

Prodigies 2611

Chapter 2611 Mister Lu's Origin

Luo Qingxun composed herself before continuing to recount what had happened after she regained consciousness. Back then, when she awakened in the Ziyao Empire, she suffered from temporary amnesia and Lu Boya, who had been silently watching over her, chose not to reveal the truth.

That was because the Ancient Nebula Road was still shrouded in the taboo law power of the Nameless Esteemed Emperor, and he was worried that if Luo Qingxun learned of her elder brother Luo Qingheng's disappearance, she might not be able to bear it and do something reckless.

Thus, Luo Qingxun, in her state of amnesia, knew nothing of her past. Like an ordinary young woman, she took part in the various selections held in the Ziyao Empire and eventually entered Qinglu Academy as the top-ranked candidate.

It was also there that she met Lin Wenjing, the eldest son of the Lin Clan, and the two fell in love. By the time Lu Boya learned of their relationship, it was already too late to intervene.

Later, Lin Wenjing and Luo Qingxun were married, and in the second year of their marriage, they welcomed the birth of Lin Xun.

Unfortunately, soon after, the Lin Clan massacre erupted without warning. Upon hearing this, Lin Xun's heart churned with emotion, and he couldn't help but let out a long sigh.

Luo Qingxun's expression also grew somber. After a moment of silence, she steadied herself and asked, "You probably know most of what happened back then. Do you have any questions?"

Lin Xun asked without hesitation, "Where did you and Father go back then?"

"Fortune Dominion." Luo Qingxun answered immediately.

It turned out that when she had used the Fortune Sword to tear open the taboo law power wielded by the Nameless Esteemed Emperor and sent Lu Boya and the infant Lin Xun away, she had thought she

was doomed. However, who would have thought that she had inadvertently triggered the power of the Fortune Sword and was transported to the Fortune Dominion instead.

The Fortune Sword was one of the treasured artifacts left behind by Luo Tongtian in the clan long ago. Before Luo Xiao's mysterious disappearance, he had entrusted it to Luo Qingxun for safekeeping.

"The Fortune Dominion is a place of incredible mystery, filled with unimaginable opportunities and fortunes. But unfortunately, while entering is easy, leaving is extremely difficult. To this day, your father and I remain trapped there." A trace of helplessness appeared in Luo Qingxun's expression.

Lin Xun wasn't surprised. He had already sensed that the Luo Qingxun before him was not her true body, but instead a manifestation of her willpower.

"Luckily, the heavens never completely shut the door on people. A few years ago, I happened to encounter a mysterious cultivator in the Fortune Dominion. With his help, I was able to imbue this bronze box with a trace of my willpower and send it out to Elder Lu."

At this point, she smiled. "And it's precisely because of that encounter that we were finally able to meet today. Although this is only a wisp of my will, it can be transformed into a memory. When the day comes that we're truly reunited, my true self will immediately remember this memory."

Lin Xun felt a wave of relief wash over him. Thankfully, things had unfolded this way. Otherwise, he couldn't imagine how long it would take before he could see his mother Luo Qingxun.

Then, a thought struck him. "Mother, do you know who that mysterious cultivator was? Why didn't you ask him to help you and Father escape from the Fortune Dominion?"

Luo Qingxun shook her head. "It wasn't possible. Your father and I were trapped in a secret realm formed by a spacetime barrier. Even with that mysterious cultivator's help, there was nothing he could do. In the end, we had to pay a heavy price just to send out that bronze box."

Understanding dawned on Lin Xun. "So, that mysterious cultivator is our family's benefactor. By the way, Mother, do you know his name?"

Luo Qingxun thought for a moment before replying, "He referred to himself as 'Chen'. So I suppose his surname must be Chen."

Chen!

Lin Xun's heart trembled. Could it be him?

The figure of Burning Immortal Chen Linkong involuntarily surfaced in his mind.

In the past, he had never paid much attention to just how mysterious Chen Linkong was. However, after learning that Chen Linkong had once traveled alongside the golden cicada, helped Xia Zhi, and seen through the power of fate laws within her in the Law Extinction Zone, Lin Xun realized that he was anything but an ordinary cultivator.

In hindsight, it all made sense. After all, the golden cicada had once been praised by the Lord of Fangchun Mountain as possessing a 'dao above Heaven,' and yet Chen Linkong had traveled alongside him. How could someone like that possibly be ordinary?

"I believe it was he who found Elder Lu and entrusted him with this bronze box, allowing it to eventually reach you. In that sense, he truly is a benefactor to our family," said Luo Qingxun.

Lin Xun was taken aback, then suddenly asked, "Where is Mister Lu now? Since he's still alive, why didn't he come to see me himself? Why did he pass the bronze box to the Xuan Clan and let them deliver it to me?"

Luo Qingxun explained softly, "He was afraid that if you learned the truth too early, you might act recklessly, just like your uncle once did.

"The hundred-year limit on the bronze box wasn't a test. If you couldn't break the seals within a hundred years, it would mean you weren't yet strong enough to face the truth. And in that case, not knowing would be the best form of protection.

“At the very least, you wouldn’t do something that would worry me and Elder Lu, like rushing to take revenge on the Luo Clan.”

Lin Xun frowned. “Even so...why won’t Mister Lu see me?”

He was genuinely confused.

Luo Qingxun said, “It’s not that he doesn’t want to, but it’s because he once received guidance from the Lord of Fangchun Mountain. He was forbidden from interfering in your journey. Any involvement could affect your dao path.”

Lin Xun’s heart skipped a beat. “Mister Lu has met my master?”

“That’s right.” Luo Qingxun answered.

After a long silence, Lin Xun then asked, “Mother, can you tell me more about Mister Lu?”

Luo Qingxun nodded and her gaze softened with a faraway look. “When I was very young, Elder Lu was already by my side...”

It turned out that a long time ago, Luo Tongtian, the Omega Lord, had brought Lu Boya back to the clan after one of his journeys. From then on, Lu Boya became a guardian to the Luo Clan’s direct lineage.

He had accompanied Luo Tongtian across countless battlefields. He had watched Luo Qingxun’s father grow up. Furthermore, he had quietly protected Luo Qingxun for many years.

Within the Luo Clan, no one knew his origins apart from Luo Tongtian. It was only much later that Luo Qingxun learned part of the truth from Lu Boya. He did not belong to this epoch!

He had studied under an incredibly ancient talisman dao sect from the previous epoch. During the collapse of that era, an unexpected upheaval caused him to suffer the Five Dao Decays and he nearly perished.

Even though he survived the end of that epoch, he existed only as a remnant soul and was trapped in an extremely dangerous forbidden land.

Back then, Luo Tongtian, the Omega Lord, had inadvertently stumbled into that forbidden land and rescued Lu Boya's remnant soul. He even helped reconstruct his body, which was akin to granting him a second life.

From that moment on, Lu Boya became a member of the Luo Clan. Upon learning this, Lin Xun couldn't help but inhale sharply. He immediately thought of Evil God Dishen and Law Spirit Wushuang, both of whom had also endured the Five Dao Decays!

"So Mister Lu was a cultivator from the last epoch..." he muttered in disbelief.

"Where is he now?" he couldn't help but ask.

Luo Qingxun replied, "That's what I wanted to tell you next. Over the years, Elder Lu has been searching for any trace of your grandfather Luo Xiao and your uncle Luo Qingheng. If nothing unexpected has happened, he should be in the Sixth Heaven Domain."

Lin Xun's eyes lit up. "The Sixth Heaven Domain? Then does that mean I might be able to see Mister Lu soon?"

Luo Qingxun said with emotion, "From the very first day that Elder Lu joined the Luo Clan, he swore an oath. In this life, he would never touch a single blade of grass or command a single soldier of the Luo Clan, nor would he interfere in any clan affairs. That was the bottom line he vowed to uphold and also a promise he made to your grandfather Luo Tongtian. Otherwise, with Elder Lu's strength, do you think Luo Chong could have seized the patriarch's seat so easily?"

Hearing this, Lin Xun fell silent for a moment.

Was Mister Lu too rigid in his principles?

But without his help, Mother and Uncle would never have escaped from the Luo Clan.

And back when I was a child, wasn't it Mister Lu who saved me and taught me the art of the runes?

"I'm not telling you this to place blame, but to remind you that when you go to the Sixth Heaven Domain, you must never cross Elder Lu's bottom line," Luo Qingxun said seriously.

Lin Xun nodded solemnly. "I understand."

Luo Qingxun continued, "Now that you've unlocked the bronze box, there's no longer any need to keep certain things from you. Back then, Elder Lu and I agreed that if you could open the box within a hundred years, I would pass on to you the Fortune Sword. With that, you will have the opportunity to enter the Fortune Dominion one day."

The Fortune Sword!

Lin Xun's heart surged with excitement. This meant that he might really have the chance to truly reunite with his parents!

Then Luo Qingxun's voice grew more serious. "However, I don't recommend you to go to the Fortune Dominion just yet. Although your father and I are trapped there, our lives aren't in danger. And with your current cultivation, I fear that even if you enter the Fortune Dominion, you still wouldn't be able to find us.

"The ones I'm most worried about now are your uncle and your grandfather. So I think..."

She trailed off, guilt flickering in her expression. She had just reunited with her son and yet she was already asking something of him.

However, Lin Xun smiled warmly. "Mother, I was already planning to head to the Sixth Heaven Domain. Before going to the Fortune Dominion, I'll first find Mister Lu and learn what I can about Uncle and Grandfather. If necessary...I'll also make a trip to the Luo Clan and take care of things that Mister Lu cannot intervene in!"

There was a cold, resolute gleam in his eyes.

“Xun’er, you must not be reckless.” Luo Qingxun said anxiously. “With your current cultivation, you’re still no match for the elders of the Luo Clan. Even if the clan is declining, its foundation is still far beyond that of ordinary Immortal Imperial Clans. You...”

Lin Xun said with a smile, “I understand, Mother. I’m not a child anymore. I won’t act recklessly.”

Luo Qingxun was stunned for a moment. As if overwhelmed with emotions, she murmured, “You...you don’t understand at all. In a mother’s heart, no matter how grown or capable her child becomes, he will always be the little one she needs to worry about and gently remind...”

Chapter 2612 Stalemate

In the eyes of all parents, no matter how old or accomplished their child became, they would always be their child, someone to worry over and lovingly guide without end. At this moment, that was exactly how Luo Qingxun saw Lin Xun.

Lin Xun was moved, and after a moment of silence, he said, “Mother, don’t worry, I won’t act unless I’m sure of myself.”

Luo Qingxun smiled softly, and just as she was about to speak, her figure suddenly trembled. Light rippled across her and she began to blur, turning faint and illusory, as if she might vanish at any moment.

Lin Xun’s heart clenched. He realized that Luo Qingxun’s willpower was dissipating.

“Xun’er, the Fortune Sword is hidden in that wooden hairpin. Retrieve the sword and if you ever find yourself in a life-and-death situation, activate it with all your strength. It will take you to the Fortune Dominion. But remember, don’t do anything reckless...” Luo Qingxun said quickly.

Her voice trailed off as the figure disintegrated, fading completely into the void. Only the vast sky and the endless undulating sea remained.

Lin Xun stood there motionless, a hollow ache filling his chest. After a long pause, he let out a slow, heavy sigh. The reunion was too short.

He still had countless questions he hadn't asked, countless things he hadn't said. Now all of it had to be buried once more in the depths of his heart.

"Mother, I'll come find you in the Fortune Dominion..." Lin Xun murmured.

His eyes fell on the bronze box. Resting inside was an elegant wooden hairpin. He reached out and picked it up, only to find it unusually heavy, as though he was lifting a mountain.

With just a glance, Lin Xun could tell that the wooden hairpin was a spatial treasure. When he probed it with his spirit sense, he saw a sword floating within.

The sword was two feet three inches long and no wider than two fingers. Its blade was plain and unadorned, while the hilt was faint and translucent, occasionally casting flashes of brilliant, multicolored light. It was like a fleeting stream of radiance in a dream.

Fortune Sword!

It was this very sword that Luo Qingxun had once used to break through the taboo law power controlled by Nameless Esteemed Emperor. Its power had to be mysterious and unfathomable.

More importantly, this sword was the key to the Fortune Dominion! Lin Xun studied the sword silently for a long time before carefully putting away the hairpin. Then, he let out a breath, turned and guided the small boat beneath his feet across the vast blue sea.

