

Prodigies 2751

Chapter 2751 Pull Him Down and Take His Place

A month after Lin Xun went into seclusion, Yu Chuan, a disciple of Origin Sky Pavilion, paid a visit and told him that Deputy Deacon Jin Zhongyue was waiting for him in the Wind Rider Hall.

“Senior Brother Yu Chuan, do you know what Deputy Deacon Jin Zhongyue needs me for?” asked Lin Xun.

“You will know when you get there,” Yu Chuan whispered.

Although he was his senior brother, Yu Chuan carried himself with apprehension in front of Lin Xun as he was only a supreme Emperor Ancestor.

“Alright,” Lin Xun confirmed after a brief thought.

Inside Wind Rider Hall...

Jin Zhongyue was occupying the highest seat. He had long, gray hair, and a withered figure. Clad in a refined, official-looking attire, he sat there like a skinny tiger crouching on a rock, his bearing cold and stern.

Now, at the peak of Heavenly Longevity Realm, he had been an Immortal for five thousand years. He could be considered young compared to his peers, but his position was quite high, ranking twelfth out of the twenty-four deputy deacons!

When Lin Xun walked into the Wind Rider Hall and saw Jin Zhongyue sitting there alone, he clasped his fist and asked, “What is it that you sought me for?”

Jin Zhongyue calmly said, “Lin Xun, you have been in Origin Sky Pavilion for eight months. Since the first seven months have been spent inside the Ninth Hall of Scripture Mountain, you have not been assigned a position. Therefore, I called you here to assign one to you according to the rules of our pavilion.”

Lin Xun raised his brows in realization. Becoming a disciple of the three pavilions marked one's first tap into the authority in the Origin Sect as they would assume a position. The influence of these starting roles was meager, but it still signified that one had begun to take the reins of power, which put them on another level from disciples of the nine peaks.

Take Origin Emptiness Pavilion's Chao Zonglin, who had once tried to hamper Lin Xun, for example. He was only in charge of issuing allowances, but the disciples of the nine peaks had to obediently queue up before him without the slightest negligence, lest he delay paying their monthly allowance. Other than Lin Xun, there weren't many nine peak disciples who dared to stand up to him.

Lin Xun said, "Please tell me about it, Deputy Deacon Jin."

Jin Zhongyue said, "Every other year, the personnel watching over the ancient teleportation array connecting Origin World and the Thousand Star Sea rotates. It's our pavilion's turn this year, and since you don't have a role yet, this responsibility will be yours."

His voice was calm and casual, but Lin Xun detected that something wasn't right about this position. Telling him to go watch a portal was basically saying that someone was trying to reduce him to an entrance guard here!

Lin Xun raised a brow, "From what I know, guarding the teleportation arrays is a duty that the true disciples of the nine peaks take turns to do. It doesn't concern Origin Sky Pavilion at all."

Jin Zhongyue said, "There's something you probably don't know yet. The Nine Peaks Dao Contest will kick off in half a year, and many big names from the outside world are coming to watch. The Spirit Sect, the Shaman Sect, and the Zen Sect will also be sending emissaries, making this a very important event.

"At that time, to prevent those with bad intentions from slipping into our sect, we must strictly guard the teleportation array leading from the Thousand Star Sea and carefully verify the identity of every guest. Ordinary disciples aren't capable of handling so many VIPs at all. Once something goes south, they won't be able to resolve it in time."

Hearing this, Lin Xun burst out laughing, "That's why you're sending me there to be a security guard?"

Jin Zhongyue frowned, "Don't think of this as a trivial matter you have to lower yourself to do. Our Nine Peaks Dao Contest is only held once every thousand years, and it has always attracted the attention of the whole world. Our pavilion can only be at ease when you're the one protecting the teleportation array because I know nothing will go wrong in your presence."

Lin Xun also furrowed his brows. "The Thousand Star Sea itself is covered in heavy defense, and the portal connecting it to Origin World is protected by law power. What kind of fool would come to our territory with ill intentions? What's more, who in the Eternal True Realm would be so fearless to cause trouble in the Origin Sect Ancestral Court?"

Jin Zhongyue's face sank, clearly upset. "One can never go wrong by being careful. You've only joined the sect for over a year, so you don't understand the importance of the Nine Peaks Dao Contest at all."

Lin Xun retorted expressionlessly, "Since it's so important, why don't you, Deputy Deacon Jin, go and watch the entrance instead of trusting that I, a clueless newbie, won't make any mistakes?"

Jin Zhongyue angrily slapped the armrest and snapped, "Lin Xun, do you have any regards for our rules at all? I'm appointing you to this role as a deputy deacon. If you keep refusing, you'll be disobeying a superior's arrangement and thereby violating the rules. There will be punishment for that!"

Lin Xun squinted. "If so, Deputy Deacon Jin, why do I get the feeling that you eagerly wish for me to disobey your arrangement?"

Jin Zhongyue let slip a slight change in his expression. He fiercely stood up to cover it and said angrily, "Are you saying I'm deliberately making things difficult for you so that I'll have an excuse to punish you?"

Lin Xun was unfazed. "There, you said it, not me."

Jin Zhongyue's expression grew frighteningly dark, "Lin Xun, let me ask you once more, are you taking this role or not?"

Lin Xun said without thinking, "Of course I am. We disciples have a duty to contribute to the sect. Besides, since such an important matter as guarding the teleportation array has fallen on me, I'm going to do my best."

He agreed so quickly that Jin Zhongyue was dumbfounded. His expression flickering dimly as he was unable to figure out what Lin Xun was thinking. In fact, he was secretly disappointed for some reason.

Lin Xun suddenly asked, "Deputy Deacon Jin, should someone replace your position, will you go back to being a disciple and assume the role originally held by that disciple?"

"Of course," replied Jin Zhongyue instinctively in the middle of mulling over his thoughts. Then, he snapped back to his senses in realization and abruptly raised his eyes to look at Lin Xun. "What do you...mean by that?"

Lin Xun smiled faintly and clasped his fist. "Tomorrow morning, at the Heaven's Judgment Arena, Disciple Lin Xun shall take the position of Deputy Deacon Jin."

After saying that, he turned and left. A stupefied Jin Zhongyue remained on the spot for a long time before he finally reacted and flew into a rage. What an imperious brat!!!

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In a cave haven on Origin Sky Mountain...

Upon seeing Jin Zhongyue, Cao Beidou who had been waiting for him asked with a smile, "How did it go?"

Cao Beidou, one of the nine elders of Origin Sky Pavilion, was a Nirvana Spirit expert.

"He...accepted the arrangement," replied Jin Zhongyue, his voice muffled and his expression somber.

Cao Beidou was stunned, then laughed. "Considering how brazen he is, I'm surprised he went along instead of refusing. It's quite disappointing."

He truly did have some regrets about this. If Lin Xun had refused the role, he could have punished him according to the Origin Sect's rules.

Quickly, Cao Beidou was all smiles again. "However, this is not a bad thing. For the next one year, Lin Xun will be but a security guard for everyone who uses the array to see. It will not feel good. When a hallowed Immortal disciple, who killed Qi Lingzhen and three other powerful Immortal experts in one battle, is reduced to a guard janitor, it truly makes people sigh, don't you think?"

Blissfully unaware of the dark and joyless look on Jin Zhongyue's face, he kept going with a smile, "Half a year from now, when the Nine Peaks Dao Contest commences, the other three great ancestral courts will all be sending envoys to watch, and Lin Xun will have to check their identities. Say, do you think conflicts will arise at that time?"

Every Nine Peaks Dao Contest in the past had welcomed many influential characters from outside who came to be spectators. Every time, the role that was easiest to offend people was the teleportation array guard.

There had been many conflicts where some bigwigs were dissatisfied with their identities being checked and inquired about. They would get angry at the guard, and in the end, there was nothing the latter could do to fulfill their job.

After all, anyone who could come to watch the contest were very prominent figures. How could the Origin Sect make a fuss and make an enemy of them over something so small? Thus, the most aggrieved one would only be the disciple who guarded the teleportation array!

Jin Zhongyue still said nothing, but his face kept becoming gloomier and gloomier.

Cao Beidou, on the other hand, became more and more excited with anticipation, "Given his character, he will definitely do something that will offend the guests!"

Jin Zhongyue, finally unable to hold it in anymore, interrupted with a dry cough, "Elder Cao..."

The silence that followed stunned Cao Beidou. "If you have something to say, say it. Why the stammer?"

Jin Zhongyue took a deep breath and said, "Even though Lin Xun agreed to the role, he also threatened to challenge me tomorrow morning in order to replace me as deputy deacon."

Cao Beidou was astounded. His eyes widened. "Is he crazy?"

Jin Zhongyue's expression was uncertain as he said, "Since he joined the sect, he has accomplished many feats that everyone viewed as crazy at first. I'm worried that..."

Cao Beidou cut him off with a frown, "Jin Zhongyue, you are the twelfth ranked deputy deacon in the pavilion and have been through many vicious battles as a Heavenly Longevity expert for thousands of years. You can't be telling me that you're unsure of victory?"

Jin Zhongyue let out a long sigh, "I wouldn't feel this way about any other disciple, but Lin Xun... I really don't dare underestimate him one bit and follow in the footsteps of Qi Lingzhen's group."

Inside, he had begun to regret provoking Lin Xun at a time like this. Although it had gone according to their plan, he had also brought on himself a great crisis! If he lost the duel tomorrow, Lin Xun would replace him as deputy deacon. He, on the other hand, would have to assume Lin Xun's role and go to guard the ancient teleportation array...

At the thought of this, Jin Zhongyue violently shook his head, too scared to dwell on it. If he were to go from his current status to a security guard...then he would be the laughingstock of the entire sect. At that level of disgrace, he might as well wipe the ground with his face or find a crack to hide in for the rest of his life!

Meanwhile, the smirk on Cao Beidou's face had completely faded. After a long silence, he said, "There is no turning back after the arrow is fired, Jin Zhongyue. As long as you win tomorrow's duel, I promise to help you secure the position of deacon as soon as possible!"

The dark shadow over Jin Zhongyue's face lightened a little. A long while later, he nodded. He refused to believe that he couldn't suppress some greenhorn who had only certified immortality a month ago. Not with the cultivation and skill that he had accumulated for thousands of years.

The news of Lin Xun's challenge to Jin Zhongyue flew out from Origin Sky Pavilion on that same day and speedily spread throughout the Origin Sect. There was instantly a huge uproar.

"It's only been a month, and Lin Xun already can't sit still?"

"He's out to raise the devil once more!"

This was the first reaction of many members, and they honestly couldn't be blamed. Ever since Lin Xun had entered the Origin Sect, he would do something unexpected and sensational every once in a while. By now, the moment there was news related to him, people would subconsciously think that he was up to trouble again!

Chapter 2752 A Crimson Line

The following morning, a big crowd had gathered in front of Heaven's Judgment Arena.

"A month ago, it was here that Lin Xun, having just certified immortality, killed Qi Lingzhen and the three other Immortals one fell swoop, becoming as prominent as the blazing sun!"

The lament of a person evoked a wave of sighs. It was hard not to feel this way when the fight a month ago was still fresh in their minds to this day, and Lin Xun was already vying for the position of deputy deacon.

"If I haven't missed anything, then roughly three thousand years have gone by since a disciple last successfully replaced a deputy deacon. Will Lin Xun be able to break this stalemate?" someone was full of anticipation.

"It's going to be hard. Deputy Deacon Jin Zhongyue is ranked twelfth among all deputy deacons in his pavilion. He has also been an Immortal for five thousand years, and is currently at the peak of the Heavenly Longevity Realm.

