your presence .”

“My lord,” Huo Xingdu hurriedly came from the distance, first bowing respectfully toward Nie Qingrong and then toward Lin Xun, “Reporting to Seniors, the father and son of the Qin Clan have received the punishment they deserve.”

“Mhm,” Lin Xun acknowledged and made no comment.

Nie Qingrong said, “Huo Xingdu, since I’m leaving today, the disciple selection will be in your charge.”

Huo Xingdu hurriedly nodded.

“Dao Brother, should we depart immediately?” She turned to Lin Xun.

“Alright,” Lin Xun agreed.

Watching the three of them fade into the horizon, Huo Xingdu quietly wiped the cold sweat on his face. As an Emperor Ancestor, he hadn't been this scared in a long time.

.....

Whoosh!

In the depths of the clouds, a treasure ship as big as a mountain sped by.

Lin Xun was casually leaning on the bow of the ship and drinking from the wine gourd in his hand. Melodious laughters would occasionally ring out from the cabin behind him, one soft and enchanting while the other crisp and tinkling.

They belonged to Nie Qingrong and Xiao Xi who were having a great time talking. The former had intended to befriend the latter, so since boarding the ship, she had started lowering her pride to do so. It didn't take long for their relationship to become cordial.

Lin Xun just looked on quietly.

This was Xiao Xi's first time experiencing the First Heaven Domain outside of Yunying Village, but it was also the same for him. The only difference was that he already had plenty of life experience and knowledge .

While drinking the wine, he took out a jade slip. This was the 'Everything Codex' that he had purchased while wandering Qingliu City. It contained information related to the First Heaven Domain.

The Four Great Regions.

The Four Great Academies.

Known Forbidden Lands.

Aeth Mountains and Blessed Lands.

Ancient Secrets.

Extraterritorial Immortal Mountains...

There were around a hundred catalogs like these alone in the Everything Codex. Each of them was then expounded at length, to the point that virtually all the various matters in the First Heaven Domain from ancient times to the present day were written down in detail.

Even Lin Xun found this record to be an eye-opener and read it with great interest. Gradually, he gained a general idea of the First Heaven Domain.

According to the codex, the First Heaven Domain was located in the outermost part of the Eternal True Realm, and its size was comparable to that of a hundred big worlds combined! Such a massive territory was divided into four great regions, namely Donglai, Xixia, Beifeng, and Nanhuo.

Each of these regions had a respective academy, which were the Liangyi Academy in Donglai, the Xingdou Academy in Xixia, the Huangmu Academy in Beifeng, and the Binglin Academy in Nanhuo.

The four great academies represented the top four organizations in the First Heaven Domain, basically making them the overlords. Behind each of them stood different Immortal Imperial Clans, and these clans were all behemoths high up in the Sixth Heaven Domain!

Furthermore, this situation not only applied to the First Heaven Domain, but also the Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Heaven Domains.

For instance, the Second Heaven Domain had a big organization whose influence covered it entirely called the Jiuxuan Institute. It was definitely the undisputed number one power in the whole domain.

However, nearly all the high-ranking officials of Jiuxuan Institute came from different Immortal Imperial Clans of the Sixth Heaven Domain. In other words, the Jiuxuan Institute actually represented a bunch of Immortal Imperial Clans from above!

The Third, Fourth, and Fifth Heaven Domains were in a similar situation, and the reason for it was simple.

Those Immortal Imperial Clans of the Sixth Heaven Domain were like royalty and nobility. While they were entrenched in the Sixth Heaven Domain, their forces had long since infiltrated the domains below and governed them. The purpose was simply to harvest more cultivation resources.

For example, while Liangyi Academy was the overlord of the Donglai Region in the First Heaven Domain, it had to gather and send cultivation resources to the Sixth Heaven Domain every once in a while.

Only in this way could it gain the support and protection of those Immortal Imperial Clans.

The cultivation resources included all kinds of mineral deposits, aeth veins, materials, treasures, etc. In short, anything cultivation-related would be delivered to the Sixth Heaven Domain as 'tribute.'

In addition to those, discovering new 'law powers' would earn them special rewards as well!

At the same time, the existence of Liangyi Academy also had another purpose: to find cultivation talents and recruit them for the Immortal Imperial Clans in the Sixth Heaven Domain.