This brief reunion had resolved many of the questions that had long weighed on his heart. Yet, at the same time, it gave rise to new doubts. For instance, if Mister Lu was so powerful, how...could he have been wounded during Yanxing's pursuit in the lower world? After all, Yanxing was merely an Emperor Ancestor-level figure.

Moreover, in the lower world back then, the laws and order of heaven and earth were extremely oppressive, so much so that terrifying figures like Lone Man were forced to lie low. Yanxing's power was also severely restricted. Under such conditions, it was very strange that Mister Lu would end up wounded.

"Perhaps I'll find the answer when I see Mister Lu..."

Upon the boundless blue sea, Lin Xun guided a small boat into the distance and soon vanished without a trace.

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High above the ninety thousand foot sky.

In the vast and ancient starry expanse, countless stars twinkled and connected, forming a mysterious boundary star road.

Concealed in the shadows near the boundary star road were countless terrifying figures. More than ten of them were Immortal-level cultivators! All of them were enemies of Lin Xun, and they had gathered here to weave a heaven-shaking killing trap.

Their purpose was to utterly eliminate him!

"It's already been half a year since Lin Xun disappeared in the Fourth Heaven Domain. Given his past patterns, he should have surfaced by now. But he's still nowhere to be seen. This is far too strange." A young voice rang out. It came from an Immortal cultivator who looked like an eight- or nine-year-old child, innocent and pure in appearance. However, his eyes carried the desolate aura of ancient time.

Many shivered at the sound of his voice.

Nan Yuanxing!

He was an Immortal from the Nan Clan, one of the Donghuang's Four Clans, and also one of the most renowned Immortals present.

"There's been no movement from Fengyan Academy's side either. I suspect he's sensed the danger and is too afraid to show himself." A woman cloaked in black spoke coldly from another part of the void, her figure shrouded in dense primal chaos qi. Her aura was bone-chilling and eerie.

She was Li Wuyan, also an Immortal. She came from the Li Clan which was also one of the Donghuang's Four Clans.

Silence fell. Around the boundary star road, all the hidden cultivators felt a growing sense of frustration. So many forces from Immortal Imperial Clans had come together, yet they still couldn't deal with a single descendant of Fangchun Mountain?!

It had already been half a year! Who among them wasn't a noble figure from one of the mighty Immortal Imperial Clans?

Now, just to kill a single common enemy, they were forced to lie in wait here patiently. The feeling was undoubtedly humiliating and hard to endure.

"If that boy still doesn't show up, are we really just going to keep waiting like this forever?" someone finally couldn't help but complain.

No one responded. Even Immortals like Nan Yuanxing and Li Wuyan wore sullen expressions. If Lin Xun's whereabouts could be easily tracked, would they still be stuck waiting like this?

"If only the Donghuang Clan was willing to lend us the power of the Divine Mirror of Clarity. With just a single sweep, we could instantly lock onto that boy's whereabouts!"

Nan Yuanxing's tone was filled with helplessness. "Unfortunately, that mirror is the Donghuang Clan's ancestral treasure. It's not something they would bring out lightly, let alone send it out of the Eighth Heaven Domain..."

The Divine Mirror of Clarity!

This was a mysterious and legendary treasure said to possess the ability to reveal anything and anyone in the world its wielder wished to see.

“There’s no point talking about it now. What’s certain is that the boy must be hiding somewhere in the Fifth Heaven Domain. His movements are elusive, and ordinary search methods are no longer effective. At this point, all we can do is wait.” Li Wuyan took a deep breath and continued, “In fact, I suspect he’s already seen through our plan. He clearly intends to drag this out with us to the bitter end. In other words, this battle will come down to who can endure the longest!”

Everyone felt increasingly uneasy.

Keep wasting time like this?

For how long? Who here had time to waste like that?

“There’s just over nine years left until the Origin Sect Ancestral Court begins recruiting successors. I don’t have that much time to waste here,” Nan Yuanxing said with a frown.

The Origin Sect Ancestral Court’s recruitment of successors was an important event in the cultivation world. As an Immortal of the Nan Clan in the Seventh Heaven Domain, Nan Yuanxing clearly regarded that opportunity as far more significant than the matter of killing Lin Xun.

Among those present, many shared the same thought. For a moment, they were each lost in their own thoughts, their expressions heavy with frustration and helplessness.

They had already invested a massive amount of time and energy just to hunt down one man, but even now, they couldn’t do anything to him. Who wouldn’t feel aggrieved?

“Just wait a little longer. I don’t believe that brat won’t show a single trace!” Li Wuyan said coldly, her tone brimming with killing intent.

Everyone knew there was no better option for now. However, the thought of continuing to hide and lie in ambush here for so long left them all deeply frustrated.

Only now did they truly realize how terrifying the Fangchun Mountain descendant had become. The one they had failed to kill outside the Ruins of the Gods back then had now grown into someone who left them all feeling deeply troubled and helpless!

They dared not imagine what kind of disaster would unfold if someone like Lin Xun were allowed to ascend to the Immortal Stage...

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Time flew by, and a year passed in the blink of an eye.

The Fifth Heaven Domain remained peaceful and undisturbed. No storms. No catastrophes. No signs of turmoil. The stillness blanketing the world was so abnormal that it defied all expectations.

Only then did the cultivators of the Fifth Heaven Domain begin to realize that Lin Xun had most likely sensed the danger and gone into hiding and would not show himself anytime soon.

The Immortal Imperial Clan experts lying in ambush near Fengyan Academy and the boundary star road had been tormented over the past year, their patience wearing down bit by bit.

Countless people silently cursed Lin Xun, and many hurled spiteful curses at him. Some, driven by rage, even lashed out publicly, trying to provoke and lure him out with the most insulting language.

However, none of it had the slightest effect.

Lin Xun seemed to have vanished without a trace. No one knew where he was hiding, or what he had been doing during this time.

Fengwu Academy.

This was a force considered only second-rate in the Fifth Heaven Domain, far inferior to Fengyan Academy. Despite that, in the eyes of ordinary cultivators, Fengwu Academy was already regarded as a major power within the Fifth Heaven Domain.

In this world, top elites and powerful sects were always the minority. The billions who lived beneath the heavens were the true foundation of this world. The Fengwu Academy that had been dismissed by the Immortal Imperial Clans was regarded as a sacred land of cultivation by the common cultivators of the world.

The city closest to Fengwu Academy was Fengwu City.

For the past year, Lin Xun had lived there in seclusion. By day, he roamed the city streets, quietly observing the world and experiencing the lives of ordinary people. By night, he meditated, steadily deepening his comprehension of the dao.

No one knew that the young man who wandered the city was none other than the legendary Menace Lin who had long shaken the Eternal True Realm.

“Almost two years...”

On this day, Lin Xun stepped out of the courtyard he had bought at great expense. He looked up at the sky, and as if reminded of something, he smiled quietly to himself. Since reuniting with Luo Qingxun, he felt more at peace. He no longer felt the urge to hurry on his journey or rush to the Sixth Heaven Domain.

He knew that as long as he remained alive, his enemies would be far more anxious than he was! Withdrawing his gaze from the sky, he clasped his hands behind his back and walked leisurely out of Fengwu City. Wandering through scenic mountains and rivers, he soon arrived before a vast, undulating mountain range filled with vitality.

This was where Fengwu Academy was rooted. Its mountain gate was nestled deep within the range. Beneath an ancient red maple tree, its leaves blazing like fire, Lin Xun stood in silence, gazing into the distance.

He didn't have to wait long. Soon, through his spirit sense, he saw Leng Qingxue stepping out of the academy gates, dressed in robes whiter than snow, her dark hair tied with a golden ribbon. Beside her was Xiaoxi, graceful and radiant, exuding youthful vitality.

The two flew side by side, vanishing into the depths of the distant mountains.

Chapter 2613 Unexpected Visitor

In the sea of clouds, Leng Qingxue said, "Xiaoxi, if you wish to reach the Supreme Saint Stage, you must possess an unshakable and untainted heart. In my view, while your heart is pure, you lack worldly experience. I'm taking you to slay monsters, and what happens from here on depends entirely on you. No matter that danger you face, I will not intervene. Do you understand?"

Xiaoxi nodded solemnly. "I won't disappoint you, Master."

"Whether I'm disappointed or not doesn't matter. What's important is that you don't disappoint yourself."

As they spoke, the two had already arrived at a perilous mountain range shrouded in blood mist. Since ancient times, this had been a land of savage beasts and roaming dangers. Ordinary cultivators wouldn't dare step half a foot into it without the protection of a powerful master. For Fengwu Academy, however, this place served as a natural training ground for tempering its disciples.

"Go, slay ten little demon beast kings at the initial True Saint Stage. Only then will you be considered to have passed this trial." Leng Qingxue said, pointing into the distance.

Xiaoxi nodded and transformed into a streak of divine light, soaring into the mist-covered mountains like a shooting star.

"Was that not too tough on her?"

As soon as Xiaoxi disappeared, Nie Qingrong appeared out of nowhere, her expression tinged with worry as she gazed toward where Xiaoxi had vanished.

"This was her request." Leng Qingxue said softly, a touch of sentiment surfacing on her elegant face. "That child has great ambition and sees Brother Lin as her role model. Though she's never spoken of it, I know she simply wishes that, when they meet again, he will recognize her strength and not be disappointed in her."

Nie Qingrong paused in surprise, then murmured, "I understand now."

"Sister, if Lin Xun never left the Fifth Heaven Domain, where could he be now?" Leng Qingxue couldn't help but ask.

It had been more than a year since they had last seen him. Roughly half a year ago, she, Nie Qingrong, and Xiaoxi left the cave thousands of feet deep beneath the icefield. After traveling and searching far and wide, they eventually decided to settle in Fengwu Academy.

Now, both she and Nie Qingrong were Ancestor-level instructors at Fengwu Academy, enjoying high status and wide respect. Xiaoxi was currently only a formal disciple, but the moment she broke through to the Saint Stage, she would be granted special admission into the ranks of the core disciples.

It could be said that their current situation was far better to their days in the First Heaven Domain.

"I don't know either, but judging from the news coming out of the Fifth Heaven Domain, the moment Brother Lin shows himself, he will face no real danger." A sneer appeared in Nie Qingrong's eyes. "If anything, it's those high-ranking figures of the Immortal Imperial Clans who've had a miserable time. I can just imagine how frustrated, helpless, resentful, and powerless they must feel."

Leng Qingxue couldn't help but smile and said with a hint of longing, "If I ever possess the power Brother Lin has, I'll just be like him. If I don't stir up trouble, fine. But if I do, I'll turn the heavens upside down."

In the far distance, beneath a blazing crimson maple tree, Lin Xun withdrew his spirit sense with a soft smile and turned to leave.

Neither Nie Qingrong nor Leng Qingxue knew that since their arrival at Fengwu Academy, Lin Xun had visited them more than once. However, each time, he had left in silence and never disturbed their cultivation.

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Two years passed in the blink of an eye. Around the boundary star road, the gathered experts of the Immortal Imperial Clans were now seething with suppressed anger and frustration. If they had been in secluded cultivation, several years would have slipped by without notice.

Unfortunately, they weren't cultivating. They were waiting day and night for the target to appear. This was agonizing and their patience had worn thin.

"I can't take it anymore! One day, I'll make that little bastard pay!"

On this day, Nan Yuanxing was the first to lose control. With a furious roar, he turned and left. Everyone looked at each other in silence. He is just leaving like that? Seeing this, Li Wuyan, who had long been on the verge of snapping, could no longer suppress her frustration. "Take care, everyone. If Lin Xun ever appears, I'll return."

Her voice still echoed in the air as her figure vanished. Not long after, more Immortal experts began to leave, no longer willing to endure the endless waiting. Soon, only a few cultivators from the Sixth and Fifth Heaven Domains remained. They exchanged hesitant glances.

If they continued to wait and Lin Xun never appeared, all their time and effort would be wasted, like trying to carry water in a bamboo basket. However, if they left now, after waiting for years, they'd go home empty-handed. Who could bear that?

Nan Yuanxing and Li Wuyan could just walk away without a care because they were from the Seventh Heaven Domain, and there was no way Lin Xun could pose a threat to them or the forces behind them in the near future.

However, for the rest of the Immortal Imperial Clans, if Lin Xun were to force his way into the Sixth Heaven Domain, it would pose a tremendous threat to the forces behind them.

“Damn it!” someone roared, their voice rumbling through the starry sky, trembling with rage.

“We can’t just waste our lives waiting around. In my opinion, if that brat dares enter the Sixth Heaven Domain, we’ll just rally our forces and kill him then,” someone said in a low voice.