“Besides his seasoned skill and rich battle experiences, his character is cold and fierce, and his Immortal law has also been condensed from a ninth grade Heaven Rank law power. With his depths, he could have stepped into the Nirvana Spirit Realm long ago if it wasn't for a lack of opportunity!

“Under these circumstances, Lin Xun has little hope to win,” a senior expert concluded their analysis. By saying Lin Xun had little hope instead of no hope to win, they clearly weren't underestimating Lin Xun either.

“I've heard that Deputy Deacon Jin Zhongyue has a weapon he's very proud of, a dagger-axe called ‘Dragon Horse.’[1] It's said to be crafted from over a thousand kinds of immortal divine materials, and hammered by his own Immortal law for several thousand years. Thanks to the power of this weapon, ordinary Heavenly Longevity Immortals are far from a match for him.”

“Speaking of which, Lin Xun has only realized immortality for a month. Has he crafted an Immortal-grade artifact of his own?”

Amidst the discussion, everyone recalled the fact that Lin Xun had been completely barehanded during the fight a month ago. It gave them the impression that he still lacked an Immortal-grade weapon!

The Immortal experts knew very well that Immortal-grade weapons were not easy to make. One needed to refine all kinds of immortal divine materials and mix them together, then use their own cultivation and law to shape, nurture, and harmonize with the weapon.

In the Great Thousand Worlds, a true Immortal-grade weapon could shatter a small world! Even in the Eternal True Realm, an Immortal-grade artifact was not to be taken lightly either. It could easily break mountains, cut off oceans, and even destroy a region. Such a power knew little bounds.

Since it had only been a month since Lin Xun had become an Immortal, there was almost no chance that he had created a true Immortal-grade weapon of his own.

As time passed, many big names arrived at the arena, including Ninth Peak Master Qin Wuyu, Origin Clarity Pavilion Elders Xiao Wenyan and Li Zhen, and Origin Sky Pavilion Elder Cao Beidou.

Xiao Wenyuan came up to Qin Wuyu and asked with a smile, "What do you think of today's duel, Brother Qin?"

The latter replied with a somewhat powerless look, "Lin Xun has always been the type to do the unpredictable. Still, I naturally want him to win."

His voice was helpless but vaguely filled with earnest hope for Lin Xun.

Xiao Wenyuan smiled in tacit understanding and mused, "Becoming a deputy deacon means the position of deacon also isn't far away, and when he gets there, he will be your equal in terms of status."

The status of a pavilion deacon was equal to that of a peak master. Qin Wuyu of course was well aware. He sighed, "Sometimes, progressing too quickly is not a good thing. He has made too big of a splash and shown his edge too boldly, and it easily sparks jealousy. I actually hope that he can dampen down for a while."

As the two conversed, there was a stir in the crowd. Many started looking in a certain direction, where Lin Xun's handsome figure was seen walking toward the arena.

There were a variety of expressions now that they were seeing him again after a month. He was already gunning for the position of deputy deacon, so the speed at which he advanced made even some old experts marvel and envy. After all, it had only been over a year since he had joined the sect.

"Is Deputy Deacon Jin Zhongyue here yet?" Lin Xun walked straight into the arena and looked all around.

"Hmph, I have, in fact, been waiting for you!" rang a low, icy voice as Jin Zhongyue's skinny figure appeared on stage out of thin air. His beautiful robe fluttered as a blazing black aura of Immortal law evaporated all over him.

The audience stopped talking at once and fixated on the duelists, holding their breath in anticipation. One was a young prodigy who had just entered the Immortal Stage but already possessed heaven-defying battle prowess. The other was a ruthless character from the older generation who had been an Immortal for five thousand years and was ranked twelfth among the twenty-four deputy deacons in his pavilion.

Their duel naturally garnered a lot of attention.

“Deputy Deacon Jin, there is no need to test the waters between you and I. Let’s use our true strength and decide the outcome quickly,” proposed Lin Xun indifferently.

His casual attitude struck many nine peak disciples with melancholy. A month ago, he had still been a junior brother who was in the same stage as them, but now, he had stepped into immortality and was no longer in the same world.

“As you wish.” Jin Zhongyue's expression was as cold as stone. His radiant aura intertwined, and a polearm appeared in his grip. The weapon was pitch-black from tip to end with a petrifying cold and sharp aura flowing along it.

From afar, it didn't look like a dagger-axe, but instead a black dragon from ancient time with a world-destroying might!

The Dragon Horse Dagger-Axe! It was Jin Zhongyue's dao weapon that he had fused over a thousand kinds of immortal divine materials, and tempered for thousands of years to give it such a murderous aura.

The audience outside broke into a hubbub. By summoning his Immortal weapon before the fight even started, it was obvious that Jin Zhongyue knew how formidable Lin Xun was and intended to get real right off the bat!

Seeing this, Lin Xun revealed a faint smile.

Buzz!

The Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron swiftly appeared above his head. From the primal-looking artifact, billions of rays of abstract light drizzled, painting a dreamy scene.

“It's his life-bound Emperor weapon!” Cries of astonishment rang out.

“No, it should be an Immortal-grade artifact. That's the aura of immortality, there's no mistaking it.” Several veterans stared at the cauldron emotionally.

Lin Xun used only a month to refine his life-bound Emperor weapon into Immortal-grade? Such speed was simply appalling! Those who had previously speculated that he still hadn't made his own Immortal weapon all gawked in shock.

“Looks like you are fully prepared.” Jin Zhongyue's heart sank. After Lin Xun's challenge yesterday, he had spent the whole night carefully pondering the weaknesses that the other party might have.

In the end, he had come up with two points.

One, Lin Xun had just broken into the initial Heavenly Longevity Realm, so he was below him in terms of cultivation. However, the opponent's unfathomable depths greatly compensated for this gap, meaning that while he might have an advantage, it wouldn't be substantial.

Second, Lin Xun had fought Qi Lingzhen's group with his bare hands, so it was highly likely that he didn't have a single Immortal-grade artifact he could use. It was precisely this point that boosted Jin Zhongyue's confidence, because his Dragon Horse Dagger-Axe far surpassed the average Immortal-grade weapon. With it, he could suppress Lin Xun.

However, to his shock, Lin Xun summoned his sword cauldron before the duel even started, and the Immortal aura permeating it proved that this life-bound Emperor weapon had already been refined into an Immortal-grade one! This raised the pressure on Jin Zhongyue steeply.

“If I'm not well prepared, how would I dare think of replacing Deputy Deacon Jin?” said Lin Xun blandly as his qi operated to the maximum capacity.

He had spent the past month not only solidifying his cultivation, but also thoroughly studying the newly transformed Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron. However, since he hadn't yet verified it in battle, he was still unsure exactly how powerful the artifact currently was. This duel would be the perfect opportunity!

“Haha, then I’d like to see if you can defeat me!” With a loud laugh, Jin Zhongyue shot out with the Dragon Horse Dagger-Axe.

In an instant, he deployed over a thousand thrusts with the polearm, raising a sea of afterimages that stabbed down. The sharp, black Immortal aura descended like a river of stars in a majestic sight.

Rumble!

All sorts of destructive phenomena manifested, throwing the entire Heaven's Judgment Arena into disarray. With this attack, Jin Zhongyue displayed the terrifying power of a veteran Immortal. Shouts of astonishment erupted in the audience.

Some old experts even frowned. Was it worth exerting so much strength against a young man who had just advanced to immortality?

CLANG!

A deafening collision ensued inside the arena, followed by an eruption of Immortal might that violently rippled outward.

Everyone then saw the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron floating in the air as it parried and dissolved Jin Zhongyue's strikes one after another. The powerful Dragon Horse Dagger-Axe couldn't advance an inch, utterly unable to shake the sword cauldron's blockage!

Hearts jumped and expressions of disbelief were everywhere among the spectators. Blocked?!

Jin Zhongyue let out a long shout, his monstrous Immortal aura blazing as if set on fire. The dagger-axe in his hand fiercely swung down violently like a black dragon horse galloping from the sky, domineering to the extreme.

This was the full might of a Heavenly Longevity expert. Even though Jin Zhongyue was merely a deputy deacon, he came from the Origin Sect. In his eyes, same-realm cultivators in the outside world were as weak as farm animals, and he was sure that none of them could stop this strike of his!

Now, such a strike was being used on Lin Xun!

CLANG—!

Another earth-shattering collision resounded. The entire Heaven's Judgment Arena quaked for a second as a blinding torrent of destruction stirred the atmosphere. The clash even stung the minds of some spectators whose cultivation was slightly lesser, making them jump in fright.

To everyone's surprise, when the light cleared up and the dust settled, Jin Zhongyue's unrivaled strike was revealed to be blocked once again by Lin Xun's sword cauldron!

There was an instant commotion outside the arena. Even the bigwigs looked astonished. It had only been a month, but Lin Xun had already honed his sword cauldron to such a level?

“Deputy Deacon Jin, is this really your true power?” Lin Xun's voice rang out with faint disappointment.

Jin Zhongyue's face immediately clouded over. As if enraged, he inhaled deeply and used his strongest move without any nonsense.

“Sky of Cavorting Stars!”

The Dragon Horse Dagger-Axe suddenly emitted a stirring hum that should come from a dragon. As it stabbed out, it was as if all the stars in the sky were dropping. The billions of stars then exploded, setting off a boundless destructive force.

That destructive power current accompanied the dagger-axe as it thrust forth, seemingly tearing through space and time and reducing everything between heaven and earth to fragments!

It was so terrifying that the disciples outside could not keep their eyes open. Even their hearts and minds were rattled. This attack let them intimately feel the terror of veteran Immortal experts.

The old, prominent figures, on the other hand, watched with complete focus. Their eyes gleamed as they perceived the power in Jin Zhongyue's strike.

Sky of Cavorting Stars was a skill that blended all of Jin Zhongyue's cultivation, law, will, and, more than that, his very best efforts. The power it displayed even struck awe in some Nirvana Spirit Immorals.

Clang!!!

Lin Xun stood still as the steaming light of his sword cauldron blocked out the opponent's supreme strike. The dome of billion stars crumbled, its destructive power torrent quickly dispersed, and amidst the vibrating noises, the dagger-axe curved into a heart-stopping arc.

However, it ultimately failed to push the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron in the slightest! A commotion ran through the whole field arena. Many people exclaimed out loud in shock.

Three attacks, each one stronger than the last, had been stopped dead by the sword cauldron without fail. Not one of them had even gotten near Lin Xun! It was simply inconceivable.

Even the high-ranking experts had not expected the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron to be so sturdy and powerful. It stood there like something eternal and unshakable!

As for Jin Zhongyue, his face had never been so livid and grave. He let out a loud bellow, his beard and hair flaring. Looking like he was burning every bit of strength, he swung up the Dragon Horse Dagger-Axe and angrily slashed it down.

"The third time's the charm. Take this as your reward," said Lin Xun suddenly, who had been motionless, as he leapt into the air. The Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron rumbled and boomed, accompanying him as he charged forward.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

The Dragon Horse Dagger-Axe stabbed, chopped, smashed, and swept but couldn't break through the defense of the sword cauldron. What it achieved was only a dense burst of thunderous collisions and dazzling strings of sparks.

Right at this moment, Lin Xun's eyes were frosty as he silently intoned, "Rise!"

From the mouth of the sword cauldron that was filled with chaos qi, a dao sword flew out. The blade looked dull in both color and sharpness, but vaguely, strands of obscure and mysterious Immortal aura drifted around it. It didn't seem anything amazing and eye-catching, only plain.

"Go!"

But when it swung down, crack!

With a crisp sound, the tip of the Dragon Horse Dagger-Axe was cleaved off, leaving an even, smooth surface.

