## Prodigies 2621

Chapter 2621 Watch with Folded Arms

On the contrary, the members of the Heng Clan had been getting on Wanrou's nerves with their behaviors.

Some of them hosted wild gatherings where they made loud noise while drinking and singing, which Wanrou tolerated.

Some indulged in sexual pleasures night after night, which she also tolerated.

Some clamored for the ship to stop for a while whenever they arrived at a new place just to see some friends. Wanrou...still tolerated it.

However, someone actually practiced sword training on the ship without any restraint. The high metallic clangs reached every corner, and the outsweeps of sword qi even rattled the restrictions on the ship. Not a moment of peace could be had.

Wanrou was unable to tolerate this.

The one practicing the sword was Heng Xinghai, the leader of the Heng group. Suffice to say, he was obsessed with the sword dao, spending all of his free time on honing his skills. If this were anywhere else, Wanrou might have admired him, but it was nothing but irritating when it was on her ship.

She had personally asked him to exercise some restraint so that he at least wouldn't disturb the peace of the entire ship. Who would have thought that Heng Xinghai would continue to act as before, not taking her request into consideration at all?

How could she not be vexed?

In comparison, Lin Xun, who had been staying in his room since the moment he stepped onto the ship, was undoubtedly much more likable.

“Miss, something needs your immediate attention,” an anxious voice suddenly rang outside Wanrou’s room.

Alarmed, Wanrou said, “Come in.”

A maid pushed the door in and hurriedly reported, “Miss, it’s happening near Mister Shi’s room. Young Master Heng Xingwen insisted on making Runyue drink with him. She refused, but he flew into a rage and refused to let her go. He’s close to using violence now!”

Wanrou stood up, her face as cold as frost, “This guy has no scruples!”

Heng Xingwen was the one who had been spending every waking moment indulging in sexual pleasures. His three female escorts did indescribable things day and night, and the noise they made could turn the place into a chicken yard that was visited by a fox.

It would be fine if this was all that happened because those unsightly scenes and sounds were limited to Heng Xingwen's room. The restrictive power covering it wouldn’t let them affect other passengers.

However, now that he was extending his evil clutches towards Runyue, it was beyond what Wanrou could tolerate!

Runyue was her personal attendant who was assigned to serve Lin Xun during this trip. When her people were preyed on by an unrestrained, perverted demon like Heng Xingwen, how could she not be furious?

“Uncle Jiao, let's go.” Wanrou immediately left her room.

.....

Lin Xun was awakened from his meditation by a voice that was permeated with anger, helplessness, and hesitation.

While the rooms were protected by a restriction, it also isolated the space inside from the outside world. If an unforeseen event occurred to the ship during the flight, those in the rooms wouldn’t be able to sense it right away and could fall into a dangerous situation.

Therefore, the first thing Lin Xun had done when he got to his room was open up a hole in its restrictive cover. This way, he could react immediately when something bad happened.

This was why the angry and helpless voice had caught his attention at once. It belonged to Runyue!

Lin Xun was stunned. On this treasure ship of the Nine Leaf Merchant House, who would be so daring as to act against her? Deploying his spirit sense, he instantly captured what was happening outside.

Bam!

A crisp slap rang out.

Runyue's fair and beautiful face was red and swollen as she stumbled and fell to the ground. Her eyes were brimming with tears, and her face was covered in fury and trepidation, but she didn't dare to resist.

She said in a trembling voice, “We’re on the ship of the Nine Leaf Merchant House, Young Master. Are you insisting on offending our young lady?”

Standing at her opposite was Heng Xingwen, whose handsome face was filled with frost. "So what? You think a mere merchant house has the guts to make an enemy of me over a lowly servant like you?"

Saying that, he seized Runyue with one hand and scanned her curvy figure with a lecherous look in his eyes, “I cultivate the marvelous dao of carnal pleasure. All the women I choose benefit a great deal from doing it with me.”

“I don't want it. No—” Runyue screamed with a horrified expression. “Please, I beg of you, please let me go...”

“No other woman who I’ve ever laid eyes on has dared to refuse me like this,” snorted Heng Xingwen as he grabbed Runyue's arm, wanting to drag her to his room.

Lin Xun frowned. The people of the Heng Clan are actually this unscrupulous?

“Stop!” an icy voice rang out at the critical juncture as Wanrou and Uncle Jiao arrived at the scene.

“Miss Wanrou.” Heng Xingwen showed not a trace of panic. He even turned to Wanrou with a frivolous smile and asked, “Would you like to visit my room as well?”

Wanrou took a deep breath to forcibly suppress her anger and said coldly, “Release Runyue and leave, or don't blame me for not giving the Heng Clan any face.”

Heng Xingwen feigned surprise as his eyes revealed nothing but amusement, “Yo, serious? You’re really thinking of using violence? She’s just a maid.

“Also, I only want to have a heart-to-heart talk and let her experience the wonders of carnal pleasure. As this is my dao, she’ll only benefit endlessly from it, and who knows, she may even take the initiative to beg me to do it with her after this one... Of course, if you're also interested, Miss Wanrou, take this opportunity to join us. With my skill, you’ll get an experience you can never forget. I guarantee that it will only leave you wanting more..."

“Shut up!” Wanrou’s fury was almost spinning out of control, her eyes alarmingly frosty. “I'll only say it one more time, release Runyue and get out of my sight!”

She stressed every word sternly and ruthlessly.

Heng Xingwen raised a brow. Just as he was about to say something back, a clear voice rang out from afar.

“Xingwen, stop it!” A golden-robed Heng Xinghai hurriedly arrived. He first shot Heng Xingwen a fierce glare and then turned to Wanrou with a smile. “This junior brother of mine is an undisciplined playboy

who cultivates the dao of carnal pleasure on top of that, so he can’t help but display certain preposterous behaviors. Please forgive him.”

He seemed to be offering an explanation, but there was not one bit of an apologetic look on his face. It was as if he was stating a very normal matter.

Wanrou maintained an icy expression. “Tell him to release Runyue.”

Heng Xinghai reprimanded, "Xingwen, we still have to rely on Miss Wanrou for this trip, how can you do such a thing? Quickly release her!"

“Meh.” Heng Xingwen casually let Runyue go and lamented, “Ugh, the prejudice against the dao of carnal pleasure runs too deep in this world after all. People simply don't understand how magical...the taste of that is.”

“Miss.” Runyue rushed to Wanrou's side like a frightened deer, teary-eyed and shaking like a leaf. It was hard to tell whether she was too emotional or overwhelmed by fear of what could have happened.

“Miss Wanrou, if there is nothing else, we’re going back to our room.” Heng Xinghai laughed brightly.

“Young Master Heng, I hope something like this won't happen again in the future, else I can't guarantee whether or not we’ll run into any perils along the way,” said Wanrou calmly.

Heng Xinghai slightly squinted, then, with a loud laugh, he took Heng Xingwen away with him.

Watching them leave, Wanrou revealed a look of unconcealed disgust. There was a rage in her that had nowhere to vent.

As she looked at Runyue and then at the door of Lin Xun's room that had been shut the whole time, she got more and more upset. Biting her lip, she turned and left.

After getting back to her room, she couldn’t help but complain, “Uncle Jiao, if those people of the Heng Clan continue to make a ruckus, this trip will become a big mess sooner or later!”

Uncle Jiao said hoarsely, “Miss, a bit of impatience can foil a big plan. They still need us to bring them to the Rowdy Demon Sea, so as wanton as they are, they won’t dare to have a falling-out with us. For the time being...we must endure it.”

He also shook his head with a helpless expression.

Wanrou knew that Uncle Jiao was right, but she was unable to dispel the indignance in her heart. She gritted her teeth, “There's also that Shi Yu. It was right outside his room, but he didn’t even make a sound from start to end. To think that I arranged for Runyue to attend to him; he turned out to be such a coward!”

Uncle Jiao sighed, “Being an outsider, it's understandable that he doesn't want to offend the Heng Clan.”

Wanrou looked deeply disappointed and scornful, "My father said that he’s not simple and told me not to neglect him. He even said that I can turn to him for help should I encounter a crisis I can’t resolve. Who would have thought that...he is actually the incompetent kind!"

Uncle Jiao mused, “Master has gone through many great storms in his life, which has given him a pair of discerning eyes that rarely make the wrong judgment of people. Since he said so, he must have detected something extraordinary from Mister Shi.”

After a pause, he gave his advice in a gentle voice, “I don’t think you should act on your emotions, Miss. At the end of the day, the people of the Heng Clan started it. It has nothing to do with Mister Shi, so it’s not fair to criticize him no matter what he did.”

“That’s right, it has nothing to do with him...” Wanrou sounded frustrated. “If I had known this, I wouldn’t have tasked Runyue with serving him. I was wrong to have viewed him differently from the others!”

There was thick disappointment in her voice. Her impression of Lin Xun during the recent days wasn’t bad, and she had even developed some appreciation for him, but every bit of it was gone now.

“Miss, do I continue to serve Mister Shi?” asked Runyue timidly.

“No need!” said Wanrou coldly without thinking. “From now on, just pretend that he doesn’t exist.”

Uncle Jiao sighed, his voice gentle, “Miss...”

Wanrou quickly cut him off, “Uncle Jiao, if you are trying to get me to understand that selfish and spineless fellow, then don't say anything.”

Uncle Jiao could only smile bitterly. In truth, he was also a little upset inside.

They had already made an exception by allowing Shi Yu to travel with them this time. Furthermore, Wanrou had even assigned her personal maid to attend to him on the ship. From beginning to end, they had only shown him hospitality and not a single ounce of negligence.

Even if he didn't appreciate it, what happened just now was right outside his room. How could he just remain indifferent and choose not to do a single thing about it? If anyone else were in their young lady’s shoes, then they would probably be disappointed by him as well...

Chapter 2622 Ancestor Kun’s Life Bone

In his room, Lin Xun was sitting cross-legged with a frown on his face. Although the incident outside his door had been over with, he still felt that something was off about it.

Originally, he had been very close to come out to Runyue’s aid upon seeing Heng Xingwen slap her. After all, she had been attending to him. Besides, he was already grateful to Wanrou for taking him on this trip.

However, he had been just about to come out when he suddenly noticed a few odd details.

First of all, Heng Xingwen was an eighth realm supreme Emperor while Runyue was merely a normal sixth realm Emperor. If he really wanted to take her away, he was capable of doing that swiftly without making a single sound.

Despite that, he had done the exact opposite, raising a whole ruckus for everyone to know, and this was undoubtedly fishy.

In addition to that, the location where it had happened was also peculiar. As soon as Lin Xun got onboard, he had told Runyue that he didn't need any service while he was meditating in his room so she'd best not disturb him unless it was absolutely necessary.

Runyue had indeed done as instructed during the past dozen days since the ship had set off, not coming to disturb him at all. However, she had appeared right outside his room today after being targeted by Heng Xingwen.

While it made sense that she would want to seek help when encountering danger, shouldn't the first person she turned to for help be Wanrou as the latter's personal maid? Yet, she had appeared right before Lin Xun's room...

The whole thing made him feel like they were putting on a show to catch his attention and get him to react. This was uncanny to say the least. Therefore, he had forcefully acted against the urge to help and watched with folded arms.

Currently, he was pondering whether the problem lay with Heng Xingwen or Runyue. Or maybe it was with both of them? Their act was clearly aiming at him, but what was their end goal in doing so? To test his true strength? To probe into his identity?

Lin Xun pondered for a long time and finally shook his head. Who cared what they were plotting or what kind of tricks they had up their sleeves? If they dared to openly mess with him, then he would just get rid of them!

As far as he was concerned, the only expert on this entire ship that needed to be taken seriously was the old man called Uncle Jiao. The rest could be ignored. Over the recent years, he had even killed immortal characters, so how could he waste his mental capacity on mere Emperors?

Others might fear the might of the Heng Clan, but Lin Xun? Forget it. Since the moment he entered the Eternal True Realm, he had never feared any Immortal Imperial Clans!

“Still, it happened on the ship, so it’s better that Wanrou gets informed...” Lin Xun got up and went straight to where Wanrou was staying.