Someone else muttered grimly, “But if he really makes it into the Sixth Heaven Domain, that little bastard will just pull the same tricks again, spreading chaos everywhere. Sure, we might kill him in the end, but how many sects can endure the destruction he brings?”

As the conversation continued, more and more figures silently departed, unwilling to wait in vain. If Lin Xun chose to spend the rest of his life in the Fifth Heaven Domain, were they supposed to wait forever?

Impossible!

As fewer and fewer cultivators remained near the boundary star road, even those who had intended to wait a while longer began to wave. Lin Xun, of course, knew nothing of any of this.

Fengwu City.

In a courtyard, Lin Xun slowly emerged from his meditation. He had reached the pinnacle of the advanced Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage! Sensing the profound changes in his qi, a faint sense of satisfaction arose in his heart.

This Fifth Heaven Domain was indeed extraordinary. Whether it was the laws of heaven and earth or the primal chaos qi, everything perfectly suited his cultivation needs.

For example, back in the First Heaven Domain, he had spent several years rebuilding his dao path and healing his injuries. Even after returning to peak condition, his cultivation had only reached the pinnacle of the initial Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage.

However, after just six years of traveling from the First to the Fifth Heaven Domain, he had already reached the pinnacle of the advanced Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage! Such rapid progress was nothing short of miraculous!

After all, the higher one's cultivation, the harder it became to advance further. Some Emperors could be stuck at a bottleneck for thousands of years without a breakthrough. By contrast, Lin Xun's advancement was astonishingly fast.

In other words, he had now reached the pinnacle of the Ninth Realm Emperor Stage and the next step was the Immortal Path.

After carefully putting away the Primordial Chaos Thousand Daos Tree rooted in the courtyard and removing the restriction arrays protecting the area, he stepped out into the bustling streets as usual.

From time to time, he would glance up at the sky, whether consciously or not, wondering how much those enemies lying in ambush near the boundary star road must be suffering from the wait. Every time, he couldn't help but feel inexplicably amused.

Not long ago, he had heard that many Immortal Imperial Clans forces stationed near Fengyan Academy had begun to withdraw. The news had caused quite a stir in the Fifth Heaven Domain, as it indicated that the Immortal Imperial Clans had lost patience and no longer wished to waste time contending with Lin Xun.

However, others believed it to be a trap to lure him into dropping his guard. They seemed to have retreated, but they were likely lying in ambush, ready to unleash a fatal strike the moment he showed himself.

To all of this, Lin Xun simply laughed. He couldn't care less and had no intention of paying it any mind. Back in the Second to Fourth Heaven Domains, he had already slain countless lackeys from those clans. He knew very well that such counterattacks might enrage the enemy, but the actual damage they caused was negligible.

Under such circumstances, whether or not he returned to Fengyan Academy to unleash another slaughter didn't really matter to him. He wasn't in a rush.

In fact, the more restless and furious the enemy became, the more their composure unraveled and the greater his advantage!

Huh?

While strolling causally, his eyes narrowed slightly. He had sensed something. At that moment, on the bustling street in the distance, an old man with gray hair and in wide-sleeved black robes stood quietly, his gaze fixed directly at Lin Xun.

“I am Luo Yunshan.” The old man’s voice rang clearly in Lin Xun’s ears despite the surrounding noise and distance.

The Luo Clan!

Lin Xun’s eyes sharpened slightly, though he quickly regained his calm. He immediately guessed that the man had likely used some secret technique or treasure, just like Luo Ling had back in the Great Thousand Battle Domain to sense his Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer.

“Why don’t we find somewhere quiet to talk? Don’t worry, I came alone this time.” Luo Yunshan spoke calmly, extending an invitation.

Lin Xun turned and walked away.

Luo Yunshan frowned. “Little friend, you won’t even give me this bit of face?”

Without looking back, Lin Xun replied, “You want to talk? Then come outside the city.”

Outside the city?

Luo Yunshan was surprised at first, but quickly came to understand. Fengwu City was packed with people, and any conflict would immediately draw attention and alarm the entire city. This undoubtedly

put Lin Xun at a disadvantage. Whereas in the remote wilderness, there was no need to worry about any of that.

But, isn't this kid afraid I might suddenly strike?

Luo Yunshan's eyes flashed, but he ultimately nodded and followed Lin Xun out of the city. Before long, they arrived at a secluded mountain surrounded by rivers and vast ranges. Standing atop the peak, Lin Xun turned to calmly face Luo Yunshan and said indifferently, "So, are you going to strike now, or have a chat first?"

Luo Yunshan fell silent for a moment, then smiled. "If we talk things through, there'll be no need to strike."

Lin Xun gave a faint hum in response. "What do you want to talk about?"

Luo Yunshan didn't hesitate either. Fixing his gaze on Lin Xun he said bluntly, "Let's talk about you and the Luo Clan. Perhaps there's another way to settle this grudge."

Chapter 2614 Keep Dreaming

Another way to settle it?

Lin Xun smiled, his tone tinged with skepticism, "Do you really believe that's possible?"

He had met his mother Luo Qingxun and was well aware of the old grudges. In his heart, there was no path left for reconciliation between him and the Luo Clan.

Luo Yunshan let out a deep sigh, "Regardless, if there's even a sliver of hope, I'll do everything I can to grasp it."

After a pause, he said aloud, "In fact, you should already know that if the Luo Clan truly wanted to silence you, we wouldn't have waited until now. We could've brought the experts from the Immortal Imperial Clans to deal with you long ago. But we didn't because...after all, you carry the blood of the Luo Clan."

Lin Xun said coldly, "So, I should thank the Luo Clan for letting me live?"

Luo Yunshan sighed again, a trace of helplessness in his voice, "I only said that to show you I came here with sincerity."

Lin Xun's face was devoid of emotion as he replied, "Enough nonsense and get to the point."

Luo Yunshan nodded. "Before I came here, I received the clan leader's personal promise. If you agree to change your surname to Luo and serve the Luo Clan wholeheartedly, the position of Luo Clan patriarch will one day be yours. Consider it also as a form of compensation for your mother and your uncle.

"I trust you understand just how weighty this promise is. It would grant you command over the power of an Immortal Imperial Clan and let you rise in one leap to become a figure of great renown in the Eternal True Realm!"

His eyes shone with sincerity and earnestness. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I hope you'll give it serious thought. If you agree, not only can you escape from this Fifth Heaven Domain safely, but you'll also one day command the full power of the Luo Clan. And when that time comes, even if you seek revenge on your enemies, the entire Luo Clan will be there to support you!"

However, Lin Xun found the offer laughable. A sneer curled his lips. "Do you really think a so-called patriarch position can erase all the grudges of the past? Or that I, Lin Xun, actually care about becoming the head of the Luo Clan?"

Without giving Luo Yunshan a chance to speak, Lin Xun continued, "Let me guess. The Luo Clan has realized that if they don't deal with me soon, I'll become a serious threat and might even bring calamity down on your heads. So now you're trying to use this stalling tactic. Am I wrong?"

Luo Yunshan's expression stiffened slightly. "I wouldn't call it a stalling tactic, but the Luo Clan has indeed come to realize that if this blood feud continues, it will only lead to mutual destruction. Rather than both sides suffering unimaginable losses, why not resolve our enmity and become allies instead?"

Lin Xun didn't respond to that, "So, according to you, all I have to do is lower my head, change my surname, and serve the Luo Clan, and the patriarch's seat will be mine?"

Luo Yunshan nodded. "Those were the clan leader's exact words."

Lin Xun gave a half smile, "Setting aside whether I'll actually become patriarch, aren't you worried that once I do, I'll imprison and suppress all of you, just like what you did to the Luo Clan's main lineage back then?"

Luo Yunshan's eyes narrowed slightly, then he sighed, "I believe that as long the Luo Clan shows enough sincerity, you wouldn't have the heart to do such a thing."

"And what if I do?"

Luo Yunshan's expression flickered uncertainly, and after a long silence, he forced a bitter smile, "I wouldn't dare speculate about the future."

Lin Xun gave a faint "oh," then said, "If this is what you came to talk about, then let me make it clear...whatever the Luo Clan's intentions are, all I can say is...keep dreaming."

The tragic massacre of the Lin Clan remained vivid in his mind. Over the years, whether in the Ancient Wasteland Domain, the Ancient Nebula Road, the Ancient Nebula Underworld, the Celestial Phoenix World, or the True Dragon World...

The Luo Clan's pursuit had been relentless, like a ghost that refused to rest! Even after he stepped into the Great Thousand Battle Domain and entered the Eternal True Realm, the hunt never stopped!

How could all the oppression and injury, the bloodshed and hatred, he had endured along the way be erased by such a ridiculous offer? The Luo Clan...was indeed dreaming!

What Lin Xun found most laughable was that the Luo Clan actually believed offering the patriarch seat was enough to wipe away all past grudges.

What exactly did they take him for?

Lin Xun's response made Luo Yunshan's expression stiffen and a trace of embarrassment flashed across his face. As an Immortal-level old antique of the Luo Clan, coming in person was already a great show of humility. Even when Lin Xun coldly mocked him, he had swallowed his anger to prove the Luo Clan's sincerity.

Despite that, in the end, he was still flatly rejected!

Luo Yunshan's face darkened, his expression turning cold. "Lin Xun, I'll admit that with your current cultivation, ordinary cultivators can't threaten you. Even against a true Immortal, you likely have the means to fight back, but..." At this, a hint of disdain crept into his gaze. "Don't overestimate yourself. Even if the Luo Clan is in decline, if we were to mobilize our full power against you, you likely won't survive it.

"Don't even bring up the sect behind you, ever since the Lord of Fangchun Mountain suffered calamity in the Ninth Heaven Domain, who in the Eternal True Realm doesn't know that the disciples of Fangchun Mountain have become wandering ghosts?

"It's true that in the Ruins of the Gods, both your martial uncle Kong Jue and senior brother Ling Xuanzi unleashed unmatched killing power. But what happened in the end? Kong Jue was gravely wounded by the Sword of Dao Judgment of the Wang Clan, the number one giant in the Eighth Heaven Domain, and Ling Xuanzi was killed!"

Lin Xun's heart trembled. Fourth Senior Brother is dead?!

All these years, he had searched for answers about what happened outside the Ruins of the Gods, but the information he found was vague at best.

Some claimed Ling Xuanzi had perished. Others insisted he had been rescued at the last moment by a mysterious figure and they even escaped the pursuit of the terrifying Immortal Giants from the Eighth Heaven Domain.

Unfortunately, no matter the rumor, no one could say for certain whether Ling Xuanzi was dead or alive.

Now, Luo Yunshan spoke with certainty that he had died. How could he accept that?

Lin Xun took a deep breath, suppressing the turmoil in his heart, and said expressionlessly, "Are you finished?"

Luo Yunshan, sensing the shift in Lin Xun's emotions, sneered, "No, not yet, you still have no idea how cruel this world truly is!"

"Sure, there are still remnants of Fangchun Mountain alive in the Eternal True Realm, but do you really think that they can help you when they're already being hunted by the Immortal Giants of the Eighth Heaven Domain?

"Let me be blunt. It won't be long before the Immortal Giants of the Eighth Heaven Domain wipe them out, one by one!

"You can treat my words as fear mongering, and it's up to you whether you believe me. But don't you find it odd? You've stirred up such a commotion across all the domains below the Sixth Heaven Domain of the Eternal True Realm, yet not a single Fangchun Mountain successor has come to help you."

His words were calm but biting, filled with an oppressive, overbearing aura.

However, what made Luo Yunshan frown was that Lin Xun's face remained utterly unmoved. It was calm to the point of being frightening, as if none of it concerned him at all.

"Even putting Fangchun Mountain aside, if I really intended to kill you today, my Luo Clan has plenty of methods to do so. For instance...do you really think you could escape now?"

Luo Yunshan's expression turned solemn. "The Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer bloodline is indeed terrifying. Our Luo Clan understands its power better than anyone. But since I dared to come here alone, I naturally have the confidence to suppress you."

As he spoke, he lifted his gaze toward the distant sky. "Besides, if a battle were to break out here, don't you think the experts lying in ambush near the boundary star path would arrive in an instant?"

At the end, his expression brimmed with contempt and coldness. "I'm not saying all this to threaten you, but to make it clear that my Luo Clan is sincerely giving you a chance. You should think over it carefully."

Lin Xun was silent for a moment, but then he suddenly smiled and said, "Are you finally done talking?"

Luo Yunshan was stunned, as if he couldn't believe it. I have already laid everything out so clearly. Could this brat really still be so stubborn?

