Prodigies 2691

Chapter 2691 Squashed under a Slap

Under the sky, Lin Xun walked out in the open with no emotion on his face. The scene quickly caught the attention of the audience outside and left many astonished.

“What exactly is he trying to do? Doesn't he know that his enemies will come in droves to kill him once he exposes himself?”

The competition had officially begun. All of the supreme Emperor Ancestors in Absolute Sunder Battlefield had sprung into action, but they operated differently from Lin Xun.

Some concealed their aura and found the perfect spot to ambush, quietly waiting for prey. Some were setting up arrays. Some used secret techniques to call their ‘companions’ to them.

The most prominent names, such as Donghuang Shaowen, Qi Qingshi, and Mu Zunwu, belonged to the last category. With their status, they could easily gather a group of supreme Emperor Ancestors to serve them, which was not against the rules. In fact, they had already formed small factions in private even before the selection began.

Lin Xun was the only one roaming freely without a care like a sword drawn from its scabbard, making him quite an unconventional sight.

“This man is indeed as bold as the rumors describe!” sneered Donghuang Qiong next to the golden qilin. Everyone knew exactly who he was talking about.

“Heaven wants him dead, so it first makes him mad,” commented Qi Tingzi expressionlessly.

“I’ve heard time and time again that the little bastard has extraordinary battle prowess and formidable skills, but it appears those rumors were exaggerated,” said Mu Cangjia leisurely, “By the way he’s acting, he won't even last a month. I'll give him three days.”

“Three? He might not even last a day,” said Zhongli Chong coolly, “Look at the battlefield. The brat has enemies in every direction around him, with the nearest being merely ten thousand miles away and the

farthest no more than a hundred thousand miles. He’s also not even hiding his aura. It won't be long before conflicts arise!”

Pausing for a moment, he continued, “And once there's a conflict, it'll draw others over regardless of the outcome. When there's benefit to be reaped, how can the third party resist taking advantage of their fight?”

Everyone nodded in agreement. Zhongli Chong's analysis was precisely their view as well.

Zhongli Chong concluded, “In my opinion, Lin Xun's behavior can be summed up in one word: stupid!”

The word ‘stupid’ reverberated in the field with undisguised contempt and superiority.

Jun Huan said nothing. Actions would always speak louder than words, so any explanation was pointless. The best rebuttal to these snide remarks would be served when Lin Xun emerged victorious.

However, someone refused to leave her alone. Donghuang Qiong's voice boomed for everyone to hear, “Jun Huan, why aren't you defending your junior brother? You also didn't think he’d be so stupid?”

Raising a brow that was shaped like a willow leaf, Jun Huan said calmly, “Why don't we make a bet? If my junior brother is eliminated, I'll slap myself in front of everyone and say I'm a disgrace. If my junior brother passes, you'll slap yourself and admit your eyes are useless.”

The entire crowd was stunned. What a savage!

Even the examiners like Fang Daoping and Xiao Wenyuan seemed surprised.

Donghuang Qiong himself was caught off guard for a moment before he snorted, “Childish. This selection is not something to joke about. Even if I win, it's nothing honorable.”

“If you don't dare to bet on it, then zip it.” Jun Huan was nonchalant, “This applies to anyone present. You dare to bet with me, I will oblige. You dare not, keep your damn mouth shut.”

Many faces clouded over, with those of Qi Tingzi, Zhongli Chong, and Mu Cangjia looking particularly gloomy. Jun Huan's declarations were undoubtedly the worst kind of provocation to them!

Donghuang Qing shook his head with a mocking laugh, “The disciples of Fangchun Mountain are really rampant.”

On the other hand, Fang Daoping looked calm, Xiao Wenyuan quietly smiled, and Li Zhen remained silent as usual.

Donghuang Qing felt a little embarrassed since no one responded to his comment, but he quickly recovered. I'd like to see how you all will feel when Lin Xun is eliminated.

“They meet!” a scream rang out from the audience. All eyes were immediately drawn to Lin Xun's location in the Absolute Sunder Battlefield.

It was a vast plain covered in lush vegetation. The second Lin Xun got there, a tall, slender, black-haired man appeared on his way. The man was clad in black and carried a pair of bronze short halberds on his back.

“Gu Liuhai!” The spectators recognized him right away.

Gu Liuhai was a supreme Emperor Ancestor from the Gu Clan, one of the four clans under Donghuang. Fierce in nature and realizing his path through killing, he had a firm place in the top five among the ten strongest supreme Emperor Ancestors in the Seventh Heaven Domain!

He was definitely a highly respected, powerful expert with a long-standing reputation. The crowd grew restless, holding their breath in anticipation. Many couldn’t help but feel anxious for Lin Xun.

The round had just started an hour ago, but he had already encountered Gu Liuhai. What kind of epic showdown would unfold between them?

In the Absolute Sunder Battlefield, Lin Xun was looking at his first opponent in the distance as the other party’s details automatically surfaced in his mind.

Every participant had a golden jade slip that contained the information of all the competitors.

“Lin Xun!” Gu Liuhai's eyes gleamed sharply, and his fighting spirit soared. The Ancestor law power around him wove into thick black lightning that resembled countless entangled pythons.

Boom!

The void collapsed, the surrounding vegetation turned to ash, and the daylight dimmed. The spectators outside were astounded. As expected of someone who's one of the great ten supreme Emperor Ancestors of the Seventh Heaven Domain, his might is extraordinary!

Lin Xun stood with his hands on his back, his eyes deep and calm as he said, “Causing such a ruckus right off the bat, are you trying to attract people here?”

Gu Liuhai's eyes were like swords as he drew the pair of short halberds from his back, “The round has just begun. It's unnecessary to waste my time fighting it out with you when so many people here can't wait to kill you.”

Lin Xun asked, “That’s why you're trying to attract others here? To borrow their hands to eliminate me?”

Gu Liuhai nodded, “Exactly.”

Lin Xun remained impassive, “Do you think you can last until someone gets here?”

Gu Liuhai couldn't help but chortle, “You're an arrogant one, Lin Xun. All I need to do is stall you for a little while. You think I can't manage that?”

Lin Xun said nonchalantly before vanishing, “You can't.”

Gu Liuhai's eyes narrowed slightly.

Clang!

There was a thunderous metallic noise as he crossed his short halberds and fiercely swung them.

In that instant, it was as though a pair of furious lightning dragons had descended from above and rampaged across the land. An unmatched destructive energy spread, causing the region to darken and the terrains to collapse.

Gu Liuhai started out with the killing technique one could only see from a supreme expert, something far beyond the imagination of an ordinary Emperor Ancestor.

His divine might received the nod of approval of many Immortals who felt that the new generation had surpassed the old.

Kaboom!

Amidst the chaos, Lin Xun was only a hundred feet away from Gu Liuhai. The terrifying short halberds wrapped in lightning were smashing at him.

Lin Xun merely waved his sleeve. A dao light as deep as an abyss surged forth and shattered the space-blotting lightning. Even the pair of bronze halberds were shaken to the point they buzzed loudly.

Gu Liuhai's pupils constricted.

He in fact had never underestimated Lin Xun. Having carefully studied the latter's battle records for years, he was well aware that the other party was no pushover. Otherwise, he wouldn't have adopted this strategy, aiming only to stall his opponent until others arrived to eliminate him together.

However, he had never thought that Lin Xun’s combat power could be so terrifying, even what the rumors described by a significant margin. Gu Liuhai immediately realized how dangerous his situation was and dared not hold back anymore.

Boom!

A black lightning diagram emerged from him, depicting nothing but apocalyptic scenes. Such was his natural talent, Apocalyptic Lightning Diagram! This was Gu Liuhai's trump card, the culmination of his lifetime of effort and the pinnacle of his cultivation.

“The fight has barely started, and Gu Liuhai is already unleashing his ultimate skill!” The spectators were shaken. They could see that he had sensed something was amiss and had to resort to his trump card. This also proved just how terrifying Lin Xun's offensive ability was!

“Go!” shouted Gu Liuhai who was enveloped in the power of the Apocalyptic Lightning Diagram. Destructive bolts as massive as dragons tumbled and roared, shooting toward Lin Xun.

His expression unruffled, Lin Xun suddenly reached out with his right hand and grasped at the air.

Boom!

A massive hand appeared, its five sturdy fingers like heavenly pillars around which powerful devouring fluctuations swirled. The palm's center resembled a bottomless abyss in which the sun, moon, stars, and all celestial phenomena were being annihilated.

The sky-obscuring hand clutched the lightning dragons, firmly confining them midair. And then, as Lin Xun's massive hand clenched up — KABOOM!

In a deafening explosion, the black lightning bolts were reduced to a shower of fragments. This breathtaking scene triggered an outcry in the outside world, sending shivers down everyone's spines. Too strong!

“Go!” shouted Gu Liuhai.

His Apocalyptic Lightning Diagram, which had been building up momentum, rose into the air with a rumble and became an unprecedented lightning storm that dispelled all the clouds in the sky!

The terrifying apocalyptic phenomenon took all color from the region, but Lin Xun didn't even glance at it; the colossal hand he had conjured suddenly slapped down.

BANG!

The lightning diagram Gu Liuhai had regarded as his most powerful ability quaked, cracked, and crumbled.

His eyes nearly popped out of their sockets, his face pale. Did his strongest card just get shattered by a single slap? It felt like a heavy blow to his head, causing his mentality to falter.

Right at this moment, the colossal hand slapped down once more. Looking from afar, it was as if the whole sky was coming down!

Gu Liuhai felt as insignificant as an ant, overwhelmed by despair and helplessness. This guy... How is this kind of strength possible?!

Boom!

Unbearable pain spread to every part of him. He could hear the sounds of his bones breaking and his blood spurting. His soul felt like it had been struck by an unparalleled hammer. A muffled cry of agony involuntarily escaped from his throat. He truly thought he was about to die!

In the eyes of the audience, he had been smashed into a mangled mess under Lin Xun’s palm strike. The ground around him had collapsed into a huge dent that was the shape of a hand. The brutal and domineering scene even stunned the Immortal experts.

A peerless character ranked among the top ten Emperor Ancestors of the Seventh Heaven Domain was dominated with just one palm strike?

Utterly horrifying!

The area around the training ground was so quiet one could hear a pin drop. Even figures like Donghuang Qiong and Qi Tingzi were frowning. Gu Liuhai was no ordinary expert, yet he had been defeated in such a crushing manner. The fighting prowess Lin Xun had demonstrated far exceeded their expectations.

In response to their reaction, Jun Huan merely smiled, unperturbed as the battle had transpired exactly how it was supposed to. The dust dispersed, revealing Gu Liuhai in a pitifully broken bloodied state. Yet, he himself was surprised to find that he wasn’t dead and eliminated.

Just then, Lin Xun’s indifferent voice rang out, “I told you, you can’t stall me. Unfortunately, you are too weak, and your identity isn't weighty enough, so I can’t give you one of my three spots.”

Gu Liuhai was stupefied. What does that mean? Is he saying I'm not even qualified to be eliminated by him?

A sense of humiliation too deep for words stabbed into his heart like a knife. His vision darkened, his head spinning.

Chapter 2692 Despairing in a Six-on-One

Lin Xun's words could not be heard by the outside world, but the audience saw very well that he took no action to eliminate the powerless Gu Liuhai.

This was naturally not him suddenly having a conscience. The Origin Sect Ancestral Court's successor selection was an extremely important matter, and those who defeated at least three opponents in this round could qualify for the next. No participant would miss the opportunity to eliminate an opponent.

The fact that Lin Xun was actively defying this expectation caused a moment of silence to spread among the crowd.

Finally, a spectator couldn't help but speak up, “Could it be that Lin Xun looks down on doing so? Or maybe he has another goal?”

Another moment of silence followed. Many cultivators exchanged glances, each having guessed Lin Xun's intentions to some extent. However, the answer was so appalling that they dared not accept it easily.

“If that's really the case, then he is too full of himself. Everyone views this as a serious test, while he sees it as an opportunity to take down his enemies. This is just so...” someone muttered in shock.