However, what he got in response to his knock on her door was Runyue's icy cold voice. She said, “Miss is resting. Please come back another time.”

Lin Xun was stunned, “Please tell her that I’m here to discuss a very important matter.”

After a short silence, Runyue's voice sounded again, “Young Master, our lady said that whatever the matter is, it can be discussed on another day.”

Lin Xun raised a brow as he somewhat realized their attitude. He laughed it off, “So be it.”

He directly walked away, knowing Wanrou refused to see him because she was unhappy with how he had acted during the incident. Perhaps she deemed him to be a coward? Or maybe a selfish and cold-blooded person?

He smiled, not taking this to heart because all in all it couldn’t be a more trivial matter. On account of Old Kun alone, he wouldn't start an argument with Wanrou.

On his way back to his room, Lin Xun ran into a person who seemed to be waiting for him. He had a big and tall build, was clad in a golden robe, and radiated an overwhelming vigor. It was none other than Heng Xinghai who was obsessed with the dao of the swords.

Seeing Lin Xun, the man opened his mouth, “Friend, can I chat with you for a moment?”

Lin Xun stopped and asked, “About what?”

Heng Xinghai smiled, “There's no need to be alarmed. I happened to hear that you got on this ship through the Peng Clan's connections, so as an old friend of Peng Tianxiang's, I would like to make your acquaintance.”

“Is that so? But I'm not interested in getting acquainted with someone I don’t know at all.” Lin Xun smiled back and resumed walking straight ahead.

Heng Xinghai was dumbfounded as he had not expected such a rejection. Watching Lin Xun getting further away, his expression took on a chilly shade. The next moment, he turned and left.

“There's really something off about those people of the Heng Clan.” Back in his room, Lin Xun recalled Heng Xinghai's behavior and keenly realized that the situation on this ship was far from as simple as it appeared. To be exact, the Heng Clan’s group apparently had a different plan than what they had stated!

“No matter what you’re scheming, if it affects me...then don't blame me for not being merciless...” Lin Xun's eyes gleamed dangerously.

He then assumed a casual sitting posture, discarded all distracting thoughts, and entered meditation.

In another room, Heng Xinghai had a grimace on his face as he stared at Heng Xingwen, “Do you know that your actions today have alarmed Shi Yu?”

Heng Xingwen dismissed, “I was just trying to figure out his details, lest he do something unexpected when we launch our operation. Turned out he’s a turtle who refused to rear his head even when his appointed maid was bullied. What a wimp.”

Having said that, he couldn't hold back a laugh.

Heng Xinghai harrumphed as Lin Xun’s rejection earlier had given him an unsettling feeling, “He’s definitely not the coward you think he is. Take some people with you to monitor this person. Kill him the moment he does anything out of place!”

Heng Xingwen laughed, “Easy peasy. Don’t worry, I’ll get it done.”

Heng Xinghai's eyes were sharp as swords as he said, “Easy peasy? If you slip up and hinder our operation, someone will deal with you even if I don't!"

Heng Xingwen was stunned, and his handsome face finally became solemn.

Several days flew by without any more twists and turns.

On this day, the ship carrying Lin Xun and the others suddenly trembled violently. There were even occasional howling storms and thunderous noises.

“Don’t panic, everyone. We have entered the road leading to the Rowdy Demon Sea. In the next couple days, we will be passing through various perilous areas, but as long as you remain put on the ship, you'll be fine,” Uncle Jiao's hoarse voice resounded throughout the ship.

“We’re already heading to the Rowdy Demon Sea...?” Lin Xun walked out of the palace-like cabin and went to the deck that was comparable to a big plaza.

Wanrou, Uncle Jiao, and a group of guards were standing at the railing area. Some of the Heng clansmen were also there, including Heng Xinghai and Heng Xingwen. Upon seeing Lin Xun appear, Heng Xinghai’s group only swept him a glance before shifting their gazes to the horizon.

“You’re here as well, Mister Shi,” Uncle Jiao greeted Lin Xun with a smile.

Wanrou, on the other hand, remained standing with her back facing him, obviously unwilling to pay him any attention.

“It's my first time traveling to the Rowdy Demon Sea, so I came to take a look once I heard the commotion,” Lin Xun said with a smile and gazed into the distance.

At the moment, the treasure ship was sailing through a sea of black clouds. From time to time, lightning bolts as thick as massive pythons would shoot out from the clouds with blinding glows and heart-stopping rumbles.

They danced like whirlpools, like a swarm of screaming demons among the clouds, tearing the skies and stirring the void beyond while exploding like firecrackers. Against such a background, the treasure ship was like a tiny drop in the ocean.

"We're in the Black Demon Thunder Sea. This place produces the horrid Thousand Demon Lightning, which the average Emperor can't withstand from being struck by. Here, there's also a vicious Chaos Yin Gale capable of blowing apart one's spirit, and it's very hard to guard against," Uncle Jiao pointed to the distance and explained for Lin Xun.

The latter nodded, "It does look very menacing."

He noticed that new layers of rainbow-colored light had appeared around the ship like a shield. It allowed the ship to avoid the bombardment of the Thousand Demon Lightning and Chaos Yin Gale, making it quite a safe trip despite how scary it looked.

Uncle Jiao continued, "For those of us who frequent the Rowdy Demon Sea all year round, these are merely appetizers. The closer we get to the destination, the more dangerous it gets.

"For example, there's a mountain called Blood Fiend, which is practically a gathering of blood qi that has piled up over ages. The mountain is nine hundred thousand feet tall and stretches horizontally between heaven and earth, and what goes on there is no different from a blood-red purgatory.

"Another instance is the Dead Zone of Turbulence that's littered with countless long, narrowed spatial cracks. Traveling through it, you constantly face the risk of being swept by spatial turbulence...

"There's also the Hungry Ghost River, the Goat Horn Ridge, the Eight Evil Island..." Uncle Jiao spoke eloquently as he recounted various treacherous areas, seemingly knowing them by heart.

Lin Xun, who listened with great interest, commented, "No wonder the Rowdy Demon Sea is considered the most dangerous and chaotic region in the Sixth Heaven Domain. The perils along the way alone can already deter the vast majority of cultivators."

Uncle Jiao laughed, “That's why the Rowdy Demon Sea has become a place of refuge for the most terrifying of criminals. The average person would never come to that hellish place unless there’s nowhere left in the world for them to survive in.”

“Uncle Jiao,” said Wanrou suddenly. “We’ll be arriving at the Blood Fiend Mountain in an hour. Please start preparing the wares.”

Uncle Jiao immediately nodded and left to carry out her order.

Right then, Heng Xinghai approached Wanrou with an open-hearted smile, “Miss Wanrou, may I ask you a question?”

Wanrou said, “You’re too polite, Young Master Heng. What would you like to know?”

Meanwhile, Heng Xingwen along with several escorts walked toward Lin Xun. Their postures were casual, and they seemed to be enjoying the scenery outside the ship. However, Lin Xun frowned. He could see upon paying careful attention that they ‘happened’ to form a barrier between him and Wanrou.

Heng Xinghai, who had gotten very close to Wanrou, maintained the same smile as his eyes suddenly became sharp and intimidating. In a low and deep voice, he said, “I wonder if the life bone left by Ancestor Kun is on your person?”

Chapter 2623 Reaping Lives with Ease

Wanrou's heart skipped a beat, and her face dropped. Before she could react, there was a cold flash of light that pressed against her throat. It was a shiny flying sword of unmatched sharpness. Under its fierce aura, she stiffened and goose bumps rose all over her neck.

Heng Xinghai smiled, “You can answer my question now.”

“Miss!”

“Outrageous!”

The deck became restless as the guards of the Nine Leaf Merchant House shouted with expressions of shock and anger on their faces. None of them could have expected Heng Xinghai to suddenly act against Wanrou, so it caught them completely off guard.

Not only them, but even Wanrou herself had never anticipated this. Her eyes became frosty. She said angrily, “So you have other motives, your purpose isn’t the Rowdy Demon Sea!”

Heng Xinghai laughed, “You’ve finally realized it, but it’s not too late. Our purpose is simple: we only want Ancestor Kun’s life bone. Hand it to us willingly, and I guarantee not a single hair on your head will be harmed.”

Wanrou's heart was in turmoil. “What life bone? I have no idea what you're talking about.”

“What’s the use of playing dumb at this point?” Heng Xinghai's eyes gleamed with derision. “Runyue, tell your young lady to think about it again, carefully this time.”

Runyue?! Wanrou's expression drastically changed.

That was when her clever and obedient maid flashed her a smile, “Since you’re a busy person, Miss, it makes sense that you tend to forget things. Let me remind you then, isn’t the goal of this trip to the Rowdy Demon Sea to make a deal with Scarlet Demon Dao Lord, using exactly that item we’re talking about?”

Wanrou's heart sank to the bottom, and her hands and feet went cold. Despite that, she was able to compose herself, except that her eyes were filled with disappointment.

She said, “Runyue, I kept you by my side for so long and treated you like my sister, yet you betrayed me like this. When did it start?”

Hearing this, there was pity in Runyue’s eyes. “Betrayed you? There’s no such thing. I’ve always been a member of the Heng Clan, and everything I’ve done all these years is for my clan. You just didn't know.”

Wanrou was stunned. She then looked at Heng Xinghai, “So, you already started planning this many years ago...”

Heng Xinghai shook his head. “I don't have that much patience. It’s all the work of my uncle.”

Uncle?

Wanrou was immediately reminded of the man who had visited her father in the dead of night! It was him, Heng Tianxiao! She finally understood. No wonder Heng Tianxiao had come in such a hurry that day and stuffed Heng Xinghai’s group into this trip.

They must have been informed early about her journey as well as the goal of it and therefore had quickly launched their scheme!

However, Wanrou still had one doubt. Only she and her father knew that she’d be bringing Ancestor Kun’s life bone, yet what was happening now told her that not only Runyue, but also Heng Xinghai was fully aware of this. How did the information get leaked?

Wanrou’s mind was in a mess.

The ship had only just embarked on the pathway to the Rowdy Demon Sea only to be faced with such a turn of events. At the thought that this mission might very well come to an abrupt end, and recalling her father’s expectations, she felt a surge of deep sadness.

Why was it like this?

“Miss Wanrou, are you going to give it up voluntarily, or shall I take it from you?” asked Heng Xinghai with a confident smile.

The Nine Leaf Merchant House’s guards around didn’t dare to move for fear that their young lady would be hurt.

“Find Uncle Jiao!” shouted a guard anxiously.

That’s right, we still have Uncle Jiao! Wanrou's eyes lit up. Even if she died, she could still entrust the matter to Uncle Jiao before that!

However, Heng Xinghai burst out laughing, “Uncle Jiao? I’m pretty sure he’s already captured!”

What?

Wanrou and her guards were shaken.

That was when a tall and slender figure emerged from the cabin. Clad in a purple robe and exuding an air of authority, it was none other than Heng Tianxiao! He was dragging a bloody figure with one hand. Looking closely, it was a severely wounded and unconscious Uncle Jiao.

Wanrou was struck dumb, her mind going blank. How can this be?

“I’m sorry for this, dear niece.” Heng Tianxiao walked over with a hearty laugh. “As Xinghai said, if you hand over the treasure, your life will be spared.”

Wanrou paled, and her body trembled slightly. “Aren’t you from the noble Immortal Imperial Heng Clan? Why would you do such a thing?”

Heng Tianxiao sighed, “People risk their lives in pursuit of wealth like birds in pursuit of food. Even the Heng Clan cannot resist the temptation of Ancestor Kun’s life bone.”

The next moment, he straightened his face and stared at Wanrou, “Time is precious, my niece. If you refuse to hand over the treasure, then I will have no choice but to kill you and search your corpse for it!”

The atmosphere instantly became heavy and tense. All eyes fell on Wanrou. The eyes of the Nine Leaf Merchant House’s guards were bulging in grief and fury, whereas Heng Xinghai, Heng Xingwen, and the other Heng Clan’s members sneered coldly.