The Dragon Horse Dagger-Axe, a mighty Immortal-grade weapon, had been robbed of its tip, being sliced through like it was tofu! The shocking turn of events acutely stabbed Jin Zhongyue's very soul. He looked besides himself with shock and fury, as though his own heart had been ripped out.

However, he was not given a chance to react as the very dao sword that damaged his beloved weapon proceeded to slash at him. As it swung down, the misty and obscure sword qi transformed into a thin, cold light that nothing in the world could stop. Heaven and earth acted like a canvas that that light soundlessly sliced apart.

Swish!

The next second, the sword qi disappeared. Nothing moved, nothing sounded, no destructive visions occurred, only silence. The sword had vanished the moment it hit.

The dumbfounded crowd outside was confused. What's the situation?

They looked at Jin Zhongyue, and he appeared to have suffered an unprecedentedly heavy blow, standing frozen in place with a dazed look on his face. A long time later, he let out a long sigh, "Like waves hitting shore, each new generation pushes out the last. I...lost..."

His voice betrayed indescribable bitterness and sorrow. It was also then that the audience saw it. There was a straight line of blood that started from the top of his forehead and went down the bridge of his nose, perfectly separating his lips, his jaw, and his throat in half...

That crimson line...was clearly a shallow sword cut!

Chapter 2753 The White Cat's Gift

The entire field was silent.

Anyone who saw the shallow, vertical line running down Jin Zhongyue's face to his throat would instantly think the same thing: If just a bit more force had been used, wouldn't he have been cut in half?

The disciples of the nine peaks had frozen on the spot, stupefied. It was unimaginable that Jin Zhongyue, a peak Heavenly Longevity Immortal and the twelfth ranked deputy deacon of Origin Sky Pavilion, would be crushed by a single sword strike! The way it had happened was heart-stopping!

Several deputy deacons in the audience felt chills running through them. They couldn't help but ask themselves, would they be able to block such a strike?

Meanwhile, what the prominent experts found most shocking was Lin Xun's sword cauldron! The fact that it had easily shaved off the tip of the Dragon Horse Dagger-Axe was solid proof that it was top-notch among the Immortal-grade weapons!

Jin Zhongyue never had thought that the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron could be so powerful, indestructible and unstoppable! It had caught him completely off guard, which was precisely the key reason for his defeat.

Inside Heaven's Judgment Arena, Lin Xun said indifferently, "From this moment on, the important responsibility of guarding the teleportation array will be handed to you."

The crowd was stunned. Guarding the teleportation array?

Just then, a high-ranking person revealed the story behind this, “Yesterday, Deputy Deacon Jin assigned Lin Xun to guard the area of the teleportation array leading to the Thousand Star Sea. Since he has lost in this challenge, Lin Xun will replace him as deputy deacon, while he'll take over Lin Xun's position.”

The audience immediately exclaimed with surprise. They finally understood that Lin Xun had challenged Jin Zhongyue today not because he wanted to stir trouble, but because Jin Zhongyue had tried to make things difficult for him first!

“Having someone of Lin Xun's caliber be a doorman is more than making things difficult, it's clearly a deliberate attempt to humiliate him!” many spoke out in indignation.

“Heh, Deputy Deacon Jin really doesn't deserve any sympathy. It's on him that he picked up a stone and dropped it on his own feet!” a spectator sneered.

Jin Zhongyue's face was bleak, his heart filled with mortification and bitterness. He felt as though he didn't belong here and couldn't bear to stay for a second longer, so he hurriedly left. Seeing this, Origin Sky Pavilion Elder Cao Beidou's expression became as gloomy as a rain cloud.

On this day, Lin Xun defeated Jin Zhongyue and took his place, effortlessly becoming one of the twenty-four deputy deacons of Origin Sky Pavilion! When the news spread, the entire Origin Sect was shaken. This day also left a deep impression of Lin Xun's heaven-defying battle prowess and his Immortal-grade weapon on everyone's memory.

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“Deacon Tao, what are the duties of a deputy deacon?” asked Lin Xun, who had sought out Deacon Tao Leng after returning to Origin Sky Mountain from the Heaven's Judgment Arena.

Tao Leng handed Lin Xun a brand new sect token for a deputy deacon before he explained, “Each of the twenty-four deputy deacons is in charge of one affair. Jin Zhongyue's duty was to measure the penalty and carry it out in the case that a true disciple of the nine peaks violates the rules.”

After a brief pause, he continued, "Now that you have replaced him, that will be your duty. Of course, most of the time, everyone has nothing to do and focuses on cultivation."

"I see." Lin Xun got the idea.

Tao Leng pondered a little and couldn't help but ask, "Lin Xun, now that you're a deputy deacon, when do you plan to go for the deacon position?"

He was genuinely curious. In just over one year, Lin Xun had continuously risen from being a true disciple of the Ninth Peak to deputy deacon. From this trend, there was no need to even think to know that he would definitely keep aiming higher.

"I haven't thought about it yet," replied Lin Xun nonchalantly. "This one only started because Jin Zhongyue provoked me. Otherwise, my original plan would have been to wait for half a year before vying for the position of deputy deacon, and I never even thought about targeting Jin Zhongyue."

Tao Leng revealed an odd look, and then he chortled, "If Jin Zhongyue knew this, I'm afraid that his intestines would rot due to remorse."

The two chatted for a while longer before Lin Xun excused himself. Returning to his cave haven, he sat down cross-legged and entered meditation.

While it might seem quick how he was already a deputy deacon, wanting to become a deacon, elder, then deputy pavilion master within a hundred years was extremely difficult.

For example, the requirements to advance to the position of deacon were extremely strict. In terms of cultivation alone, one must be at the advanced Heavenly Longevity Realm.

In addition to that, one would need to pass a sect examination, the content of which would be decided by Origin Clarity Deputy Pavilion Masters. Most of it concerned carrying out an extremely difficult mission.

Only after satisfying the two conditions above would one qualify to challenge one of the twelve deacons, and only by defeating them could one successfully become a deacon!

All of that was only to become a deacon only. Should one strive for the status of a pavilion elder, then what was demanded would only be more perverse. Just taking the one about cultivation level for example: one must be at the Nirvana Spirit Realm.

That alone was already far out of Lin Xun's current reach. His cultivation wasn't even enough to become a deacon, being two tiers below the advanced Heavenly Longevity Realm. Therefore, the priority at hand was to seize the time to level up as quickly as possible.

Huh?

In the middle of the cultivation session, Lin Xun's heart suddenly jerked. His eyes flew open. At some point, a big, plump cat with snow-white and silky fur had appeared. Sitting not far away, it was staring at him with its greenish-blue eyes.

"It's you, Senior." Lin Xun secretly breathed a sigh of relief after realizing it was a false alarm.

"I would like to have a talk with your martial uncle," declared the white cat, its voice as majestic as ever.

How could Lin Xun dare refuse? He quickly invited Kong Jue out of the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron.

Kong Jue was sleeping like a log. Even under the sudden change of environment, he directly lay down on the ground and quickly started snoring again without batting his eyelids once.

Lin Xun wanted to wake him up, but the white cat stopped him. Its pure, emerald blue eyes were fixed on Kong Jue with mysterious gleams in them, appearing to be sensing something. Although Lin Xun was puzzled, he refrained from asking questions.

"My dao brother," the big white cat suddenly spoke up after a long silence. "This place is not suitable for your cultivation. Why don't you come with me to my place and stay for a while?"

A snoring Kong Jue instantly rolled over and asked, "You have any wine there?"

The white cat said, "Yes, and it's your favorite brew, 'Martyr March.'"

Kong Jue sprang to his feet, so excited that his eyes glowed. "Let's go!"

The white cat nodded, and the next second, both of them vanished. It was too late for Lin Xun to even inquire about it, let alone stop them. As a matter of fact, he didn't have the ability to stop the white cat from taking away Kong Jue either.

Recalling the scene just now, he wondered if his martial uncle's state of mind had recovered when suddenly, a milky-white jade bottle and a token appeared out of thin air.

The white cat's dignified voice also rang in Lin Xun's mind, "This bottle produces a thousand Sun Moon Immortal Pills every month. Each pill has the effect on par with a thousand pounds of immortal divine essence. For the next one hundred years, the bottle is yours to use.

"Inside this token is my Will Dharma Form, which can be deployed once a month and a total of three times. Only resort to it when your very life is at risk.

"You've done your martial uncle a great favor, and me a big favor as well, so consider this a token of appreciation from me. One thing to remember, though, do not mention this matter to others, and don't utilize my Will Dharma Form within the Origin Sect."

The gifts falling from the ether took Lin Xun aback. He was rattled.

A big favor for Martial Uncle and the white cat? When did that happen and what exactly did I do? I don't recall anything.

After calming down from the confusion, he suddenly remembered something his teacher, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, had once said: Kong Jue's mindset went astray while he was seeking the path of Eternal Supreme, and the only one who could help him resolve it was Lin Xun!

“Could it be that Martial Uncle Kong Jue saw what I went through during my Immortal certification? He peeked into the mysteries of the Eternal Supremacy Path, and it repaired his crumbling state of mind? Did the same thing happen with the white cat?”

The more he thought about it, the more he felt that it was the case, and the more relaxed he became. It would naturally be an excellent thing to be able to help his martial uncle.

Lin Xun then shook his head and stopped delving into it. Instead, he examined the milky-white jade bottle in his hand. The bottle was only nine inches high and as thick as a child's arm. The surface was smooth, glistening, and comfortably warm to the touch. The mouth was brimming with wisps of divine immortal energy.

Lin Xun tipped the bottle, and immediately a pill the size of a pigeon egg rolled out, shiny and filled with a medicinal aroma. Immortal runes were imprinted all over the pill while within it, there was a sun and a moon bobbing up and down in surging immortal essence.

Sun Moon Immortal Pill!

Lin Xun's eyes glowed.

Since the pill was as effective as a thousand pounds of immortal divine essence, and this bottle produced a thousand pills in a month, it meant that in the next a hundred years, he would no longer have to worry about immortal divine essence for his cultivation!

“What a treasure!” marveled Lin Xun. This jade bottle was definitely an incredible treasure of incalculable value.

After the bottle, he assessed the token. This object was heavy and felt like jade but it wasn't made of jade, dark in color with an unfathomably obscure law power covering its surface. He probed his spirit sense into it.

Boom!

Something exploded in Lin Xun's mind and became an endless universe with billions of stars in circulation. Among them, a figure sat cross-legged, diffusing billions of immortal rays. As radiant and immeasurable as a god, the figure seemed to be the keeper of this universe.

Upon a clear look at their face, Lin Xun was astounded.

Origin Sky Pavilion Master Yan Ji!

Some time ago, Lin Xun had traveled with Mo Lanshan on a nine-star mission, and in a mountain range called Meteorite in Cangtu World, he had been ambushed by members of the Shaman Sect Ancestral Court.

At that time, Mo Lanshan had called upon the Will Dharma Form of Yan Ji to rout two great experts of the Shaman Sect in one fell swoop, during which Meng Shan was executed and Gou Hu was lucky to escape with his life.

It was also then that Lin Xun had witnessed the terror of Origin Sky Pavilion Master Yan Ji. As a mere Will Dharma Form, he had crushed old Immortal monsters like Meng Shan and Gou Hu without barely any resistance from them!

So that white cat really is Pavilion Master Yan Ji... It took Lin Xun half a day to calm down.

He had some suspicions about the identity of the white cat a long time ago, and now it had been verified.

This token can be used three times, meaning I have three life-saving cards... Lin Xun was thrilled.