The quiet atmosphere began to grow restless, with many clicking their tongues in astonishment.

As for factions like the Donghuang Clan, Zhongli Clan, Qi Clan, and Mu Clan who harbored deep animosity toward Lin Xun, there was now a shadow over their faces. This Fangchun Mountain disciple is truly brazen!

Although they were upset, Gu Liuhai's defeat informed them that Lin Xun was a tough nut to crack, and eliminating him would not be easy.

Fortunately, this was only the first round. There was still plenty of time left. The current situation might not be to their liking, but it hadn't reached the point where it could make them lose composure.

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Lin Xun didn't eliminate Gu Liuhai, but he did not let him off the hook either. After plundering the guy's belongings, he imprisoned him in the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron and swaggered off.

The crowd watched this with their mouths agape. Are we really watching the selection of disciples for the Origin Sect Ancestral Court? Can he really do that?

They subconsciously looked at Xiao Wenyuan, chief examiner of the first round who was standing before Absolute Sunder Sword Palace. The latter’s expression had also become odd at what Lin Xun had done.

After a long silence, he cleared his throat and smiled, “Well, the rules do not explicitly prohibit such actions. However, once the test concludes, those captured by their opponents will live as our sect does not permit killing.”

Despite this, people still felt a little weird. Meanwhile, the elders of the Gu Clan were so angry that their faces were ashen, appearing very close to spitting blood.

They had placed high hopes on Gu Liuhai. Who would have thought that he was crushed by Lin Xun in such a humiliating manner so early into the first round? Not only were his treasures stripped away, but he was also imprisoned. This was undoubtedly devastating.

However, this was merely a trivial episode as far as Lin Xun was concerned. Defeating Gu Liuhai gave him no sense of satisfaction from exacting revenge. As he had said, he didn't even want to spare one of his three elimination spots for the guy.

His goal was defeating only heavyweight opponents to complete the first round’s requirement. Only then would it ease the hatred in his heart. The likes of Donghuang Shaowen, Mu Zunwu, and Qi Qingshi all met that standard.

Lin Xun had studied the other competitors’ details recorded in the golden jade slip. As fellow supreme Emperor Ancestors, the gap between them in terms of cultivation was negligible.

However, the differences in their weapons, techniques, as well as states of mind, willpower, and combat experience, made their battle prowess vastly different.

Out of all of his encounters, the only supreme Ancestor that Lin Xun had ever considered a worthy opponent was Ye Chunjun, a successor of the Origin Sect Ancestral Court’s Ninth Peak. Among the over one hundred supreme Emperor Ancestors in this selection, very few could probably compare to Ye Chunjun.

In short, at this cultivation stage, in this selection, Lin Xun feared no one! Therefore, he wasn't afraid to walk around without concealing his aura.

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The battle between Lin Xun and Gu Liuhai had lasted only a few blinks of an eye, but its commotion still caught the attention of quite a few competitors.

Before long, several figures arrived one after another. Upon seeing the empty battlefield, they squinted in surprise, seemingly not expecting that the fight would have been concluded in such a short time.

Who had been fighting here earlier? No one knew. They suddenly looked at one another with their guard up. After a brief moment, they decided to disperse, because a free-for-all battle would only lead to unforeseen trouble.

They weren't stupid to choose to clash recklessly at this time. The round lasted a month, so they would have plenty of opportunities to find the right opponents to eliminate.

However, just as they were leaving, Lin Xun suddenly returned and appeared in their field of vision.

“Lin Xun!”

“It's him again!”

“Was he also led here by the fighting sound just now?”

These supreme Emperor Ancestors all looked surprised, coming to a stop with their qi circulating, ready to attack.

“Everyone, this is our chance. How about we work together and eliminate this remnant first?” one of them suggested.

“I second this.”

“Great idea.”

“It is indeed a good opportunity.”

The others agreed after little hesitation.

A distance from them, Lin Xun calmly paced forth, the information on the six supreme Emperor Ancestors in front of him flashed through his mind one by one.

Each of them could be called a giant in the Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage, possessing unrivaled talent and influence, but Lin Xun was a little disappointed because none of them came from those Immortal Clans in the Eighth Heaven Domain.

“This guy isn't planning to fight them all at once, is he?” The onlookers outside were drawn over by Lin Xun's return.

“No way...?” Countless were shocked and incredulous.

Who had ever seen such a daring supreme Emperor Ancestor? If it weren't for his overwhelming victory over Gu Liuhai that had displayed his extraordinary combat strength, they would have suspected that he had lost his mind.

One against six? Simply insane!

Even the Immortal experts were stunned, struggling to believe it.

“Lin Xun is always unexpectedly forceful...” Xiao Wenyuan chuckled. Just how much confidence does he have in his own combat prowess to be able to act like this?

Fang Daoping remained indifferent as ever. Li Zhen was also quiet as ever as his eyes were fixed on Lin Xun.

Donghuang Qing said expressionlessly, “The more he is like this, the more likely that one day something won't bend to his will. The Master of Fangchun Mountain was just as forceful back then, breaking into the Ninth Heaven Domain all by himself, only to end up with his life and spirit wiped to oblivion.”

Xiao Wenyuan laughed heartily, about to comment something on this when his eyes suddenly lit up. The battle was starting!

As Lin Xun approached his opponents, the atmosphere in the field became stern and oppressive. The six Emperor Ancestors found it hard to believe that he had the guts to come toward them so boldly. Under normal circumstances, shouldn't one choose to flee as soon as possible?

“Lin Xun, you're not so presumptuous to think that you can take on the six of us, are you?” one person smiled sinisterly.

“Why not?” Lin Xun stood still in the air when he was only ten thousand feet away from them.

His response made them feel inexplicably uncomfortable. What gives him the idea that he can look down on us?

“Arrogant!” sneered a man in a golden robe. “Everyone, let's work together and send this little remnant on his way! “

Boom!

His qi erupted like thunder as he took the lead and stepped forward. The killing momentum and power he had been building up were released in the most invasive and ferocious manner.

Heavens and earth trembled. As the golden-robed man clasped his hands together into a hand seal, a green flying sword shot out like a comet, tearing the sky and striking down. It was called A Streak of Green, the golden-robed man's life-bound Emperor weapon that was string-thin with a matchless cutting power!

“Rise!”

“Doh!”

“Go!”

The other five supreme Emperor Ancestors deployed their attacks alongside him, using their most powerful skills and treasures.

Blinding treasure light and dao arts filled the space. A flying sword, battle spear, divine seal, bronze bell, jade ruler, and alms bowl wreathed in radiance were unleashing their miraculous powers. They crushed the void and shattered the mountains. The vast expanse was crowded out by a flood of power that was capable of destroying the world.

The audience outside gasped and exclaimed in shock as they watched.

A single supreme Emperor Ancestor could already proudly peer down on everyone else on the Emperor path, let alone six of them together. Their group attack could strike despair into even other supreme Emperor Ancestor experts!

Facing such an assault, Lin Xun did not retreat. His expression remained ever composed, but his eyes that were as profound as an abyss gleamed with something that made one's heart shudder.

He took a step forward. His five dao bodies whistled out, joining the true form as they proceeded to each charge at an opponent!

Everyone who saw this widened their eyes. Out-of-body avatars?

RUMBLE!

The world seemed to be flipped upside down, and the stars lost their light. The six supreme Emperor Ancestors experienced the definition of despair within seconds of the battle starting.

Crack!

The green thread that was the golden-robed man's flying sword got smashed the moment it touched the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron.

Before its owner could react, the dao sword in the sword cauldron shot out and blew up all his defenses with unstoppable force. Finally, with a painful cry, he was disemboweled, his blood spilling into the void!

However, he was not eliminated despite his severe injury. Instead, Lin Xun captured him and stuffed him into his sword cauldron.

A supreme Emperor Ancestor was subdued just like that! All in the blink of an eye! His defeat was far more shocking than that of Gu Liuhai, too incredible to believe. That kind of strength was simply unfathomable!

Meanwhile, on other parts of the battlefield, Lin Xun's dao bodies were demonstrating power no less formidable than the true form, launching relentless onslaughts with such dominance that left their opponents unable to lift their heads, let alone run!

Rattled out of their mind, an old monster in the audience exclaimed, “They aren't avatars; they are dao bodies similar to the Fu Clan's supreme legacy ‘Four Symbols Nine Spirits Body.’ Each dao body possesses combat power that isn’t inferior to that of the true form!”

Chapter 2693 Sudden Discovery of Conscience?

Even those like Donghuang Qiong, Qi Tingzi, Zhongli Chong, and Mu Cangjia were visibly surprised and full of doubts.

As residents of the Eighth Heaven Domain like the Fu Clan, they knew just how terrifying the Four Symbols Nine Spirits Body was, and Lin Xun’s dao bodies were clearly displaying the same effect!

Meanwhile, the rest of the audience was currently stupefied, their minds reeling. They watched Lin Xun take no breather after defeating the golden-robed man as he directly proceeded to assist his dao bodies.

Like corn being harvested, his opponents were stuffed into the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron one after another in just moments. The fight was over just like that.

The crowd outside was completely dumbfounded by this point. They had expected an intense battle, even thinking that Lin Xun would likely pay the price for his recklessness.

To their shock, the battle turned out to be one-sided, with the six supreme Emperor Ancestors being suppressed in succession without any chance to escape!

“Starting from Gu Liuhai, Lin Xun has already defeated seven opponents, which is enough for him to complete the test twice, but he didn't do so. Does he intend to keep going like this?” wondered a spectator in astonishment.

The question was akin to throwing a stone at still water, stirring restless ripples throughout the crowd before Absolute Sunder Sword Palace.

“If Lin Xun goes on like this, the other participants will lose many opportunities to advance!” said an old fossil grimly.

Lin Xun only needed to ‘kill’ three opponents to pass the first round, but he seemed to have no intention of doing that and leaving the battlefield. The more competitors he continued to subdue in the following time, the fewer spots would be available for the second round!

This was naturally unacceptable to the various Immortal Imperial Clans present. The Origin Sect Ancestral Court had finally publicly recruited disciples for the first time in eons. Any Immortal Imperial Clans with some power would be determined to seize such a rare opportunity.

Therefore, if Lin Xun's presence significantly limited the chances of their juniors, it was bound to trigger intense opposition and anger.

“Elder Xiao, how can Lin Xun be allowed to spoil the first round like this? It's clearly a violation of the rules. Please do something about it,” an Immortal spoke up with indignation.

His speech appealed to the emotion of many, and they quickly chimed in.

“Yes, he could have passed already, but he’s using such a despicable method to remain in there. He obviously doesn't want to give others a chance!”

“His horrible deed must be stopped and severely punished!”

“That’s right, we cannot tolerate his unscrupulous behavior.”

Criticism rang out in an endless stream, and Lin Xun was the target. The other onlookers also started discussing with peculiar expressions on their faces. To think that his astonishing performance had escalated a mere examination into a crisis of furious Immortal factions. This matter would shake the entire world if it spread.

Xiao Wenyuan was also having a headache. He turned to Fang Daoping and asked, “Brother Fang, what should we do?”

Donghuang Qing interjected, “What else but mete out the punishment Lin Xun deserves?! While it looks like he hasn't broken any rule, he is clearly exploiting loopholes!”

Lin Xun had fought six opponents at once and still won with ease, which surprised him greatly and made him feel uneasy. He didn't dare to imagine how powerful Lin Xun would be if the latter set foot on the path of immortality with his heritage and talent. As a member of the Donghuang Clan, he naturally didn't want to see him continue to run rampant.

“We set the rules, so it is our fault if loopholes exist. How can we shift the blame onto a young man?” Li Zhen gave Donghuang Qing a cold look, “Elder Donghuang, you'd better watch your tongue. You are not just a member of the Donghuang Clan; you are also an elder of Origin Clarity Pavilion!”

Donghuang Qing's face became unsightly.

Fang Daoping, who had remained detached throughout, finally intervened, “Rules are rules. Since this young man has not broken the rules, he will not be punished.”

Xiao Wenyuan smiled wryly, “But we’re precisely recruiting to select outstanding talents for our sect. If we allow Lin Xun to continue acting this way, very few will pass the first round.”