Right at this juncture, a faint sigh echoed, which seemed quite out of place, “If you had agreed to see me a few days ago, then perhaps you wouldn’t be in this situation. Still, it's not too late yet.”

Startled, everyone looked in the direction of the voice. There, they saw Lin Xun whose handsome figure was clad in moon-white clothes.

Wanrou was astounded. She had never thought that the man whom she regarded as cold-blooded and cowardly would actually intervene on his own initiative!

The members of the Heng Clan were also taken aback. Even a fool could see that they already had full control over the situation, yet someone was actually sticking his nose into it like he had no regard for his life.

“Xingwen, kill him!” ordered Heng Xinghai with a frown on his face.

Heng Xingwen, who had been positioned between Lin Xun and Wanrou like a barrier, revealed a savage grin and swung his hand. The three guest elders around him instantly charged toward Lin Xun, each releasing a terrifying aura belonging to the Ancestor Stage.

Wanrou's heart clenched as she couldn't bear to watch it, but what transpired next was simply unbelievable. Lin Xun stood in place, merely lifting his hand and pressing his palm in the air.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

With three dull sounds, the three Emperor Ancestors, who could strike fear into Emperor experts with their might alone, crashed onto the deck floor like flies being swatted. At the same time, their cultivation and auras got sealed. This abrupt turn of events threw the entire crowd into stunned silence.

Heng Xingwen's eyes almost popped out as the savage grin froze on his face. His clansmen also looked as though they were seeing ghosts, frozen in disbelief.

Heng Tianshao and Heng Xinghai both felt a chill run down their spines. Their expressions distorted as they realized the situation had gone in a bad direction. The atmosphere was deadly silent.

The Ancestor Stage was the pinnacle of the Emperor Stage. Even a supreme eighth realm Emperor would have to bow before this kind of existence who could even be considered top-tier even in the Sixth Heaven Domain.

While those three were only guest elders of the Heng Clan, they were tried and true Ancestors! Despite that, they had been dominated the moment they acted! Who could have imagined something like this before?

Wanrou was appalled, her eyes wide and her heart pounding. She recalled what her father had said to her and finally understood somewhat. It was just that...the contrast was too striking for her to believe it in a short time.

The guards of the Nine Leaf Merchant House had also dropped their jaws. They knew Shi Yu, but they had no idea he was such a powerful expert. He had concealed his strength all too well!

“Since you’ve sold your lives to someone else to be their pawns, I’m sure you’re prepared to die at any time. I cannot spare those who’ve attacked me,” resounded Lin Xun’s indifferent voice as his hand, which had been resting in the air, closed into a fist.

The three Ancestors who were pinned to the ground exploded. Their spirits were also reduced to nothingness in a big spurt of blood.

The crowd trembled, their faces turning pale with horror.

“You...you dare kill the people of my clan?!” shrieked Heng Xingwen who was triggered by the bloody scene.

Lin Xun flicked his finger. A sword qi suddenly appeared out of thin air and drew a swift flash.

Poof!

Blood spattered as Heng Xingwen, a supreme eighth realm Emperor, was cut down like grass.

“Why wouldn't I dare?” said Lin Xun calmly.

Chills that carried fear and anxiety drilled into the hearts of the Heng Clan’s members. It had been sheer horror what they had just watched: in the blink of an eye, the opponent had slain three Emperor Ancestors and a supreme eighth realm Emperor as casually as crushing ants. How could they not be terrified?

Heng Tianshao took a deep breath and said heavily, “Friend, we were wrong to have offended you. Could you give our clan face and stop here?”

Lin Xun laughed with a scornful look, “Your clan's face is worth nothing to me.” He flicked his finger as he spoke.

Whoosh!

Heng Tianxiao immediately teleported, but right in the midst of moving, a blinding sword qi tore up the void around him, splitting him in half in the process!

His gruesome death evoked a wave of frightened screams from the remaining Heng Clan’s members. They panicked and fled in all directions.

Clang~

Lin Xun waved his sleeve, sending a series of qi swords shooting through the air. Whenever one of them struck down, a life was claimed. No matter what secret techniques or treasures were used to put up resistance, they were useless and utterly crushed by the relentless attacks!

In just seconds, the deck was drenched in blood. Every member of the Heng Clan except Heng Xinghai and Runyue had been killed on the scene. It was as though a tornado had swept by and slaughtered everyone in its wake with overwhelming force and dominance.

So what if they were Emperor Ancestors? They were no different from powerless farm animals as he slaughtered them!

The most terrifying thing was that from start to finish, Lin Xun's movement remained effortless and calm. Like an idle cloud, he had not moved a single step from where he stood. From afar, he had looked like an omnipotent ruler who reaped lives with ease!

Chapter 2624 Strange

The choking smell of blood filled the deck, and the atmosphere was dead silent. The guards of the Nine Leaf Merchant House still felt their scalps tingling from shock. The gory killing had exceeded their wildest imagination.

Runyue stood next to them with trepidation written all over her face that was as white as a sheet. Her teeth chattered as she was unable to think straight. She didn't dare to run because those who did so had all perished!

"If you make another move, I will kill her!" hissed Heng Xinghai, his face viciously distorted and livid with a hint of madness.

The deaths of Heng Tianxiao, Heng Xingwen, and his other clansmen had brought him endless panic. He was spurred to seize Wanrou at the first opportunity as his hostage, and his sharp flying sword was currently pressed tightly against her throat.

"Will you really? Prove it," Lin Xun walked over to him in an unhurried manner.

"Don't come near us!" Heng Xinghai's pupils violently dilated in fright.

Wanrou's eyes also widened. He...he really doesn't care that it may get me killed?

Originally, she had felt ashamed and guilty upon realizing that she had probably misunderstood Lin Xun, but now...she couldn't understand his intention.

Does this guy want to help me, or does he just purely want to kill the people of the Heng Clan and have no concern for my life at all?

For a while, her expression quickly shifted in uncertainty while her heart was torn by misery and sorrow.

Meanwhile, Heng Xinghai watched Lin Xun get close with bloodshot eyes. It drove him to the edge of insanity and he could not help but roar, “You’ve forced me!”

With a thought in his mind, the flying sword that was pressed against Wanrou's throat buzzed. However, right at this juncture, a terrifying force firmly hooped it, not allowing the weapon to move an inch no matter how hard Heng Xinghai poured his qi into it.

The flying sword that was linked to his mind seemed to have been confined! Shivers ran through Heng Xinghai as he was scared witless. Realizing that his situation was very bad, he abruptly lifted his hand and intended to crush Wanrou's head with a palm strike.

However, moving faster than him was a finger qi that pierced the spot between his brows and chiseled a bloody hole through his skull. In the process, the finger qi spread out and ground his spirit and vitality into powder.

Poof!

Blood spurted out. Heng Xinghai fell back with his head tilted up. The moment he hit the ground, he turned into a scattering of ashes. The flying sword at Wanrou's throat had lost its controller and fell to the ground with a resounding clang.

Wanrou was jolted to reality. The mix of helplessness, sorrow, misery, and despair in her heart was also fully released at this moment, making her feel as though she had been freed from a heavy burden. She stared blankly at Lin Xun who had already walked past her with a complicated expression. Despite all the words and emotions spinning inside her head, she didn't know what to say.

“She’s all yours,” Lin Xun left Runyue to Wanrou and said nothing more as he could tell she was still in a state of shock.

He then walked directly to the unconscious Uncle Jiao and furrowed his brows. He couldn't imagine how this expert could be suppressed by Heng Tianxiao in the cabin. After some thought, he woke Uncle Jiao up and gave the latter a bottle of pill, "Use this to heal your injuries."

Uncle Jiao was stunned at first, but when looked around, he instantly understood and exclaimed gratefully, "Thank you, Master Shi!"

"No need. Since you're talking me to the Rowdy Demon Sea, it's my duty to help you resolve the big problems on the way," Lin Xun said and walked straight back into the cabin.

Uncle Jiao watched his figure disappear with mixed emotions on his face. At this moment, Runyue plopped down on her knees and pleaded with a trembling voice, "Miss, on account of our relationship during all these years, can you please spare my life?"

Wanrou looked bitingly cold as she said, "Even now, I still can't figure out how you knew about Ancestor Kun's life bone."

"Miss, I swear to Heaven that it was not me who leaked this information!" shouted Runyue fearfully. "I had no idea about it before this trip. I only knew that you were carrying out an important plan, and that's what I informed the Heng Clan. I don't even know what kind of treasure that life bone is."

Wanrou frowned.

"So you're trying to imply that the Heng Clan discovered it themselves? Still spouting lies when it's already come to this, someone as unrepentant as you cannot be kept around!" Uncle Jiao strode over and slapped down.

Bang!

In a blinding explosion, Runyue was killed in both body and spirit.

Wanrou was stunned. She still had some questions for Runyue, but there was no way to ask them now.

“Miss, are you alright?” asked Uncle Jiao worriedly.

“I'm fine, Uncle Jiao, you should worry about your injuries instead. Just leave everything to me and focus on recuperating,” Wanrou instructed.

“Miss, don't forget to apologize and also thank Master Shi. We would have all been dead if it hadn’t been for his righteous intervention,” said Uncle Jiao.

“Mhm.” Wanrou nodded.

.....

Walking into the cabin, Lin Xun paused in his tracks, gave it some thought, and deployed his spirit sense.

A while later, he frowned as not a trace of fighting could be found in the cabin, while Uncle Jiao’s injuries were clearly so serious that only an intense fight could have caused them.

Lin Xun found something to be suspicious, “With Heng Tianxiao's cultivation, it should have been impossible for him to dominate Uncle Jiao in such a short time unless he used some kind of powerful secret treasure...”

He estimated that from the time Uncle Jiao had left the deck for the cabin to his reappearance, only a few moments had passed.

Yet, Heng Tianxiao had soundlessly suppressed Uncle Jiao in such a short period of time. The strangest thing was that Lin Xun hadn’t detected a single movement during that with his boundless spirit sense.

After pondering in silence for a while, Lin Xun shook his head and walked to his room.

The treasure ship had paused and wouldn’t resume right away because Wanrou needed time to straighten out various matters after such a calamity.

Lin Xun paid this no attention as he began a cultivating meditation session in his room. Recently, he had revised and perfected the parts in the Great Dao Furnace Art related to the Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage.

By now, this art had become a complete Emperor Scripture. All the laws and arts recorded therein had been obtained from his own cultivation over the years, making the scripture itself so different from anything else in existence that it could be called unique in all heavens!

The moment Lin Xun truly perfected this scripture, he felt an indescribable sense of fulfillment. It was as though he had set up the root of his own dao and given it the capital to last for generations! It was also then that he realized he had reached the very peak of the Emperor Stage. He now deserved to proudly tower over all the ages and all worlds!

“Though I’m currently unable to break through to the immortal stage, my cultivation luckily can still be improved with the Primordial Chaos Thousand Daos Tree. The new enlightenment I’ve just gained is sufficient for me to understand the deeper mysteries of the almighty dao...” pondered Lin Xun.

This unique tree was a supreme treasure from the previous epoch that contained the complete profound principles of the Immortal dao. When utilized alongside the Origin Dao Canon, Lin Xun often gained unexpected inspirations and benefits.

Meanwhile, there was also the Primal Chaos Origin Tree that had taken root in his True Self Emperor World since very long ago. It had taken him many years to collect all the Four Sacred Trees and a variety of divine materials for its seedling to be produced and nurtured.

It had now grown to have many strong, sword-sharp branches with plump and crystalline green leaves. In the veins of these leaves, the obscure law power of chaos flowed.

Over the recent years, Lin Xun could feel distinctly the benefit of the Primal Chaos Origin Tree in his meditation sessions to explore the dao. With it, he had consolidated and tempered his dao into presenting an unadulterated and solid chaos energy.

Suffice to say, the power generated by the tree had acted as a furnace and helped him refine the most pure and primitive dao laws! This was one of the major reasons why he was able to rise above his peers and claim invincibility in the same stage.