In fact, most organizations like Liangyi Academy were tasked with collecting cultivation resources and potential geniuses for the clans behind them.

This was the equivalent of 'tax' in a mortal dynasty, where the taxes were collected through the layers of counties, states, and provinces before being transported to the imperial capital. By the same token, the official examinations in the counties, states, and provinces were conducted for the purpose of finding and sending talents to the imperial capital.

In this comparison, the First Heaven Domain played the role of a county, and the four great academies were government offices in charge of collecting taxes and selecting talents in the county.

Upon acquiring the knowledge, Lin Xun was astonished and deeply impacted.

After exhausting the financial, material, and human resources of the first five Heaven Domains, it would be difficult for those Immortal Imperial Clans in the Sixth Heaven Domain Clans not to be powerful!

However, he was also well aware how this law of 'big fish eats the small fish' worked. The 'tribute' sent to those Immortal Imperial Clans in the Sixth Heaven Domain would probably continue to go up to the Seventh Heaven Domain.

It could only be through this kind of flow of resources that the entire system and power structure of the Eternal True Realm was formed.

After some pondering, Lin Xun began to focus on studying the power structure of the four great academies. Behind Liangyi Academy stood three Immortal Imperial Clans: the He, the Zhu, and the Hong.

Among them, he was most familiar with the He Clan. It was precisely one of the four great Immortal Imperial Clans of Wen, Heng, Peng, and He, and was also Emperor Ancestor Yunyuan's clan.

Lin Xun was no stranger to the Zhu Clan either.

Back in Tiger's Den City, the second Immortal Heavenly Pass of the Great Thousand Battle Domain, he had attended a banquet in the City Lord's Residence hosted by Peng Tianxiang, during which he had killed a supreme Emperor named Zhu Lin.

This Zhu Lin was from the Zhu Clan of the Sixth Heaven Domain!

He couldn't help but frown. He hadn't expected that there would be such an enemy force among the ones behind Liangyi Academy. Of note, the Zhu Clan was one of the Immortal Imperial Clans who had posted his wanted notice in the various parts of the world!

Lin Xun himself wasn't afraid of them, but he had to take Xiao Xi into consideration. Should his identity be exposed one day, she might be implicated and suffer in Liangyi Academy.

"Looks like I must resolve this first..." he mused. If this kind of latent threat was not purged, it would only be detrimental to Xiao Xi.

As Lin Xun was thinking to himself, he seemed to sense something and abruptly looked in a certain direction.

Almost at the same time, a loud laughter came from the clouds in the horizon, "Hahaha, I didn't think I'd run into Master Nie's treasure ship here. Could this be the will of Heaven?"

The clouds then dispersed, and the void trembled violently as a group of powerful, radiant figures came out of thin air through teleportation. As soon as they appeared, they set up a formation and blocked the treasure ship's path from afar. Their spirit senses also swept out across the sky and earth.

These people were aggressive!

Chapter 2590 Eradicating the Enemies Within Seconds

It was a group of seven people led by a middle-aged man who rode a deep-red cloud. He looked refined in feather clothing, had graying sideburns, and was draped in strands of Ancestral law power that gave him an intimidating air. The people around him also exuded auras belonging to the Ancestor Stage.

Whoosh!

Nie Qingrong appeared almost immediately, and a frosty look spread across her beautiful face the moment she saw the group.

"Yuan Wanzhong, what are you here for? What's your Binglin Academy planning?"she said coldly as the treasure ship came to a stop in the void. The atmosphere became tense.

"What am I here for? The secret map, of course," the feather-clad middle-aged man smiled as he boldly scanned Nie Qingrong's exquisite figure with fervent eyes. "Other than that, I'd like to invite Vice Principal Nie to my humble abode. I wonder if you'll give me this honor?"

Disgust surfaced in Nie Qingrong's eyes, "I have no idea about whatever secret map you speak of. Also, are you intending to provoke Liangyi Academy by bringing so many people?"

"Since I dare come here, do you think that we're scared of offending your academy?" The feather-clad man revealed a playful look. "Vice Principal Nie, let's not waste time. Either you obediently come with us, or we will make you. What's your choice?"