The Sun Moon Immortal Pills would be helpful in cultivation, whereas the token could be saved as an ultimate trump card. They were definitely a generous gift from the white cat, exactly what one would expect from the leader of Origin Sky Pavilion!

Chapter 2754 Four Fiends Eight Gods

A deputy deacon's monthly salary was only thirty thousand pounds of immortal divine essence, which might be enough for other cultivators in the same realm, but not for Lin Xun. To satisfy his cultivation, he would need at least fifty thousand pounds every month.

This had been something he had worried about lately, but the bottle that produced Sun Moon Immortal Pill gifted by Yan Ji erased it. Holding down his excitement, Lin Xun first stowed the token. Then, he cleared his mind and consumed a Sun Moon Immortal Pill.

Boom!

A surging torrent of power spread within him like a wild horse. The density and purity of it physically shook him, making him feel stuffed and close to bursting. Lin Xun didn't dare to get one bit distracted as he operated his cultivation to refine this power.

It took a full eight hours for the medicinal properties in the pill to be completely refined. Once this process was finished, Lin Xun clearly felt that his cultivation had improved by a sliver!

Even though it was just a literal sliver, he was exhilarated. Without much thought, he drew out another Sun Moon Immortal Pill and continued to cultivate.

After a full day, Lin Xun had absorbed three Sun Moon Immortal Pills, which was the equivalent of consuming three thousand pounds of immortal divine essence!

"Three thousand pounds a day, that's around ninety thousand pounds a month, or ninety Sun Moon Immortal Pills. This bottle produces one thousand pills a month, which means I'd still have nine hundred and ten leftovers each month..." Lin Xun felt an indescribable satisfaction and joy.

He was even a bit annoyed that his current cultivation level wouldn't let him refine them all. It was like getting rich overnight and having so much money that one didn't know how to spend it...

However, he knew that as his cultivation advanced, he would only need more and more immortal divine essence.

Yan Ji had probably made a calculation before deciding to lend this bottle to him for a hundred years. Lin Xun reckoned that the total amount of Sun Moon Immortal Pills produced during this period would well satisfy his cultivation needs.

.....

Time flowed by.

Three months later, Lin Xun finished absorbing a Sun Moon Immortal Pill to find his cultivation reaching the very perfection of the initial Heavenly Longevity Realm. He was now only a hair's breadth away from the intermediate level!

"The door is only one step away." He leisurely opened his eyes. Breaking through to the intermediate level did not require any opportunity, only extreme power accumulation and then letting that power erupt.

At this kind of time, it was often useless to keep on diligently cultivating. In order to achieve that eruption for breakthrough, the method was simple: fighting! The power gained through secluded cultivation must be honed in combat in order to metamorphose.

Having made up his mind, Lin Xun stood up and walked out of his cave haven.

On the Ninth Peak...

"Peak Master, I'd like to know how Senior Brother Ye Chunjun was injured during his trip outside," requested Lin Xun after he found Qin Wuyu.

He had not forgotten that during his seven months of seclusion in the Ninth Hall of Scripture Mountain, Ye Chunjun had gone out on a mission and suffered a grave injury, which was clearly from the handiwork of his enemies.

Qin Wuyu asked in response, "You're planning to avenge him?"

Lin Xun nodded. "Since I joined the sect, Senior Brother Ye has taken care of me on many occasions, but that got him injured by my enemies. Of course I must do something about this."

Qin Wuyu hesitated for a moment before he said, "Chunjun didn't let me tell you about this because he was afraid that it would affect your state of mind during your Immortal tribulation, but now that you're already at the Heavenly Longevity Realm, there is no harm in telling you."

As it turned out, the location of Ye Chunjun's mission back then was the Central Core Region of the Seventh Heaven Domain. After he completed the mission and was on his way back, a carefully planned ambush had erupted, and thus he had gotten seriously wounded.

If not for the fact that the sect token had given him a small window to escape, he would have probably lost his life.

Qin Wuyu said, "According to Chunjun, the one who sneaked up on him was a Heavenly Longevity assassin from Empty Hidden World titled Venerable Demon."

Empty Hidden World!

Lin Xun was taken aback. Back in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, he had been the target of two assassins: Crane, who was ranked sixth, and Frost, who was ranked fourth on the ranking of supreme Emperors there. Since they were both from Empty Hidden World, how could he forget this name?

It was a mysterious and ancient sect that was known throughout the Eternal True Realm. Even Immortal Imperial Clans remained wary of them to a certain extent.

According to Qin Wuyu, there were a total of twelve Immortal assassins in the Empty Hidden World known as the 'Four Fiends and Eight Gods.'

The four fiends were the Venerable Demon, Venerable Phantom, Venerable Wraith, and Venerable Goblin.

The eight gods were named after the eight trigrams, such as God of Abysmal Water, God of Mythic Fire, God of Hollow Heaven, God of Holy Earth, and so on. They were the most secretive as they rarely went out on action.

This time, the one who had endangered Ye Chunjun was Venerable Demon, a Heavenly Longevity assassin who was one of the Four Fiend Venerables!

Lin Xun couldn't help but wonder, "Just how unhinged is Empty Hidden World that they dare touch our sect's disciple?"

Qin Wuyu remarked coldly, "They actually don't, but this doesn't mean that someone else doesn't either. Do you know what the force behind Empty Hidden World actually is?"

Lin Xun shook his head.

"An immortal giant in the Eighth Heaven Domain, the Jing Clan," said Qin Wuyu.

"The Jing Clan?" Lin Xun was stunned. Rumor had it that the Jing Clan was extremely low-profile amongst the Ten Immortal Giants, but despite their unremarkable rank, their depths were utterly terrifying.

Qin Wuyu explained, "The Jing and the Fu Clans have been on friendly terms for ages, their members frequently getting married to each other. The leader of Empty Hidden World is an old relic of the Jing Clan named Jing Hengzhen. While this is a secret to most people in the outside world, everyone in our sect knows about it.

"When I learned about the assassination attempt on Chunjun, my immediate guess was that Deputy Pavilion Master Fu Wenli was behind it. At that time, there was nothing he'd stop at to shake your state of mind."

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. "Say, if I want to deal with this Venerable Demon, how should I find him?"

Qin Wuyu said, "Those from Empty Hidden World are adept at concealing their whereabouts and movements. A high-ranked expert like Venerable Demon is only that much more difficult to track down. After what happened to Chunjun, the first thing I did was go to Deputy Pavilion Master Fang Daoping and ask for his help."

Lin Xun had not expected this. "Deputy Pavilion Master Fang?"

Qin Wuyu laughed. "He seems peaceful and detached now, but he was once a ruthless menace. About seventeen thousand years ago, Master Fang, who was still an elder at that time, took a disciple out on a trip only to learn that the family of this disciple had been massacred by assassins from Empty Hidden World. All one hundred and forty-nine lives, no survivors.

"The disciple was so grief-stricken that it wrecked their state of mind. Master Fang, in a fit of rage, killed his way into the Empty Hidden World solo, where he chopped off many heads on top of slaying thirteen Immortal figures!

"That battle was known by almost no one in the outside world, but in the Four Great Ancestral Courts and the Eighth Heaven Domain, it was a big ruckus."

Lin Xun gasped. Reaping heads in Empty Hidden World all by himself!

If he hadn't heard this from Qin Wuyu, he truly could never have imagined that someone of Fang Daoping's indifferent nature was capable of such a thing.

"After I told Deputy Pavilion Master Fang about what happened to Chunjun, he gave me this talisman." Qin Wuyu took out a round and glistening gray jade talisman.

"He said the lair of Empty Hidden World has long since been relocated many times, making it extremely difficult to find, but finding their assassins is another story. In a city called Star Creek in the Central Core Region of the Seventh Heaven Domain, there is an old man named Feiyun. Anyone with this talisman can ask him for clues on assassins of Empty Hidden World."

Lin Xun's eyes lit up. "Peak Master, can I borrow this talisman from you?"

Qin Wuyu handed the object to Lin Xun with a smile, "If this was in the past, I definitely wouldn't let you do this, but now, it's quite appropriate for you to take this trip."

After a pause, he asked, "Do you want Elder Mo Lanshan's company this time?"

Lin Xun shook his head. "I alone will do. There's no need to bother Elder Mo."

"Then be careful on your way," mused Qin Wuyu. "If those in our sect with ill intentions toward you know that you are traveling to the Seventh Heaven Domain, then I fear you will be facing quite a few dangerous ordeals."

Lin Xun smiled, "Don't worry, Peak Master, I have my own life-saving measures. If they have the guts to take action, then they'll learn what it means to have bitten off more than they can chew."

With that, he left the ninth peak and headed straight to the ancient teleportation array leading out. Upon arrival, he saw a familiar figure.

It was none other than Jin Zhongyue!

No longer a deputy deacon as he had been reduced to a disciple who guarded this place, this was undoubtedly a humiliating errand for a seasoned Immortal. Self-inflicted torment, as one would call it.

Seeing Lin Xun appear in the distance, Jin Zhongyue's face darkened. There was unquenchable hatred in his eyes as well as apprehension. Lin Xun smiled and ignored him, walking straight into the teleportation array where he quickly disappeared.

Jin Zhongyue went up and scrutinized the energy fluctuations of the array. His brow then shot up at the information he got. What is this guy going out to do this time?

Pondering, he took out a jade slip, input into it a message about Lin Xun's going out, and sent it. Having done that, he felt quite content.

“Lin Xun, ah, Lin Xun, you shouldn't have pushed things so far. You took my position, so don't blame me for having no courtesy for you...”

In the Seventh Heaven Domain, Central Core Region.

Once again coming to the outside world, Lin Xun was washed by a wave of sentiments.

Over a year ago, he had arrived in the Seventh Heaven Domain together with Senior Sister Jun Huan. Afterward, he had hunkered down in an ordinary alley in Cold Moon City, where he had opened a store called Cloud Guardian Workshop.

There, he had gotten acquainted with a cute, lively little girl called Nuonuo. He wondered how she was doing in Lingyuan Sword Palace nowadays...

Shaking his head, Lin Xun began teleporting away with his hands on his back.

Ten days later, at Star Creek City...

The city lights formed a gorgeous dragon in the night. In the sky above, a stretch of galaxy flowed like a shimmering stream of stars. This was how the city got its name.

The moment Lin Xun took his first step into this city, the hustle and bustle hit him in the face. The streets and alleys were filled with colorful lights and decorations, traffic, and voices of ware hawking and playing.

The liveliness of the red dust world, the life of people, all were reflected in his eyes. He walked among them like a passer-by, idyllically perceiving the variety of emotions emanating from the crowd.

This was the first time he had returned to the Seventh Heaven Domain since he had joined the Origin Sect, and this time, his state of mind was completely different from before.

Chapter 2755 Fiends and Whatnot

Amid the stream of traffic on the bustling streets, Lin Xun gripped the jade talisman given to him by Qin Wuyu, feeling its aura as he moved forward.

After entering Star Creek City, this talisman acted as if it had woken up from hibernation. Like a compass, it glowed with a strange fluctuation that pointed in a certain direction.

Following it, Lin Xun arrived less than ten minutes later at a pharmacy. It was so deserted that the owner might make more money netting sparrows at the door.

A gray-clothed old man with thinning hair was already standing before the store. When he saw Lin Xun, he was slightly startled.

Lin Xun waved the jade talisman in his hand and asked, "Do you recognize this item?"

The gray-clothed old man quietly sighed in relief and bowed. "Greetings, honored guest, I am Feiyun. How should I address you?"

Lin Xun replied, "Origin Sect, Deputy Deacon Lin Xun."

The gray-clothed old man who called himself Feiyun instantly appeared astonished. He looked Lin Xun up and down. "You...are the same Lin Xun who joined the Origin Sect over a year ago?"