Donghuang Qing immediately agreed, “Yes, Elder Xiao is absolutely right.”

In the distance, many angry voices were ringing out, making the atmosphere even more chaotic. Fang Daoping was silent for a moment before he said, “Everything shall be done according to the rules.”

Donghuang Qing frowned. Xiao Wenyuan smiled bitterly and conceded. Li Zhen suddenly suggested, “You can inform Lin Xun about the situation outside and leave it up to him to decide whether he should restrain himself.”

Xiao Wenyuan immediately laughed with relief, “Excellent idea.”

Glancing at Fang Daoping to see that the latter had no objections, he immediately relaxed and used a secret technique to send a strand of his spirit sense into the Absolute Sunder Battlefield.

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Inside, Lin Xun was counting his spoils of war. His opponents were from extraordinary backgrounds. Many of whom were nobles from the top powers of the Seventh Heaven Domain, so they were filthy rich.

The value of the various cultivation resources he got from them was so great that even he was amazed. Of course, they were all his now, since the rules didn’t prohibit plundering one's defeated opponents...

As Lin Xun was contemplating whether to remain in the area to see if any more competitors would be drawn over, a voice suddenly echoed in his ears.

“Little friend, could you do me a favor and be a bit mindful with your upcoming actions?” Xiao Wenyuan's bitter laugh betrayed his helplessness.

Lin Xun paused, “What do you mean, Senior?”

Xiao Wenyuan briefly explained to him the commotion occurring outside, while also mentioning the attitudes of Fang Daoping and Li Zhen.

After learning the whole thing, Lin Xun agreed readily, "Alright. I won't attack those I have no grudges with.”

This was not Lin Xun compromising, but instead him giving face to Xiao Wenyuan, Fang Daoping, and other characters of similar status. Since his plan was to enter the Origin Sect and establish himself there, it was beneficial to make good karma with as many important officials as possible.

Xiao Wenyuan secretly breathed a sigh of relief, “Then let me thank you in advance. I owe you one. If you can become our member, then I'll recommend a good place for you when the Nine Great Peaks select disciples.”

Lin Xun smiled, “You don't have to be so formal with me, Senior. It's precisely because I have trust in the rules of the Origin Sect Ancestral Court that I decided to participate in your selection.”

Xiao Wenyuan chuckled, ending their conversation at that. Relieved as the matter had been resolved, he relayed Lin Xun's response to Fang Daoping and Li Zhen. He also mentioned his attitude as a way of putting in a good word for him.

Fang Daoping nodded, “In this matter, the Origin Sect Ancestral Court does owe him a favor. If he can pass the three assessments, I will recommend him a spot in the Nine Great Peaks.”

Donghuang Qing narrowed his eyes and couldn't help but glance at the usually taciturn Li Zhen. It was this man’s suggestion that allowed Xiao Wenyuan to find a solution, and because of that, Lin Xun had gained Xiao Wenyuan's favor.

Although Fang Daoping was detached in nature, it was obvious that he was also very satisfied with Lin Xun's attitude, otherwise he wouldn't have announced that he would personally recommend Lin Xun to the Nine Great Peaks.

Everything that was going on gave Donghuang Qing an explicable sense of frustration.

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As time passed, one fierce battle after another unfolded in different parts of Absolute Sunder Battlefield, taking the attention of the outside world.

A competition between so many supreme Emperor Ancestors was unprecedented, not to mention that the participants were all from lofty backgrounds and possessed extraordinary skills and treasures. Once a fight broke out, it naturally attracted countless eyes.

However, the audience would subconsciously compare them with Lin Xun's previous performance, and their otherwise normally spectacular battles suddenly seemed much less impressive.

Was it because Lin Xun's opponents were too weak? No! It was because his combat prowess was too overwhelming. Even in the Supreme Ancestor Stage, he had the astounding momentum and power to push through everything.

Battles between the other participants, as thrilling and outstanding as they were, lacked precisely that power to truly shake people to their core. This was what people meant when they said: ‘You don't know until you compare, and once you do, the difference is crystal clear.’

“Look, Lin Xun is being targeted by another group!” someone suddenly shouted, instantly drawing all the scattered gazes from the various ongoing fights back to the man of the hour.

This time, his opponents were five supreme Emperor Ancestors, and the audience sweated for them. Considering the precedents, how could they not worry about the fate of these five?

This feeling was several fold worse for the forces behind them, with darkening expressions and hearts hanging up in suspense. Out of all the people you could run into, why must it be this menace?

They were on edge and worried, but they had no way to warn their juniors. The outside world could see everything that was happening inside Absolute Sunder Battlefield, but the five cultivators of interest had no idea how vicious Lin Xun was.

At this moment, the sight of him being all alone excited them. Their eyes were filled with murderous intent and the urge to strike.

“No, I implore you, don't—!”

“Hurry up and get away from that Fangchun Mountain remnant!”

“You fool, can't you use your head and think why Lin Xun is that confident to act alone?”

Some of the people outside were so anxious that they started shouting and gave the rest a good laugh.

As the saying went, being directly involved in the matter clouded one’s judgment of it. How could those five supreme Emperor Ancestors know the extent of Lin Xun’s terror?

Just when everyone thought that Lin Xun would repeat his same old tricks and dominate the opponents one by one with absolute power, an unexpected scene played out. Facing the five supreme Emperor Ancestors, he...turned around and left!

Everyone was stunned. What’s going on? Did the menace suddenly have a newfound conscience?

Chapter 2694 Why is He So Kind?

In Absolute Sunder Battlefield, the five supreme Emperor Ancestors were staring excitedly at the tall and refined figure in the distance.

Lin Xun!

It's that guy!

Long before the selection started, they had secretly formed an alliance through their clans' connection. The first second of entering this battlefield, they had contacted each other and had just grouped up not long ago. Little had they expected to stumble upon Lin Xun by chance!

"We've got a big fish here, can't let him escape." The leader, a man in a fiery red robe, licked his lips as his eyes brimmed with battle intent.

"Hehehe, I was thinking just that," another laughed, eager to act.

Lin Xun's notoriety in the Eternal True Realm was so prominent that it overshadowed most Immortal characters, making those in the same stage as him seem even paler in comparison. If they could eliminate this ferocious remnant of Fangchun Mountain, their fame would definitely soar to an entirely new height!

"He's trying to run!" a handsome man suddenly shouted. In the distance, Lin Xun was walking away, which gave the five supreme Emperor Ancestors the impression that he was fleeing in fear.

"After him! We must not let him get away!" clamored the leader who started teleporting in a fierce pursuit.

How could the other four dally? Each one shot out faster than the next for fear that the big fish would escape.

In the outside world, Xiao Wenyuan was speechless when he saw such a scene. He slapped his own forehead, not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

He knew full well that Lin Xun was giving face to the Origin Sect Ancestral Court by letting off the five supreme Emperor Ancestors who had no enmity with him, but those five fools actually thought he was easy to bully and stupidly gave chase!

Even the untalkative Li Zhen mumbled with an odd smile, "They brought this on themselves. They have no one else to blame for it."

Meanwhile, the Immortal forces behind the five supreme Emperor Ancestors had gotten so furious that many of them were roaring.

“These fools! Even pigs are smarter than them!”

“Why...just why are they so hard-headed? The disaster avoided them, but they somehow have to hurl themselves at it!”

“I just hope Lin Xun goes faster and not let those idiots catch up with him...”

The bigwigs of the five Immortal forces all looked close to crying. It was understandable that they lost their composure. The opportunity to become disciples of the Origin Sect Ancestral Court was too precious. How could they not be anxious to see the juniors of their clans running head-first toward elimination?

A burst of laughter rang out in the crowd because of how dramatic it was looking.

“Stay calm, everyone. We as spectators know how inconceivably strong Lin Xun is, but the five little friends have no idea. It's commendable that they have the courage to challenge him...” an old expert tried to pacify, but he nearly let a laugh escape and had to quickly clamp his mouth shut.

Another burst of laughter erupted, throwing the atmosphere into disarray and leaving a bitter taste in the mouths of the factions hostile to Lin Xun.

Donghuang Qiong coldly said, “Hmph! What’s so funny? If they are strong enough, what is there to fear from the remnant even if they really catch up with him?”

The whole field went silent upon his remark.

Right at this moment, Jun Huan laughed, “I think so too. In fact, I'm very much looking forward to my little junior brother meeting the supreme Emperor Ancestors of the Donghuang Clan. I'd like to see who will be eliminated in that situation. Oh, right, my proposal earlier still stands. I have no problem slapping myself in the face and admitting that I was blind. Anyone who wants to bet with me can sign up now.”

The atmosphere became even more quiet. The crowd started exchanging glances. The previous battle had already proven Lin Xun's extraordinary skills. Unless something very unexpected happened, he would certainly advance to the second round. Who would actually bet against him in this kind of circumstance?

Donghuang Qiong, Zhongli Chong, Mu Cangjia, Qi Tingzi, and the others looked increasingly gloomy. They weren't stupid, so how could they not see this as well?

However, this was only the first round. They still had great confidence that it wouldn't be easy for Lin Xun to ultimately become a disciple of the Origin Sect Ancestral Court.

“Look, they've caught up!” resounded an alarmed cry.

The crowd subconsciously looked over just in time to see Lin Xun stop and turn around with a helpless look on his face. As he was about to say something, the five supreme Emperor Ancestors attacked, each one more vigorously than the last, not giving him a chance to speak.

Upon this scene, the clan bigwigs behind felt dizzy, the world spinning before their eyes. It's over...

Complete suicide!

The battle broke out without a question. Even though everyone had already seen Lin Xun's dashing style in his domination over the previous six supreme Emperor Ancestors, they were still stirred to watch him using the same method to suppress the current five one by one. Yelps and exclamations filled the audience.

Strong! Truly too strong!

He wrecked his opponents from beginning to end and won without any suspense. At this moment, the five supreme Emperor Ancestors were spiraling. They were devastated and even furious.

As Lin Xun swiftly searched them and took all their treasures, the red-robed man shouted with grief and indignation, “Lin Xun, since you are so strong, why did you run when you saw us? Don't you think it's despicable to bait us like that?”

Lin Xun sighed helplessly, “I originally planned to spare you, but you insisted on going after me. I even warned you not to play with fire as you chased me, but you told me that I talked big and was too arrogant. You're seriously blaming me now?”

The man in the fiery-red robe was dumbfounded, his expression shifting between anger and confusion.

During the pursuit earlier, Lin Xun had indeed told them to stop or they would be eliminated, but as the hunters, how could they think it was him suddenly having a conscience and not throwing empty threats to escape?

“So you really had no intention of targeting us?” the red-robed man had to confirm. The other four also looked at Lin Xun, their expressions couldn't be more depressed.

Lin Xun laughed heartily, “Of course not. You can leave now. I took everything except your life-bound Emperor weapons. Good luck.”

With that, he walked off. The red-robed leader and his group were left speechless, their minds spinning in confusion. Only after Lin Xun’s figure disappeared from sight did they dare to believe it was real and subconsciously heave a long sigh. Their countenances also became complicated.

“Don’t they all say that he is brutal and kills without mercy? Why is he so...kind?” one of them said in a daze.

“Strange indeed. He could have easily eliminated three of us and passed the round, but he gave up such a golden opportunity and only took our treasures. Truly unexpected...” a woman murmured, finding Lin Xin impossible to fathom.

“Let’s not wrap our heads around all that. We’ve temporarily avoided getting eliminated, and that’s enough! The only thing to keep in mind is that if we bump into him again, we must run immediately and never give him another chance to subdue us,” said the red-robed leader with resolve.

Someone immediately retorted, “Brother, we're pretty much treasureless now. Even if we run into Lin Xun again, do you think he'll still be interested in us?”

The question rendered everyone speechless. They suddenly felt...hollow inside.

.....

Contrary to their mood, the five Immortal Imperial Clans behind them were overjoyed and excited beyond words. Lin Xun had truly shown that he had a conscience!