“It's a pity that so few texts can be found about the Immortal dao. Even among those Immortal Imperial Clans, very few of them possess an Immortal Scripture in the true sense of the word...” Lin Xun quietly sighed.

The immortal path was a supreme path. Those who had stepped onto it had done so by sole virtue of their own wisdom and perseverance, simply because there was no such thing as an ‘Immortal legacy’ in this world.

Even if there was, it would be impossible to learn without already being at the Immortal Stage. Lin Xun had heard that the Immortal experts in those Immortal Imperial Clans were all unable to pass down the profound mysteries of the immortal path in written form.

The reason was that everyone's path to immortality was different. Even if transcribed into a scripture, it would not be suitable for other people to learn and thus could not be passed on.

The only benefit of being an Immortal Imperial Clan was that when its members attempted to break into the Immortal Stage, they could receive guidance from their Immortal elders. The experience and insights of a predecessor on the path was undoubtedly the most valuable treasure.

Unfortunately, a loner like Lin Xun wouldn’t be receiving any such thing when it was his time to break into this stage.

“I heard that the Four Great Ancestral Courts, the Origin Sect, Spirit Sect, Shaman Sect, and Zen Sect, all have their own collections on the Immortal topic hiding somewhere. I wonder if it’s true...” he pondered.

The Four Great Ancestral Courts represented four transcendent superpowers of the Eternal True Realm. Even though they never revealed themselves in public, no one dared to underestimate them.

Even the ten great immortal giants of the Eighth Heaven Domain treated such superpowers with apprehension and courtesy, so one could imagine how unfathomable their heritages were. How could such Immortal organizations not have scriptures on the Immortal Stage?

“Master Shi, this is Wanrou. I’m sorry for my intrusion, but I would like to speak with you,” Wanrou's voice suddenly rang out from outside Lin Xun’s room. Unlike before, it was soft, gentle, and carried her heartfelt respect.

Lin Xun awoke from his thoughts and got up. Opening the door to be greeted by the sight of Wanrou standing there properly, he couldn't help but smile, “It’s not like I can turn you away when you’ve personally come to find me. Please come in.”

Hearing this, Wanrou's fair oval face instantly reflected the embarrassment she felt. Because of her misunderstanding, she had turned him away not long ago.

She considered herself lucky that he wouldn’t fuss over it and retaliate.

In the room, Lin Xun invited Wanrou to take a seat and sat down opposite her before he said, “If you're here to thank me, then there's no need. Whether it was to help you or not, I would not let those people unboard this ship with their lives either way.”

Wanrou was dumbfounded, “It can’t be that you have a grudge with the Heng Clan?”

Lin Xun laughed, “Yes, and as a matter of fact, I have enemies all over the many worlds. The Heng Clan is just one of them.”

“If you say so,” Wanrou put on a faint smile, obviously thinking that he was only joking.

The two exchanged pleasantries for a while before Wanrou voiced her curiosity, “Master Shi, don’t you want to know why the Heng Clan plotted against me?”

Lin Xun laughed, “As Heng Tianxiao said, people risk their lives in pursuit of wealth like birds in pursuit of food. Also, I understand your actual concern, and I can tell you that you have nothing to worry about. While I am interested in whatever that Ancestor Kun’s life bone is, I’m not one to kill to rob people of their treasures.”

How could he not hear from Wanrou's words that she was testing him?

Chapter 2625 Magnetic Wind Belt

Wanrou's clear eyes lowered and said, “Master Shi, it wasn’t meant to test you, but...”

She hesitated for a long while before suddenly looking straight at Lin Xun, “Rather, I have a favor to ask of you. Should you agree, Ancestor Kun’s life bone will be your compensation.”

A surprised Lin Xun asked, “What is it?”

Wanrou sighed, “Since it's come to this, I won’t hide anything from you.”

She proceeded to tell him the full story.

It turned out when doing trading in the Rowdy Demon Sea several years ago, Old Kun was attacked by Scarlet Demon Dao Lord of Scarlet Copper Mountain, who not only robbed all of his belongings but also took his son Bo’an.

It was unknown how Scarlet Demon Dao Lord knew about Ancestor Kun’s life bone, but he threatened to kill Bo’an if Old Kun didn’t deliver this treasure to him within ten years. After Old Kun returned from the Rowdy Demon Sea, he fretted about this until he finally decided to give up the life bone and exchange it for his son's life!

However, Old Kun’s injury was too heavy as his very dao foundation had been severely damaged. He was no longer able to handle a trip to the Rowdy Demon Sea and had to entrust this important task to Wanrou, hence this journey.

After learning all of this, Lin Xun understood, “You want to save your younger brother Bo’an from Scarlet Demon Dao Lord?”

Wanrou nodded, “Although the trouble from the Heng Clan has been resolved, I'm not sure if we can handle another one. The exchange will be at Scarlet Copper Mountain which is the territory of Scarlet Demon Dao Lord. If he goes back on his word, then consequences will be unpleasant...”

Lin Xun asked, “Didn’t your father give you any pointers?”

Wanrou said, “He gave a trump card to Uncle Jiao that can deter Scarlet Demon Dao Lord from playing dirty, but I still can’t help but worry. After all, my younger brother's life is in the hands of that devil. The tiniest mistake may cost us his life, and that's something I don't want to see.”

Lin Xun mused, “Did Uncle Jiao say anything regarding this?”

Wanrou smiled bitterly after hearing him mention Uncle Jiao, “Given how heavy his injuries are, I'm afraid that he can't help much in this. That’s why...I have no choice but to seek your help.”

Lin Xun reminded her, “You know I’m only going to the Rowdy Demon Sea to find someone. I know next to nothing about the situation there...”

Without waiting for him to finish, Wanrou quickly said, “I can help with this; I have an understanding in this aspect thanks to the knowledge from my father as well as the trips I took with him to the Rowdy Demon Sea. Moreover, we’ve made quite a few acquaintances when doing business with the big forces there. I will ask for their help when the time comes.”

“I appreciate that,” smiled Lin Xun. After a pause, he asked, “What can you tell me about Scarlet Demon Dao Lord?”

This was him returning the favor. Wanrou's heart burst with excitement and joy, knowing that he had agreed to her request. She immediately told him everything she had on Scarlet Demon Dao Lord.

This being was a great devil who fully occupied the Scarlet Copper Mountain in the Rowdy Demon Sea. He commanded thousands of underlings, all of whom were infamous bandits and ruffians.

Scarlet Demon Dao Lord himself was an old Ancestor who had been in this stage for who knew how long. He had a treacherous, ruthless, and bloodthirsty nature to accompany his impressive battle prowess.

He was also quite famous in the Rowdy Demon Sea and could be considered the lord of a territory. Rumor had it that, a long time ago, he had escaped the pursuit of an Immortal figure. Although it had been a narrow escape, it was still proof of his strength.

According to Wanrou, there were countless forces of various scales in the Rowdy Demon Sea, but the small ones could be wiped out at a moment's notice. The reason was that the region was too chaotic with no order and rules to speak of. Bloody killings happened on a daily basis there.

Only the major, ferocious forces could be rooted there year after year without having to fear the impact of the turbulence and bloodshed. While Scarlet Copper Mountain occupied by Scarlet Demon Dao Lord wasn't a top-tier power at the Rowdy Demon Sea, it wasn't anything that the small forces could compare to.

All this information didn't stir up a ripple of emotion in Lin Xun. It was hard for him to take someone who wasn't even on the Immortal level seriously.

However, his calm demeanor made Wanrou feel a little unsure. She couldn't help but ask, "Do you think...this will be too much trouble for you?"

Lin Xun chuckled, "Don't worry, I will accompany you there."

.....

After taking two days to reorganize, the treasure ship hit the road again and soon arrived at Blood Fiend Mountain.

The mountain was nine hundred thousand feet tall and stretched horizontally across heaven and earth. Countless rivers of blood poured down from the mountain top, diffusing a thick, bloody aura.

Blood Fiend Mountain was the first pass before Rowdy Demon Sea. The seven great powers here took turns to manage this territory.

Upon reaching the mountain, Uncle Jiao represented the merchant house to communicate with the ruling organization. After paying a hefty 'toll,' the ship was permitted to pass. Lin Xun watched the whole process with no comment. He could easily kill his way through Blood Fiend Mountain, but it would cause unnecessary trouble if he did so.

In contrast, following the Nine Leaf Merchant House's crew spared him all the trouble, but paying a toll was a must.

In the following journey, the ship sailed through Hungry Ghost River, Goat Horn Ridge, Eight Evil Island... Each location was full of perils, not only entrenched by all sorts of parties but also riddled with various natural disasters.

For example, Hungry Ghost River suffered from perennial storms. Countless fatal dangers lurked in the water, waiting at every turn to reap the life of whoever barged in there.

Fortunately, with the Nine Leaf Merchant House signboard, the ship encountered none of that along the way, and smoothly made its way through one dangerous pass after another. Of course, tolls had also been paid one after another...

To satisfy Lin Xun’s curiosity, Wanrou had done the calculation regarding the tolls they had to pay during every trip to the Rowdy Demon Sea. If converted into cosmic origin crystals, the total fee would be equivalent to about three hundred million.

However, as long as the transactions went without a hitch, the Nine Leaf Merchant House could earn three times that amount or more with each trip!

This was because of the lack of resources in the Rowdy Demon Sea. It simply couldn’t meet the needs of cultivators who lived in such a vicious, chaotic, and bloody place.

Therefore, cultivation resources commonly seen in the outside world often fetched ten to a hundred times their price in the Rowdy Demon Sea. It was as profitable as a cash cow.

Conversely, the Rowdy Demon Sea had an abundance of some divine resources that were rare in the outside world. The Nine Leaf Merchant House would purchase them and then sell them outside for ten times or even a hundred times their original prices!

Lin Xun was astounded by this knowledge. This was simple profit gain from buying low and selling high, yet it was almost as effective as printing money!

Of course, however, the more profitable the deal was, the greater the risk it entailed. Even a regular of the Rowdy Demon Sea like the Nine Leaf Merchant House bore a great risk every time they conducted a transaction there.

Scarlet Demon Dao Lord's ambush on Old Kun was a shining example. The latter had almost died, and even though he managed to escape, his son had been taken hostage...

Even the Nine Leaf Merchant House had suffered from this, let alone the others.

"Our business is far inferior to those Immortal Imperial Clans. We're only able to come and go the Rowdy Demon Sea all year round thanks to the effort of my father. Without him, the Nine Leaf Merchant House would have long ceased to exist..."

That was Wanrou's occasional lament which showed her frustration and worry, for no one knew when Old Kun would fully recover from his heavy injury. On top of that, they had offended the Heng Clan...

Their merchant house could be said to be in a precarious situation. In this regard, Lin Xun didn't know what to say.

Half a month later, the treasure ship finally arrived at the Rowdy Demon Sea! Looking around, there was nothing but an infinite black of ocean water. The sky above was also a depressing dome with no sun, moon, or stars.

"The spatial law of the Rowdy Demon Sea is incredibly turbulent. East, south, west, north... Every direction constantly changes, making this place a massive natural maze. Those who are unfamiliar with the situation here are doomed to get lost," said Wanrou on the deck of the ship.

"I can see why." Lin Xun carefully observed his surroundings and also sensed the extreme disorder in the space of this heaven and earth. All his experience in distinguishing between directions was useless here.

He asked, "Then how do you tell the direction?"

“With a magnetic compass.” Wanrou took out a palm-sized compass polished from black stone that had a slim pointer hovering on it. “It’s made from a material unique to the Rowdy Demon Sea called Divine Magnetic Iron. Each compass like this is worth about hundred million cosmic origin crystals, and it rarely appears on the market.”

Having said that, she handed her compass to Lin Xun, “Please accept this trinket as a gift from me.”

“What about you?” asked Lin Xun.

“I still have more, of course.” Wanrou smiled.

Hearing that, Lin Xun also smiled and accepted it without further hesitation.