Lin Xun nodded.

Feiyun's eyes glazed over. "You've reached the position of deputy deacon in such a short period of time. Impressive."

He seemed to be quite aware of the matters within the Origin Sect, so much so that he looked so astounded upon learning about Lin Xun's identity.

"Please come in." Feiyun invited Lin Xun into the store and directly closed the door, then cupped his fist and asked, "You are here for the matter of the Empty Hidden World, I presume?"

Lin Xun was surprised. "How do you know?"

Feiyun smiled, "A long time ago, I was among their members. I was a Heavenly Longevity assassin there when Senior Fang Daoping killed his way into our place. He judged that I wasn't a bad guy, so he spared my life."

Processing what he was listening to, Lin Xun was secretly shocked. Seventeen thousand years ago, this old man was already a Heavenly Longevity expert!

Feiyun continued, "After that, I escaped from Empty Hidden World and started lying low in Star Creek City. I promised Senior Fang Daoping that no matter what he needed in the future, I would do everything within my capability to help.

"Since you've come to me with this talisman in hand, I've considered everything and found that the only thing I can help you with concerns the Empty Hidden World."

Lin Xun praised, "Your brain turns quickly, Fellow Daoist."

Feiyun smiled. "What do you want to ask me about?"

Lin Xun didn't hide his intention, "I want to know the whereabouts of Venerable Demon."

Venerable Demon!

Feiyun squinted. After a long silence, he said, "Very well."

Lin Xun asked, "Is this request too troubling, Fellow Daoist?"

Feiyun shook his head. "No, it is simple, but you will have to wait a few days... Please follow this old man. We'll leave the city and find a place off the beaten track, so that if a fight occurs, we can avoid hurting the citizens."

After saying that, he pushed the door and went straight out. Lin Xun followed him without thinking much.

Two hours later, deep in a mountain tens of thousands of miles from Star Creek City, Feiyun took out a peculiar sword-shaped talisman. He dripped a bit of his essence blood onto it before gently crushing it.

Bang!

The talisman exploded into a demonic line of blood that shot into the air and vanished into the vastness of the night.

After doing all that, Feiyun looked like a huge weight had been taken off him. He explained, "I just used the secret contact method of Empty Hidden World and sent a message to Venerable Demon. Within three days, he will definitely come."

A realization hit Lin Xun. "You're using yourself as bait?"

Feiyun laughed. "I knew you'd notice. If I don't do this, we have almost no other way to find Venerable Demon outside of barging into the Empty Hidden World itself."

Lin Xun's heart tumbled. "You know that once your identity is exposed, they will not let you off, right?"

Feiyun was calm. "I'm only alive because of Senior Fang Daoping. Having prolonged my life for over ten thousand years in Star Creek City, I have long had the intention of giving it back to him. Furthermore, if I didn't use myself as bait, a character like Venerable Demon would never come in person."

Speaking of this, there was a cold glint in his eyes. "Ever since I left Empty Hidden World, I've been a traitor in their eyes. How could Venerable Demon remain indifferent after knowing where the traitor is?"

Moved by his courage, Lin Xun promised, "Don't worry, I won't let you get involved in this matter."

"I don't mind if you do either." Feiyun chuckled, then asked out of the blue, "Do you have wine on you?"

Lin Xun gave him a wine gourd. After drinking vigorously from the gourd, Feiyun smacked his lips in contentment. "Great wine! If you don't mind, can you tell me the reason why you want revenge on Venerable Demon?"

Lin Xun nodded and recounted what had happened to Ye Chunjun.

Listening to the full story, Feiyun laughed loudly. "Empty Hidden World has really lost their mind, messing with a disciple of the Origin Sect Ancestral Court like that. Do they really think they are free from worry just because the Jing Clan has their back? If I survive this ordeal, I'd watch gleefully as the Empty Hidden World gets destroyed!"

There was immense hatred in his voice. It was the kind that came from his bones and could not be concealed at all, which stunned Lin Xun. After thinking about it, he assured, "You can definitely see that day coming."

As the two chatted, Feiyun's pupils suddenly shrank and he said with alarm, "Someone's coming..."

He took to the air, his eyes like burning torches as he looked into the horizon. His expression proceeded to become serious, "It's really them! But it's not even ten minutes since I sent out the message. How could they come so fast?!"

Lin Xun was just as surprised. There was definitely something off about this!

Feiyun transmitted, "They're certainly from Empty Hidden World, I'm too familiar with their aura. Should we avoid them for the time being?"

Lin Xun got up and stretched his limbs. His handsome face was unperturbed as he said, "No need. I also want to know why they've come so quickly."

Feiyun nodded, then abruptly raised his voice and said heavily, "Since you're already here, why hide?"

Those words echoed through the inky darkness over the mountains and rivers. The next second, dull, shadowy masses soundlessly appeared in the distance. They wriggled in the air, slowly taking human shapes.

The creepy scene was simply something only ghosts were capable of. Emitting no energy fluctuation from start to end, it would send shivers down the spine of anyone who saw it.

“After so many years, they still act in this style,” sighed Feiyun.

Lin Xun stood with his hands on his back as he watched it unfold, knowing very well that if he hadn't stepped into the Heavenly Longevity Realm, he wouldn't have been able to spot these figures at all.

From this, one could tell how masterful these Empty Hidden World assassins were in the way of concealing and sneaking around.

“Feiyun, it's really you!”

“Hold on, why is our target with him?”

“Something isn't right here!”

Sounds of talking rang as four figures, three men and one woman, walked over from the distant void. All of them were shrouded in occult black mist, almost perfectly fused with the color of the night, and the aura they emanated was eerily mystical.

There was only suspicion as they assessed Feiyun and Lin Xun, as though they couldn't imagine why these two would have gotten mixed up together.

“The situation isn't looking good. We've got all Four Fiend Venerables here!” Feiyun transmitted with unprecedented gravity.

Lin Xun's eyes narrowed. "They are out in a group for me. Your message drew them here out of convenience."

Feiyun was dumbstruck.

The night was deep, the region was quiet, and the atmosphere was getting increasingly oppressive and chilling. Venerable Demon, Venerable Phantom, Venerable Wraith, and Venerable Goblin walked side by side like demon gods coming out of hell.

"Feiyun, when did you start colluding with this man?"

The leader of the group was Venerable Demon, a man with a big build and a bronze mask with a blood-red demon face painted on it. He wore a black robe that exposed ghastly white arms.

"Traitor, you've been hiding for so long, but today you used our secret message method. What is your goal of luring us here?" Venerable Phantom was a woman whose voice was like a murmur, ethereal and feminine.

"You guys indeed are here for me." Lin Xun laughed, "It seems that when I left the sect, some old bastards leaked my whereabouts to get rid of me using the Empty Hidden World."

The four fiends went silent. Today's situation reeked of bizarreness. Moreover, the peculiar fact that Feiyun got them to expose themselves caught them off guard as well.

"Why are you two together?" Venerable Demon repeated his question.

Lin Xun said blandly, "To take your life, of course."

Venerable Demon asked, "You knew we've been after your life?"

Lin Xun shook his head and lamented, "I sought out Fellow Daoist Feiyun in order to find you and avenge my senior brother, Ye Chunjun. Who would have thought that you've been after me all along... If I had known, I wouldn't have gone to the trouble and bothered Fellow Daoist Feiyun."

It was indeed a coincidence. He hadn't expected that what had happened to Ye Chunjun would happen to him as well.

Without a question, the Four Fiend Venerables being here was the work of those fogeys like Fu Wenli and Qi Xiaoyun!

"Ye Chunjun..." Venerable Demon seemed to understand as well and let out a morose laugh. "What a coincidence. Don't tell me there really is something such as fate?"

"Yes, it is fate that you lot will die here today." Lin Xun also scoffed, his sleeves fluttering as he rose into the air. "Fellow Daoist Feiyun, please step back. I'll handle them."

Feiyun shook his head. "How can I leave you to fend off the enemies alone? Even if I have to throw my life away, I will make sure that you leave this place alive."

His voice was calm and determined. He had thought that they would only face Venerable Demon, so it threw him off that the Four Fiend Venerables had appeared together, but it no longer mattered. The worst outcome was only death anyway.

"If I get you involved in this and suffer something undeserved, I will have to live with guilt for the rest of my life." Lin Xun chuckled. "If you really want to help, you can always choose the right opportunity to do so during the fight."

Feiyun was stunned. He could keenly feel how confident Lin Xun was, so he nodded after some hesitation.

"I've never seen a more arrogant person," remarked Venerable Wraith emotionally. He was lean and straight as a spear, his aura cold and sharp. "It's also been a long time since I've seen someone who dares to slight us like this."

“After all, he's a disciple of the Origin Sect. Such a spine is commonly seen in them. According to the report, he only became an Immortal not long ago, but his battle prowess and weapon are heaven-defying. Why else are the four of us acting together if not that he must not be underestimated?” said Venerable Goblin leisurely.

“Well then, how about we kill him first before we deal with the traitor?” Venerable Phantom's murmuring voice floated in the air.

“Excellent, let's do that.” Venerable Demon nodded.

Chapter 2756 Prison of Alaya

Shua!

When the voices of the Four Fiend Venerables, Demon, Phantom, Wraith, and Goblin, fell, the world around them suddenly changed.

It was as if a bloody purgatory had descended. The heavens burned crimson, and the earth was drenched in red flames. Mountains of corpses loomed, seas of blood surged violently, and eerie wails, like ghosts crying and wolves howling, echoed endlessly through the void.

This was the power of a boundary realm! Born from the laws of order, it was not an illusion, but instead a realm suffused with the true laws of heaven and earth.

In this world, everywhere was steeped in the aura of blood, sin, and malevolence. A chilling presence gnawed at the heart and mind. An ordinary cultivator thrown into this realm would have had their will shattered on the spot. Even those below the Immortal level would find it impossible to resist.

Buzz—

Dao light rumbled and surged as Lin Xun's tall figure glowed brightly. His gaze swept across the surroundings, but instead of panic, a calmness filled his eyes.

“This realm is called the Prison of Alaya. It is forged from four ninth-grade law artifacts: Blood Sin, Blood Punishment, Blood Sacrifice, and Blood Refinement. Within this realm, even the slightest flaw in one's

state of mind is enough to become a fatal weakness.” Not far away, Feiyun’s expression was grim. “The Prison of Alaya...a treasure set of the Empty Hidden World. I never imagined they would unleash it against you.”

Shua!

Before his voice had even faded, an invisible sword qi descended silently from the sky, piercing straight toward Lin Xun’s head with inconceivable speed. It was utterly strange, without the slightest fluctuation of power and without so much as a sound, making it impossible to guard against.

Clang!

However, in that instant, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron emerged above Lin Xun, intercepting the strike. The invisible blade qi exploded, shattering inch by inch in midair. Unfortunately, before the first strike had even ended, a scarlet spike quietly appeared from the void beneath Lin Xun’s feet, gleaming with sinister light as it lunged viciously toward him.

Simultaneously, a black chain appeared in front of him, while a long, narrow bone sword swept in from behind him. The three attacks erupted together, descending like an inescapable net that aimed to tear Lin Xun apart in a single blow.

In addition, high above his head, a bronze spear was lying in wait! If Lin Xun tried to rush into the sky, he would be suppressed as well! This siege was not only cunningly ruthless, but also so flawless it left him with nowhere to flee, nowhere to evade.

The moment Feiyun noticed what was going on from afar, his whole body stiffened, his expression drastically changed, and he cried out, “Be careful!”

However, to everyone’s shock, Lin Xun didn’t move. He simply stood there motionless, like an unshakable rock, as if petrified. Then, a thunderous explosion erupted.