A great number of other spectators were unable to calm down either. Apparently, Lin Xun was targeting only the enemy factions of Fangchun Mountain and not everyone participating in the selection. He maintained a clear line between his enemies and the rest.

In other words, if running into their juniors had been someone else who was a powerful enemy of their clans, they probably wouldn't be so lucky!

Shortly into the silence, many were drawn by a sudden shout, “Donghuang Shaowen is too strong!”

Inside the battlefield, Donghuang Shaowen had already defeated and eliminated an opponent in a crushing manner.

Clad in a silver robe, Donghuang Shaowen had graying temples, a handsome face, and a spear-straight figure. The powerful blue power shrouding him had condensed into two big suns—one black and one white—that circled him endlessly, elevating him into an imposing god.

During the fight, he had not used any treasures and had instead dominated his opponent solely with his own combat strength. His momentum had been domineering, leading to a striking victory that left the audience shaken for a long time.

As time passed, more and more battles took place in Absolute Sunder Battlefield, and the abilities demonstrated by some of the participants also caused quite a sensation.

Mu Zunwu was among them. With black hair, purple eyes, and an aura as cold as ice, he wielded a bronze spear and moved silently. However, once the fight began, he was as savage and ruthless as a primordial beast. His opponent was smashed to pieces in less than a dozen exchanges, which was a display of power that was sheer horror.

Qi Qingshi was another. She looked like a pristine, otherworldly goddess bathed in a hazy mist, and her combat ability wasn't inferior to that of Donghuang Shaowen or Mu Zunwu.

Zhongli Feiyun, too, didn't fall behind...

In short, one after another, they all showed heaven-defying battle prowess even when facing opponents who were also supreme Emperor Ancestors. Gasps of amazement for them echoed nonstop.

This greatly eased the gloomy expressions of Donghuang Qiong, Qi Tingzi, and the other fossils. Lin Xun's strength was indeed perverse, but the supreme Emperor Ancestors of their clans were no slouches either!

Slowly, the third day of the first round arrived. A supreme Emperor Ancestor named Zhou Zhizhi became the first to defeat three opponents and advance to the next round, catching the attentive gaze of countless people.

Zhou Zhizhi came from the Zhou Clan of the Seventh Heaven Domain, a clan of an ancient heritage that was entrenched in one of the twelve grotto heavens, Linghong Grotto Heaven. Word had it that an ancestor of their clan was sworn brothers with Deputy Pavilion Master Xuan Feiling of Origin Sky Pavilion.

Therefore, upon Zhou Zhizhi's successful advancement, the first thought occurring to everyone's mind was that if he passed the next two rounds, he would likely become a disciple of Origin Sky Pavilion!

Chapter 2695 Meeting Yun Muzhe Again

Zhou Zhizhi's advancement had caused quite a stir, but when the crowd thought of Lin Xun, who had gotten many opportunities to do the same on the very first day, their excitement diminished greatly.

In the following time, a good number of supreme Emperor Ancestors qualified for the next round, with no lack of dazzling geniuses among them. However, even more failed, since every participant passed meant three had gotten eliminated.

All of this added to the tension in the audience outside. Some groups were ecstatic, some sighed with regret, some were happy, and some were dejected.

In such an atmosphere, even experts who had lived for tens of thousands of years could not remain calm. They cared so much because no one knew better than them how rare and precious the opportunity to enter the Origin Sect Ancestral Court was.

On the tenth day of the first round, Lin Xun encountered another group of supreme Emperor Ancestors. There were more than ten of them, making the group a formidable force.

At this moment, the Immortals of the Donghuang's Four Clans outside grew nervous. They watched intently with a dark shadow in their eyes...because most of the supreme participants in that group were from the Donghuang's Four Clans!

"Even if our juniors can eliminate Lin Xun in this battle, it would be at a price," an elder from the Nan Clan looked gloomy.

It wouldn't be just a price; it would be a severe price! Everyone present had all been witnesses of Lin Xun's performance over the past ten days. He had never once fallen into danger. On the contrary, all of his opponents had suffered to some extent.

Those who weren't hostile or had enmity with him had it better; they had merely been stripped of their treasures and then gotten released.

On the other hand, those from the enemy forces of Lin Xun had been ruthlessly suppressed to the last one. Although he didn't eliminate them, he still actively hunted them down and stuffed them into the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron.

The lineup of participants from the Donghuang's Four Clans was indeed powerful enough to have a chance of eliminating him, but considering the strength he had displayed so far, they would inevitably pay a heavy price to manage to do so!

"We should have killed this evil creature years ago!" spat an elder of the Gu Clan angrily, still deeply frustrated by the fact that Gu Liuhai was the first to be defeated by Lin Xun in a humiliating manner.

"Saying such things is pointless now. If there's going to be a battle between them, I only hope that our juniors can quickly notice how serious their situation is and choose to run when they should," sighed an elder of the Li Clan heavily.

No matter how bad they wanted Lin Xun dead, they had to admit that he was an extremely dangerous enemy in this selection!

Meanwhile, at an undulating mountain range in the Absolute Sunder Battlefield...

Lin Xun stood with his hands behind his back on top of a peak, squinting slightly as he watched the big group of supreme Emperor Ancestors swooping down from the distant sky.

When he recognized their identities, a strange look crossed on his face. Members of the Donghuang's Four Clans!

Moreover, there was a familiar face among them. That person was tall and handsome, dressed in a luxurious adorned robe. He had the might of a dragon and the grace of a phoenix, as well as outstanding bearing and peerless charisma. It was none other than Yun Muzhe!

The sight of him incited an uncontrollable urge to kill within Lin Xun. He would never forget that back in the ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass, Yun Muzhe had requested City Lord Bai Jianchen to kill him. However, Bai Jianchen hadn't done it and had instead kindly warned him to be careful.

At first, Lin Xun had been puzzled as to why Yun Muzhe would do such a thing when there was no grudge between them. Later, he had realized that it was because Yun Muzhe was a member of the Yun Clan, one of the four clans under Donghuang.

“Lin Xun?” Seeing Lin Xun standing alone, Yun Muzhe was also taken aback. A subtle, cold glint flashed in the depths of his eyes. Long before this selection, he had already decided to eliminate Lin Xun at all costs. Firstly because he was from the Yun Clan, and secondly because of Dugu Youran.

It could be said that he had already hated Lin Xun’s guts before, and his resolve to kill the latter only strengthened after he noticed Dugu Youran's unusual attitude toward Lin Xun.

“It's really the infamous remnant. Aren't we lucky!” The others in the group also recognized Lin Xun. One by one, they rejoiced like they had finally found a long-desired prey.

“This is what they call ‘fate.’ The evil remnant is destined to be eliminated by us!” said one of them leisurely.

“Why isn't this guy running away? Don't tell me that he's scared silly?” another laughed.

One smugly analyzed, “No. He probably knows he has no way out and is putting on a calm front. Since he's right in front of us, let's cut to the chase and finish him off.”

Being a group of fourteen supreme Emperor Ancestors gave them the confidence to treat Lin Xun as a dead man.

The man in question listened to their nonsense without a word. During these ten days, most of his opponents acted the same way, as if they could do whatever they wanted with him because he was all by himself.

At the end of the day, though, he was still alive and kicking, while his opponents either had their treasures looted or were directly suppressed and shoved into the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron. Even though the number of opponents was unexpectedly large this time, it was still not enough to make Lin Xun escape in fear.

“Everyone, I'd like to fight him one-on-one. Please help me by standing guard,” said Yun Muzhe coolly, his voice shaking the region. From his entirety, an invincible might radiated outward.

“Foolish!” Outside, the face of the Yun Clan's ancestor turned ashen and anxious. While he couldn't hear Yun Muzhe, he could tell what the latter was saying by reading his lips. How could he not be anxious when Lin Xun was not one to be defeated in a one-on-one?

The spectators present all revealing odd expressions. Similar situations had occurred in the past ten days, but no supreme Emperor Ancestor had ever dared to challenge Lin Xun alone like Yun Muzhe. Many started to pity him.

One of the top ten supreme Emperor Ancestors of the Seventh Heaven Domain and the hope of the Yun Clan, Yun Muzhe, was probably about to suffer from a terrible setback...

The ancestors of the Nan, Li, and Gu Clans all spoke up to comfort him, “Don't worry, the others won't stand by and watch if Muzhe falls into a disadvantageous situation.”

At the moment, Lin Xun was smiling at Yun Muzhe's challenge. He didn't say a word, but no one knew what was going on inside his mind.

His reaction startled the supreme Emperor Ancestors of the Donghuang’s Four Clans.

One laughed out with unconcealed mockery, “Ha, look at him smiling. Does he think a one-on-one fight can help him escape us?”

One declared with a fierce glint in their eyes, “Brother Muzhe, why don't you leave him to me? I know how to make him cry!”

One asked with a smile, “No, let me handle him. I don't want to miss such a golden opportunity. Pretty please, everyone?”

They were actually vying to fight Lin Xun one-on-one. The looks on the faces of the people outside became even more peculiar. A lot of them were holding back laughter for fear of angering the Donghuang’s Four Clans.

The elders of the Donghuang's Four Clans were indeed about to go crazy. They knew what acting stupid looked like, but they had never seen a whole group of experts doing that together! The most infuriating part was that these idiots were their juniors who they were usually most proud of...

Many of these old fossils felt so sick that they wanted to vomit blood. If possible, they would have rushed in and beaten up those fourteen supreme Emperor Ancestors for being so stupidly blind!

In fact, Yun Muzhe's group couldn't be blamed. They had been cut off from communication with the outside world in the Absolute Sunder Battlefield, so how could they know what Lin Xun had been doing for the past ten days?

Moreover, acting together in a group of fourteen experts, they saw no need in taking a lone man seriously!

"Everyone, let me do this, and I'll owe you all a favor." Yun Muzhe frowned and stopped the rest from fighting over Lin Xun. Seeing this, the others didn't keep trying.

Boom!

Yun Muzhe strode up into the air like a god, his long hair fluttering in the wind. He looked indescribably dashing and effortless. In the eyes of any cultivator, he was definitely a stunning talent who was capable of leading at the forefront of the Emperor path.

However, watching him resolutely challenge Lin Xun to a one-on-one at this moment, the audience had a very weird feeling, as if they were watching a little rabbit foolishly clamoring to fight a tiger.

"Lin Xun, it was my own complacency that I didn't take you seriously in the ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass. I won't make the same mistake again." Yun Muzhe dusted off his clothes and said indifferently, "This time, I will use my strength to show you what a crushing defeat is, and what it means by 'there is always a higher mountain.'"

Hearing this, the eyes of several female supreme Emperor Ancestors sparkled, captivated by the unparalleled charm Yun Muzhe was emanating.

Outside, however, the elders of the Yun Clan didn't have the heart to watch on. Boasting and exhibiting decorum at a time like this? Can you please not?

“One-on-one, fair indeed.” Lin Xun was unperturbed throughout, “Let's get straight to it then.”

“Even if Youran criticizes me after this, I won't regret what I’m doing,” sighed Yun Muzhe. There was a hint of melancholy in his eyes that was quickly replaced by cold killing intent.

Clang!

A shiny white sword flashed out, its chant reaching the clouds. Yun Muzhe gripped it in his hand. His clothes flapped as his aura suddenly became matchlessly sharp, to the point the void around him was cut to bits in a myriad of rumbles.

“I will not underestimate you. In this fight, I will use the strongest sword art under my belt, so that you shall never forget the shadow of this defeat for the rest of your life,” declared Yun Muzhe in a tranquil voice. Then, he struck out.

Swish!

The heavens and earth dimmed under this strike. Only the blinding white sword qi permeated the entire world! It was a sword stroke stunning to the extreme, a perfect fusion of the life-long knowledge of an elite supreme Emperor Ancestor with his strength, energy, and spirit.

The boundless sword power caught the attention of the various supreme Emperor Ancestors in the vicinity, who couldn't help but exclaim in admiration.

Chapter 2696 Attacking the Heart

The snow-white sword aura enveloped the region, its energy striking fear into many hearts. Any opponent, even when at the same cultivation stage as Yun Muzhe, would be put under immense pressure.