The eyes of the people around harshly locked onto Nie Qingrong. The latter's heart sank as she realized the gravity of the situation. The other party's action was clearly calculated, and they were ready to openly make an enemy of Liangyi Academy!

“Dao Brother, their target is me, so in a little while, find a chance to take Xiao Xi and leave,” transmitted Nie Qingrong quickly. “I'll do my best to hold them back.”

However, she saw Lin Xun shake his head. He said, “Too much trouble.”

Nie Qingrong was stunned.

Before she could react, Lin Xun had already raised his voice, “Disappear within three breaths, or all of you will stay here forever.”

Astounded, the middle-aged Yuan Wanzhong and his group turned to Lin Xun, their eyes filled with astonishment and suspicion.

Who is this guy? He sure talks big!

Nie Qingrong was also caught off guard by Lin Xun’s intervention, but she didn’t dare to withhold important information from him and get him caught up in this kind of trouble, so she said bitterly, “Dao Brother, they are from Binglin Academy. If you get involved in this, you’ll make an enemy of their whole academy, which means even more trouble.”

Lin Xun asked out of nowhere, “Is the Wen Clan one of the Immortal Imperial Clans standing behind this Binglin Academy?”

Nie Qingrong nodded, “It is.”

She thought that Lin Xun had finally realized how powerful the opponent was and wanted to withdraw.

Who would have thought that he would smile the next second and say, “Now I really have to get involved.”

Yuan Wanzhong’s group was shocked. Lin Xun's tone was casual and calm, but in their ears, his declaration was confident and arrogant.

“You are young, but you talk big. I’d actually like to see if you really have the strength to match what comes out of your mouth!” Yuan Wanzhong's eyes flashed with killing intent.

Boom!

A brilliant crimson sword intent surged out from him like boiling magma and swept through the sky. The aura of an Ancestor stirred, seemingly wanting to set the heavens on fire.

“Chop!” A thunderous word rolled out from his tongue. The crimson sword intent furiously slashed down like a raging flame, incinerating the air.

“Three breaths have passed...” Lin Xun’s indifferent voice echoed as he waved his sleeve. The horrendous, fiery sword intent was instantly crushed and blown away. At the same time, he vanished.

“Not good!” Yuan Wanzhong's face dropped. He immediately urged his qi.

Buzz!

A golden-colored bronze bell emerged and defensively shrouded his figure. On the treasure, tens of thousands of mysterious runes surfaced and unleashed a dazzling glow.

Called the Divine Majesty Bell, this was Yuan Wanzhong's life-bound Emperor weapon that had been nurtured in him for several thousand years. The second it was out, it seemed to create a heavenly rift in front of him. It was truly an unparalleled defense.

Lin Xun appeared in front of Yuan Wanzhong in a bizarre way, extended his hand, and lightly deployed a strike.

CLANG!

In a deafening, vibrating collision, the bell gained a palm-shaped dent, from which countless cracks branched out. Immediately following that, there was a loud boom. The life-bound Emperor treasure that Yuan Wanzhong considered his absolute protection had directly burst into countless fragments.

The impact hit Yuan Wanzhong like a heavenly hand, crushing all the defensive measures on him layer by layer. In the end, his muscles split, blood splattered, and pieces of flesh flew in all directions.

The terrifying palm qi then drowned his exposed primordial spirit and reduced it to ashes like a wind blowing out a candle.

An Emperor Ancestor from Binglin Academy, taken down by a single palm strike! The gory death staged by the casually deployed strike caused the region to fall into a brief silence.

The next second, cries of alarm rose everywhere. The moment their terrified wits returned to them, the dumbstruck Emperor Ancestors in Yuan Wanzhong's party felt their scalps tingling. They immediately chose to flee.

They had only been able to reach where they were today after countless dangers, so how could they not tell that the young man beside Nie Qingrong was an absolute menace who would chew them up without leaving the bones out?

However, it was already too late for them to escape.

"Go!" Lin Xun flicked his finger in a quick succession. With resounding metallic chants, dazzling sword qi shot out one after another like rainbows in different directions.

Poof! Poof! Poof!

The Emperor Ancestors from Binglin Academy were slain one after another. Their blood splashed up high, and all of them were destroyed in both form and spirit with a single blow.

Those qi swords were too terrifying. Techniques, treasures, nothing could stop their onslaught. Nie Qingrong gasped non-stop as she watched in a stupor.