Wanrou then said, "Speaking of magnetic compasses, we have to mention the Divine Magnetic Mountain. The Rowdy Demon Sea has three great forbidden zones, and one of them is the Magnetic Wind Belt where the Divine Magnetic Mountain is located. For ages, countless cultivators have gone there with the goal to subdue the magnetic power into their own, but without exception, no one has made it out.

“It’s because the Magnetic Wind Belt is permeated by a bizarre spatial law. It is said that even an Immortal expert would be torn to shreds the moment they step in there by cyclones transformed from spatial law power.

“Every once in a while, a tidal wave of power will erupt in the Magnetic Wind Belt. Along with it, pieces of Divine Magnetic Iron will be washed out of the forbidden zone, which people collect and refine into magnetic compasses.”

Chapter 2626 Scarlet Demon Dao Lord

Magnetic Wind Belt, one of the three great forbidden zones of the Rowdy Demon Sea!

An astonished Lin Xun was occupied by speculations on the law power in the Magnetic Wind Belt. Since it's able to kill Immortal existences, it’s most likely Heaven Rank...

The treasure ship sailed above the black ocean through raging cyclones and lightning bolts. They weren't the only dangers in this region, though, for many more infested the depths of the ink-like seawater.

Occasionally, the ship passed by scattered islands. Numerous savage auras would rush out from those islands, but upon the sight of the Nine Leaf Merchant House totem brand, they would quickly retract, allowing the ship to safely fly away.

Situations like this constantly occurred along the way, to the point that it alarmed Lin Xun.

Even if an ordinary cultivator could somehow reach the Rowdy Demon Sea alive, they definitely wouldn't be able to escape from fatal ambushes in the following road. In Lin Xun's case, if he were to act alone instead of going under the Nine Leaf Merchant House's banner, then he was bound to go through countless battles!

Two days later, the treasure ship was anchored by an island that was practically a huge city packed with buildings and unorganized streets.

Named Thousand Fortunes, this was an island where fighting and killing were prohibited, and anyone could conduct trade here regardless of their identity. This island was one of the few 'paradises' at the Rowdy Demon Sea. The so-called paradise in a region like this meant a place where one didn't have to worry about being harmed.

However, every visitor must leave within three days from the moment they stepped onto the island. If one violated this rule and got reported, they would be expelled by all the cultivators on the island. This was an iron law that jointly established all the forces in the Rowdy Demon Sea.

After the Nine Leaf Merchant House's treasure ship entered the island's territory, Uncle Jiao hastily went off on his own. He needed to gather recent intel on Scarlet Copper Mountain to prepare for the rescue of Old Kun's son.

Wanrou, on the other hand, brought Lin Xun and a group of guards to a store called Six Yin House. The purpose was to sell the large amount of cultivation resources she had brought this time, as well as to purchase divine materials unique to the Rowdy Demon Sea.

Lin Xun tagged along like a spectator and assessed everything he saw. Unlike in the outside world, the cultivators here emanated fierce and bloody auras that could not be ignored.

In his understanding, the Rowdy Demon Sea was known as the Sea of Evil. Most of its residents were criminals and evils not tolerated by the outside world, and there was no shortage of the worst monsters among them.

It was similar to the Underworld in the Ancient Nebula Road, but there were some differences as the Ancient Nebula Underworld at least had certain rules and order jointly set by the Copper Sparrow House, the Earth Treasury Realm, and the Holy Illumination Ancient Sect.

Meanwhile, the Rowdy Demon Sea was in complete chaos and turmoil with very few exceptions like the Thousand Fortunes Island where it was relatively safer, but it wasn't absolute as there were too many outlaws here.

It didn’t take long for Wanrou’s group to arrive at the Six Yin House. This was a trading house run by Six Yin Devil Mountain, one of the great seven devil sects in the Rowdy Demon Sea!

After spending two hours on finishing various transactions, Wanrou expressed her wish for the Six Yin House's help in finding a person. The steward who attended to her, who was also one of the Six Yin House's managers, agreed to her request with alacrity.

She immediately took out the portrait Lin Xun had given her in advance and gave it to the manager. It was a picture of Lu Boya.

The manager took a brief look and said, “I do not recognize this person, but we can try finding information about him. It will however take some time.”

Wanrou said, “Then please have my gratitude, Uncle. I will come back again before I leave in a month.”

With that concluded, the group left the Six Yin House and took a walk around the Thousand Fortunes Island for a while before returning to the treasure ship.

Their next destination was Scarlet Copper Mountain! If the next matter could be resolved smoothly, they would continue sailing further into the Rowdy Demon Sea to do business with some more forces.

However, upon getting back to the ship, the group was surprised to find that Uncle Jiao was taking his time with his intel-gathering mission. It was only when Wanrou became unable to sit still that he was seen returning in a hurry.

She immediately asked, “What’s the situation there like?”

Uncle Jiao smiled, “Scarlet Demon Dao Lord hasn’t left Scarlet Copper Mountain at all recently, so we will definitely see him there if we head out now. Moreover, I’ve managed to contact the people of Scarlet Copper Mountain, so I believe that Scarlet Demon Dao Lord will know about our arrival very soon. I’m sure we can get Young Master Bo’an back.”

“That's great.” Relieved, Wanrou turned to Lin Xun, “I’ll be counting on you if anything goes wrong at Scarlet Copper Mountain.”

Lin Xun nodded.

Uncle Jiao chortled, “I think we have nothing to worry about, Miss. As cunning and treacherous Scarlet Demon Dao Lord is, he wouldn't dare to go back on his word on this matter.”

Lin Xun couldn't help but ask, “You understand him very well, Uncle Jiao?”

Uncle Jiao said, “Far from, but I’ve heard Scarlet Demon Dao Lord has been a man of his word during the recent years. You may not know, Master Shi, but in this chaotic and brutal Rowdy Demon Sea, reputation is sometimes more important than strength. Scarlet Demon Dao Lord's reputation...is not too bad.”

Lin Xun was confused, "If so, why did he ambush Old Kun and tarnish his own reputation? After all, Old Kun is a regular visitor of the Rowdy Demon Sea and acquainted with quite many characters from big powers. Not to mention that many need Old Kun to get cultivation resources from the outside world for them. Does Scarlet Demon Dao Lord not know that he may offend other powers by harming Old Kun?"

Uncle Jiao let out a long sigh, “In the end, it all comes down to Ancestor Kun's life bone; such a treasure is simply too tempting. I wonder where Scarlet Demon Dao Lord got wind of it from. His ambush back then was too sudden and ruthless.”

Wanrou's gaze was icy, “That’s why no matter how good his reputation is, I will never trust him. Let’s hope that he won’t do something so despicable again this time.”

Lin Xun smiled and made no more comment. On that day, their ship departed from Thousand Fortunes Island.

Scarlet Copper Mountain was a peculiar mountain suspended on the ocean. Its body was as red as fire, very eye-catching.

The location of this mountain could change at any time due to the chaotic spatial order between heaven and earth, making it hard for enemies to find them for revenge.

Since Uncle Jiao had found out its current location during his investigation at Thousand Fortunes Island, the group only traveled for half a day before they saw the strange mountain in the horizon.

Woo woo woo~

A resounding horn echoed from the Scarlet Copper Mountain. Immediately following that, the restrictive power covering the entire mountain was activated.

“Are you from the Nine Leaf Merchant House?” A group of cultivators with ferocious auras rushed out and looked at the treasure ship from afar.

“That we are,” replied Uncle Jiao in a booming voice from the bow of the ship.

“Our lord has been informed of your arrival. Please come with me,” said the scholarly-looking, middle-aged man with a goatee at the head of the group.

Wanrou suddenly felt a little nervous and couldn't help but glance at Lin Xun next to her. He gently patted her shoulder and reassured, “It's fine.”

Uncle Jiao also said, “Master Shi will be with us, and you have this old man as well, Miss. We definitely won't let anything happen to you.”

Wanrou nodded and teleported toward Scarlet Copper Mountain. Lin Xun and Uncle Jiao were right behind her. As for the guards of the Nine Leaf Merchant House, they remained stationed on the treasure ship.

“Follow me.” The scholarly middle-aged man led the way.

Scarlet Copper Mountain was boundlessly majestic, presenting a deep-red color on which many cavernous dwellings were constructed. As Lin Xun’s group passed by, ferocious spirit senses swept out from those caves and coldly sized them up.

Wanrou stiffened a little, while Lin Xun seemed oblivious to it as he assessed the mountain with interest. Soon, they reached the mountain top. There, a magnificent palace stood among mist and clouds, glowing with a blazing golden color that suggested it was made entirely of cemented divine steel.

A tall and mighty figure was standing before the palace. Clad in a scarlet cloak and covered in a churning murderous aura, his might was overwhelming to say the least.

Scarlet Demon Dao Lord!

“Hahaha, you’re finally here, honored guests from Nine Leaf Merchant House. Please come in!” he let out booming, cloud-stirring laughter upon seeing Lin Xun’s group.

Bone-deep hatred surged in Wanrou's eyes. It was this man who had heavily wounded her father and taken her younger brother as a hostage!

“We are not here to be your guests.” She took a deep breath and said, “Release my brother, and I'll immediately give you the treasure.”

Scarlet Demon Dao Lord's smile faded, “Getting straight to the exchange? That's fine by me. Bring Young Master Bo’an.”

“Yes,” the scholarly middle-aged man received the order and left.

Before long, he returned hauling a thin man in black clothes. The man was quite handsome, and upon looking closely, his facial features bore some resemblance to Wanrou’s. It was none other than her younger brother Bo’an!

He looked numb and his eyes were hollow at first, but upon seeing Wanrou, he was taken aback and anxiously shouted, "Big Sister! Why are you here? It's too dangerous, go!"

Wanrou's eyes reddened, “Bo’an, we’re here to take you back, so don't panic. Our father is home waiting for you.”

“As you can see, I haven’t mistreated Young Master Bo’an. He was served and fed well, and didn't suffer even one bit,” said Scarlet Demon Dao Lord with his hands on his back, his scarlet cloak fluttering. “Once you hand over that treasure to me, you can have him.”

Wanrou inhaled deeply and said, “Let Bo’an come to us first.”

"Hahaha, this is my territory. I have nothing to gain by backing out of our deal, but forget it, I will not peck at a little girl like you over this small matter," laughed Scarlet Demon Dao Lord. “Release him!”

The scholarly middle-aged man let go of Bo’an. The latter excitedly rushed to Wanrou with uncontrollable joy on his face.

Grabbing his hands, Wanrou looked him up and down until she was sure that he had no injuries, and only then was she finally at ease. She softly said, “I’m sorry... I’m so sorry you had to go through all that.”

From a distance away, Scarlet Demon Dao Lord demanded in a deep voice, “It’s your turn, lass. Hand over the treasure!”

Chapter 2627 The Real Mastermind

Wanrou couldn't help but glance at Lin Xun. Only after getting a nod from the latter did she take out a long rectangular jade box and send it through the air.

Scarlet Demon Dao Lord grabbed it. Investigating the box with his spirit sense, he immediately revealed a look of satisfaction and delight. He carefully put the jade box away and said, “Very good, it is indeed Ancestor Kun’s life bone. You may leave now.”

“Let’s go, Miss,” said Uncle Jiao.

Wanrou took her younger brother’s hand and led him to leave. Inside, she was actually extremely nervous, fearing that Scarlet Demon Dao Lord might change his mind. However, nothing happened when they had left Scarlet Copper Mountain. The other party did not pursue them. She was quite surprised that it turned out to be a false alarm.

After returning to the treasure ship, Uncle Jiao said, “Miss, since we’ve got Young Master Bo’an, let’s split up from here on. I'll handle the rest of the business in the Rowdy Demon Sea, while you and Young Master Bo’an help Master Shi find the person he’s looking for. I'm sure nothing bad will happen with Master Shi being with you.”

Wanrou pondered for a moment before agreeing, “Alright.”

Uncle Jiao immediately set out.

Watching him depart, Lin Xun suddenly said, “Miss Wanrou, get your brother settled down first. I have another matter to discuss with you.”

Wanrou was startled, and then she nodded and took Bo’an into the cabin. Before long, she came out and asked, “What is the matter, Master Shi?”