From this, one could see that despite Yun Muzhe’s overwhelming confidence in insisting on fighting Lin Xun alone, he showed not the slightest bit of negligence when it came to the actual battle.

In fact, being supreme Ancestors who were qualified to participate in the Origin Sect Ancestral Court's successor selection, none of them were stupid.

Who hadn't heard of Lin Xun's dazzling achievements over these years? Who would dare to treat him as an ordinary cultivator?

Therefore, Yun Muzhe had started the fight with the force of thunder. Just as he had declared, he wanted to defeat Lin Xun using the strongest sword art in his arsenal!

Kaboom!

The skies rumbled and mountains collapsed under the ocean of sword qi. However, this stunning sword strike praised by every other supreme Emperor Ancestor crumbled inch by inch before Lin Xun, who had remained rooted in his spot from start to finish.

All he had done was flick a finger, and then, the sky-blotting sword qi had dispersed like rain.

The pupils of his enemies shrank, and their gleeful expressions froze on their faces. This single exchange allowed them to realize that something wasn't what they had expected.

“This is all you've got, and you claimed you'd let me taste a crushing defeat?” sneered Lin Xun.

Standing opposite him at a distance away, Yun Muzhe looked calm as ever, his sword heart still firm and unperturbed.

He took a deep breath, and his aura climbed and climbed until his entirety resembled a matchless sword. He took steps in the air, slashing out with each step. Each qi sword deployed was more powerful than the one before it.

When he finished executing the ninth strike, nine brilliant qi swords intersected in the sky in a three by three grid, also known as the nine palaces pattern.

Such was Nine Palaces Sword Cage, the most powerful sword art of Yun Muzhe that he had devoted his entire life to create!

BOOM!

Sword energy soared to the ninth layer of heaven. The sword cage dropped down like a divine punishment that aimed to imprison and dissect Lin Xun.

The attack had the attention of all the spectators outside. Even Immortal experts secretly nodded in approval.

Yet, facing it, Lin Xun remained motionless, merely reaching out his hand and making a grasping motion.

A massive hand then appeared in the air. Its five fingers seemed capable of holding up the sky, and its palm looked like a bottomless abyss. When the hand descended, the sword cage emitted sounds of exploding.

Under the stunned gazes of the crowd, Lin Xun's massive hand crushed the Nine Palaces Sword Cage to pieces!

“How...” The supreme Emperor Ancestors of the Donghuang’s Four Clans gawked intensely.

Yun Muzhe had used one of his most powerful killing moves, which had been unrivaled among anything his peers were capable of and famous throughout the entire Seventh Heaven Domain. Despite that, it had been squashed just like that!

That shocking scene left the audience outside gasping in disbelief. They had always known that Lin Xun was heaven-defying, but resolving such a devastating attack so casually? It was simply beyond comprehension.

“Still too weak.” Lin Xun shook his head.

There was not a hint of mockery or disdain, just a casual remark, but what it implied finally put a crack in Yun Muzhe's ever composed expression. Anger welled up in him. He was being humiliated by someone he had never taken seriously before!

However, Yun Muzhe was no ordinary person. Not letting the anger cloud his judgment, he took a deep breath and struck again.

Boom!

Visible to the naked eye, snow-white Ancestral law power rushed out from him in the shape of countless swords. Densely packed and intertwined, they formed a fast-running energy torrent.

In the sky right behind him, a dazzling, majestic figure appeared, emanating sword intent so blazing that the region quaked under it, plants turned to ash, and everything shattered. It was Yun Muzhe's dao will! As soon as it appeared, it fused into the dao sword in his hand.

"Cut!" With a cold and domineering shout, Yun Muzhe chopped out with his whole cultivation.

Heaven and earth shook violently as if unable to withstand the power of this strike. The supreme Emperor Ancestors nearby subconsciously pulled away.

The crowd outside was astounded. The horrifying power of such a sword strike was anything but normal!

Right at this moment, Lin Xun finally moved. He neither retreated nor evaded, but instead charged forward. A mysterious abyss floated around him like a black hole silently rotating in the starry void, swallowing all matter and light in its wake.

Kaboom!

The peerless sword struck down and clashed with the great abyss, producing earth-shattering friction and explosions that made everyone's scalp tingle.

Under shocked gazes, Lin Xun moved like a bamboo shoot breaking out of the ground. He forcefully rammed apart the sword that was slashing at him, sending a splashing rain of sparks into the sky.

In the blink of an eye, he already arrived in front of Yun Muzhe. Color drained from the latter's face. His pupils constricted, and his usually steely dao heart was also being rattled at this moment.

He had never dreamed that the sword strike carrying his entire cultivation and willpower would be vanquished by Lin Xun in such a devastating manner. He felt as though his determination had been crushed along with it!

Unspeakable rage, bewilderment, and disbelief hit him like a flood, leaving him utterly dazed. He could no longer appear calm like he had been before.

How...how is this possible?!

“Can you tell me what it means by ‘there is always a higher mountain’ now?” Lin Xun's eyes were deep and frosty, his indifferent voice stabbing into Yun Muzhe's heart like a knife.

“Die!” The veins on his forehead bulged as he furiously swung his sword.

Lin Xun's hand was even faster. He grabbed the sword, flipped it over, and smacked the tip on Yun Muzhe's handsome cheek.

Bam!

Yun Muzhe's cheekbone collapsed, horrifying all who witnessed it. Blood spurted as his teeth fell off in chunks. His hair scattered.

The force even knocked him flying, but Lin Xun interrupted it by grabbing his neck. Holding the guy up like a little chicken, he smiled, “I waited for so long to meet you again, but I didn't think that after so many years, you are still the same. Your strength hasn't improved one bit.”

In the distance, the expressions of the participants from the Donghuang's Four Clans had changed drastically, now filled with shock and confusion. Chills seeped into their hearts. Yun Muzhe had been defeated so easily!

In the first two exchanges, Lin Xun had remained in the same spot while countering every attack. In the third move, he suddenly hit back, not only shattering Yun Muzhe's strongest attack but also capturing him!

This scared the wits out of the supreme Emperor Ancestors of the Donghuang's Four Clans. They refused to believe it.

Meanwhile, the people outside had already adjusted themselves to such a scene. Still, though, seeing Yun Muzhe being seized in such an embarrassing way made it hard to remain calm. The ancestor of the Yun Clan was seething. Having nowhere to vent his rage, his old face was extremely hideous.

"Now this is called 'there is always a higher mountain,'" commented Jun Huan happily.

The remark resonated with many spectators. Who else is to blame for that? They have a huge advantage in numbers, but they insisted on fighting Lin Xun one-on-one. Isn't that just asking to be beaten?

Yun Muzhe struggled fiercely, his eyes glowing with a chilling hatred, "This is the Absolute Sunder Battlefield. Even if you win, all you can do is eliminate me from the selection!"

Lin Xun sighed, "Can't you understand your situation? The current you is not qualified enough for me to personally eliminate you."

Yun Muzhe was stunned. If words could kill!

Not qualified enough...

For someone as proud and lofty as Yun Muzhe, this statement was like a heavy hammer to his heart, giving him a sense of shame he had never felt before.

Not qualified enough...

His vision went black. The anger in him burned so bad that he spat out a mouthful of blood!

“This damn monster is trying to destroy Muzhe's dao heart!” roared the ancestor of the Yun Clan as his killing intent skyrocketing, his rage reaching its peak.

The others also felt chills running up and down their spines. He’s killing him, by attacking his heart!

Just then, everyone saw a graceful figure arriving from afar on the battlefield. Dressed in a long green skirt, she was as beautiful as a goddess.

Lin Xun, who was about to do to Yun Muzhe what he had done to his previous enemies, was taken aback. It's her?

That graceful, stunningly ethereal woman was none other than Dugu Youran!

“Brother Lin, could you...do me a favor and let him go this once?” Dugu Youran looked hesitant and conflicted, as though she was making a difficult decision.

The field went silent. All eyes were on Lin Xun and Dugu Youran.

When the supreme Emperor Ancestors of the Donghuang’s Four Clans hadn't come up with anything to rescue Yun Muzhe, Dugu Youran appeared and asked for this favor from Lin Xun! No one could have expected this.

Even Jun Huan was caught off guard. What a pretty little lady. Is she romantically involved with my junior brother?

Immediately, Jun Huan thought of something and revealed an odd look. If so, then her request would only end up wrecking Yun Muzhe further...

Sure enough, Yun Muzhe looked like he had gone mad, his eyes bulging as he shrieked, “Youran, who told you to beg him on my behalf? Why did you do that, why?! Even if I die, I will never accept your mercy!”

After shouting at Lin Xun, he coughed up blood again. Stars were swirling in his head, and his mental state was on the verge of crumbling.

His defeat being witnessed by the woman he loved most was already humiliating enough, but to add insult to injury, she asked the man who had defeated him to let him off. Her action was trampling his heart to pieces.

Dugu Youran's expression faltered; she hadn't expected such a turn.

Lin Xun sighed softly, “Miss Youran, do you know that your cousin once attempted to use Senior Bai Jianchen's hand to kill me back in the ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass?”

Dugu Youran was astonished, “No, it can’t be?”

Lin Xun said, “It's understandable that you don't know. If it weren't for Senior Bai Jianchen's warning, even I wouldn't have known how cruel and despicable your cousin is.”

Dugu Youran stared wide-eyed at Yun Muzhe, who was lying there with his hair disheveled and barely breathing, and asked angrily, “Cousin, is that true?”

Yun Muzhe's mind was a spiraling mess at the moment. Hearing her question, he hissed, “Death is what an evil remnant like him deserves! I was only trying to enforce justice on behalf of Heaven!”

Dugu Youran bit her lip, her expression shifting between disappointment, heartbreak, and anger.

After a long time, she inhaled deeply and said, “Please pretend I said nothing earlier.”

With that, she turned and walked away. An unprecedented sense of loss and sorrow filled her heart.

She suddenly wondered if she might have been too naive. How could her cousin, whom she had found most reliable and trustworthy since childhood, have done such a despicable thing behind her back...?

It was laughable that she had foolishly stepped forward to plead with Lin Xun for him...when only Heaven knew how agonizing it had been for her to muster up the courage to do so.

Chapter 2697 You Can Actually Do That?

After Dugu Youran left, Lin Xun looked down at Yun Muzhe, whose soul seemed to have wandered into a trance.

He decided not to torment the guy further and stuffed him into the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron. Then, he turned to the distant group of participants from the four clans under Donghuang.

“Who else wants to have a one-on-one with me next?” he asked.

The pupils of those supreme Emperor Ancestors all shrank. They exchanged glances with one another in mortification. With Yun Muzhe as a precedent, how could they dare to do so? Lin Xun was definitely being sarcastic!

One of them said coldly, “You can’t win if all of us work together.”

Yun Muzhe had been subdued, which shocked and intimidated them, but not enough to make them flee in panic. Firstly, their mental strength far surpassed that of ordinary cultivators. Secondly, they had the advantage of numbers and were unwilling to bow their heads and leave.

The outside world had likely already witnessed everything. If they ran now, not only would their own reputation be tarnished, but the prestige of their clans would also suffer.

The way they thought and their confidence in their group led them to keep acting tough. However, the mouths of the Donghuang’s Four Clans' bigwigs outside were twitching, so frustrated they could barely breathe.

This is the Origin Sect's successor selection! What's so shameful about choosing to retreat when necessary?

Why don't you run? Why are you not running?!!

The feeling of rage and frustration was driving the seniors of Donghuang's Four Clans crazy.

.....

Inside the battlefield, a fight was inevitable.

The thirteen supreme Emperor Ancestors joined forces and displayed power that made many tremble with fear. It was a spectacle so earth-shattering that none of the audience had ever seen before.

Unfortunately, the fight ended briefly after. The moment it had begun, Lin Xun had summoned his five dao clones to fight alongside him and held nothing back, directly using his strongest abilities to break through the enemies' encirclement.

Following that, the scattered opponents were like a group of chickens under a hawk's attack, getting suppressed and stuffed into the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron in succession.