"What do you mean by that?" he asked.

Lin Xun replied calmly, "Isn't it obvious? If you're done talking, I'll send you on your way."

His words fell lightly. In that instant, a wave of obscure restriction power silently surged forth from the surrounding mountains and rivers. The vast, undulating mountain range suddenly became blurred.

It was as if the entire world had plunged into eternal night, shrouded by a murky and oppressive force. Luo Yunshan's pupils contracted sharply. He instantly sensed that his connection to the outside world had been severed, as if he had been cut off entirely and trapped in a cage-like world.

However, he didn't panic. After a quick glance around, he remarked, "This restriction array is indeed remarkable. I even failed to notice it at first. But I'm afraid you simply don't understand the power of an Immortal. Do you really think you can avoid your doom with just this array?"

His expression turned cold. When he came here, he had already anticipated that Lin Xun wouldn't surrender so easily. This unexpected move was already within his calculations.

Boom!

As he spoke, Luo Yunshan waved his sleeve, and a dazzling, immortal light rushed forth like a tide, engulfing the area where Lin Xun stood.

Strangely, Lin Xun's figure faded like a bubble bursting and vanished without a trace. The wave of immortal light rippled outward, causing the grand array shrouding the world to tremble violently. Yet it wasn't destroyed!

Luo Yunshan's heart tightened. Only then did he realize something was wrong

"I've been living in Fengwu City all these years. To set up this array, I spent nearly half my fortune." Lin Xun's voice, tinged with emotion, echoed across heaven and earth, "You were right. This array indeed can't threaten an Immortal like you. Still, escaping from it won't be easy either!"

Boom!

In the darkness of this restriction-forged world, a sun and moon condensed from the essence of the restriction suddenly emerged and plunged from the sky. Immediately afterward, countless stars flared to life in the void, roaring down to engulf Luo Yunshan. Each star radiated an unfathomable, terrifying might.

From afar, it looked as if the sun and moon were crashing down, and stars were falling like rain!

Chapter 2615 Blade of Light and Shadow and the Gate of Exile

In the darkness of the restriction world, the sun and moon were sinking, and stars were falling. It was like the end of the world.

Luo Yunshan lifted his head slightly. Divine light surged in his eyes, and an invisible, terrifying might spread outward from him.

Boom!

Before the falling sun and moon could even reach him, they immediately exploded above his head, turning into a roaring torrent of dao runes that swept outward. As Luo Yunshan extended his hand and made a grasping motion in midair, the stars that were thundering through the sky suddenly trembled, froze in place, and then exploded all at once.

In that moment, it was as if countless fireworks had burst at once, dazzling, brilliant and blinding. The entire dark restriction world began to tremble violently.

Luo Yunshan remained standing where he was, calm and composed. He said indifferently, "Lin Xun, don't mistake my Luo Clan's sincerity as kindness. If you insist on being stubborn...you may very well be erased from existence."

"The fun has only just begun. What's the rush?" Lin Xun's voice echoed in response.

His words had barely faded when the grand formation began to churn violently as wind, lightning, earth, and fire surged forth. Immediately after, billions of sword lights erupted with a thunderous roar, spreading out to form a vast ocean of swords. Bathed in the might of wind, lightning, earth, and fire, the sharp, resonant hum of countless swords rang endlessly in the air, shaking the soul.

Luo Yunshan frowned. A flicker of murderous intent flashed in his eyes. He took a deep breath and flicked his sleeve.

Boom!

Instantly, terrifying immortal law power swept out like a storm, crushing everything in its path.

Heaven and earth trembled violently as countless sword qis exploded and disintegrated under the immortal might. Yet the sword qi seemed endless. Tens of millions of swords were densely packed, blotting out the sky as they surged forward in waves. The power they unleashed was utterly terrifying. Any cultivator at the Ancestor Stage likely would have been annihilated in an instant.

Even though an Immortal as powerful as Luo Yunshan had nothing to fear, he couldn't fully dispel the barrage of attacks coming from all directions in such a short time. His frown deepened involuntarily.

Suddenly, he let out a cold snort. His sleeves billowed, his hair and beard flew wildly, and his figure seemed to grow infinitely tall. Violet immortal flames surged from him, and his presence became terrifying beyond comparison.

“Go!”

He formed a seal with both hands. Countless strands of immortal radiance gathered together, condensing into a blazing, sun-like wheel that rumbled forth through the void, crushing everything in its way.

Heaven and earth plunged into turmoil. Countless restriction forces churned violently as the purple immortal qi rampaged like a storm, as if to rip this world apart.

Hidden in the shadows, Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. He had battled Immortals before. For instance, back in the Forever Fall Forbidden Land of the First Heaven Domain, he had killed Zhu Hun, an Immortal from the Zhu Clan.

However, at the time, Zhu Hun was already gravely wounded and on the brink of death, which gave Lin Xun the opportunity to take him down.

Now, facing Luo Yunshan at the peak of his power, was an entirely different matter. Every move he made unleashed a force as devastating as a storm, capable of reducing all in its path to dust.

Boom!

The purple sun-like wheel swept through the sky, crashing and raging across heaven and earth. It radiated destructive power that shook the entire formation, causing countless restriction forces to groan under the pressure.

Lin Xun dared not hesitate any longer. Without a moment’s delay, he rushed forth from the shadows to launch his strike.

Buzz!

A billion rays of light surged from the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron as it soared into the sky, bathing his imposing figure in radiant brilliance.

“Hmph, still refusing to give up?”

Luo Yunshan’s eyes glinted with disdain as he pointed a finger.

Clang!

Amid the earth-shattering collision, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron shuddered violently, nearly blasted away. Lin Xun took the brunt of the impact, causing his blood and qi to roil wildly, but he didn’t retreat.

Instead, he charged forward, unleashing the full extent of his cultivation. He was like a vast abyss crossing the heavens, imperious and unstoppable. Luo Yunshan’s expression flickered with surprise. That single finger strike could have easily slain any Emperor in the world, yet Lin Xun had dispersed it just like that?!

“With only an Emperor Ancestor-level cultivation, you dare challenge the power of an Immortal? In the whole Eternal True Realm, there’s likely no one else as laughably arrogant as you!” Luo Yunshan sneered and launched his strike.

Boom!

The earth quaked. The heavens trembled. Dao light flooded the skies. In the blink of an eye, the two clashed dozens of times, shaking the entire grand array to its core.

What unsettled Luo Yunshan was that, even after unleashing his true power, he still couldn’t suppress Lin Xun in direct combat! Though Lin Xun looked battered, completely overwhelmed and nearly crushed under the pressure, he wasn’t injured. Time and time again, he narrowly escaped disaster.

That made Luo Yunshan deeply uneasy. It was true that supreme Emperor Ancestors defied the heavens, but not to the point of contending with Immortals. That had always been an unshakable truth throughout the ages.

Despite that, Lin Xun was doing exactly that now. If word of this got out, it would surely cause an uproar across the world.

This boy really is the monster the rumors spoke of. If only he could be brought under the control of the Luo Clan... Luo Yunshan sighed inwardly.

Though his mind was churning with thoughts, his killing intent only intensified. He unleashed his immortal arts without restraint, each strike exerting a suffocating, deathly pressure on Lin Xun.

Before long, Lin Xun suffered a heavy blow and blood spilled from his lips. Only then did he fully comprehend just how monstrously powerful an Immortal could be.

Even with his cultivation at the pinnacle of the Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage, and even with the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron unleashed at full power, he was still utterly suppressed, trapped in a desperate and perilous situation.

“If you still won’t bow your head, then don’t blame me for being ruthless.” Luo Yunshan’s expression was indifferent, but in truth, rage had long been simmering inside him since the earlier exchange with Lin Xun. Now, seeing the eyesore remain so defiant, his strikes became more domineering, forceful, and merciless.

“You talk too much.” A cold glint flashed in Lin Xun’s eyes. In the next instant, he activated Time Stopping. A pale, hazy light of time surged outward. Almost at the same time, resplendent gray-white law flame poured forth from the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, sweeping toward Luo Yanshan.

Boom!

The area was swallowed by a terrifying current of destruction. A shower of light scattered in all directions and divine radiance surged into the sky. Lin Xun had already retreated far away at the first possible moment.

The next moment, his eyes narrowed sharply. In the distance, as the shower of light dispersed, Luo Yunshan’s figure emerged. His robes were in tatters, his body scorched and covered in burn wounds, and his hair and beard had been incinerated. He looked utterly wretched.

Unfortunately, he hadn't died! A flying dagger, as if sculpted from glistening jade, hovered before him, radiating a mystical aura. Faint strands of time energy drifted around it, sending chills through the heart.

It was clear that Luo Yunshan had relied on this blade to counter the power of Time Stopping, but he was unable to escape unscathed from the extinguishing law flame.

"Time Stopping... The rumors were true. You've awakened the second stage of the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer."

Luo Yunshan's face was livid, and divine light flashed coldly in his eyes. "What a pity. Before the Blade of Light and Shadow left behind by the Omega Lord, even the power of Time Stopping is useless."

Blade of Light and Shadow!

Left by the Omega Lord!

Lin Xun's eyes narrowed. "So you really came prepared."

Luo Yunshan's expression twisted with malice, "Since you already know this, why keep struggling? Must I suppress you before you're willing to submit?"

Clang!

As the words left his lips, the Blade of Light and Shadow abruptly vanished. In the next moment, it reappeared before Lin Xun and came slashing down in fury. Ripples of time shimmered along its sharp edge. It was unimaginably fast!

Pu!

Blood spurted. Although Lin Xun did everything he could to dodge, he was still struck. A deep gash split open his shoulder, cutting through his bone and flesh. Under the torment of the terrifying blade qi, a muffled groan escaped his lips.

“I may not possess the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer innate talent, but I can wield the Blade of Light and Shadow through immortal law. Under these conditions, what do you have left to fight me with?”

Luo Yunshan’s eyes brimmed with icy contempt. As he spoke, the blade flashed once more, light and shadow swirling, and the terrifying flying dagger lashed out again.

In an instant, Lin Xun was riddled with wounds, his robe soaked in blood. These weren’t just surface injuries. Instead the blade qi had pierced deep into him, wreaking havoc on his organs and meridians.

“Submit or...die!” Luo Yunshan stepped forward, his aura oppressive, exuding absolute confidence, as if he held power over life and death.

At this moment, Lin Xun, battered and bloodied, suddenly lifted his head. A cold smirk curved his lips.

Chi!

Strangely, a rift in space-time silently tore open before him. As light and shadow intertwined, the faint outline of an ancient door gradually took shape. Endless light rained down as the mysteries of time and space collided, unleashing a vast and terrifying devouring aura.

From within the gate surged boundless darkness, like an abyss leading to another world. Just one glance at it was enough to make one feel as though their soul was being sucked in. And as the gate pulsed, it seemed ready to drag the surrounding world and all things within it into its depths.

The third stage of his innate talent—Gate of Exile!

At that moment, the Blade of Light and Shadow suddenly appeared out of nowhere. Just as it was about to slash down on Lin Xun, it was silently swallowed by the nearly emerged Gate of Exile, vanishing without a trace.

In the distance, Luo Yunshan's face changed drastically. His heart was shaking violently. His connection to the Blade of Light and Shadow was severed. It was as if this supreme treasure passed down from the Omega Lord had been completely erased from existence.

Before he could react, the Gate of Exile opened wide like a bloody maw formed from time and space, looming toward him.

Boom!

A terrifying, boundless devouring force surged forth like a giant hand descending from the heavens, seizing Luo Yunshan and trying to drag him in.

His body and mind were gripped by horror. His aged face turned pale, and he felt as though his entire cultivation was being violently suppressed. Even if he struggled with all his might, he was still dragged toward the strange gate, unable to stop it at all.

"No—!" Luo Yunshan roared in sheer panic. Filled with fear, he couldn't fathom what divine power this was. How could it be so terrifying and so utterly unstoppable? As the Gate of Exile drew closer, his eyes bulged and blood seeped from the corners. He was on the brink of madness. In all his years of cultivation, he had never felt so close to death...

Then, to his utter shock, the strange gate suddenly crumbled and vanished. Along with it, the terrifying devouring force disappeared without a trace! Luo Yunshan froze in place, stunned for a moment. Then joy surged through him like a tidal wave. He instantly realized that Lin Xun didn't have the strength to maintain such a forbidden art for long!

"Little bastard!" he roared, eyes brimming with murderous rage. His expression was twisted and ferocious. The brush with death just now had driven him into a frenzy.