Lin Xun said, “First, sail away from here.”

Even though Wanrou found his request odd, she did as told. After the ship had sailed out for over five minutes, Lin Xun turned to Wanrou, “Don’t you feel it has gone too smoothly?”

Wanrou nodded, “It was indeed smooth beyond my expectations. It seems that Uncle Jiao was right after all. Though Scarlet Demon Dao Lord is despicable, he is still a man of his word.”

Lin Xun let out a meaningful chuckle, “Store the ship. I'll take you to watch a good show.”

A show?

Wanrou vaguely sensed that something was off, but she couldn't put her finger on it. Carrying this doubt, she lifted her hand, and the treasure ship behind her shrank into a crystalline white gourd and landed in her palm.

“Let's go.” Lin Xun waved his sleeve. The two vanished into thin air.

Moments later, Wanrou's clear eyes narrowed slightly upon seeing that he was bringing her back to Scarlet Copper Mountain. As she was about to voice her doubt, he shook his head, “Let’s first enjoy the show.”

Scarlet Copper Mountain was shrouded in layers of restrictive barriers, but they were as good as nonexistent in front of Lin Xun. He silently took Wanrou and slipped into the mountain without alerting anyone, which somewhat put her tense heart at ease. Soon, the two came to a stop at a cloud layer not far from the mountain peak.

Lin Xun gazed at the majestic palace in the distance and whispered, “See who that is?”

Wanrou followed his gaze and instantly stiffened at what she saw. Her eyes widened into an expression of disbelief.

In the open hall of the palace, someone was sitting in the high throne at the center. It was not Scarlet Demon Dao Lord, but a person she knew all too well—Uncle Jiao!

At this moment, he bore no resemblance to a servant. His back was straight, his hands were casually resting on the arms of the chair, and his eyes were slightly narrowed. He exuded the aura of a coiling dragon, brimming with dominance.

Before him knelt a figure clad in a striking crimson cloak, who was none other than Scarlet Demon Dao Lord!

Wanrou felt as though she had been struck by lightning, her mind going blank and her limbs turning cold. How could...how could this be?

“Quite a surprise, don’t you think? The biggest traitor isn't actually Runyue, but the one who appears most loyal to you, Uncle Jiao.” Lin Xun's voice rang in Wanrou's ears, causing her to shudder out of utter rage.

She was unable to immediately believe or accept any of this! Uncle Jiao had been at her father’s side as his most trusted right-hand man, accompanying him on various trips to the Rowdy Demon Sea for many years.

It could be said that the entire Nine Leaf Merchant House placed absolute trust in Uncle Jiao, but who could have imagined that such a loyal old man was actually a well-concealed traitor with ulterior motives?!

The blow was too heavy. Even though Wanrou had seen it with her own eyes, she couldn't accept it in a short time. There was nothing but a confused mess inside her head.

How could this be? Why is this happening?

It took her a long while to finally come to her senses. With a mix of anger and dejection on her face, she transmitted, “Master Shi, how did you find out?”

Lin Xun replied through transmission, “It was in fact quite a coincidence. After that incident on the ship where Heng Tianxiao restrained Uncle Jiao, I sensed that something was off.

“I could tell that Uncle Jiao's cultivation was definitely superior to Heng Tianxiao’s. Even in an ambush, it would be impossible for the latter to dominate him in such a short time. Yet, as we all know, Uncle Jiao was subdued silently and swiftly, which I found highly unusual.

“I investigated the cabin afterward and found no traces of battle. This can only mean that there was more to Uncle Jiao’s defeat than met the eye. Of course, I only had some suspicions and dared not conclude that there was something problematic about him.

“Later, you told me you and your father knew about Ancestor Kun’s life bone, and that even someone like Runyue wasn’t qualified to be informed. But I thought it’d be different with Uncle Jiao, because he’s the person your father trusts most. If he’s determined to find out such secrets, then it wouldn’t be too difficult for him to achieve his goal.”

Listening to Lin Xun’s analysis, Wanrou’s face turned pale. She exclaimed in shock and anger, “No wonder Uncle Jiao suddenly killed Runyue while I was interrogating her. He...he was probably scared that I might uncover something!”

Lin Xun said, “If that were all, then it wouldn't have been sufficient proof that there was something off with Uncle Jiao. After we came to Thousand Fortunes Island and Uncle Jiao volunteered to gather intel on Scarlet Demon Dao Lord, I secretly tailed him and I saw many interesting things.”

He flipped his palm, and a light screen appeared in the void. On the screen, Uncle Jiao was alone, walking fast until he eventually arrived at a big palace. The scene then shifted, showing him standing inside with a group of cultivators kneeling around him.

Here, Uncle Jiao looked like an overlord, his voice deep and resonant with immense authority, “Go and tell Scarlet Demon that there has been a change in the plan. When I bring Wanrou to Scarlet Copper Mountain, he must hand over Bo’an without question!”

“Yes!” the kneeling cultivators received the order.

“Tell him that he must not act without authorization, or I will not spare him!” Uncle Jiao's eyes were frosty, and the three scars on his face that resembled centipedes looked incredibly ferocious.

The screen faded out.

Wanrou's face alternated between red and white with rage and disappointment as she trembled uncontrollably. How could she not understand now that Uncle Jiao, who she and her father had invited into their business, was in fact a traitor?

Lin Xun's eyes flashed with a deep light. "You saw how smooth the exchange on Scarlet Copper Mountain was. Why was that? The answer lies with Uncle Jiao.

"I planned to capture him right on the ship just now, but he proposed splitting up and volunteered to take care of the remaining transactions. I decided to play along and bring you here to witness a spectacle.

"As I expected, he immediately circled back to Scarlet Copper Mountain. He must have been worried about potential mishaps and thus decided to retrieve the life bone as soon as possible."

What happened in Wanrou's vision right at this moment verified Lin Xun's guess. In the hall, Scarlet Demon Dao Lord was respectfully presenting the jade box containing Ancestor Kun's life bone to Uncle Jiao in the main seat.

The latter's expression brightened up with joy as he ran his fingers over the box and lamented, "For this treasure, I have endured bitterly for a thousand years. Now that my wish has finally been realized, it truly fills me with mixed emotions."

"Your thousand years of sacrifice has all been worth it!" Scarlet Demon Dao Lord buttered him up with a smile.

"Humph! If you had been more ruthless when you ambushed Old Kun that year and killed him, I wouldn't have had to wait until now!" Uncle Jiao snorted.

Scarlet Demon Dao Lord awkwardly derailed from the topic, "Master, during the exchange, why did you spare his two children?"

Resentment crossed Uncle Jiao's face as he complained, "I never expected that there would be such a menace on that ship. He’s so unimaginably powerful that even I feel extremely wary of him. Otherwise, the matter could have been easily resolved all the way back at the Black Demon Thunder Sea!"

Scarlet Demon Dao Lord was taken aback, “Do you mean the young man who was standing beside Wanrou earlier? He didn't seem particularly remarkable...”

Uncle Jiao’s face distorted. He sneered, “What the hell do you know?! The more ordinary someone seems, the more eager they are to feast on your flesh. The people of the Heng Clan were wiped out because they underestimated him. If I hadn’t warned you in advance, that kid could have turned your entire mountain upside down with his strength!”

Scarlet Demon Dao Lord gasped, “If that's the case, then he’s indeed a dangerous terror! But are we just going to stand by and let Old Kun's children leave Rowdy Demon Sea?”

Uncle Jiao coldly said, “Rest assured. Once they return, their doom will soon be near. Heng Tianshao’s group was slaughtered on their ship, and the blame is solely the Nine Leaf Merchant House to bear!”

An amused smile then spread on Uncle Jiao's savage, scarred face as he spoke slowly, “Even if that brat hadn’t killed them, I would have done that after they got the life bone and framed Nine Leaf Merchant House.”

Scarlet Demon Dao Lord immediately praised, “Master, you’ve really calculated everything!”

Wanrou, who watched their entire exchange from a far, was so furious that her fair face had become deathly white and her eyes seethed with rage.

Chapter 2628 Aurora Cave

From how Wanrou was looking, Lin Xun knew that Uncle Jiao's betrayal was an unbearable blow to her mental state.

“It’s not too late to find this out now,” he softly consoled her. “At least, the disaster hasn’t yet truly befallen you and the Nine Leaf Merchant House.”

Wanrou said bitterly, “Since you had uncovered the truth, why didn’t you directly expose Jiao Taihang’s true colors?”

Jiao Taihang was Uncle Jiao’s full name.

Lin Xun said, “I had no concrete evidence, and Uncle Jiao was after all the elder who had your full trust. An accusation from an outsider like me might have caused you to misunderstand, which would only result in the opposite effect. I’d rather let you witness the whole truth with your own eyes.”

At the mention of misunderstandings, Wanrou felt a pang of embarrassment and an inexpressible loss. Her personal maid, Runyue, turned out to be a spy of the Heng Clan. Uncle Jiao, whom she had fully trusted, was a treacherous traitor with ulterior motives.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun, an unintended tagalong, had actually helped her resolve a deadly peril and then expose a massive conspiracy. The more she thought about it, the more hollow she felt.

“What should we do next, Master Shi?” she couldn't help but ask, not realizing that she had subconsciously developed a sense of trust in him.

“We eliminate the threat, of course.” Lin Xun took Wanrou and teleported toward the palace on the distant mountain peak.

At the same time, Jiao Taihang in his seat seemed to sense something and suddenly looked outside. There, Lin Xun's handsome figure appeared, gracefully floating down at the entrance together with Wanrou.

“You—!” Jiao Taihang’s pupils shrank and his expression changed as he knew that the situation wasn’t looking good.

Scarlet Demon Dao Lord, who had been kneeling on the floor, sprang to his feet and stared at the two young people in shock and disbelief, “How did you manage to enter the mountain?”

“It’s not a surprise. The restrictive barriers of Scarlet Copper Mountain could never have stopped Master Shi,” sighed Jiao Taihang deeply as he rose from his seat and gazed at the furious Wanrou. He knew it was very likely that his scheme had been exposed.

With a complicated look in his eyes, he turned to Lin Xun and said, “Master Shi, there’s no enmity between us, I treated you with nothing but respect throughout the journey. Why must you meddle in my matter?”

“The sight of injustice evokes the sense of justice in me. How about that?” replied Lin Xun calmly.

Jiao Taihang’s lips twitched. How could he possibly believe such a ridiculous excuse?

“Jiao Taihang, my father has never wronged you in any way, yet you betrayed us for a treasure and even plotted to use the Heng Clan to destroy the Nine Leaf Merchant House. You...you are truly despicable!” criticized Wanrou who could no longer contain her anger.

Meanwhile, Jiao Taihang had composed himself. He sighed softly, “Lass, you know nothing of the grudge between me and your father.”

He then pointed at the three hideous scars on his face, his voice chilling and dripping with hatred, “Weren’t you once curious why I never remove these scars? I’ll tell you now, they were inflicted by your father!”

Wanrou’s face dropped. “That’s impossible. If my father hates you, why would he keep you by his side?”

Lin Xun patted her shoulder, “Let’s hear what he has to say first.”

Jiao Taihang sneered, “That's because he himself doesn’t know it. Since you’ve found me out, I might as well tell you everything. I’ll let you know what kind of a heartless, cruel, and despicable person he, the man you revere so much, truly is!”

He took a deep breath and continued as nostalgia filled his gaze, “I will never forget it. Three thousand four hundred and three years ago, your father, my junior sister, and I decided to venture into Aurora Cave...”

Aurora Cave, like the Magnetic Wind Belt, was one of the three great forbidden zones of the Rowdy Demon Sea!

Long ago, Jiao Taihang, his junior sister Xue Feiyan, and Old Kun set out together to explore Aurora Cave in search of a heaven-defying fortune.

At the time, Xue Feiyan was in possession of a secret map. The three of them followed it and safely arrived at Aurora Cave, where they successfully obtained that divine fortune: a piece of life bone belonging to Ancestor Kun!