However, some of them had gotten an early inkling that something was wrong. They frantically escaped, wishing their parents had given them two more legs at birth. For their group, the greatest variable in this fight was Lin Xun's five dao bodies.

Just facing one of him had already filled them with dread and pressure. Who could have imagined that the combat prowess of each of his five dao bodies was no weaker than his true form? In other words, the thirteen of them were facing six Lin Xuns! It was almost equivalent to a one-on-two situation, meaning there was virtually no hope for them to win.

In the Absolute Sunder Battlefield, it was forbidden to use law powers, treasures, and secret techniques that exceeded the Ancestor Stage. Under all those circumstances, the thirteen supreme Emperor Ancestors didn't even have a chance to turn the tide with their ultimate trump cards.

In short, the Donghuang's Four Clans lost terribly and miserably. In the end, only four of them escaped, while the other ten, including Yun Muzhe, were dominated to the last one.

Waves of sighs and lamentations filled the area outside. Why make it hard on yourselves and try to show off in front of Lin Xun?

The faces of the seniors of the Donghuang's Four Clans had taken on the color of coal. They were so upset that they looked close to vomiting blood. Nearly all of their participants had been wiped out!

Not being able to enter the Origin Sect Ancestral Court was a missed opportunity that could not be measured by the word 'value'!

The outside world was in a hubbub over this. Even the Immortal Giants of the Eighth Heaven Domain had to admit by now that Lin Xun, whom they had viewed as a pesky remnant of Fangchun Mountain, was indeed formidable. At least in the Supreme Ancestor Stage, he was virtually invincible!

This fact made them all look much gloomier.

.....

Inside Absolute Sunder Battlefield, Lin Xun had found a quiet place to rest. The first thing he did was checking on the prisoners in the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron.

Today was the tenth day since the beginning of the first round. Starting from Gu Liuhai, who was the first to be defeated, to the ten supreme Ancestors of the Donghuang's Four Clans just now, there were a total of twenty-four prisoners.

This number was shocking, considering there were only more than a hundred supreme Emperor Ancestors participating in this selection.

Lin Xun alone had defeated about a fifth of that number! This was enough for him to pass the first round eight times! This was equivalent to him alone hoarding eight spots...

Not only were his enemy factions furious, but even the ones with no grudges against him were secretly resentful. There were only so many spots for the next round. One more taken meant one less available to their juniors!

Of course, factions with no prior grievances with Lin Xun still couldn't truly hate him over this. He had only dealt with his enemies while having shown mercy to the rest, merely taking their treasures from them...

However, at this moment, the man himself was actually finding it a bit of a waste. The twenty-four prisoners were all powerful members of hostile factions. Although they would eventually be eliminated anyway, he still felt that it would be too lenient.

So, how could he extract more value from these prisoners? Lin Xun fell into deep thought.

Hmm?

He suddenly sensed a group of powerful auras in the distance. Immediately, their identities and details popped up in his mind. He stood up, intending to leave because they had no enmity with him.

To his shock, those supreme Emperor Ancestors acted like frightened rabbits and fled upon the sight of him.

“It's him, Lin Xun!”

“He’s a ruthless one, taking down every enemy he runs into and even plundering the ones who have done him no wrong. He has never been defeated as well.”

“Hurry up and run!”

Amidst their own clamor, those participants ran faster and faster. Lin Xun was dumbfounded for a good moment, then chuckled. It seemed that word of what he had been doing had been spread around the battlefield.

In the time that followed, he continued swaggering around like he had previously done, making no attempt to conceal his aura.

What made him want to laugh and cry at the same time was that whenever he encountered a participant, they would bolt in fright the other way as soon as they saw him, not giving him a chance to do anything.

Even the powerful experts from his enemy factions behaved the same way, turning tail when there was still a great distance between them...

“Am I really that scary?” Lin Xun was speechless.

Outside, the spectators didn't know whether to laugh or cry either. Sometimes it filled the area with bursts of laughter.

Lin Xun's various feats in Absolute Sunder Battlefield had reached the ears of other participants, causing them to run from him like he was a plague! Such a scene was indeed absurd and comical.

Although they were all supreme Ancestors, no one dared to fight Lin Xun when coming across him, leaving Xiao Wenyuan, who presided over the first round, feeling both amused and exasperated.

On the contrary, many Immortal Imperial Clans heaved a sigh of relief as they deemed it to be the right thing to do. At least they no longer had to worry about their juniors being plundered or captured by Lin Xun.

Inside the battlefield, Lin Xun was bumping into a group of several participants. He immediately spotted a familiar figure among them.

“Hold up, Miss Xiaoyuan! It's me!” He waved his hand.

Among that group who was preparing to flee, there was Xiang Xiaoyuan. Seeing Lin Xun, she flashed a bright smile, “Brother Lin, we meet again.”

Lin Xun laughed. After so many years, Xiang Xiaoyuan was just as charming and elegant as before. She looked valiant and energetic, dressed in white and carrying two battle swords — one blue and one purple — on her back.

As he walked toward her, her companions instinctively drew back in alarm, acting as though a great demon god was approaching them.

Xiang Xiaoyuan lips couldn't help but curl up, “Everyone, as I've told you many times before, Lin Xun and I are friends. With his character, he wouldn't hurt those who have no grudge against him.”

Despite what she said, her companions still stood far away with unwavering vigilance.

Lin Xun ignored them and asked her, “Xiaoyuan, how many have you defeated?”

Xiaoyuan held up one finger with a wry smile, “One, and that was only thanks to my companions' help.”

The first round had been going on for more than ten days. During this, a number of participants had successfully advanced and left Absolute Sunder Battlefield.

The remaining supreme Emperor Ancestors were left in an increasingly fierce competition as the number of opponents went down.

The tricky part was that everyone was now traveling in groups. Even in a group scuffle, it was extremely difficult to quickly eliminate an opponent and get out safely.

Xiang Xiaoyuan had three companions. One of them was her cousin from the Liuxiang Clan named Liuxiang Hen. The other two were from other Immortal Imperial Clans that had close relationships with the Liuxiang Clan.

The four of them had been traveling together so far and had experienced many risky situations, especially in the past few days when the tension had been growing exponentially.

Defeating an opponent was no easy task. What put them under even more pressure was that they had to be on constant guard so as not to get eliminated.

“Unlike me, you've been quite famous lately, Brother Lin. Some of the opponents we ran into paled at the mention of your name, apparently you've plundered them like they are fat lambs,” Xiang Xiaoyuan teased.

After so many years not seeing him, Lin Xun's transformation was undeniably great. He looked the same, but his achievements on the path of cultivation had already left his peers far behind!

“They should be grateful to me. After all, they only lost some treasures instead of getting eliminated early.” When Lin Xun said this, he suddenly had an idea and waved his sleeve.

Two unconscious prisoners rolled onto the ground. He pointed at them, “Xiaoyuan, go ahead and ‘kill’ them. This is all I can do for you in the Absolute Sunder Battlefield.”

Xiang Xiaoyuan was struck dumb, not knowing what to do. Her companions were also in disbelief with their eyes and jaws agape. You can actually do that?

Chapter 2698 A Deranged Auction

The spectators outside were also in an uproar. This was the successor selection of the hallowed Origin Sect, but Lin Xun was currently passing the participants he had imprisoned to someone else to help them pass!

Even if the rules allowed this, it still felt kind of weird.

Inside Absolute Sunder Battlefield, Lin Xun chuckled when he noticed Xiang Xiaoyuan's hesitation, “What, scared that you'll be targeted by those Immortal forces outside if you accept my help?”

Xiang Xiaoyuan summoned a dao sword and cut down the two prisoners. Their nameplates turned into two beams of light and disappeared.

Only then did she smile, “This is the Origin Sect’s assessment where it's all about fighting. Why would I sign up in the first place if I was scared?”

Lin Xun felt a warm current in his heart. Although they hadn't seen each other in so many years, Xiang Xiaoyuan clearly still regarded him as a friend.

Buzz!

There was suddenly a glow as Xiang Xiaoyuan's nameplate emerged and shrouded her in a rain of obscure light. She disappeared.

She had passed the round and therefore was automatically teleported out of Absolute Sunder Battlefield. Liuxiang Hen and her other two companions watched from a distance and couldn't help but look a little envious.

Passing the first round in such an easy way was something they had never dared to imagine before, yet it had happened to Xiang Xiaoyuan.

Seeing their reaction, Lin Xun suddenly said, “Everyone, if you're willing to part with some of your valuables, I’ll hand the captives to you.”

Liuxiang Hen’s group were shaken. Their eyes sparkled with excitement, “For real?”

Lin Xun smiled, “Of course. Just show me the treasures you are carrying. I will select those that I need and you’ll get to pass this round.”

The opportunity was right before them! A few treasures were nothing compared to it!

Liuxiang Hen’s trio gritted their teeth and followed Lin Xun's instructions without hesitation. As Emperor Ancestors from Immortal Imperial Clans, the treasures on them were naturally extraordinary.

Lin Xun took a moment to select some of the treasures before handing four prisoners over to the other party. Liuxiang Hen and another person each needed one, while the third person needed two.

Before long, mysterious fluctuations emerged, transporting the trio out of Absolute Sunder Battlefield since they had passed the first round.

As the crowd outside watched the whole thing unfold, their expressions were also a spectacle to behold. Lin Xun actually treated such a serious examination as a place to sell spots to pass! It was simply unspeakable!

The clans behind the traded captives were all Immortal factions. Beside themselves with rage and indignation, they were close to coughing up blood.

“Elder Xiao, aren't you going to do anything about his abhorrent act?” shouted an angry fossil.

Their clans’ Emperor Ancestors had already lost face, suffered a heavy blow to their mindset, and endured humiliation as prisoners only to be put on sale at the moment. Even if they could somehow survive this round, another serious mental trauma awaited once they learned about it!

“Yes, why aren't you severely punishing the remnant?!” Many angry voices rang out, mostly from the clans behind the captives.

Xiao Wenyuan frowned and coldly grunted, “Lin Xun has not violated the rules of the selection, so why should he be punished? When the other participants act in groups, do they not also alter the quota correspondingly? The only difference here is that Lin Xun acts alone. Within the rules, he can do as he sees fit with his prisoners!”

His speech echoed throughout the field, silencing all other voices.

Some of the old fossils were still dissatisfied and wanted to protest, but Li Zhen coldly said, “Are you all questioning the rules of the Origin Sect Ancestral Court?”

The meaning behind these words were entirely different, shutting those old-timers right up. As angry as they were, they did not dare to offend the Origin Sect Ancestral Court.

The commotion was thus suppressed, but before long, everybody was once again shocked by Lin Xun's actions.

In an open area of the battlefield, he used supernatural abilities and built a platform out of boulders, then hung up a huge banner that wrote: ‘Auctioning captured participants, highest bidder wins!’

Each character was written with bold strokes that flowed unrestrainedly. On the platform, Lin Xun had arranged the remaining eighteen prisoners like goods on a counter.

The audience outside was completely speechless, their minds in disarray.

“Treating supreme Emperor Ancestors as merchandise and the Absolute Sunder Battlefield as an auction hall? Has Lin Xun lost his mind?”

“If this gets out...”

“Heavens, is there anything in this world that he doesn’t dare to do?”

The field erupted with shouts and exclamations of shock.

Even the Immortal experts were stupefied. An auction? The Fangchun Mountain bastard has gotten so deranged to the point that he’s selling the other Emperor Ancestors participants?

Even someone as indifferent as Fang Daoping let slip a slight twitch at the corner of his lips. This kid... He's trying to make a complete scene!

The ever smiling Xiao Wenyuan could only manage a bitter smile at the moment.

Even the quiet and unexpressive Li Zhen looked like he couldn't bear to watch anymore. Lin Xun is really too capable of causing trouble!

Donghuang Qing said angrily, “Everyone, if we let him go on like this, the selection will become a laughing stock! If word gets out, how will the world see our Origin Sect Ancestral Court? How will the other three ancestral courts see us?”

“Did he break the rules?” It was actually Fang Daoping who responded.

The simple question made Donghuang Qing's heart sink. He replied, “No.”