However, Lin Xun was already gone...

Huh?

Suddenly, an indescribable sense of dread surged through Luo Yunshan's entire body. In his fit of rage, he instinctively looked up, only to see a sea of law flames pouring down toward him. The blinding, searing flames engulfed both his vision and mind.

"No—!" A blood-curdling scream rang out as his soul seemed to flee in terror.

Boom!

The next moment, flames flared and swallowed him whole. In the blink of an eye, his body was reduced to ashes, scattered like dust in the wind, utterly erased from the world.

Chapter 2616 Law Jade Talisman

Smoke and dust whirled as the torrent of destruction gradually dispersed. Panting heavily, Lin Xun took a moment to steady himself before grabbing a handful of elixirs and pills and swallowed them without hesitation,

This battle had not only been intensely fierce and perilous, but he had also consecutively activated two innate powers, Time Stopping and Gate of Exile, leaving his strength nearly depleted. His body was riddled with wounds, some of them gruesome and deep, and bloody blade marks crisscrossed his flesh. He was soaked in blood and looked utterly tragic.

Despite that, he laughed, a surge of indescribable joy welling up within him. This was the first time in his entire cultivation journey that he had slain a Heavenly Longevity Immortal who was at peak condition!

After calming his breathing, Lin Xun quietly reflected on the battle. He realized the flaws in his performance. The most glaring was his immature control over the Gate of Exile. If he had mastered it more fully, he wouldn't have needed to activate the extinguishing law flame to land the final fatal blow.

"With my current cultivation, I can only maintain the Gate of Exile for three breaths at most. It's not long, but if I can seize every second of that moment, I'll be able to suppress Immortals into the Abyss of Nothingness directly, instead of letting someone like Luo Yunshan escape at the last moment like that..." Lin Xun said thoughtfully.

When Lin Xun had first entered the initial Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage, he could only sustain the Gate of Elixir for a single breath. Now that he had reached the pinnacle of the Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage, he could hold it for two breaths longer.

Those three breaths might seem fleeting, but in the hands of someone like him, it was enough to crush an Immortal!

“The next time I face an enemy of this level...I won’t be so passive...”

Lin Xun took a deep breath, his eyes sharp and full of dominance. This battle had profound significance for him because it made him keenly aware of the gap between his strength and that of Immortals.

However, as long as he recognized the gap, he would one day be able to bridge and even surpass them!

Once he had recovered a bit, he began sorting through the spoils. As a core Immortal figure of the Luo Clan, Luo Yunshan naturally carried extraordinary treasures. Among them were three weapons imbued with immortal matter.

In addition, there were divine materials and elixirs for cultivation, each far exceeding the value of Emperor-grade items. However, one item in particular caught Lin Xun’s attention: A mysterious jade talisman.

It was pale violet, etched with countless intricate lightning laws as fine as strands of hair. Its aura was obscure and terrifying. With just one glance, Lin Xun recognized it as a secret treasure imbued with law power! It had to contain the eighth grade Earth Rank lightning law wielded by the Luo Clan!

This kind of talisman was forged by Immortal figures of the Luo Clan and could only be awakened and wielded through the Luo Clan’s bloodline power. Even if an outsider obtained this jade talisman, they wouldn’t be able to unleash its power.

“No...my mother Luo Qingxun was from the Luo Clan, and I carry the blood of the Omega Lord in my veins. If that’s the case, then I should be able to control the law power within this jade talisman...”

A thought stirred in his heart, and he tried to probe the pale violet jade talisman with his spirit sense.

Suddenly, a thunderous roar erupted in his mind as endless violet lightning surged like coiled serpents, radiating a terrifying aura that threatened to destroy the heavens and earth.

Lin Xun sensed the blood in his body begin to churn, resonating in a unique way with the law power sealed within the jade talisman. It felt as though, with just a single thought, he could unleash its might.

“It worked!”

Lin Xun didn’t probe further. He withdrew his spirit sense and carefully stowed the Law Jade Talisman. This treasure could be regarded as a true trump card!

“It’s a pity...the Blade of Light and Shadow contains the power of time and was also a treasure left behind by the Omega Lord...” Lin Xun couldn’t help but feel a pang of regret as he thought of the Blade of Light and Shadow that had been suppressed into the Abyss of Nothingness by the Gate of Exile.

Though he now had the strength to activate the Gate of Exile, there was almost no hope of retrieving any treasure suppressed in the Abyss of Nothingness. The Gate of Exile only remained open for the span of three breaths, which was far too short to locate and retrieve the blade.

It would be no different from searching for a needle in a haystack.

“Perhaps when I reach the Immortal level and can sustain the Gate of Exile for longer, I’ll be able to retrieve it.”

Lin Xun had a hunch that as his cultivation advanced, the duration for which he could maintain the Gate of Exile would grow as well! After a moment, he withdrew the grand array and soared into the skies.

The mountains and rivers once shrouded by the grand array were now in complete ruin, with signs of collapse and destruction everywhere. As this place was not far from Fengwu City, it wasn’t long before passing cultivators took notice, and when the news reached the city, it caused a great commotion.

“Immortals clashed here!” Before long, someone came to this conclusion. They all gasped in shock and began speculating wildly. Yet no one could figure out exactly what had happened. There were simply too few clues left on the battlefield.

Even so, the disturbance drew widespread attention. No one knew who had fought there, but the lingering aura of Immortals on the battlefield was impossible to hide.

Later, even the experts who had been lying in wait near the boundary star road were alarmed. One after another, they rushed to investigate, all suspecting that the battle might be related to Lin Xun who hadn’t appeared for many years.

Unfortunately, even the powerhouses from the Immortal Imperial Clans were unable to uncover any clues from the ruins of the battlefield.

Fengwu Academy was the closest to the site. When Leng Qingxue and Nie Qingrong received the news, they also rushed over. Unlike the others, the moment they saw the battlefield, the same thought surfaced in both their minds—Could this have been Lin Xun’s doing?

If that was true, wouldn’t it mean he had been lying low near Fengwu Academy all this time? If their guess was right, then from the moment they entered Fengwu Academy, he had likely been silently watching over and protecting them all along!

In the end, Leng Qingxue and Nie Qingrong exchanged a look, subtle emotions stirring in their hearts.

On the same day of Luo Yunshan’s death, Lin Xun left Fengwu City without delay. He knew this place would soon become a center of trouble and draw too much attention. It was no longer suitable for staying in hiding.

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The sun rose and the moon set; time slipped by in the blink of an eye. By the sixth year since Lin Xun came to Fifth Heaven Domain, fewer than ten percent of the experts who had once been lying in ambush near the boundary star road remained.

Lin Xun had yet to appear, and it was clear that he intended to continue dragging things out. This wore down many cultivators' patience. Unable to endure the fruitless waiting, they departed one after another.

Eventually, even the few experts still lingering at the boundary star road dispersed, not because they were unwilling to wait but because they had realized a harsh truth: There were no Immortals among them.

With their strength, even if Lin Xun were to suddenly appear, they wouldn't stand a chance. In that case, why continue staying? It would be nothing short of throwing their lives away! As news of their retreat spread, it stirred a great uproar across the Fifth Heaven Domain.

"Six years have passed, and Lin Xun actually wore down an entire assassination plot!" Many people clicked their tongues in disbelief and sighed in amazement.

Looking back, the many Immortal Imperial Clans had come in full force, joining hands in a grand scheme, determined to exhaust every possible means to kill him in the Fifth Heaven Domain. Who would have imagined that Lin Xun, without even showing his face, could dissolve such a monstrous assassination plot as if it never existed?

"If it were anyone else, they would have died a thousand times over. Only Menace Lin could have pulled off such a unique escape!"

"The Immortal Imperial Clans returned in defeat, utterly humiliated. After all, Menace Lin was alone, yet they couldn't touch him. If word gets out, it'll be a huge blow to their prestige."

"Where is Menace Lin now?"

"If even the Immortal Imperial Clans can't find him, who in the world possibly could?"

.....

Conversations like these echoed throughout the territories of the Fifth Heaven Domain. Indeed, compared to the past, Lin Xun no longer stirred up as much bloodshed in the Fifth Heaven Domain, nor did he act with the same unrestrained boldness as before.

However, he survived an ambush orchestrated by multiple Immortal Imperial Clans. This fact was enough to shake the heavens and astonish the world!

On a vast, endless azure sea, Lin Xun lay languidly on a small boat, drifting with the current. His eyes were half-closed, his mind and body relaxed. Not long ago, he had learned of the retreat at the boundary star road. The Immortal Imperial Clan elites had all withdrawn.

Despite that, he remained in no hurry to act. Part of him was cautious as it could all be a trap. The other part was simply because he wasn't in a rush.

Since leaving Fengwu City, he had been focused on two things. The first was thoroughly perfecting the profound mysteries of the Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage that were lacking in the Great Dao Furnace Art. The second was contemplating and delving into the mysteries of the immortal path.

Now, he had reached the pinnacle of the Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage, standing at the edge of transcending the Emperor Realm and stepping into the realm of true immortality. Unfortunately, that final threshold was unimaginably high!

Moreover, Lin Xun had a strong premonition that no amount of cultivation, no matter how long, even over thousands of years, would be enough to reach the threshold of immortality through effort alone. To attain the immortal dao, the key lay in a single word: enlightenment.

Only after an immense period of accumulation and tempering could one hope to break through. It required the comprehension of profound truths and mysteries of the immortal path. That moment of enlightenment might come during cultivation, in a sudden flash of understanding, or during a moment of quiet contemplation.

It was something that could neither be predicted nor forced!

“Well, if I can’t comprehend the mysteries of the immortal path in the Fifth Heaven Domain, I might as well leave.”

That day, lying on the drifting boat, Lin Xun suddenly opened his eyes, stood, and looked up at the sky.

Shua!

Then he soared into the sky, robes fluttering like mist in the wind. It was as if he was ascending to immortality, vanishing in the blink of an eye. This day marked the twelfth year since he had entered the Eternal True Realm.

On this day, only five years remained until the Origin Sect Ancestral Court would begin recruiting disciples.

Chapter 2617 Heartbroken Peng Tianxiang

The Sixth Heaven Domain, Yingfeng City.

In a restaurant, Peng Tianxiang sat alone by the window, drinking in silence. His expression was gloomy and his brows furrowed with frustration. From elsewhere in the restaurant, a lively conversation drifted over.

“Do you think that Menace Lin of Fangchun Mountain actually dares to come to the Sixth Heaven Domain?”

“Whether he dares or not, one thing is certain. Right now, in the Sixth Heaven Domain, the Immortal Imperial Clans, Wen, Heng, He, Luo, and Zhu, have all become the laughingstock of the world,” someone replied in a low voice.

Many people in the restaurant exchanged glances, their expressions subtly shifting. Ever since Lin Xun had first appeared in the First Heaven Domain, the Immortal Imperial Clans had gone all out to hunt him down. They mobilized their forces, stirring up a huge commotion even in the Sixth Heaven Domain, drawing the attention of all.

Countless people speculated on when Menace Lin would fall and at whose hands. No one believed he could possibly survive. After all, facing the combined might of numerous Immortal Imperial Clans was like trying to defy heaven itself. There wasn't even a sliver of hope that he could survive.

Despite that, no one could have imagined that under such a deadly pursuit, Lin Xun not only miraculously survived, but also fought his way from the First Heaven Domain to the Fifth! Even more astonishing was that despite the vast inescapable net laid by the Immortal Imperial Clans, they still failed to kill Lin Xun in the Fifth Heaven Domain.

Instead, after years of fruitless searching and endless exhaustion, the Immortal Imperial Clan elites hunting Lin Xun were the first to admit defeat and withdraw in humiliation. This matter had now spread like wildfire across the Sixth Heaven Domain, stirring up a storm and turning the Immortal Imperial Clans into the laughingstock of the world.

"If I were Menace Lin, I definitely wouldn't set foot in the Sixth Heaven Domain. It's far too dangerous. After all, this is the heartland of the Immortal Imperial Clans. They've already made it clear that if he dares show his face, not even his corpse will remain," someone sighed.

"Anyone can talk big, but the real question is, do you think someone like Menace Lin would be scared by those threats? Just look at how he's gotten this far? Anyone who stands in his way will be slain, no matter their status or background!" someone said coolly, a look of admiration on their face.

"You're all mistaken. Back in the Fifth Heaven Domain, Menace Lin was like a turtle hiding in its shell. He didn't dare to show himself. How else do you think he survived? So if he really does have the guts to enter the Sixth Heaven Domain, he'll be forced to stay in hiding. If he dares show his face in public, the moment his identity is exposed, he's finished!" A calm voice interjected, and many people nodded in agreement.