They were overjoyed, but on their way out, something unexpected occurred. Old Kun was the first to exit Aurora Cave. When Jiao Taihang was about to get out as well, Xue Feiyan stopped him.

Getting to this part, Jiao Taihang appeared angry and hurt, “Never had I imagined that my junior sister would demand I swear an oath not to compete for the life bone, claiming it was specifically prepared for Old Kun. She threatened to sever ties with me if I did that...”

His eyes glowed red, his beard and hair flaring as his expression turned ferocious, “She was my most beloved junior sister! Yet she resorted to threatening me for Old Kun’s sake!”

Even Lin Xun and Wanrou were astonished.

By now, Jiao Taihang had completely been immersed in past grievances, shouting hoarsely, “Of course I did not agree! I also risked my life along the way to finally obtain Ancestor Kun's life bone, so why should he be the only one who’d get to enjoy it?”

He said bitterly, “What saddens and angers me the most is that such a demand came from my own junior sister! She had no idea how devastating it was to me! Imagine that the woman you love most is willing to turn against you for another man, have you ever experienced that kind of pain?”

Lin Xun revealed an odd look. He had never experienced it, but hadn't Evil God Dishen also gone through something similar?

“Of course I refused!” Jiao Taihang’s face was distorted. His voice was cold but at the same time conveyed indescribable anger and sorrow, “And then, to my utter shock, she really disregarded our long companionship and turned against me...”

“What happened next?” asked Lin Xun.

“Hahahaha, I killed her in a fit of rage!” Jiao Taihang laughed loudly, but it was a sad laugh. “That was when she left these scars on my face. Even in death...she was still protecting Old Kun...”

Lin Xun raised a brow, “So to speak, Old Kun had no hand in it at all, right?”

Jiao Taihang glared daggers at Lin Xun. “How did he not?! If he hadn’t tricked her into loving him, how could she have turned against me?

“That guy is the most despicable kind. He wanted to hog the life bone, so he used my junior sister to stop me because he knew full well that I was utterly devoted to her and willing to do anything she asked. That was why he chose my junior sister to exploit. His motive was truly malicious!"

“That’s just your one-sided account. You’re the one who killed your junior sister. What does that have to do with my father?” said Wanrou angrily.

“No, she died because of him!” Jiao Taihang's eyes were terrifyingly cold. “After she died, I swore to avenge her and reclaim the life bone that rightfully belonged to me. The irony is that my junior sister died because of your father, but he didn't care at all. Soon after leaving Aurora Cave, he married your mother...”

Lin Xun asked, “If you hate him so much, why did you hold back for so many years before finally taking action now?”

Jiao Taihang sneered, “Only taking his life would have been too lenient. I take years carrying out my plan so that I can destroy his entire Nine Leaf Merchant House, kill all his relatives and friends, and strip him of everything he has. That is when I will finally kill him. Won't that be much more satisfying?”

Chills seeped into Wanrou’s heart when she realized how insane Jiao Taihang's revenge was!

“What a pity that you, an outsider, would interfere when I’m so close to success. My entire plan has come to naught...” Jiao Taihang looked at Lin Xun with a complicated expression.

“Are you done?” Lin Xun calmly returned his gaze, showing no emotion.

Stunned, Jiao Taihang couldn’t help but ask, “Do you think I was wrong to have done what I did?”

Lin Xun smiled, “Right and wrong are ultimately subjective. Do you actually think that your perspective of the story would change my opinion of you?”

Jiao Taihang frowned, "I'm confused. You're just an outsider. Why did you insist on sticking your nose into our matter? How does it concern you at all?"

Lin Xun said, “Because a drop of kindness should be returned with a gushing spring of gratitude, perhaps?”

Jiao Taihang's old face became unsightly. First ‘a sense of justice,’ and now ‘a drop of kindness should be returned with a gushing spring of gratitude.’ Who would believe such nonsense?

“I get it, you're after the life bone!” Something seemed to dawn on Jiao Taihang. “Hahaha, it makes sense now. Wealth corrupts, let alone such a precious treasure!”

Lin Xun was unperturbed, “Those are your final words?”

Jiao Taihang inhaled deeply and asked, “Friend, must you be so ruthless?”

Whoosh!

Scarlet Demon Dao Lord, who had remained quiet the whole time, suddenly charged toward Lin Xun with a blood-red halberd in his grip. At the same time, Jiao Taihang waved his sleeve, and a glistening white chain whistled out. Its target was not Lin Xun, but Wanrou who was right next to him!

The aim was clearly to take Wanrou hostage to threaten Lin Xun, which was undoubtedly a smart decision. It also showed that Jiao Taihang had come to regard Lin Xun as his arch-enemy, or else he would never have chosen to take advantage of Wanrou.

“You’re putting up a futile struggle.” Lin Xun, surprisingly, stood firm in his place and flicked his finger.

Clang!!

The blood-red halberd burst to pieces. Scarlet Demon Dao Lord who was holding it was sent flying through the air and crashed into a wall, spurting blood from his mouth and nose.

Lin Xun then seized the glistening white chain deployed by Jiao Taihang like he was grasping a snake by its vital point. The chain buzzed violently but was unable to break free.

However, Jiao Taihang did not panic. Instead, he cracked a savage smile and uttered a cryptic incantation, “Explode!”

Chapter 2629 Mysteries of the Kun Life Bone

Bang!

The white chain exploded segment by segment, producing a blinding torrent of law power fire that engulfed Lin Xun. Wanrou who stood near him felt her blood run cold, and her face became ashen in fright.

Not far away from them, Jiao Taihang was laughing loudly, “So what if you have extraordinary combat prowess? You are doomed, being caught in my Aurora law flame!”

“Really? Getting ahead of yourself a little here, aren’t you?” rang a calm voice as the white law flame fizzled out as though entering the sea, revealing Lin Xun's handsome figure.

Unscathed!

Jiao Taihang's smile froze on his face, and his eyes almost popped out. “Even an immortal expert would have suffered severe injuries under such power. How could you...how could you possibly nullify it?”

Not only had he nullified it, but he had also emerged unscathed! Simply inconceivable!

Even Wanrou gawked in disbelief. Even a law power failed to kill him? Isn’t Master Shi a little too powerful?

“You obtained that law fire from Aurora Cave?” asked Lin Xun curiously.

The more calm and casual Lin Xun was, the more frightened and panicked Jiao Taihang was inside. He was unable to imagine when such a heaven-defying young man had emerged in the Sixth Heaven Domain.

Jiao Taihang’s eyes bulged, furious as he shrieked, “Who on earth are you?!”

Scarlet Demon Dao Lord, who had been spraying blood from his mouth and nose under the distant wall, shouted, “Master, he...he is most likely Lin Xun!!”

Lin Xun?

Jiao Taihang was dumbstruck for a moment before his expression shifted drastically. All of a sudden, the various rumors he had heard during the recent years about a disciple of Fangchun Mountain came flooding to his mind.

In those rumors, that disciple called Lin Xun had fought his way from the First Heaven Domain to the Fifth Heaven Domain, leaving a trail of bloodshed in his wake. Even a bunch of Immortal Imperial Clans

had been unable to stop him! Immortal characters had been deployed against him, but he had managed to safely escape time and again.

It could be said that, in the current Sixth Heaven Domain, the name of Fangchun Disciple Lin Xun had become the representative of an unparalleled legend, a top menace that gave even Immortal Imperial Clans headaches!

If the man before them was really that disciple of Fangchun Mountain, then it was easy to explain everything.

The deaths of those Heng Clan people made complete sense! For in this world, Lin Xun undoubtedly held a place among daredevils who had the guts to kill members of Immortal Imperial Clans. In fact, he had been the most prominent one in recent years.

“Too much nonsense,” commented Lin Xun with a wave of his sleeve. Countless sword qi shot out and filled the big hall.

Jiao Taihang desperately defended in vain as the sword light chopped him to pieces in seconds. Before he died, he let out a howl filled with sorrow and misery, “To die at the hands of a legend like you... It's not a bad way to go out!”

As for Scarlet Demon Dao Lord, he was even more helpless. He failed to even put up one bit of a struggle and instantly perished in the boundless sword qi. When everything returned to calm, the hall was left in ruins, with numerous dreadful sword marks and cracks etched in the walls and floor.

“You... Are you really Lin Xun?” Wanrou’s eyes glazed over. The events of today had been too overwhelming for her to handle.

Lin Xun gently said, “That shouldn’t matter. The important thing is that even though Jiao Taihang is dead, the Heng Clan remains a threat to your family. You should be thinking about resolving that.”

An involuntary tingle shook Wanrou all over. After a while of silence, she nodded.

“Let’s go.” Lin Xun walked toward the door to the outside.

Gazing at his otherworldly figure, Wanrou thought to herself. No matter who he is, he’s saved Nine Leaf Merchant House. That is enough...

.....

Above the Rowdy Demon Sea, the Nine Leaf Merchant House’s treasure ship soared through the void.

“Master Shi, please accept this,” Wanrou presented the sealed jade box containing Ancestor Kun’s life bone to Lin Xun. At this moment, she had fully recovered from the harrowing experience just now.

Lin Xun casually refused, “I didn’t help you because I wanted it.”

Wanrou said earnestly, “I have nothing else to repay you for your immense kindness. If you don’t accept this treasure, then I fear I will never find peace of mind.”

Lin Xun was stunned for a moment. In the end, he conceded, “Then I won’t be so rude as to decline.”

To be honest, he was indeed curious about Ancestor Kun's life bone.

Wanrou smiled in relief and said, “I will use every resource available to our business to find the person you’re looking for. I’ll only leave the Rowdy Demon Sea after there is progress.”

Lin Xun advised, “This will likely take a while. I think you should go back and inform your father of everything that has happened as soon as possible.”

Wanrou smiled, “I have already sent someone to do that. When my father receives my jade slip, he will understand everything. In fact, I want him to move here. At least in this Rowdy Demon Sea, we don’t have to fear retaliation from the Heng Clan."

Lin Xun gave it some thought and agreed, “That’s indeed a good idea.”

Wanrou left shortly after. Once alone, Lin Xun sat cross-legged on his bed and opened the seal on the jade box. Instantly, a primitive and immortal aura spread out and stirred his spirit.

Inside the box was a bright patch of dao light that resembled a starry universe. A complete set of a Kun’s skeleton floated among the stars, striking awe into one’s heart with its length of ten thousand miles.

The skeleton looked immeasurably sacred as threads of immortal energy filled it from inside out. It was simply massive and on top of that perfectly preserved, so while being a mere skeletal frame, it still radiated an intimidating pressure.

When Lin Xun investigated with it his spirit sense, he had a faint vision of a Kun, with wings like big clouds that obscured the sun and moon, rising from the chaos and leaping into the cosmos!

Such was the Kun, a mythical sacred beast that existed only in ancient legends. Said to have been born in primordial chaos, it possessed the supreme natural power to create heaven and earth and separate the clear from the turbid.

Its bloodline was imprinted with the profound mysteries of chaos, its power carried the most primordial secrets of the great dao, and its innate talent was said to surpass all other races under heavens!

Rumors said that the Kun was the closest primordial sacred beast to eternity and immortality, a terrifying being that stood equal to Eternal Divine Clans!

In addition, information claimed that those who had a Kun’s life bone could explore the most primordial secrets of immortality from it! Now, such a complete life bone was right in front of Lin Xun, setting his heart on fire.

At his current level, very few treasures in the world could catch his attention, yet the Ancestor Kun's life bone before his eyes filled him with excitement and anticipation. The reason was simple: this treasure was really imprinted with the primal, profound secrets of immortality just as rumored, which was precisely what he urgently needed right now!

After one climbed to the peak of the Emperor Ancestor Stage, they merely had a threshold to cross to enter the path of immortality. However, this threshold was so high that Lin Xun had been unable to reach it. It wasn't because his cultivation was insufficient, but instead because he lacked the opportunity!

Without seizing such an opportunity, he could cultivate diligently for eons and would still never touch the threshold of immortality. To be exact, breaking into the realm of immortality no longer had anything to do with training, mental strength, or wisdom, but rather, it required an epiphany!