Fang Daoping stopped at that, and Donghuang Qing knew he had no hope of taking advantage of this matter to attack Lin Xun.

Meanwhile, Jun Huan had been laughing so hard that her stomach hurt. Even she hadn't expected Lin Xun to pull off such a stunt.

Make a fuss, my junior brother. The more noise you make, the more our enemies will have to weigh the consequences of dealing with you after you enter the Origin Sect Ancestral Court.

But I'm afraid the fellows who're being auctioned will have serious mental problems in the future!

.....

Inside Absolute Sunder Battlefield, it had taken only a few days for the news of Lin Xun’s auction to trigger a sensation.

At first, the participants were unable to believe it. This kind of thing was so uncanny that it turned their worldview upside down. However, when more and more proof of it reached their ears, they finally dared to believe that he had indeed started such an appalling auction.

The venue where the auction was held became the focal point of the battlefield.

On the platform, Lin Xun stood with his hands behind his back and said aloud, “There are only nine days left of the first round, and you all know better than I do how intense the competition has become. That's why I'm presenting you with an easy way to pass: by winning just one or two bids, and all you have to pay is some material wealth.

His voice echoed far and wide, “As you can see, there are only nine left. If you don't seize this opportunity, you may regret it for the rest of your life.”

In the area, numerous figures were standing at a distance from the platform while keeping a watchful eye on each other.

Seeing this, Lin Xun confidently declared, “Rest assured that you will not be under attack during the auction. Anyone who dares to use violence here will be my enemy, and I will subdue them and auction them off to you all!

“Of course, anyone with a grudge against me, Lin Xun, is not qualified to take part in the auction. Those who dare to cause trouble, don't blame me for being ruthless!”

The rules of his auction had already spread throughout the Absolute Sunder Battlefield over the past few days, so he didn't need to waste his breath explaining them. Soon, people began to participate and make bids.

“This dao brother offers 800 pounds of immortal matter. Is there anyone willing to bid higher?

“Sold! Congratulations to you, dao brother, on securing a spot to advance!

“Next, we have a prisoner who is from the Nan Clan. The starting price is 300 pounds of immortal matter, or treasures of equivalent value.

“Please behave yourself, young lady. I don't do dual cultivation. Do not try to tempt me with your beauty!

“Are there any other bids?”

Lin Xun’s voice resounded without end over the next few moments. It felt as though this wasn't the fiercely competitive first round of the selection, but rather some top-tier luxury auction.

Those who watched from the outside had long been struck dumb. The fact that something so absurd was actually transpiring in the Origin Sect Ancestral Court's assessment simply felt surreal.

The Origin Sect was such a transcendent place, and this grand disciple recruitment they were holding had garnered the attention of the entire Eternal True Realm. For Lin Xun to hold such an auction during such an event was truly indescribable...

A distance away from the auction stood a figure dressed in a silver robe who had graying temples and a handsome face. Donghuang Shaowen was emotionlessly watching everything that unfolded.

“Brother Shaowen, why aren't you taking action to kill the little remnant?” a deep, majestic voice rang out.

Without even looking, Donghuang Shaowen knew it was Mu Zunwu.

“Why aren’t you?” replied Donghuang Shaowen casually, appearing peaceful with his hands placed on his back. Two great suns coalesced from strands of black and white law power silently circled around him.

“Because now isn't the right time,” said Mu Zunwu, who had black hair, violet eyes, an icy aura, and a bronze spear as his weapon. When still, he was as steady as a mountain, but once in motion, he could be a match for a primordial barbarian god.

“You're worried that battling him would result in mutual destruction that will affect you in the next round, aren't you?” said Donghuang Shaowen.

“And you're no different,” retorted Mu Zunwu.

Donghuang Shaowen was silent for a moment before he said, “He is indeed a formidable enemy, a rare existence for people like us. My goal here is to enter the Origin Sect Ancestral Court, so there's no need to complicate matters during the assessment. Furthermore, don't you think the auction looks like a trap to lure over his enemies?”

He stopped at that and walked off.

Mu Zunwu stood still with a dark glint in his eyes. At first, he had also deemed the auction to be a farce, believing that Lin Xun acted like a clown in contrast to his outstanding combat prowess. But was it really that simple?

Donghuang Shaowen's words had hit the nail on the head. This auction was very likely a trap that Lin Xun deliberately set up to attract those who were hostile to him!

Chapter 2699 Gatekeepers

Mu Zunwu couldn't understand where Lin Xun found the courage to use such a method to provoke them. Wasn't he afraid that someone like himself or Donghuang Shaowen would respond and eliminate him? Or did he just have the confidence to confront the worst-case scenario?

Mu Zunwu's eyes narrowed sharply at the possibility of this. After a moment of silence, he pressed down the murderous intent in him and turned to leave.

On the distant platform, Lin Xun's brows furrowed imperceptibly, wondering if it was really that difficult to kill a few key targets.

As Donghuang Shaowen and Mu Zunwu had speculated, the actual main goal of him holding an auction so loudly was to lure his enemies over.

The first round was running out of time, yet up to this point, he had not encountered any participants that he labeled ‘key targets.’ Therefore, he could only take a shortcut, thus this auction.

Earlier, when Donghuang Shaowen and Mu Zunwu had appeared, Lin Xun had locked on them and prepared himself for a fight, but to his surprise, they had left one after another, obviously having no intention of battling it out with him.

He had a feeling that this wasn't because they were scared, but because they had calmly analyzed the pros and cons.

However, this outcome didn’t bother him. It was only the first round after all.

It didn't matter either even if those enemies ultimately succeeded in entering the Origin Sect Ancestral Court. At that time, he would also be there, and they would have plenty of opportunities to compete.

Outside, the audience had also noticed the movements of Donghuang Shaowen and Mu Zunwu. The majority of them was disappointed to see the two leave without challenging Lin Xun.

Could it be that they too feared Lin Xun and dared not confront him? If this was the case, then who could possibly suppress him in this selection?

On the other hand, some old, experienced experts understood why the two had avoided Lin Xun. They secretly nodded in approval because that was indeed the wise choice for participants like Donghuang Shaowen to make at the moment.

Donghuang Qing was especially pleased, smilingly stroking his beard upon seeing Donghuang Shaowen leave, “Shaowen is an extraordinary one.”

Xiao Wenyuan smiled, “He’s certainly a bright child.”

Li Zhen's cheeks twitched, seemingly wanting to make a comment, but in the end, he chose to remain silent.

However, his strange little action made Donghuang Qing quite uncomfortable. What do you mean by that? What do you actually want to say that you have to act all coy about it?

Of course, Donghuang Qing knew that if Li Zhen really spoke out, he certainly had nothing good to say.

Inside the battlefield, Lin Xun ended the auction when there were only three prisoners left. The participants who were still waiting to bid were unsatisfied, but they didn’t linger. It wasn’t long before everyone dispersed.

Lin Xun remained on the platform and scanned the surroundings. Finding no enemy presence, he couldn't help but sigh. He knew that staying in the battlefield any longer probably wouldn't get him what he wanted.

Without further hesitation, he ‘killed’ the three prisoners and successfully passed the test, disappearing from the Absolute Sunder Battlefield.

“That guy is finally gone!” The crowd outside boiled, watching Lin Xun leaving the first round of the selection like they were sending away a plague god.

The members of Immortal factions were visibly happy, looking as though a huge weight had been taken off their backs. Fang Daoping, Xiao Wenyuan, Li Zhen, and Donghuang Qing were also relieved to an extent.

There was no way around it; Lin Xun was simply too good at stirring trouble. From his first moment in the first round, he had refused to play by common sense and had staged a variety of unimaginable events.

Plundering opponents and imprisoning enemies, trading off captives and even holding auctions to sell them, it seemed as though there was nothing he dared not do!

This made everyone wonder what else he might have caused if he had chosen to prolong his time in the first round.

Jun Huan asked aloud, “My little junior brother has passed the first round. Who earlier said he would definitely be eliminated again?”

Many eyes turned to the old monsters from the Immortal Giants of the Eighth Heaven Domain.

Donghuang Qiong snorted coldly, “It's only the first round, still too early to be smug.”

Jun Huan swiftly said, “Then I'll wait until the third round is over before asking you again.”

.....

Inside Absolute Sunder Sword Palace.

After leaving the battlefield, Lin Xun appeared in the grand hall of the top floor with a whoosh. In that instant, the eyes of the supreme Emperor Ancestors who had passed the first round all fell on him. Each of them was wearing an odd expression.

They already knew about his performance in the first round, so the sight of him naturally evoked complicated emotions in them, but at least no one provoked him at this moment.

“Brother Lin,” Xiang Xiaoyuan waved at Lin Xun. Around her were Liuxiang Hen and her other companions, who all smiled upon seeing him as well.

Lin Xun nodded at them with a smile. As he was about to walk over to them, his gaze was drawn by a figure sitting alone in a corner of the hall, and he couldn't help but sigh inwardly.

He walked straight over and softly called out, “Miss Youran.”

The solitary figure was precisely Dugu Youran. She was sitting cross-legged with a wooden and desolate expression on her fair, delicate face. Obviously, the incident with Yun Muzhe had been a heavy blow.

She looked up and said, “You actually took the initiative to come to me, Brother Lin. Back in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, you were scared to even look my way.”

Hearing that, Lin Xun zoned out. Back then, Dugu Youran's presence often came with a swarm of admirers, inevitably causing trouble and giving him a headache. However, reflecting on it now, he knew

it wasn't her fault. It was impossible to avoid drawing those young, talented men with her extraordinary status and stunning appearance.

He asked, “You're not still mad at me because of the matter with your cousin, are you?”

Dugu Youran shook her head, “How could fighting be avoidable in the assessment? I just never thought that the cousin I trusted the most would be such a person.”

Seeing Yun Muzhe reduced to such a miserable state by Lin Xun broke her heart. After all, they had grown up together and were childhood sweethearts.

When she had learned about Yun Muzhe's killing intent toward Lin Xun at the ninth Immortal Heavenly Pass, she felt even more hollow.

She appreciated Lin Xun’s character and talent, and had been paying attention to his achievements over these years. She had imagined what it would be like to meet him on the territory of the Origin Sect Ancestral Court.

She had never expected that when they met, it would be because of Yun Muzhe's defeat, which had forced her to ask Lin Xun to show mercy. The taste of it was difficult to endure for someone who had always been easygoing and carefree like her.

To her utter shock, however, there was a good reason behind Yun Muzhe's wretched suppression. What made her even angrier was that he had not only been ungrateful but had also berated her for meddling in his business.

At that time, she was completely stuck between a rock and a hard place, unable to please anyone. She had felt extremely lost and disappointed, and even now, she still hadn’t emotionally recovered from it.

After a heavy silence, Lin Xun said, “I don't know what kind of person Yun Muzhe is, I only know that he's from one of the four clans under Donghuang. Even if he luckily survived this time, he and I are destined to be enemies for the rest of our lives.”

Dugu Youran let out a long sigh, “I know. You are a disciple of Fangchun Mountain, so even if you back down, my cousin will not stop. Lin Xun, if you consider me a friend, then don't try to console me. I’m not as fragile as you think. I just want to be left alone for now.”

Lin Xun nodded, “Alright. There are still two more rounds ahead. You need to adjust your state of mind as soon as possible, so don't let this affect you.”

After Dugu Youran muttered an assent, Lin Xun said no more and walked toward Xiang Xiaoyuan. Sitting down near her, a faint sense of loss hit him for some reason.

It was as if the incident with Yun Muzhe had suddenly placed a hint of estrangement between him and Dugu Youran.

.....

There were only a few days left in the first round.

With Lin Xun leaving the Absolute Sunder Battlefield, the number of participants who had qualified for the next round reached nineteen.

Many had calculated and concluded that fewer than thirty would ultimately advance to enter the second round, because there were currently fewer than thirty participants left inside Absolute Sunder Battlefield.

Sure enough, at the end of the round, only twenty-seven out of over a hundred supreme Emperor Ancestors successfully advanced! In other words, the first round alone eliminated more than half of the participants.