The Sixth Heaven Domain was like a watershed, completely distinct from the Fifth Heaven Domain and all the other domains below it. An astonishing twenty-four Immortal Imperial Clans were entrenched here alone!

Its vast territory and sheer number of cultivators far surpassed those of the Fifth Heaven Domain or any other below it. Among the Immortal Imperial Clans Lin Xun had offended, such as Wen, Heng, He, Zhu, Luo...there were at least ten in total.

In other words, half of the Immortal Imperial Clans in the Sixth Heaven Domain were Lin Xun's enemies! Under such circumstances, even if he dared to enter the Sixth Heaven Domain, how could he possibly show his face? Let alone him, even an Immortal would probably shrink back like a turtle into its shell!

"Brother Lin...Lin Xun...no wonder Miss Youran looked at you differently. Back in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, who could have imagined you'd one day make such a name for yourself?"

Hearing the chatter around him, Peng Tianxiang couldn't help but recall the time he'd spent with Lin Xun in the Great Thousand Battle Domain. His heart stirred with deep emotion.

"Damn that Yun Muzhe. Back then at the Ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass, he forcibly took Miss Youran away. If not for that, we wouldn't have been separated so soon..." A gloomy expression clouded Peng Tianxiang's face again.

Back then, Yun Muzhe, a supreme Emperor Ancestor, suddenly appeared and took Dugu Youran away on the spot. At the time, Peng Tianxiang hadn't thought much of it.

It wasn't until he returned to the Eternal True Realm and planned to use his clan's power to travel to the Seventh Heaven Domain to continue pursuing Dugu Youran that he suddenly realized that, even as a direct descendant of the Peng Clan, he couldn't just go there as he pleased.

Just like that, his hopes of seeing Dugu Youran again were shattered. Even now, all he could do was sit here, drinking to drown his sorrows.

Huh?

Suddenly, Peng Tianxiang glanced toward the window and a familiar figure flickered through the bustling street outside the window. However, before he could get a proper look, the figure had already disappeared into the sea of people.

"Could it be..."

Peng Tianxiang frowned slightly, then as if struck by a thought, immediately shot to his feet and rushed out of the restaurant. The streets teemed with rumbling carriages and crowds of people from all manner of races and clans, each with strange and varied appearances. Finding someone in this chaos was like searching for a needle in a haystack.

Despite that, Peng Tianxiang didn't care. He darted after the direction where the figure had vanished, his heart surging with indescribable emotion.

"If that really was him, then he's far too bold!" He muttered as he pushed through the crowd, scanning his surroundings.

Suddenly, a figure stepped in front of him. "Peng Tianxiang?"

Peng Tianxiang stopped in his tracks and looked up. The man before him wore a crimson robe, had long gray hair and bore a youthful face. He was tall and slender, standing casually, but he exuded an oppressive presence, like an unshakable wall of heaven.

Peng Tianxiang's eyes narrowed. "Who are you?"

This was Yingfeng City, located within the territory of the Celestial Azure Divine State, which was a state ruled by the Peng Clan! In other words, within the Celestial Azure Divine State, the Peng Clan reigned supreme, so naturally, Peng Tianxiang felt no fear!

"I'm Yu Ting. I've come with a message for Young Master Peng."

The red-robed, gray-haired man smiled faintly, sweeping an unhurried gaze over Peng Tianxiang from head to toe. His bold scrutiny made Peng Tianxiang frown in discomfort.

"If you've got something to say, say it already," Peng Tianxiang snapped.

The red-robed man smiled indifferently. With a turn of his hand, he revealed a handful of dazzling crystal-clear beads the size of dove eggs.

Peng Tianxiang's expression changed drastically. It was as if he had been struck by lightning. His eyes turned red, and his face flushed with rage. Fixing his gaze on the red-robed man who called himself Yu Ting, he roared, "How did those Cross Realm Message Beads end up in your hands?!"

Cross Realm Message Beads!

They were a wondrous treasure capable of transmitting messages across realms. When activated through special secret arts, the beads could travel from one domain to another. In truth, it was no different from sending a letter, except these Cross Realm Message Beads could transmit messages between entire heaven domains.

Such a treasure was incomparably valuable. Just one was worth a million first-grade cosmic origin crystals, a price that ordinary cultivators wouldn't even dream of affording.

"So these beads really are yours." Yu Ting paid no mind to Peng Tianxiang's furious reaction. Instead, he chuckled to himself, his grin laced with scorn and riddle.

"I must say...you're certainly devoted. But your writing...is absolutely dreadful. Sappy, clumsy, pathetic, like the ramblings of some lovesick fool. Good thing Miss Youran never saw them. Otherwise, she would probably be...thoroughly disgusted."

"You...you actually read my Cross Realm Message Beads?!"

Peng Tianxiang's mind buzzed as an indescribable rage surged through him. His vision blurred with fury, his face contorting and turning livid.

"This is a public street. If your rage ends up affecting others, that would be a grave offense."

Yu Ting suddenly raised a hand and pressed it against Peng Tianxiang's shoulder. Peng Tianxiang couldn't react in time and his entire body was instantly suppressed. His strength was sealed so he was left completely immobilized.

The sudden shock jolted him back to his senses, though his expression remained twisted with fury. Gritting his teeth, he growled, "No wonder Youran never replied to my letters all these years. So it was you who intercepted them! Who are you? Why are you doing this to me?"

Yu Ting sneered with disdain. "If you hadn't been writing that pathetic nonsense all these years, do you really think I would waste my time on a lovesick fool like you?"

Peng Tianxiang's face flushed red, feeling his dignity crushed. His heart was burning with shame and humiliation. His voice came out hoarse as he growled, "What exactly do you want?"

A chilling gleam flashed in Yu Ting's eyes. He fixed his gaze on Peng Tianxiang and said coldly, "My young master sent me to tell you that someone as noble as Miss Youran is not someone a lowly wretch like you is qualified to covet. If you dare to have such thoughts again...you'll die a miserable death."

There was undisguised contempt in his voice.

Peng Tianxiang's expression shifted. "Did...did Youran send you?"

Yu Ting sneered, "Someone of Miss Youran's status would bother with trivial matters like this? Just remember what I said. If you don't, not even the entire Peng Clan will be able to save your life!"

As he spoke, the crystal clear message beads shattered with sharp crisp sounds one by one between his fingers. Watching this, Peng Tianxiang felt as though his heart was being crushed. His eyes turned bloodshot, and his mind went completely blank.

Those Cross Realm Message Beads contained letters he had poured his heart and soul into. They embodied his thoughts, emotions, and longing over the years. To others, they might seem insignificant, but to him, they held a special and irreplaceable meaning.

Now, they were being mercilessly crushed, one after another!

"Can't take the blow? Haha, what a pitiful and pathetic love-sick fool." Yu Ting laughed mockingly, his eyes full of amusement and ridicule.

Peng Tianxiang's eyes looked like they were about to burst as he stared at the shattering message beads. His body seemed to have become soulless, and his gaze gradually turned dim and lifeless...

There were even signs that his dao heart was beginning to collapse! In fact, this was exactly what Yu Ting wanted to see. If he could destroy someone's will without even having to kill them, that would be even better.

Just as Peng Tianxiang's dao heart was on the verge of complete destruction, a familiar, indifferent voice suddenly rang out, "Is it fun to play like this?"

That voice seemed to carry a strange magical power. Like a mighty warm current, it flowed directly into his heart, calming and steadying the collapsing dao heart within him. Startled, he instinctively looked up and, in his vision, a familiar figure had silently appeared at his side.

Chapter 2618 Rowdy Demon Sea

The streets were packed with a never-ending stream of people weaving like flowing threads. Despite that, no one noticed the silent confrontation unfolding nearby.

Yu Ting lifted his gaze to the tall figure who had suddenly appeared and asked coldly, "You think torturing a weakling like this would be any fun?"

As he spoke, a mocking grin curled his lips, and a sharp glint flashed in his eyes, "What, you want to join in? If you're not afraid of dying, be my guest."

His hand remained on Peng Tianxiang's shoulder, his expression calm and composed, exuding a quiet, restrained arrogance. Meanwhile, Peng Tianxiang was visibly shaken, because he recognized the person who had arrived!

"Then let's give it a try."

The tall figure was none other than Lin Xun. As he spoke, he reached out and lightly pressed his hand on Yu Ting's shoulder. The motion seemed effortless and even casual.

A flash of murderous intent sparked in Yu Ting's eyes. He was just about to react when he suddenly felt his body freeze. An invisible force surged through him, completely suppressing his cultivation. He couldn't even move a finger!

His expression shifted. His pupils constricted as he stared in shock at Lin Xun's hand that was still resting causally on his shoulder.

Boom!

In that moment, Yu Ting felt as though his entire body was being crushed beneath the hand of the heavens. Even with his cultivation at the peak of the Ancestor Stage, he now felt as powerless as an ant in someone's grasp. It was as if the man before him could end his life with a single thought!

"With that measly power, you dare challenge me?" Lin Xun's gaze was calm and cold, exuding an air of utter superiority. It was as if mocking his opponent wasn't even worth the effort.

"Who are you?" Yu Ting's expression changed completely. A chill gripped his heart and a wave of fear surged through him. With just a casual strike, he was left completely powerless. Such power was not something any ordinary cultivator could possess.

"How do you want to deal with him?" Lin Xun didn't spare Yu Ting another glance and turned to Peng Tianxiang instead.

Now freed, Peng Tianxiang was overwhelmed with emotion, but he knew this wasn't the time for reminiscing.

"Take him outside the city and silence him!" Peng Tianxiang took a deep breath, his eyes turning icy, and his voice was laced with deep hatred. If Lin Xun hadn't appeared when he did, his dao heart would have collapsed and he would have been crippled! That fate would have been worse than death!

Yu Ting's face turned ashen, but he remained unfazed. He sneered coldly, "My young master is Yun Muzhe, a direct descendant of the Yun Clan, one of the Donghuang's Four Clans in the Seventh Heavenly Domain. He's also one of the ten supreme Emperor Ancestors! If you kill me, your entire Peng Clan will be in grave trouble. Do you really dare?"

Peng Tianxiang froze, then asked angrily, "Yun Muzhe?"

He seemed to be in disbelief.

Yu Ting's eyes grew proud. "That's right."

"So it's him..." Peng Tianxiang muttered, clearly shaken. "Why would he do this? I've always respected and admired him...I never did anything to offend him. Why would he treat me like this..."

The truth hit Peng Tianxiang hard like a hammer to the heart.

"You've only yourself to blame for not knowing your place. You're just a toad dreaming of eating swan meat. Did you really think someone like you could ever match up to Miss Youran?" Yu Ting's eyes were brimming with scorn.

Even though Lin Xun had him firmly restrained, Yu Ting showed no fear. He was full of arrogant confidence, as if certain that, with his status, no one in the Sixth Heaven Domain would dare lay a finger on him.

"I just like Youran. Is that so wrong?" Peng Tianxiang's eyes were bloodshot and his face twisted with a hatred bordering on madness.

"Liking someone you shouldn't is already a grave mistake! If it were just one-sided love, no one would have cared, but you just don't know your place. Over the years, you've kept trying to use those Cross Realm Message Beads to get close to Miss Youran. That's overstepping!"

Yu Ting's eyes were chillingly cold.

Peng Tianxiang hissed, "You're just Yun Muzhe's lackey. What right do you have to say I don't know my place? And who is Yun Muzhe to meddle in this? Whether I've overstepped or not...that's not for you to decide!"

Yu Ting sneered, looking at him as if he were a fool.

Seeing this, Lin Xun, who had been watching coldly from the side, finally spoke, "Let's go. Take him outside the city."

"What are you planning to do?" Yu Ting's expression changed drastically. His composure cracked, and he could no longer maintain his calm.

"What else? To silence you. Do you think you could walk away from this alive?" Lin Xun smiled faintly.

Yu Ting's eyes widened in disbelief and fury. "Didn't you hear me? I'm from the Yun Clan, one of the Donghuang's Four Clans! And I serve directly under Young Master Yun Muzhe! You..."

Lin Xun interrupted with a calm smile, "Even if the Lord of Heaven himself had sent you, you still wouldn't escape death today."

"Peng Tianxiang, aren't you afraid your entire clan will be dragged into this?" Yu Ting turned to Peng Tianxiang, both enraged and panicked. Lin Xun's overwhelming presence filled him with dread.