It could be a sudden burst of inspiration, an unintended flash of insight, or a subtle inkling about one's own fate. All of those could serve as an opportunity for breakthrough. However, such opportunities were rare and difficult to come by, to the point that it was practically unattainable. Set to baffle the mind, they were abstruse beyond comprehension!

Now, though, everything would be different for Lin Xun with Ancestor Kun's life bone in his possession. The immortality in the bone texture and energy naturally contained within was in the most primal form. Just by quietly sensing and studying it, one could gain gradual understanding and peek at the mysteries of immortal power.

All that in turn increased the chance of a cultivator achieving an epiphany!

Yes, it was merely a chance, but even so, it was valuable enough to drive any Emperor Ancestor mad, to the point they were willing to sacrifice everything for such a chance! That was precisely why Lin Xun was so thrilled.

He too lacked such an opportunity, but he had never cared about it because at the end of the day, it had only taken him less than a hundred years to attain the pinnacle of the Emperor Ancestor Stage since he had become an Emperor. He had plenty of time to find and grasp that kind of breakthrough opportunity. However, now that he had Ancestor Kun's life bone, the search was over!

After a long time, Lin Xun finally stowed the jade box containing the life bone, his heart filled with emotion. There were no coincidences, only cause and effect. If he hadn't helped Wanrou along the way, how could he have obtained this opportunity?

In the following time, Wanrou piloted the treasure ship through the Rowdy Demon Sea, searching everywhere for information related to Lu Boya.

Lin Xun never revealed Mister Lu's name, fearing it might invite unnecessary trouble. After all, Mister Lu had once accompanied Omega Lord in various battles across worlds and had also served the Luo Clan. If an enemy noticed that Lin Xun was trying to find him, then it might expose the fact that Mister Lu was hiding at Rowdy Demon Sea.

During the search for Mister Lu, Lin Xun also gained a deeper understanding of the situation and dynamics of this region.

The Rowdy Demon Sea was akin to a maze world with chaotic law power. It was home to countless factions of all sizes scattering throughout. The majority of the small-scale ones were composed of bandits and outlaws without any solid foundations. Only seven powers could truly be considered top-tier, and they were known as the great seven devil sects!

The Six Yin Demon Sect, who owned Six Yin House on Thousand Fortunes Island, was one of them. According to hearsay, each of those seven powers was led by an immortal figure, but the accuracy of this intel remained unknown to outsiders.

Besides the various factions, Rowdy Demon Sea also sheltered many lone wolves with terrifying strength, some of whom were even feared by the great seven devil sects!

The more Lin Xun learned about the Rowdy Demon Sea, the more his impression of the place solidified into one word: disorder!

Bloodshed and slaughter were demonstrated in every part of this place along with the constant turmoil. Annexes among factions, vendettas between cultivators... Such things were common occurrences.

Chapter 2630 Battle Sword

Their journey to find Mister Lu involved on average seven to eight violent incidents every day. Facing this, Lin Xun was stunned at first, then got gradually accustomed, and finally became numb.

The Nine Leaf Merchant House's reputation wasn't always useful. There had been quite a few attempts made by fearless desperados to pillage the treasure ship.

Without exception, however, they all met a tragic end. Lin Xun hadn’t needed to intervene because the guards of the ship alone were more than a match for those bandits.

As a matter of fact, even in the Eternal True Realm, the Emperor Stage was already a realm that cultivators could only look up to, while immortal characters were on par with supreme deities!

Take the Rowdy Demon Sea, for example, Emperors were the rarest existences here. However, because Lin Xun could slay Emperor Ancestors with ease, did it mean that those experts weren’t that powerful?

No. It was merely because he was a unique case where his combat power had become unmatched in the Emperor Stage! At least in the eyes of the masses, the current Lin Xun was a terrifying existence who could not be reached.

One month later, the treasure ship was back at Thousand Fortunes Island.

Under Wanrou's lead, they had been conducting the search all the way, coming into contact with several dozen factions of various sizes at Rowdy Demon Sea. However, none of them had ever seen the man in the portrait.

This result put a frown on Lin Xun’s face. He suspected that if Mister Lu was truly hiding in this region, then he had likely changed his name and even altered his appearance. In that case, given Mister Lu's abilities, it would be too difficult for anyone to see through him.

Lin Xun realized that their method of aimless searching was no different from trying to find a needle in a haystack.

He wasn’t discouraged, but Wanrou felt sorry. She had promised to do everything she could to help him find the person, but a month had passed and they hadn’t found a single clue. It was inevitable that she would feel a little frustrated.

After entering Thousand Fortunes Island, Wanrou went straight to the Six Yin House, but what she got from the manager was equally disheartening.

Upon seeing her approaching with a frown on her face, Lin Xun, who had been waiting in the hall, immediately comforted, “Don’t blame yourself. You've already tried your best.”

Wanrou asked, “Young Master, do you have any other leads besides this portrait?”

Lin Xun smiled, “It’s alright, Miss Wanrou. I’ll handle it from now on.”

Wanrou was stunned, “You plan to act alone?”

Lin Xun nodded, “Over the past month, I’ve gained a general understanding of the situation in the Rowdy Demon Sea. I’m fully capable of handling everything on my own from now on.”

Wanrou was clearly reluctant to part with him, “Then...will we be able to meet again in the future?”

“Hard to say,” Lin Xun laughed.

Wanrou felt a pang of sadness, “The world is too big. Even for us cultivators, parting ways means we may never see each other again in this lifetime...”

Lin Xun strongly agreed with this sentiment. After leaving the small Feiyun Village, he had traveled through the Ziyao Empire, the Ancient Wasteland Domain, the Ancient Nebula Road, the Great Thousand Battle Domain...and had made many good friends along the way.

However, everyone was now scattered across worlds, each pursuing their own path. The next time they met again... Who knew when that would be.

Wanrou looked up, took a deep breath, and said, “Let's not dwell on unhappy thoughts. Since we’re going our separate ways, I hope that you will soon find the person you’re looking for, and please take care. If fate allows it, I’m sure we will meet again one day.”

Lin Xun nodded. “You all take care as well. If you encounter any difficulty you cannot handle, crush this contact talisman, and I’ll come to your aid as fast as I can so long as I’m still in Rowdy Demon Sea.”

He handed Wanrou a jade token imprinted with a thread of his willpower. Regardless of anything else, he was grateful that she gave him the precious Ancestor Kun's life bone. This jade talisman was merely a small token of his gratitude.

Wanrou carefully stored the talisman and smiled, “Now I hope there will be a time when I need to use this talisman, but at the same time don't want to encounter any more tricky situations. It's really quite a dilemma.”

Lin Xun chuckled out loud. That day, he and Wanrou bid farewell and parted ways.

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It was also from that day on that Lin Xun became a restless traveler on the Rowdy Demon Sea. Whenever he came upon a place where people gathered, he would venture in and search it without fail. Two months passed in this manner.

On this day, the travel-worn Lin Xun set out to an island called Dark South. He didn’t travel in a rush. Over the past two months, he had spent his resting time in between journeys on studying and deciphering the immortal mysteries in Ancestor Kun's life bone, and had made significant progress.

Immortality described a level that transcended the Emperor Stage. Reaching it meant one would share longevity with the heavens, with ‘the heavens’ here referring to any law power in existence!

In other words, even if the Eternal True Realm were to be destroyed and vanish, immortal experts would still be able to live on as long as the almighty dao existed. This made it fundamentally different from the longevity path of the Longevity King Stage despite the similarity in their names.

The Immortal Stage was divided into three major thresholds: Heavenly Longevity, Nirvana Spirit, and Transcendence. Those who achieved the breakthrough to embark on the immortal path would be in the Heavenly Longevity Realm and live as long as the heavens.

Upon entering this realm, one could begin to comprehend law powers, thereby being capable of consolidating their laws into immortal laws. The higher ranked a law was, the more power the immortal laws condensed from it would be.

Of note, the classification of immortal laws corresponded directly to the rank of the law power, with the two being mutually reinforcing. For example, an immortal law derived from a third grade Earth Rank law would also end up being third grade Earth Rank.

As a result, even for those who were in the same realm, such as Heavenly Longevity, someone who wielded an Earth Rank immortal law would be far inferior to someone who wielded a Heaven Rank immortal law.

Luo Yunshan, who was killed by Lin Xun, had controlled an eighth grade Earth rank law, making him a formidable expert among those in his realm.

After all, every single one of the twenty-four Immortal Imperial Clans in the Sixth Heaven Domain was only in control of an Earth Rank law, meaning that the immortal laws their immortal experts consolidated also fell within the scope of first grade to ninth grade Earth Rank.

Therefore, Luo Yunshan’s eighth grade Earth Rank immortal law was undoubtedly the cream of the crop here.

When studying the immortal mysteries imprinted in Ancestor Kun's life bone, the deepest impression Lin Xun had of this process was how arduous it was. Those principles were so profound that even with his affinity and knowledge of the dao, he often found it extremely challenging.

Moreover, what he could currently comprehend was extremely limited. This was understandable as he was only at the Ancestor Stage, whereas the mysteries in the life bone were meant for immortal experts.

Nevertheless, Lin Xun had still benefited greatly. His understanding of the Immortal Stage was no longer as vague and superficial as before.

“Halt!” Unexpectedly, there was a loud shout from the distance. Lin Xun, who was deep in thought as he traveled, looked up and saw a group of cultivators in the distant sky.

Their leader was a rugged-looking man with a fierce aura. He was dressed in a blood-red outfit and held a trident that emitted a cold luster. The cultivators around him all emanated savage auras, showing no restraint in their killing intent.

Lin Xun found it amusing that in such a group, the strongest was only an Emperor while the rest were Saint-Kings, Big Saints... There was even a Longevity King among them who was a slim, black-clad young man.

The fact that a motley crew like this practiced road banditry made him want to laugh until he cried.

Truth be told, being so blind to target him wasn't entirely their fault. He had been keeping his cultivation concealed to avoid drawing attention. Not only these people, but even Emperor experts couldn’t see through his true level.

Originally, Lin Xun planned to ignore them, but when his glance swept through the slim, black-clothed young man, he froze in a burst of emotion!

“He actually stopped obediently. Looks like he’s not some powerful character.”

“Go, search the fellow and see if he has any money. Hope he won't let us down.”

Seeing Lin Xun stop, those cultivators seemed to breathe a sigh of relief. Then, they rushed toward him like a swarm of bees with ferocious grins on their faces.

“Since you look like a smart one, I'll give you a chance. Hand over all your wealth and we’ll let you walk free. But if you force our hands...heh, this place may end up being your grave,” sneered the rough man in red.

“Hurry up!” the others coldly urged.

To their surprise, the obedient fat sheep ignored everything they had said and kept his gaze fixed on the black-clothed youngster.

“What are you looking at?!” shouted the black-clothed youngster as Lin Xun’s stare made him uncomfortable.

“Show me your battle sword,” demanded Lin Xun, who had already extended his hand. With a clang, said sword slipped out of the youngster’s grip.

As the sword fell into his hand, Lin Xun looked down to assess it, and his heart became even more excited.

Meanwhile, the black-clothed youngster’s face dropped. He shouted anxiously, “Get him, guys! He took my treasure!”

“Attack!” the leader of the group shouted and waved his hand. Everyone instantly charged out.

Boom!

There was a loud sound of a collision as the bandits got suppressed by a powerful force halfway through. They were caught flat in the air like a bunch of bugs slapped under a palm, unable to move at all. They panicked, instantly realizing that the situation was bad.

Only the black-clothed youngster remained standing in the air, but he was also frightened to the point that he had frozen and his mind had gone blank.

A bizarre silence reigned. Lin Xun kept looking at the sword, his expression changing constantly.

After a long time, under the fearful and doubtful eyes of the crowd, he looked up at the black-clothed youngster, his voice gentle with a power that directly hit one’s heart, “Where did you get this sword?”

Soothed by the power in his voice, the black-clothed youngster calmed down, but his expression was still full of suspicion and apprehension. He tremblingly said, “I’ll tell you...only if you swear that you won’t kill me.”