In the blink of an eye, blood dyed the sky. The qi swords still lingered after the rampage that left none of the Emperor Ancestor opponents alive, including Yuan Wanzhong!

The horrifying scene caused Nie Qingrong to tremble and goosebumps to pop up all over her fair skin. A year ago, she had already judged that Lin Xun was an extremely dangerous character, which was precisely the reason why she had shown him utter awe and respect.

However, only after witnessing him in an actual fight did it hit her that she had still severely underestimated him. The latter's battle prowess far exceeded the realm of an ordinary Emperor Ancestor! There was only one possibility: he was a supreme Emperor Ancestor!

This completely changed the way Nie Qingrong saw him. This was a supreme Emperor Ancestor after all! Not to mention in the First Heaven Domain, an existence like him was extremely rare even in the Sixth Heaven Domain.

There was a long-standing practice that whenever such a character emerged, they would be snatched right up by the great powers in the Seventh Heaven Domain. They even had great hopes to be recruited by the immortal giants of the Eighth Heaven Domain!

Nie Qingrong had never thought that she could actually come across such a heaven-defying, almost legendary character in a remote place like Yunying Village. This was simply too inconceivable!

At this moment, Lin Xun returned to the ship like he had done something very trivial. After drinking his fill from the wine gourd, he urged, "Fellow Daoist, shouldn't we move on?"

It was only then that Nie Qingrong looked like she had finally woken up from a dream. A little yelp escaped from her red lips as clarity returned to her eyes. Embarrassed, she said, "Sorry, I must have looked like a fool. Let's set off right away."

She then patted her chest as though trying to calm her terrified heart. This led to her ample bosom to tremble a little, the sight of which impacted Lin Xun and caused his pupils to freeze briefly.

Fortunately, Nie Qingrong did not notice how provocative her action was. She turned and hurried into the cabin.

This woman was probably born with a seductive physique. Her natural charm can meddle with average cultivators to the point that they lose control of their mind to lust...

Lin Xun's eyes quickly became clear.

Since setting foot on the path of cultivation, he had seen many different kinds of beauties. There was no lack of absolute enchantresses on Nie Qingrong's level among them, so he wouldn't be easily seduced like a virgin.

In the following journey, Lin Xun continued to stand at the bow leisurely, sipping wine as he flipped through the Everything Codex.

Nie Qingrong was in the cabin spending time with Xiao Xi, but she seemed absent-minded, occasionally biting her lips in a trance. The bloody scene earlier still crossed her mind from time to time, sending ripples through her dao heart. She was unable to calm down.

"A supreme Emperor Ancestor... Who exactly is he?"

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As day after day went by, Lin Xun, apart from cultivating, was instructing Xiao Xi to cultivate. Even though he was limited to the ship during this journey, he didn't find it boring.

One day, he suddenly found Nie Qingrong and inquired, "Fellow Daoist, may I ask what role does the Zhu Clan play as one of the three Immortal Imperial Clans behind Liangyi Academy?"

Although Nie Qingrong felt strange, she still gave a serious answer, "In fact, Liangyi Academy is divided into three major factions. One faction is led by the current principal, which belongs to the Zhu Clan's camp. One faction is led by Vice Principal Leng Qingxue and belongs to the Hong Clan's camp. One is led by me, and we're in the He Clan's camp.

“This structure was only formed less than a thousand years ago. Before that, the principal of Liangyi Academy was Nian Yunjing of the He Clan's camp.

“But in the factional fight, Nian Yunjing was defeated by the current principal and thus reduced to a vice principal with almost no real power.

“Vice Principal Leng Qingxue and I aren’t pleased by this result, because although the current principal is strong in battle, his character is cold and cruel. The prestige and overall power of our academy has visibly declined since he became principal.

“But there’s nothing we can do. The current principal is backed by an important noble from the Zhu Clan. As dissatisfied with him as we are, we can only endure for the time being.”

Nie Qingrong couldn't help but let out a long sigh at the end with disappointment on her face. The way she described it was casual and inexplicit, but Lin Xun could tell from her tone that the infighting between the three factions in Liangyi Academy was very intense!

“That's good to hear...” He stroked his chin and fell into deep thought.