"What do my personal affairs have to do with the Peng Clan?" Peng Tianxiang said coldly. "Just like you...you're nothing but a lackey. Even if you die, do you really think Yun Muzhe would charge into the Sixth Heaven Domain to wipe out my clan for your sake?"

"You..." Yu Ting couldn't believe what he was hearing. Was this really the same pathetic fool he had mocked, humiliated, suppressed, and trampled upon earlier? Before he could react, a sharp pain shot through his shoulder. Lin Xun had seized him and whisked him away into the distance.

Only then did true fear seize him. Realizing something was terribly wrong, he tried to cry out, hoping to draw the attention of the cultivators on the streets. If nothing else, it would at least cause a commotion.

Unfortunately, when he opened his mouth, no sound came forth... In that instant, Yu Ting's heart trembled as if he had fallen into an icy abyss. When he looked at Lin Xun again, his gaze was filled with bewildered disbelief.

Who is he?

Why is he doing this?

Far from the city, deep in a canyon tens of thousands of miles away, the sunlight burned crimson like fresh blood.

Bang!

Yu Ting crashed to the ground, hair disheveled and looking utterly wretched. Lin Xun turned to Peng Tianxiang. "Will you do it, or shall I?"

"I'll do it." Peng Tianxiang's expression was twisted with hatred. He stepped forward, gripping a divine sword.

Yu Ting shrieked in terror, "Do you know what you're doing?! Kill me and Young Master Yun Muzhe will never let you off! I swear it!"

Pu!

With a flash of divine light, Yu Ting's head flew from his shoulders. Even in death, his eyes wide with disbelief, his face frozen in shock. As if venting years of humiliation and hatred, Peng Tianxiang swung his sword again and again, hacking the body into pieces. In just a few breaths, only a mangled mess of blood and broken flesh remained.

Still unsatisfied, he waved his sleeve. Divine flames surged forth, incinerating the remains to ash. Not a trace was left behind. Only then did Peng Tianxiang put away the sword. He stood frozen in place, his expression blank and spirit lost, muttering, "Brother Lin, did I really overstep?"

His voice was hoarse, tinged with a sense of loss.

“That depends on what your heart truly believes,” Lin Xun sighed.

From the very beginning, Lin Xun had been silently observing from the sidelines, watching Peng Tianxiang. Thinking back to how this man had been infatuated with Dugu Youran since the days of the Great Thousand Battle Domain, he couldn’t help but sigh inwardly.

Cultivators were not devoid of emotions. Since ancient times, there had never been a lack of extraordinary figures who became entangled, even trapped, by love. Even Emperors and Immortals were not immune.

Lin Xun had once heard of a Buddha who had attained immortality, but unintentionally fell for a mortal woman. To be with her, to live and die together, he did not hesitate to sever his immortal cultivation and return to a mortal body! This incident caused a great stir across the world.

Many scorned him, calling him foolish, saying he had been consumed by love and that abandoning his immortal cultivation was a tragic waste. Some argued that even if he wished to be with the mortal woman, there was no need to sever his immortal path. With his power, he could have easily helped her embark on the path of cultivation.

However, the Buddha later gave his answer, “There are thousands of women in the world, each with their own charms. But of them all, only she lives in my heart. So what if she was just a mortal? I simply fell in love with her! No matter how profound the dao or heavy the karmic retribution, none of it could compare to her.”

Compared to that, Peng Tianxiang’s feelings for Dugu Youran didn’t seem unreasonable at all.

“Hah, let’s not talk about this anymore. I don’t need to justify myself, nor do I expect anyone to understand...”

After a long pause, Peng Tianxiang gave a self-deprecating shake of his head and changed the subject. “Brother Lin, when did you arrive in the Sixth Heaven Domain?”

“Three days ago,” Lin Xun replied casually, “Let’s find a quiet place to talk.”

Peng Tianxiang readily agreed.

On the top floor of a restaurant in Yingfeng City, the table was laden with delicious dishes, fine wines and rare delicacies. Lin Xun and Peng Tianxiang drank together, sharing all they had been through over the years. Both felt a wave of emotion.

After a while, Peng Tianxiang’s expression turned serious. “Brother Lin, half of the Immortal Imperial Clans in the Sixth Heaven Domain hate you to the bone. If your whereabouts are exposed...you’ll face unimaginable danger. Why not come stay with my Peng Clan? Then you can assume a new identity and lay low for a while.”

Lin Xun shook his head. “I came to the Sixth Heaven Domain for something urgent.”

Peng Tianxiang asked, “Is there anything I can do to help?”

Lin Xun smiled. “It’s better not to get involved. But if the time comes when I do need help, I won’t hesitate to ask.”

In truth, he and Peng Tianxiang had fought before they became friends. It was a friendship born of conflict. Now, they could drink and laugh together like true comrades.

“Oh by the way, do you know how to get to the Rowdy Demon Sea?” asked Lin Xun.

“Rowdy Demon Sea?” Peng Tianxiang narrowed his eyes.

It was the most chaotic region in the Sixth Heaven Domain, plagued by countless disasters and eerie, terrifying phenomena. Throughout history, it had been known as the Sea of Evil, a place where countless wicked demons and heretics gathered.

Under normal circumstances, even the Immortal Imperial Clans of the Sixth Heaven Domain avoided venturing near the Rowdy Demon Sea. After all, that place was practically a living hell. Its environment was treacherous, and it teemed with malevolent beings. For ordinary cultivators, entering it was no different from walking to their deaths!

In the past, the Immortal Imperial Clans of the Sixth Heaven Domain had even united in an attempt to purge the evil from Rowdy Demon Sea, but in the end, they failed.

The reason was that the sea was like a vast, natural labyrinth. As long as those fiends remained hidden, even Immortal experts found it nearly impossible to track them down without knowledge of the terrain!

Chapter 2619 Old Kun

After the astonishment, Peng Tianxiang looked like he had guessed something, "With your current situation, it's actually not a bad idea to hide in the Rowdy Demon Sea."

Over half of the Immortal Imperial Clans in the Sixth Heaven Domain regarded Lin Xun as their number one eyesore. He would definitely be faced with unpredictable calamities once his identity was exposed while traveling there. Although the Rowdy Demon Sea was incredibly dangerous, there was no better place than it for him to lie low in.

Lin Xun could tell at a glance that Peng Tianxiang was overthinking. He laughed, "I just want to find someone."

During his conversation with Luo Qingxun's manifestation of willpower in the Fifth Heaven Domain, he had learned that Mister Lu was staying in the Rowdy Demon Sea in the Sixth Heaven Domain! As long as he found Mister Lu there, some of the mysteries from the past would finally be unraveled!

Peng Tianxiang was surprised, "You're looking for someone?"

However, seeing as Lin Xun was not going to explain any further, he didn't pursue it. He said, "The entrance to the Rowdy Demon Sea is located in the Blood Wind Divine State..."

He suddenly seemed to remember something and added, "If you really intend to go there, Brother Lin, then I can help contact someone who can make that happen. Many dangers can be avoided if that person agrees to bring you there."

“Who?” asked Lin Xun.

“A frequent goer of the Rowdy Demon Sea who has done business with countless menaces. Those who know him call him Old Kun,” said Peng Tianxiang. “This old guy is weird and arrogant, but he’s indebted to my clan, so he probably won’t refuse if I ask him to take you to the Rowdy Demon Sea.”

Lin Xun nodded, “It can indeed save a lot of trouble to have an experienced person to lead the way.”

“Your matter should not be delayed. Let's go find him now.” Peng Tianxiang didn’t even touch the wine and directly stood up, as if being able to help Lin Xun made him feel very accomplished.

Lin Xun naturally wouldn’t reject his goodwill.

.....

The Sixth Heaven Domain was composed of thirty-six Divine States, each of which had a bigger area than a great world. Almost any of the Immortal Imperial Clans distributed in the Sixth Heaven Domain had full control over one Divine State, with some top clans even owning two or more!

For example, the Peng Clan was the overlord of the Celestial Azure Divine State.

In Nine Leaf City, one of the cities in the Celestial Azure Divine State, Nine Leaf Merchant House was the largest-scale business in the city, with an ancient and longstanding heritage. However, very few knew that the boss behind this merchant house was actually Old Kun, who was always in and out of the Rowdy Demon Sea to do business.

On this day, Peng Tianxiang brought Lin Xun to the Nine Leaf Merchant House. After announcing his identity, he immediately received the VIP treatment. Two beautiful maids respectfully welcomed and led him to a quiet and elegant hall.

Before long, there was a pleasant tinkle of a jade ornament as a plainly dressed woman walked into the hall.

The woman's hair reached her waist, her body was well proportioned, and she had a cool and sophisticated air. Overall, she looked outstanding. However, she was expressionless, announcing as soon as she entered the hall, "My father isn't home. Please leave."

Peng Tianxiang frowned, "He isn't here? Where has he gone?"

The plain-clothed woman said, "I don't know, I'm just his daughter. If there is nothing else, please leave."

This was the second time in a short time that she had asked them to leave.

Peng Tianxiang was a little embarrassed, feeling as though they hadn't been given the respect they deserved. He was about to say something back, but Lin Xun already got up and said, "Since that's the case, we will not bother you. Excuse us."

With that, he marched out. Peng Tianxiang hurriedly followed suit. However, the moment they were outside the hall, they saw a thin old man with an ordinary appearance walking up to them.

"As soon as I heard that Second Young Master Peng had come by, I immediately rushed here," smiled the old man warmly.

Peng Tianxiang was surprised, "Old Kun? I thought you weren't home?"

The ordinary looking old man was apparently Old Kun. He was also dumbfounded, "Who said I wasn't?"

The plain-clothed woman stepped out of the hall and said indifferently, "I did."

Old Kun's lips slightly twitched. He said helplessly, "Wanrou, this gentleman is the second son of the Peng Clan's leader. His father did me a great favor. How can you be so rude to him?"

He then cupped his fist toward the two young men and apologized, "Please don't misunderstand, my daughter by no means wanted to be deceitful. It's just that I was heavily wounded in a deadly situation a few years back and haven't been able to completely recover. My daughter is worried about my health, so she doesn't want me to accept guests. Please forgive us."

Peng Tianxiang exclaimed, "You were injured?"

Old Kun nodded, "Since you are not an outsider, I wouldn't hide this from you."

Peng Tianxiang frowned, "So to speak, you can't travel to the Rowdy Demon Sea at the moment?"

Old Kun was stunned. Glancing at Lin Xun who was standing next to Peng Tianxiang, he asked, "If I guessed correctly, you want me to take this young master there?"

Peng Tianxiang nodded, "That's right. This is Shi Yu, a good friend of mine. He needs to find someone in the Rowdy Demon Sea, therefore he's here to ask for your help."

Of course, Shi Yu was the name Lin Xun borrowed from his good friend during his teenage years.

Old Kun cupped his fist toward Lin Xun, "Pleased to meet you, Mister Shi. You can just call me Old Kun."

Lin Xun cupped his fist back, "Nice to meet you, Senior."

Old Kun hurriedly waved his hand, "That's a title I'm unworthy of. Still, I ask for your understanding; I'm physically incapable of going to the Rowdy Demon Sea right now."

Lin Xun and Peng Tianxiang were both feeling a little disappointed when Old Kun pointed at the plain-clothed woman and continued, "But if you don't mind, my daughter can take you there."

A stunned Peng Tianxiang said suspiciously, "Her?"

He clearly didn't believe in the plain-clothed woman's ability.

The latter was just as shocked. Her brows were furrowed, "Father, the Rowdy Demon Sea is a perilous place, I don't want to bring a burden."

A burden?

An odd look crossed Peng Tianxiang's eyes as he was secretly amused. If this girl knew that her so-called burden is the wildly notorious Lin Xun, what kind of expression would she make?

Old Kun, on the other hand, reprimanded, "Wanrou, that was rude of you!"

His appearance was unimpressive, and his figure was dry and thin, yet at this moment, he emanated an immensely intimidating majesty.

Lin Xun's heart shuddered. He was finally convinced that Old Kun, who was able to make frequent trips to and from such a vicious place as the Rowdy Demon Sea, was indeed no simple character.

Under Old Kun's rebuke, Wanrou lowered her head and said in a muffled voice, "Fine, I can bring him along, but let me make myself clear, I won't be responsible for anything that happens along the way."

After finishing that, she turned and left the room.

Peng Tianxiang couldn't help but frown, "Old Kun, your daughter seems so resistant. If something really happens during this journey..."