Of note, although some supreme Emperor Ancestors had stayed ‘alive’ until the end, they were still disqualified for not having defeated three opponents.

On the next day after the first round ended, the second round began. This time, the assessments would take place in the huge training ground before the Absolute Sunder Sword Palace.

“Li Zhen, you will preside over the second round,” commanded Fang Daoping.

Li Zhen nodded and walked directly to the center of the training ground. With beard and hair like sharp spears and skin that glowed with a bronze luster, the appearance of his towering figure put a stop to the buzzing conversations around.

In the utter silence, his deep voice rang out, “Where are the core disciples sent by the Nine Great Peaks?”

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! ...

As soon as he finished speaking, dazzling beams of light descended from the sky. When they landed on the training ground, they transformed into a group of nine, with men and women among them. Each exuded a powerful aura and unparalleled elegance.

The area became restless. Those nine individuals were the core disciples from the Origin Sect Ancestral Court's first to ninth peaks!

They were at the peak of the Ancestor Stage, but anyone could see that their actual strength was far out of reach for the average supreme Emperor Ancestor!

Compared to them, most of the supreme Emperor Ancestors participating in the selection appeared somewhat inferior. The difference was subtle but definitely there, as if these nine cultivators were already invincible in their stage and could break into the Immortal Stage at any time.

Most of the participants lacked that long-established air of invincibility. Only characters such as Lin Xun, Donghuang Shaowen, Qi Qingshi, and Mu Zunwu had the might to match them.

Of course, ordinary people were hard-pressed to see this difference. After all, it was exceedingly difficult to distinguish the actual strength of supreme Emperor Ancestors from their aura and energy alone.

In the second round, the nine newly-arrived core disciples from the Nine Great Peaks would be the ‘gatekeepers’ to the next round!

Chapter 2700 Coming Across an Old Acquaintance

Nine core disciples from the Nine Great Peaks stood in the arena. Everyone was raptly watching. Before long the twenty-seven supreme Emperor Ancestors who were participating in the second round appeared at the gates of the Absolute Sunder Sword Palace.

When they saw the nine ‘gatekeepers,’ the rules of this second round flashed through their minds. At the start of the assessment, each participant would use their nameplate as the way to select a gatekeeper for a duel.

Those who could hold out for half of a quarter of an hour would pass. Failure to do so would result in elimination. Same as the first round, law powers, external forces, or secret treasures that went beyond the Emperor Stage were prohibited from use in the second round.

Participants could only rely on their own cultivation to fight!

Some people keenly noticed a key point to this assessment, "Even if you can't defeat the gatekeeper, as long as you can hold out for half of a quarter of an hour, you'll pass."

If holding out for that amount of time was enough to pass the test, then the participants didn’t need to seek victory but instead could shoot to avoid making any big blunders. After thinking about this, many felt relieved.

The nine gatekeepers were all core disciples of the Nine Great Peaks. Although everyone present had all reached the pinnacle of the Ancestral Realm, everyone knew that those who could become core successors of Origin Sect Ancestral Court were destined to be more monstrous and heaven-defying than their peers at the same level.

However, what troubled Lin Xun and the other twenty-six was that they had no idea which of the nine gatekeepers would be their opponent during the assessment.

This was because opponents were selected based on their nameplates, which made it kind of a gamble. According to the rules, each of the nine gatekeepers would be wearing a jade talisman that resonated and matched with the nameplates of the participants.

To prevent cheating, the jade talismans had been randomly assigned to the nine gatekeepers by drawing lots. Ultimately, only by doing this would the assessment be fair!

"Huh!"

Suddenly, Lin Xun's expression flashed with surprise as he spotted a familiar face among the nine gatekeepers.

The man was dressed in plain clothing, and his long hair was tied in a daoist bun. He looked slightly delicate, yet his aura was exceptional, profound, and imposing, and it was clear that he was a man of unparalleled grace.

It was none other than Ye Chunjun, a disciple of the Ninth Peak! Back in the Mystic Forbidden Realm, Lin Xun had once faced off against that man’s Three Fate Blades, which had left a lasting impression.

Clearly, Ye Chunjun was representing the Ninth Peak this time, serving as one of the gatekeepers. At the same time, Ye Chunjun also spotted Lin Xun, his eyes flickering with surprise. Please don’t let me get matched with this fellow...

At least, he didn't want to fight against Lin Xun right now. It wasn't that he couldn't afford to lose, but after their last duel, Ye Chunjun wasn't ready to face him again...

Since he wasn’t prepared, a loss would be quite embarrassing. Ye Chunjun even had to consider how he could muster his full strength to hold out for half a quarter of an hour if he were to face Lin Xun...

If anyone else knew what he was thinking, they'd be stunned. Holding out for half a quarter of an hour—wasn’t that something only a test participant should be considering?! How could a gatekeeper be so unmotivated and lacking in ambition?!

Before long, Li Zhen spoke up, solemnly declaring, "You know the rules of the test better than I do. Anyone who dares to cheat will be expelled!"

With that final warning, the test began. Zhou Zhizhi, the first participant to pass the first round, was the first to enter the arena. Following his test, Lin Xun and the others would take the stage, following the order in which they passed the first round.

Zhou Zhizhi was a thin figure with a stoic appearance, but his eyes were incredibly bright. His every move didn't exude a striking aura, but rather a sense of immovable calm, like the sea.

Buzz!

The nameplate on him emerged, generating a strange vibration. With a gentle sweep, it instantly resonated with the jade pendant worn by a gatekeeper.

"Fifth Peak’s Core Disciple Huo Qinghe!"

The arena was abuzz with voices. Huo Qinghe was no ordinary opponent as he was ranked among the top five core disciples of the Fifth Peak, which was a formidable force.

The corners of Zhou Zhizhi's lips twitched as he had clearly sensed the immense wall in front of him. What was astonishing was that once the first duel began, Zhou Zhizhi's tall figure suddenly became incredibly agile, transforming into countless strands of lightning arcs, flickering and darting across the vast arena. Ordinary people couldn't even discern his true form.

Ten thousand thunderbolts, countless bodies! His body had transformed into ten thousand thunderbolts that were endless and boundless.

"What a clever lad!"

Many marveled, having discerned Zhou Zhizhi's battle strategy. He maneuvered defensively, holding out for half a quarter of an hour, seeking neither victory nor failure.

However, Huo Qinghe was no pushover. He manipulated wind and fire, summoning them with great force. Something that resembled a hurricane made of fire appeared, and it ravaged the arena, crushing the constantly flickering arcs of lightning with devastating force.

Though the arena was vast, its confines limited Zhou Zhizhi's area to dodge. Soon, he was forced to reveal his true form and had to engage Huo Qinghe with all his might.

The battle between the two was naturally unprecedentedly fierce. However, everyone could see that Zhou Zhizhi was already at a disadvantage. As time wore on, he sustained injuries, coming close to being crushed on the spot several times.

This filled the spectators with trepidation. Zhou Zhizhi's strength had been clearly evident during the first round. His ability to defeat three opponents and advance to the second round proved his prowess.

Despite that, from the moment this battle began, he was in a passive position. Who could not be shocked? Huo Qinghe, a core successor of the Fifth Peak, was incredibly powerful! One could hardly imagine how many peerless monsters were hidden within the nine peaks of the Origin Sect!

In the end, Zhou Zhizhi was severely wounded and on the verge of collapsing when the timer expired.

Huo Qinghe frowned, but immediately stopped attacking. "If you can pass the third round, then you can choose to come to the Fifth Peak."

Zhou Zhizhi wiped the blood from the corner of his lips, forced out an ugly, grimace-like smile, and said, "Of course, of course."

He cursed inwardly. Why the heck would I go to the Fifth Peak after you beat me like a punching bag?

He was soon taken away to recuperate inside the Absolute Sunder Sword Palace.

The second expert to participate in the assessment had already arrived at the arena and immediately caused a sensation. She was Qi Qingshi, a stunningly beautiful woman who was bathed in a hazy mist.

She looked ethereal and above all, and she was a fairy-like figure from the Qi Clan of the Eighth Heaven Domain. She was also one of the most impressive performers in the first round!

Her opponent was Gu Zheng, a core disciple of the Sixth Peak. His combat prowess rivaled that of Huo Qinghe from the Fifth Peak. Of note, he hailed from the Gu Clan, which was one of the four clans under Donghuang.

When the battle began, Qi Qingshi was the first to strike. No one could have imagined that this fairy, with a hazy and serene aura like misty rain, would strike with such fierceness and swiftness.

Caught off guard, Gu Zheng was left on the defensive, forced to passively defend and mitigate the attack. This situation shocked the entire audience.

However, he soon managed to turn the tide and began to fight back. After all, he was a core successor of the Sixth Peak and was no ordinary opponent. The two engaged in a fierce battle, seemingly evenly matched.

A winner had yet to be decided even after half a quarter of an hour had passed. Unfortunately, the round was over.

Gu Zheng sighed, "Miss Qingshi is formidable. Even if the battle had continued, I'm afraid it would be difficult to determine the winner very quickly."

"Thank you." Qi Qingshi bowed slightly.

The spectators were deeply impressed by the demeanor displayed by the two. This was a true battle between dragons and tigers, but it was a pity that it only lasted half a quarter of an hour, leaving no clear winner.

The third person to appear was a supreme Emperor Ancestor named Wang Ye. Unfortunately, he couldn't hold out for the specified timeframe and was completely defeated by the gatekeeper. His spirit and soul were suppressed, leaving him unable to struggle or resist.

The fourth to appear was...

...

As time passed, fierce duels unfolded one after another, drawing repeated cries of surprise from the crowd outside the arena. Some were eliminated. Others emerged victorious. Lin Xun had been watching these battles, and his expression remained calm throughout.

However, upon witnessing Xiang Xiaoyuan's fight, he was startled. It was brutal! By the end of the timeframe, she was gravely wounded and near death. In the final moments, her soul had nearly shattered. Several times, he almost couldn’t even bear to watch.

In the end, although Xiang Xiaoyuan had passed the test, her body and soul were severely wounded, seemingly on the verge of death. After the battle, she was immediately escorted away and taken to the Absolute Sunder Sword Palace to recuperate.

The one who had fought with her was a core disciple from the First Peak, Nan Xiangqi. He was ranked in the top three and was slightly more powerful than both Huo Qinghe and Gu Zheng.

According to Lin Xun's assessment, Nan Xiangqi was undoubtedly one of the strongest of the nine gatekeepers. Furthermore, Xiang Xiaoyuan's ability to hold out for even half a quarter of an hour was truly remarkable.

"If it hadn’t been for her strong will and fearlessness of life and death, she wouldn't have made it to the end," Nan Xiangqi declared coldly, sounding incredibly arrogant.

Not long after Xiang Xiaoyuan passed the assessment, Dugu Youran appeared. It was the first time Lin Xun had seen her fight. Her opponent was daunting, but she was not any less formidable, and the power she displayed surprised even him.

This was because Dugu Youran's fighting style, which involved the unpredictable manipulation of the power of the soul and will, was incredibly subtle and marvelous. Whenever she faced a dangerous situation, she always managed to leverage her incredible spiritual power to shake the opponent's fighting spirit and avert danger. This battle also drew the admiration of many spectators.

Lin Xun even heard Xiao Wenyuan sigh with emotion, "The Divine Refining Nine Netherworlds Art is a supreme inheritance that Deputy Pavilion Master Dugu Yong had spent an incredible amount to acquire, and it had actually been prepared for this junior..."

Dugu Yong!

Lin Xun remembered that when Jun Huan had previously introduced the Origin Sect Ancestral Court, she had mentioned that one of the three deputy pavilion masters of the Origin Emptiness Pavilion was Dugu Yong!

It was only then that Lin Xun learned that Dugu Youran actually had such a connection to the Origin Sect Ancestral Court.

According to Xiao Wenyuan, the spiritual art that Dugu Youran was currently using was also one that Deputy Pavilion Master Dugu Yong had spent an immense amount to acquire specifically for Dugu Youran.

Undoubtedly, Dugu Yong valued and even doted on this junior, Dugu Youran!