Feiyun saw something that was unimaginable to him. The scarlet spike, slender bone sword, and black chain were all obstructed by the power of the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, unable to advance even an inch!

These terrifying immortal laws, interwoven with power brimming with murderous intent, were enough to easily claim the lives of Heavenly Longevity Immortals, yet they were actually fended off by the cauldron and continuously dissolved.

“Hey!”

“What a treasure!”

“I want that sword cauldron!”

As the surprised voices rang out, the spike, bone sword, and black chain all vanished into thin air. Even the bronze spear overhead was gone without a trace. From beginning to end, the Four Fiend Venerables had never appeared. This seemed extremely strange and suspicious.

However, Lin Xun remained calm, his expression as still as an ancient well. He said, “Fellow Daoist Feiyun, be careful. Don’t let them restrain you.”

Boom!

After finishing his warning, Lin Xun stepped forward and his body erupted with power like a colossal abyss overturning the heavens. The surrounding mountains of corpses and seas of blood struggled to withstand such terrifying might and collapsed with a thunderous rumble. This whole world seemed about to be suppressed and dragged into ruin!

Whoosh—

A black chain came roaring over, stirring up rings of terrifying black ripples. Immortal dao light surged forth, faintly interwoven with countless law powers. Its terror was beyond measure. Lin Xun suddenly thrust out his hand to grab it.

Boom!

Amidst the crashing sound, rings of black ripples erupted and shattered in the void. Just as the black chain was about to slip away, it was already clutched tightly in Lin Xun's hand. Then with a sudden jerk of his wrist, from the far end of the black chain, deep in the distant void, a figure was yanked out. It was none other than Venerable Wraith who was staggering now!

He was a man with a tall, gaunt frame, he looked utterly shaken, as if unable to believe that Lin Xun dared to meet him with nothing but his palm.

"Unleash!"

With a furious shout, the black chain shuddered violently, erupting with unfathomable black light. Waves of immortal law power surged forth, crashing toward Lin Xun like a landslide, like a raging tsunami.

Despite that, Lin Xun stood unmoved. As those forces crashed toward him, they were instantly pulverized by the dao light spilling from the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, leaving him completely unharmed.

Venerable Wraith's expression abruptly changed. At that instant, a dao sword shot forth from the cauldron, cleaving lightly through the void.

Snap!

The thousand-foot-long black chain snapped clean in half. In the distance, Venerable Wraith coughed up blood from the backlash. That chain had been his immortal dao weapon for years, but now it had been destroyed in an instant.

"Die!"

Suddenly, a blood-red spike, bronze spear, and slender bone sword appeared to Lin Xun's left, right, and above his head, all hurtling toward him at once. The power of this strike was far more terrifying than before.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

An earth-shattering collision resounded. Although the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron managed to block the assault, it was shaken violently under the impact, causing Lin Xun to sway as his blood and qi surged chaotically within him.

These old fogeys really do have formidable cultivation!

His eyes narrowed, a glint of cold killing intent flashing within them. He drew a deep breath, then suddenly lunged forward.

Boom!

The Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron erupted, flooding the heavens with billions of strands of obscure dao light. Countless immortal laws swirled around it as Lin Xun's essence, qi, and spirit surged together. At this moment, he unleashed his cultivation to its absolute peak.

From afar, he was like an abyss erupting in full force, ready to swallow heaven and earth whole, obliterate all creation and reign with unmatched tyrannical might. All of a sudden, an incomparably fierce battle broke out. The whole world was thrown into chaos as endless scenes of collapse and destruction spread in every direction.

Even Feiyun, watching from afar, was utterly dumbstruck. Those were the four fiends of the Empty Hidden World! They were the four most elite assassins of the Heavenly Longevity Stage. They had lived through countless years, and more than a hundred Immortals had fallen at their hands.

However, even after bringing out the Prison of Alaya, and striking with their combined might, all four of them were actually held back by Lin Xun alone!

"The Prison of Alaya's law powers seem to have no effect on this kid!"

Amidst the clash, Venerable Phantom's grave, whispering voice rang out. The Prison of Alaya was their ultimate trump card. It combined four ninth grade Heaven Rank laws, and its power was enough to annihilate almost any opponent of the same cultivation stage. Unfortunately for them, Lin Xun was an exception.

"Watch out for his sword cauldron! It's unbelievably sharp! One strike could shatter our dao weapons!" Not far away, Venerable Wraith spoke through gritted teeth. The destruction of his black chain made him feel as if his heart was aching and bleeding, and he now fully realized the terror of Lin Xun's sword cauldron.

"We can't drag this out any longer! Use the trump card now!" Venerable Goblin bellowed.

Boom!

During the battle, Venerable Demon's figure suddenly grew tall and imposing, like a towering giant. From every pore of his body surged a vast demonic domain, within which countless gods and demons chanted in unison. Three Thousand Demon Domains Suppress the Sky!

At that moment, Venerable Demon seemed to have become the very embodiment of the universe, his body encompassing endless demon domains. The might of countless gods and demons within those domains gathered upon him alone, elevating his power to an incomparably terrifying level.

"Rise!"

Venerable Phantom's figure flickered, and countless strands of bizarre blood-colored lightning erupted, condensing into a blood-red lotus of lightning. She stood proudly at its center, her entire body shrouded in an immortal radiance. Blood Lighting Flower Refines the Nine Heavens!

"You forced us!"

"Descend!"

Almost at the same time, the aura of Venerable Wraith and Venerable Goblin also underwent a sudden and drastic transformation.

Around Venerable Wraith, countless crimson vortexes whirled into being, exuding an eerie devouring power, as though countless bloody maws had opened between heaven and earth. Sea of Thousand Vortices Devours the Nine Netherworlds!

As for Venerable Goblin, three thousand arms appeared densely across his body, each palm bearing a wide-open scarlet eye that glared menacingly at the world. Demonic Dao Pupils Illuminate All Realms!

In the blink of an eye, the power of the four venerables underwent a complete transformation, as if they had become entirely different beings.

“Kill!”

With thunderous roars, they attacked with all their might, like hellish demon gods descending upon the world, unleashing their ultimate, immortal powers. In an instant, sinister demonic domains engulfed the land, lightning surged into a boundless sea, vortexes devoured the heavens, and a demonic pupil cast its light over mountains and rivers!

From afar, Feiyun’s eyes flashed with determination. He could no longer hold back. Lin Xun’s perilous situation made his heart clench in anguish.

Just then, Lin Xun suddenly burst into laughter, “Good! You didn’t disappoint me after all. At last...it’s worth unleashing my full strength!”

Feiyun froze.

Boom!

An indescribable, terrifying power erupted from Lin Xun’s towering figure. At the same time, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron let out a clear, stirring hum, like the cry of a beast thirsting for a feast of blood.

“Open!”

Lin Xun’s long hair whipped wildly as the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron blazed with boundless radiance, spewing infinite dao light that swept in all directions. At that moment, it was as if heaven and earth utterly collapsed.

Venerable Demon bore the brunt of the force, staggering back as the countless demonic domains manifested on his body seemed to be struck by a world-ending calamity. More than half of them were annihilated in an instant.

Immediately after that, the slender bone sword in Venerable Phantom’s hand was cleaved apart, as flimsy as if it were made of paper. Before she could evade, the power released by the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron came crashing down like a landslide.

Boom!

Beneath her feet, the strange flower forged from blood-red lightning withered away, letting out a mournful shriek as its radiance dimmed and died. She could no longer hold it in and spat a mouthful of blood.

Elsewhere, the countless vortexes swirling around Venerable Wraith’s body collapsed in an instant, and the boundless might of the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron hurled his body violently through the air.

At the same time, Venerable Goblin let out a muffled groan of agony as his three thousand arms were ripped apart, leaving countless severed limbs scattering while blood sprayed across the void in a horrific spectacle.

Seizing the opening, Lin Xun tore his way out of the encirclement, his figure majestic and imposing like a god descending into the world!

All this happened in the blink of an eye, so swift that even Feiyun, who was ready to sacrifice his life for Lin Xun’s escape, had no time to act before it was already over. By the time he came to his senses, the

Four Fiend Venerables had already been struck with grievous injuries, while Lin Xun had shattered their encirclement!

The carnage before his eyes shook him to his core, forcing a sharp gasp, “No wonder he could soar to the rank of deputy deacon of the Origin Sect in barely a year. He’s truly a genius among geniuses, a monster among monsters...”

“Whether I can break through today...shall be decided by your strength!” Laughing loudly, Lin Xun stood tall and unrestrained, his bearing cold and heroic. He seemed to be entirely unleashed, unbound, and unshackled, as though nothing in the world could restrain him.

Boom!

Overhead, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron roared, shaking the firmament as its power grew fiercer and fiercer. The faces of the Four Fiend Venerables turned ashen and twisted with fury.

This brat dares to use us as stepping stones for his breakthrough!!

Chapter 2757

The battle raged on. Furious, the Four Fiend Venerables unleashed their full strength, desperately resisting Lin Xun’s assault. For the moment, they managed to withstand him, and the clash only grew all the more violent.

Despite that, Lin Xun showed no fear and instead only delight. This was exactly the kind of battle he needed to force a breakthrough to the intermediate Heavenly Longevity Stage!

If he had wished to kill them outright, he would have already invoked the Time Stopping ability. As for the Gate of Exile and the Blade of Time, he had no intention of wasting such supreme powers on opponents like them. Why bring out a butcher’s blade to slaughter chickens?

In the distance, Feiyun’s heart surged with emotion. His thoughts drifted back seventeen thousand years. Back then, Fang Daoping had descended upon the Empty Hidden World alone like an invincible god of slaughter, killing without pause. Blood ran in rivers, heads rolled, and the terrified roars of immortals thundered ceaselessly across the heavens!

Now, Lin Xun, a mere deputy deacon, a youth who had only just stepped into the Immoral Stage, was standing alone against the siege of four venerables. His brilliance was no less dazzling than Fang Daoping's back then!

Rumble!

In the frenzied, heart stirring battle, the blood-red spike in Venerable Goblin's hand clashed again and again with the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, until it could withstand no more and shattered into countless fragments.

Amidst the storm of debris, Venerable Goblin staggered, blood gushing from his seven orifices as he suffered devastating injuries. The other three were also battered again and again, and their situation grew increasingly desperate.

In stark contrast, Lin Xun was like a being from another world. His fighting spirit blazed like wildfire and his power surged like an abyss. He swept through the battlefield with unstoppable dominance, slaughtering without restraint, his brilliance eclipsing all others!

"Retreat!"

Suddenly, Venerable Demon let out a furious roar and made the decision to flee. Having survived countless bloody slaughters, how could they fail to see that another clash would only drive them deeper into despair and closer to death?

Since that was the case, why struggle in vain?! They were assassins. If the strike failed, retreat a thousand miles. If not for the importance of this assassination mission, they would never have lingered in battle until now.

Shua! Shua! Shua! Shua!

In a flash, the Four Fiend Venerables withdrew. When it came to stealth and escape, they had absolute confidence in their ability to leave safely. The essence of assassination lay in two words: strike and escape!

As masters of assassination, how could they not excel in this path? However, just as they were about to flee, Lin Xun unleashed the Time Stopping divine ability. In that instant, heaven and earth fell into absolute stillness.

The Four Fiend Venerables froze in place, like fish sealed in ice. It was in this fleeting moment that a dao sword roared forth from the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, cleaving across the cosmos.

Pu! Pu! Pu! Pu!