Old Kun laughed, "Don't worry, Second Young Master. Since Wanrou agreed to it, she will dutifully bring Mister Shi to the destination without a doubt. No one knows her better than me."

"Alright then, that's good to know," Peng Tianxiang said and looked at Lin Xun. "What do you think, Brother Shi? Is it okay for Miss Wanrou to be your guide?"

Lin Xun said, "As long as I can get to the Rowdy Demon Sea, it doesn't matter who the guide is."

Old Kun immediately looked relieved, "Great, then it's decided. Three days later, a team led by Wanrou will depart from the Nine Leaf Merchant House for the Rowdy Demon Sea. All you need to do is join them, Mister Shi."

After a pause, he added, "But there is something I have to remind you. The environment of the Rowdy Demon Sea is extremely harsh and treacherous, and many of the places you'll pass through are controlled by wicked and savage characters, so you must not act without authorization. Just leave it to my daughter to handle everything."

Lin Xun nodded in agreement.

That night, in a large hall covered in restrictive power, Old Kun and the plain-clothed woman called Wanrou were having a private conversation.

"Father, you know very well that this operation will be different from anything in the past. Why did you let that outsider join in?" Wanrou's fair and pretty face carried confusion and a hint of anger.

Old Kun patiently explained, "We're just doing Second Young Master Peng a small favor of convenience, it won't affect this operation."

"However, you must be careful not to neglect that man called Shi Yu. In the many years I've been in and out of the Rowdy Demon Sea, I've seen all kinds of evil criminals there are to see. While I don't claim to have the most accurate judgment because of this, at the very least, I know that Shi Yu is not a simple character."

Wanrou indifferently said, "That's for sure. How would he be able to get Second Young Master Peng to seek help on his behalf otherwise?"

"No. Perhaps his identity is extraordinary, but that's not what I'm talking about." Old Kun's eyes glowed with a profound luster. "His aura is concealed to the extreme. The average cultivator cannot detect anything special about him, but my intuition tells me that the more easily someone is overlooked, the more frightening they tend to be."

Wanrou raised her brows. After a moment of silence, she said, "Either way, since I've agreed to take him, I'll do my due diligence and won't deliberately make things hard for him along the way, so long as he doesn't cause any trouble for me."

Old Kun sighed with a smile, "Ah, you still don't understand what I mean. I'm saying that should you encounter any tricky problem along the way, you may...ask this Shi Yu for help."

A look of disbelief spread across Wanrou's oval face, "Father, aren't you thinking too highly of this person?"

Old Kun chuckled, "No matter what, I do hope that I have not misjudged him. Hopefully...he is really an extraordinary expert that can at least lend you a hand at critical times."

Saying this, there was guilt and concern in his eyes. It should have been him to lead the operation, but because of his injuries, he could only put this load on his daughter.

Although he knew from her talent, skills, and her performance over the years that she was more than capable of completing this task, he was still her father in the end. A father could never stop worrying about his daughter.

Wanrou was touched by his concern. Only after half a long silence did she take a deep breath and say with shining determination in her eyes, "Father, I definitely won't let you down!"

Chapter 2620 Unwanted Obtrusion

Old Kun gently patted his daughter's shoulder, "Don't put too much pressure on yourself."

Wanrou whispered, "Father, I am just a little worried about your injuries..."

Old Kun laughed brightly, "They are serious, but they can't take my old life."

"My lord, we have guests," the respectful voice of a servant suddenly sounded outside the hall.

Who would come by at such a late hour?

As Old Kun pondered, the doors to the hall were pushed open, through which a slender and tall figure strode in.

It was a stern man with a powerful aura, who laughed as soon as he entered, "You won't blame me for visiting in the middle of the night, right, Old Kun?"

Old Kun put on a hospitable smile, "Blaming you? You know I'm delighted by your presence, Dao Brother. Please make yourself at home."

Standing next to her father, Wanrou imperceptibly frowned as she recognized the visitor.

Heng Tianxiao! He was an Emperor Ancestor elder of the Immortal Imperial Heng Clan.

"Hahaha, there's no need to stand on ceremony. I'm here with a request," said Heng Tianxiao before looking outside the hall, "All of you, come in."

Immediately, a group of people walked in. At the front were a few young men and women in brocade garments and extraordinary auras, their eyes carrying a kind of reserved conceit. Over a dozen escorts clustered around them like stars cupping the moon.

Old Kun was stunned, "And they are?"

"The juniors of my clan." Heng Tianxiao pointed at the well-dressed ones and said, "I intend to let them experience the world by traveling to the Rowdy Demon Sea. The tempering during such a journey is bound to be of great benefit to their cultivation."

Old Kun's face slightly sank, "Dao Brother, we all know how perilous the Rowdy Demon Sea..."

Heng Tianxiao waved his hand and cut him off, "But you'll be there, no? Unrefined jade can't shine. These juniors have superb cultivation and aptitude but lack the grinding of real dangers. The Rowdy Demon Sea can provide just that, so all you need to do is take them on a trip there."

Old Kun laughed bitterly, "There's something you don't know yet, Dao Brother. The one who will be leading the team this time is my daughter, so her ability is of concern here. If something goes wrong, I can't afford the consequences."

A handsome man in a golden robe coldly said, "This senior, are you looking down on us?"

The other Heng Clan juniors also revealed indignant looks.

Old Kun cursed in his heart while his mouth hastily curled into an obsequious smile, "This old man wouldn't dare, it's just..."

Heng Tianxiao waved his hand and helped Old Kun make a decision, "Alright, then it's settled."

Old Kun's expression darkened. After a long silence, he finally said, "If you insist, then this old man must make one thing clear first, as unpleasant as it will sound: You cannot blame me in the case that something untoward happens, Dao Brother."

Heng Tianxiao burst out laughing and swept a look at the youngsters, "Hear that? In Old Kun's eyes, you are just a bunch of dead weight! Remember, if you want to be looked up to, then perform well on this journey and don't disgrace the Heng Clan!"

Having said that, he turned to Old Kun, "Don't worry, there is no mediocre character among the sons and daughters of our clan. You won't be to blame if anything bad really befalls them."

Old Kun sneered inside. You can say all of that stuff now, but this old man knows that when something like that really happens, you'll dump all the responsibility on me!

Meanwhile, Heng Tianxiao looked at the escorts, "Besides, look at these guards who are all loyal guest elders of the Heng Clan, which one of them isn't an Emperor Ancestor? As long as the opponent isn't an immortal expert, they are capable of diffusing any danger."

Old Kun had also noticed that the dozen or so escorts were not simple. Each of them had the aura of an Emperor Ancestor, with some even stronger than that of Heng Tianxiao!

They had been reduced to mere guards of the juniors despite their strength, which seemed absurd at first glance, but it was actually an extremely common occurrence in big Immortal Imperial Clans of the Sixth Heaven Domain.

After all, in this world, too many cultivators aspired to join an Immortal Imperial Clan! An example was Nie Qingrong and Leng Qingxue. They were both Emperor Ancestors, but during all the years they were working in the First Heaven Domain, they also yearned to be brought to the Sixth Heaven Domain by the He and the Hong Clans.

Therefore, even when being in the same cultivation stage, the status of a clan member like Heng Tianxiao was far higher than that of the clan's guest elders.

In the end, Old Kun could only compromise and oblige. Heng Tianxiao's group did not linger around after getting what they wanted and quickly left.

When only Old Kun and Wanrou were left in the hall, the young woman could no longer hold it back, "Father, allowing Shi Yu to follow us during this operation is already the limit of what I can tolerate. Now the Heng Clan is stuffing over so many people at once, how can I...how can I look after them all?"

Old Kun inhaled deeply, and there was a cold flash in his eyes, "You don't have to look after them, just bringing them along is enough. It doesn't matter if something goes wrong; I have my ways to deal with the Heng Clan."

He then frowned, "But you still have to be on your guard. For Heng Tianxiao to bring a group of people to visit so late at night, requesting to go to the Rowdy Demon Sea, there's definitely something else behind this."

Wanrou also realized that something was wrong after his reminder, “You're saying that the Heng Clan has an ulterior motive?”

Old Kun shook his head, “No, they aren’t targeting us. I mean that they aren’t sending their juniors to the Rowdy Demon Sea to hone them, but for another purpose!”

Wanrou's eyes glinted. “What might that purpose be...”

Old Kun instructed, “You don't need to consider this. It suffices that you do your role as a guide.”

Wanrou nodded.

.....

Three days later, a treasure ship floated before the Nine Leaf Merchant House. Above the mast of the ship, the unique brand totem of the business was suspended: a continuous circle formed of nine green leaves.

“Nine is the final single digit, after which everything returns to one and completes the great dao. This brand totem is something else...” Lin Xun stood at a corner as he assessed the treasure ship.

Peng Tianxiang had already left the previous night. Yu Ting’s death was destined to invite retaliation from Yun Muzhe, so Peng Tianxiang needed to return to his clan and discuss it with them.

Not far away from where Lin Xun was, the beautiful Wanrou stood, still wearing a plain dress. She looked at him, who was standing there alone, and then thought for a moment before beckoning a maid over.

“Runyue, you’ll be serving by Mister Shi’s side from now on. Show no negligence,” said Wanrou.

The maid was definitely beautiful with fair skin and a delicate figure clad in a well-tailored, pale pink dress. Her lips bloomed with a cute smile as she replied, “As you order, Miss.”

Wanrou transmitted, "Keep an eye on him. Should he display any abnormal behavior, inform me right away."

Runyue blinked and assented in a low voice.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun finally saw the clansmen of the Heng Clan. In fact, it was hard not to notice such an eye-catching group who had nearly twenty people including the guards.

Runyue came to Lin Xun's side and explained the situation through transmission, her voice crisp and melodious, "They are from the Heng Clan, and they will be traveling with us to the Rowdy Demon Sea. The man in the golden robe at the very front is Heng Xinghai, said to be the third son of the clan head. The two men and the woman beside him are his cousins..."

The Heng Clan!

A strange gleam crossed the depths of Lin Xun's eyes.

The first Emperor Ancestor he killed in the Great Thousand Battle Domain was Heng Tianshuo, which marked the start of his feud with the Heng Clan. Even up until the recent years after he had entered the Eternal True Realm, their force was always present among the Immortal Imperial Clans that had been hunting for him.

"Miss Wanrou, can we depart already?" asked Heng Xinghai in a loud voice. He had a robust physique under the golden robe, and his eyes revealed his unrestrained character.

"Wait a moment," replied Wanrou who then turned her gaze to Old Kun in the distance. "Father, everyone is here. You can go back."

Old Kun nodded and said to an old servant, "My old friend, I'll have to trouble you with her on this journey."

The old servant was skinny and had thinning hair. From his forehead, three gruesome scars ran straight down his face like three hideous centipedes, giving him a savage look.

His voice was hoarse and low, "Yes, Master. I will take good care of the young miss."

"Uncle Jiao, let's go." Wanrou glanced at the old servant and then at Old Kun, before turning around and walking toward the distance. "Depart!"

Minutes later, the treasure ship carried the crowd as it took into the air at an astonishing speed, crushing the clouds.

"Please be safe..." Old Kun watched the ship disappear from view. Remembering the thing Wanrou was about to do, he inexplicably grew worried.

Ten days later, the Nine Leaf Merchant House's treasure ship smoothly made its way into the territory of Blood Wind Divine State.

If nothing unexpected occurred, it would be able to embark on the road to the Rowdy Demon Sea in another seven days, which would be a long road filled with perils. However, with Wanrou presiding over the journey, Lin Xun wasn't worried about getting lost.

Compared to the boundary ships that roamed the starry void, this treasure ship of the Nine Leaf Merchant House wasn't as big, but it was still comparable to a magnificent palace. Covered in heavy restrictive measures with many superimposed spaces constructed in the cabin, this was where Lin Xun and the other crew members resided.

In a room that was elegantly and neatly decorated, Wanrou, who was sitting at the desk, put down the jade slip in her hand, rubbed her eyebrows, and casually asked, "Uncle Jiao, has Mister Shi been staying in his room the whole time?"

Standing not far away, the skinny old servant replied in a low voice, "Indeed."

Wanrou seemed taken aback, "I didn't think he'd be so well-behaved and cooperative."

She had assumed that a character who hung around with a noble like Peng Tianxiang was bound to be hard to handle. She had even been prepared to teach Lin Xun a good lesson once he tried anything funny.

Who would have thought that from the moment he boarded the ship, he had closed the doors and stayed in his room the entire time, never causing a hint of trouble to them. This was out of her expectation.