Four dull booms rang out almost simultaneously as the bodies of the Four Fiend Venerables were severed in half by that single sword strike. Blood poured down like crimson waterfalls, but the greatest terror was the sword dao force embedded in that slash. Under its violent onslaught, their essence, qi, and spirit were utterly pulverized, severing all possibility of survival!

From afar, bisected remains tumbled down from the void, but before they touched the earth, they crumbled into ashes, scattering across the sky. Four Fiend Venerables were slain with one sword strike!

Feiyun's eyes went blank for a moment before shock and disbelief flooded through him inside and out. As a veteran assassin who had once defected from Empty Hidden World, he knew better than most that if the Four Fiend Venerables chose to flee, even a Nirvana Spirit Immortal would find it near impossible to stop them.

However, at this moment, not one of the four escaped. All of them perished within the Prison of Alaya! Feiyun's heart trembled violently.

"Not bad. But within this boundary realm, you were trapped by your own trap." Lin Xun put away the sword cauldron, his voice calm and soft.

The Prison of Alaya was a boundary realm steeped in terror. Unleashed upon an enemy, its power would be boundless, impossible to measure. However, to Lin Xun who wielded the nirvana law, it was nothing more than decoration.

Ironically, the Four Fiend Venerables had sealed their own doom by choosing to fight within this boundary realm. They had created an extra barrier to block their own retreat. Seizing this chance, Lin Xun struck and annihilated them in a single sweep.

Unmoved, he began to collect the spoils. However, what left him speechless was that the Four Fiend Venerables, renowned figures of Empty Hidden World, carried nothing more than a few immortal divine essence and not a single other treasure!

How miserably broke were they?

“Every time assassins of Empty Hidden World go out on a mission, they leave all valuables in their lair and travel light,” Feiyun explained quietly as he walked over.

Lin Xun’s expression eased with sudden understanding. However, this did not mean he gained nothing. The Prison of Alaya was forged from four law artifacts: a dao bell, a chime, a wheel and a ruyi. Each one imbued with a ninth grade Heaven Rank law power, together forming the very source of the Prison of Alaya’s power.

Unfortunately, these law powers were not the true origin essence of those laws. Without grasping and comprehending their profound mysteries, they could never be controlled. In short, while they were undeniable treasures, in the eyes of most they were no different from chicken ribs: tasteless to chew, yet a pity to throw away.

A thought struck Lin Xun. He handed the four law artifacts to Feiyun. “You’ve been dragged into this matter because of me. Take these as a token of thanks.”

Feiyun immediately shook his head and refused.

“If you don’t take them, then who else in this world, aside from those assassins of Empty Hidden World, could even make use of these treasures?” Without giving him the chance to refuse, Lin Xun forced the artifacts into his hands.

Emotions welled up in Feiyun’s chest, and he said with heartfelt gratitude. “My deepest thanks.”

Ever since defecting from Empty Hidden World, he had hidden away in Star Creek City, clinging to life like a fugitive, haunted by the fear that the experts of Empty Hidden World would come knocking at his door.

Now, to aid Lin Xun, he had resorted to using a secret communication art, which was no different from exposing his whereabouts. Though the Four Fiend Venerables had been slain, Empty Hidden World still had endless means to track him down.

In other words, from this day on, he could no longer remain in Star Creek City. He would have to flee far away. However, with the Prison of Alaya in his grasp, he now held a supreme trump card. Even if he wandered to distant lands and encountered dangers, he would have nothing to fear.

“Fellow Daoist, there is no need for such formality. If I have to deal with Empty Hidden World again, I may need to trouble you once more,” Lin Xun said, cupping his fists in salute.

Feiyun was taken aback. “Has vengeance not already been exacted?”

Lin Xun shook his head. “No. The Empty Hidden World must be eradicated from the world.”

The death of the Four Fiend Venerables would surely arouse the wrath of Empty Hidden World. For the time being, they might hold back, deterred by his identity as a successor of the Origin Sect and wouldn’t dare to make a move against him within the sect.

However, once he stepped beyond the sect’s protection, forces of Empty Hidden World could strike at any time. Lin Xun loathed this assassin force that came and went without a trace.

Of course, he knew all too well that to truly eradicate Empty Hidden World and leave no lingering dangers, he would have to overthrow the Jing Clan, an immortal giant of the Eighth Heaven Domain.

Otherwise, even if Empty Hidden World was annihilated, with the support of the Jing Clan, it was destined to rise again from the ashes.

“Eradicated from the world entirely...” Feiyun’s heart trembled at such ambition. Then, after a long silence, he said solemnly, “If you ever need me, take this jade talisman and come to Jade Statue City to find me.”

“Jade Statue City?”

“Yes. As the saying goes, a cunning hare prepares three burrows. This city is one of my escape routes.”

Lin Xun nodded with a smile. Not long after, he bid farewell and departed.

Two days later, Lin Xun appeared in Cold Moon City. On that familiar street, the entrance to the Cloud Guardian Workshop was shut tight, its walls layered with dust. It had clearly been abandoned for a long time.

He pushed the door open and stepped inside. Wandering through the empty courtyard, a faint chill stirred in his heart. More than a year ago, he and his senior sister Jun Huan had stayed here together, their days quiet, peaceful, and carefree.

Now, it was obvious since the day he entered the Origin Sect, his senior sister had never returned to this place. With a small shake of his head, Lin Xun entered a room and sat cross-legged.

The battle against the Four Fiend Venerables outside Star Creek City two days ago had both tempered and refined his cultivation, laying the foundation for him to break through to the Intermediate Heavenly Longevity Immortal Stage.

Taking out a jade bottle, he tipped several Sun Moon Immortal Pills into his mouth. His mind steadied, his spirit sharpened, and his cultivation began to surge. Nothing unexpected happened.

Three days later, the roar of the great dao surged through Lin Xun as his cultivation advanced smoothly into the Intermediate Heavenly Longevity Stage, as natural as water flowing into a channel.

As the tide of new power filled his body, Lin Xun felt a deep sense of satisfaction. Compared to the initial Heavenly Longevity Stage, his strength had more than doubled! The most direct proof of this was in his

pill refinement. Before, he could refine at most three Sun Moon Immortal Pills a day. Now, he could refine seven. That equated to seven thousand pounds of immortal divine essence each day.

Even within the Origin Sect Ancestral Sect, where peerless geniuses and great figures gathered, not a single Intermediate Heavenly Longevity cultivator could match such a feat.

“Newfound strength requires new tempering...but the higher one climbs, the fewer worthy opponents there are...” Lin Xun murmured to himself.

At other stages of cultivation, he could wander to other major cities to test himself in contests and duels, sharpen his skills, exchange insights and even claim rewards for victory.

However, the Immortal Stage stood at the pinnacle of the world. In the Seventh Heaven Domain, such beings were already hailed as heaven-reaching authorities. The contests and duels held in those cities could not possibly match such a level.

Just imagine, a single clash between Immortal cultivators could shatter heaven and earth, raze mountains, and overturn rivers. What city could possibly withstand such devastation?

Just then, a strange sound from the courtyard snapped Lin Xun from his thoughts. His heart stirred coldly, and he rose without a sound. There, in the courtyard stood an ancient well, and sealed within it was the origin power of the boundless nearness law.

The Boundless Nearness Talismans carried by Jun Huan and the other successors of Fangchun Mountain were all forged from this law’s power. With such a talisman, no matter where one was within the Central Core Region, one could instantly teleport to the bottom of this well. At this moment, a blood-soaked figure crawled out from its depths.

“Those old baldies of the Zen Sect are so vicious. They nearly claimed my life. If not for the Boundless Nearness Talisman gifted by third senior sister, I fear I’d be relying on you all to avenge me in the future.”

His figure was battered and broken, hair in disarray, and skin and flesh had split open to reveal glistening bone beneath. It was a sight so gruesome it chilled the heart. Even so, he spoke with ease, even tinged

with self-mockery. Despite his terrible state, his carefree, heroic and unrestrained bearing remained undiminished.

Soon after he emerged, another figure stepped out of the ancient well. It was a man with the bearing of a farmer, his skin dark and his features simple and rugged. He too bore grievous wounds, but he paid them no mind. Pulling a jade bottle from his sleeve, he handed it over with a muffled voice, "Medicine I refined. Use it to treat your injuries first. Xue Ya, you and twelfth junior brother share the same foul habit...you talk far too much."

The mangled man accepted the bottle with a hearty laugh. "I can't hold a candle to Senior Brother Shen Yan. His tongue never stops. Even Master can't stand it."

"Hmm?"

Suddenly, the farmer-like man's expression hardened. He turned sharply toward one of the rooms in the courtyard. At that very moment, Lin Xun pushed open the door and stepped out.

Chapter 2758 Killing Tribulation Comes Again

"Junior Brother?!"

A rare look of surprise crossed the farmer-like man's dark face before he broke into a wide grin. "Haha, what a turn of fate. I didn't expect this."

Not far away, the slender, wounded figure froze for a moment before, then burst into hearty laughter. "To meet again after such a long parting...it's a blessing beyond words!"

Meanwhile, Lin Xun's face was full of agitation. He said urgently, "Senior Brother Pu Zhen, Senior Brother Xue Ya, how...did you end up like this?"

A reunion after such a long separation should have been joyous. Unfortunately, seeing the grievous injuries covering his two senior brothers made Lin Xun's heart tighten with worry.

"Nothing much. We just ran into some figures from the Zen Sect and exchanged a few blows." Pu Zhen replied with a simple, honest smile.

“Hey, seeing us in this sorry state must have worried you, Junior Brother.” Xue Ya quickly used a secret art to erase the bloodstains, mend his robes and smooth his disheveled long hair. In an instant, his appearance was much less miserable.

However, his face was still pale to the point of translucence, and the flow of his qi was clearly disordered. He was gravely wounded.

Lin Xun caught all this at a glance. “Senior Brothers, let’s go inside and rest. You can tend to your wounds while we talk.”

“Alright.”

Both Pu Zhen and Xue Ya agreed with faint smiles. Inside, the three sat cross-legged, and Lin Xun personally poured tea for his senior brothers.

“You focus on healing first. I’ll speak with Junior Brother,” Pu Zhen instructed Xue Ya firmly, knowing his injuries demanded immediate care.

“Bah, it’s just a few wounds. It’s not like I haven’t suffered worse. Senior Brother, there’s no need to make a fuss...”

Before Xue Ya could finish, Pu Zhen shot him a glare. That alone silenced him. With a sulky face, Xue Ya obediently shut his mouth and settled into meditation.

Lin Xun couldn’t help but chuckle. It was clear that even now, his senior brother Xue Ya, once hailed as the Emperor Dao Top Scholar Lang, a man whose brilliance shook the world, still showed deep respect and deference toward Senior Brother Pu Zhen.

“Junior Brother, how did you end up here?” Pu Zhen asked.

Lin Xun recounted everything that had happened since he left the Origin Sect. When Pu Zhen learned that Lin Xun had personally slain the Four Fiend Venerables of Empty Hidden World, his expression shifted.

“Junior Brother...you have truly grown.” He sighed, his dark and simple features softening with pride. He thought back to when he had first met Lin Xun. At the time he was only at the Saint Stage. Now, he had become a peerless figure on the immortal path, single-handedly sweeping aside the Four Fiend Venerables!

“Senior Brother, what about you?” After finishing his account, Lin Xun turned the question back on Pu Zhen.

Jun Huan had once told him that six senior brothers, Eldest Senior Brother Combat Emperor, Fifth Senior Brother Blazing Jun, Eighth Senior Brother Clairvoyant, Eleventh Senior Brother Pu Zhen, Twelfth Senior Brother Shen Yan, and Thirteenth Senior Brother Li Xuanwei, had all gone to the Taiyu True Realm in search of a great fortune tied to Transcendence.

Meanwhile, Senior Brother Xue Ya, Senior Brother Qing Ting, Senior Sister Cheng Yu along with Third Senior Sister, had headed to Spirit Sect Ancestral Court.

However now, Pu Zhen, who should have been in the Taiyu True Realm, was here together with Xue Ya, who should have been in the Spirit Sect. Worse, both had been grievously injured by figures of the Zen Sect Ancestral Court. This was undoubtedly puzzling.

“It’s a long story.” Pu Zhen fell silent, as though weighing his words.

At that moment, Xue Ya, who had his eyes closed, suddenly interjected, “Senior Brother, you’re no good at speaking. Let me tell Junior Brother instead...”

Then he launched into a torrent of words. It had to be said that Senior Brother Xue Ya truly lived up to his reputation as a man who was well read and eloquent. His words flowed like a string of pearls as he recounted everything to Lin Xun with vivid details.

Pu Zhen could only watch on with a trace of helplessness. He was well aware of his own clumsy tongue. Although he was worried over Xue Ya's condition, in the end he chose not to interrupt.

When Xue Ya finished, Lin Xun understood the whole picture. In truth, it was not that complicated.

Senior Brother Pu Zhen and the others had followed their eldest senior brother into the Taiyu True Realm in search of the transcendence fortune. Unfortunately, there, they encountered obstruction from the forces of the Zen Sect Ancestral Court.

In the end, although their eldest senior brother and the others succeeded in obtaining the fortune related to breaking through to the Transcendence Stage, they were ultimately ensnared within the Taiyu True Realm by the forces of the Zen Sect.

The Zen Sect was vicious beyond comparison. They cast a vast net of heaven and earth to seal off the entire Taiyu True Realm, and even allowed several Immortal Giants of the Eighth Heaven Domain to be stationed outside.

Fortunately, though trapped, their eldest senior brother and the others were not gravely harmed. They concealed themselves within a forbidden zone of the Taiyu True Realm, ensuring that their lives were not in immediate danger.

Moreover, following their eldest senior brother's decision at the time, they did not rush to escape the Taiyu True Realm. Instead, they chose to wait for the right opportunity to come so that Blazing Jun, Pu Zhen, and the others could also use this period to pursue their own breakthroughs toward the Transcendence Stage.

Following that, decades passed.

What they had not anticipated was that the Immortal Giants of the Eighth Heaven Realm would deliberately spread false information to Third Senior Sister and the others in the Spirit Sect Ancestral Court, claiming that their eldest senior brother and his group had already been surrounded and were on the brink of destruction!

Third Senior Sister Ruo Su did suspect that this was likely a scheme by the Immortal Giants of the Eighth Heaven Domain. However, out of deep concern for their eldest senior brother and the others, she still sent Xue Ya alone to the Taiyu True Realm to investigate.

After all, it was just to gather information so one person would suffice. Besides, Xue Ya held countless trump cards and killing moves at his disposal, which was more than enough to handle any unforeseen dangers.

However, they underestimated the ruthlessness of the Zen Sect and the Immortal Giants of the Eighth Heaven Domain. On his way to Taiyu True Realm, Xue Ya was ambushed.

The Zen Sect dispatched a Buddha Venerable at the Transcendence Immortal Stage together with four Brahma Lords of the Nirvana Spirit Realm, and together they dealt a devastating blow to Xue Ya.

At the most perilous moment, Pu Zhen appeared, rescued Xue Ya and brought him back to Cloud Guardian Workshop. Hearing this, Lin Xun felt his heart tremble and his very soul shaken. Although his senior brother Xue Ya spoke with wit and eloquence, behind his words lurked perils beyond imagination!

Once he had calmed down, Lin Xun couldn't help but ask, "Senior Brother Pu Zhen, how did you know Senior Brother Xue Ya was in danger?"

Pu Zhen explained, "We were trapped in the Taiyu True Realm. But with Senior Brother Clairvoyant's innate secret art, we could glimpse the enemies' movements and even hear their talk outside.

"When we learned that they had spread false news to lure Third Senior Sister and the others into the Taiyu True Realm, we knew something was wrong. Eldest Senior Brother then decided, no matter what, one of us must get out to warn Third Senior Sister not to come.

"So he and the others fought hard. They tore open an opening that gave me the chance to break free. On the way, I ran into Junior Brother Xue Ya. After pulling him out of danger, we came here."

Pu Zhen's account was as wooden and blunt as his nature. In just a few flat sentences, he recounted everything from start to finish. Lin Xun could only picture for himself the bloody, perilous, and bone-chilling slaughter that must have taken place.

Still, despite Pu Zhen's simple way of speaking, he explained the matter clearly.

"Are Eldest Senior Brother and the others safe?" Lin Xun asked anxiously.

Pu Zhen replied, "They're all injured. Outside Taiyu True Realm, there are at least ten old monsters at the Transcendence Stage stationed there. If not for Eldest Senior Brother, who has already stepped into Transcendence, holding back all those murderous calamities alone, the outcome would have been unimaginably dire."

Lin Xun's chest tightened.

Seeing this, Xue Ya smiled reassuringly. "Don't worry, Junior Brother. Our senior brothers have been through every kind of horror and peril imaginable. Nothing will happen to them."

Pu Zhen nodded. "Yes, that's exactly what Eldest Senior Brother told me to tell you after I got out. Just focus on your own affairs and don't worry about what's happening in Taiyu True Realm."

As if worried Lin Xun still hadn't understood, Xue Ya added, "Eldest Senior Brother and the others are hiding within Taiyu True Realm, so their lives aren't in immediate danger. But if we attempt a rescue now, we'll only be walking right into the enemy's carefully laid trap."

"That's why Eldest Senior Brother and the others went to such lengths to send Senior Brother Pu Zhen out. They want to tell us to each focus on our own task and not be swayed by this incident. Otherwise, we'd be falling right into the enemy's scheme."

Xue Ya went on at length, while Pu Zhen only gave a nod and one word. "Correct."

"But what if..."

Lin Xun had just opened his mouth when Xue Ya cut him off. "There is no 'what if.'"

Lin Xun was silent for a moment before asking, "Then when will we go to rescue them?"

"After Third Senior Sister and the others finish their matters in the Spirit Sect Ancestral Court. And after you, Little Junior Brother, finish your task in the Origin Sect Ancestral Court," Xue Ya said solemnly.

Lin Xun was taken aback. "To become the Pavilion Master of the Origin Clarity Pavilion? Wouldn't that mean waiting nearly a hundred years?"

Pu Zhen rumbled in his deep, blunt voice, "We can wait. They can't."

"Little Junior Brother, don't worry. Our Fangchun Mountain has waited countless years for this moment. What's a little longer?"

Xue Ya's smile was gentle and his voice bright and clear. "Changes may come at any moment, but outside the Taiyu True Realm, the enemy can only wait passively. Every move they make is under our watch...and that is our advantage."

He paused before continuing, "The fact that they've mobilized such a grand formation only proves they've begun to see us as true threats. That is by no means a bad thing. In the past, aside from Master, none of us Fangchun Mountain successors were ever taken seriously by them."

Lin Xun gradually calmed himself and asked, "Senior Brothers, what do you plan to do next?"

Pu Zhen and Xue Ya exchanged a glance, then Xue Ya said, "We'll head to the Spirit Sect Ancestral Court and warn Third Senior Sister and the others not to act rashly."

Lin Xun nodded, then suddenly asked the question that weighed heaviest on his heart. "Senior Brother...is our master...still alive?"

The enemies of the Eighth Heaven Domain had all sworn that the Lord of Fangchun Mountain perished in a catastrophic disaster when he ventured into the Ninth Heaven Domain.

“Alive,” Pu Zhen said calmly.

“He is most certainly alive,” Xue Ya said with firm conviction.

No matter who spoke, both radiated absolute certainty.

“Then where is he now?” Lin Xun couldn’t help but ask.

Xue Ya laughed heartily. “Hahaha! That, we don’t know. What matters is that we each do our part.”

Pu Zhen gave a firm nod and was just about to speak when a deep, sonorous Buddhist chant resounded, heavy and resonant like the morning bell and evening dhu.

“Fellow Daoist Xue Ya laughs so merrily. Do you truly believe you have escaped this calamity?”

Every word carried a wondrous power, striking directly into the heart. As the voice echoed, an indescribable aura of serenity, solemnity, and majesty surged forth, instantly saturating every inch of space within the room.

Chapter 2759 Baldies, Come and Fight!

The instant that grand, majestic voice resounded, Pu Zhen moved. With a flick of his sleeve, he whisked Lin Xun and Xue Ya away, vanishing into thin air. It was so swift that Lin Xun hadn’t even registered what was happening!

Boom!

The world suddenly quaked as if thunder from the ninth heaven had come crashing down.

“Old baldies...it’s you again?” Xue Ya’s voice rang out, laced with icy contempt.

“A mere dispute of orthodox lineages. If you choose to convert to our Zen Sect, this murderous tribulation will naturally dissolve.”

That solemn, tranquil, and commanding voice resounded once again. Then, Lin Xun's sight returned to clarity. He found himself in a boundless, vast world. The heaven and earth were bathed in golden brilliance, seas of auspicious clouds stretched without end, and waves of Buddhist chants reverberated through the cosmos, like the hymns of the Western Pure Land of Ultimate Bliss.

In the distance, five figures stood. The foremost figure was a gaunt old monk, his long white eyebrows drooping over a haggard face. He stood upon a thirty-six-petaled jade lotus, while behind his head blazed a divine wheel within which unfolded a vast Buddhist kingdom, shimmering brilliantly.

In his hand, he grasped a weapon called the Purple-Gold Demon-Subduing Pestle. Though he stood casually, he seemed like the sole sovereign beneath heaven. Around him, celestial blossoms scattered, Buddhist chants reverberated, and countless auspicious lights and divine rays cascaded down.

A single faraway glance at it was enough to make one's heart tremble in awe! However, in Lin Xun's eyes, this was no mortal, but instead a living incarnation of the supreme dao itself, transcending the mortal world, towering above all beings, exuding a majesty that seemed to overlook the heavens!

Terrifying beyond words!

Behind this gaunt old monk stood four figures clad in monk robes and straw sandals. Each of them radiating an immortal aura and brilliance.

One held a snow-white rosary, standing upon auspicious clouds and a soft rain of light. Another gripped a discipline ruler, his bearing like a wrathful Vajra, and his body wreathed in images of Buddhist stupas. A third wielded a withered wooden zen staff, devoid of any aura, as though steeped in eternal silence and stillness. The last wore a kindly smile, a green lantern glowing softly in his hand.

The five Zen Sect cultivators stood as if they commanded heaven and earth, their majesty like the golden light of the great dao, suffusing the mountains and rivers, illuminating the cosmos, boundless and inexhaustible!

"Little Junior Brother, the gaunt baldy leading them is known as Shiye, one of the Nine Buddha Venerables of the Zen Sect. He has already attained the Transcendence Stage. The other four are

Brahma Lords of the Zen Sect, Hong Ke, Hong Jing, Hong Yi, and Hong Yuan, each possessing Nirvana Spirit cultivation.” Xue Ya’s voice sounded in Lin Xun’s mind.

“It was these baldies who left me gravely wounded not long ago. If not for Senior Brother Pu Zhen, I’d never have made it back to the Cloud Guardian Workshop. I never imagined they would hunt me down even here.”

His voice was filled with coldness and scorn. “This place is the Golden Light Dharma Realm, condensed from the golden light law, one of the seven great laws of the Zen Sect. They call it the Pure Land of Buddha and the Purgatory of Demons. Trapped here, our cultivation will be hugely suppressed. If a battle breaks out, Senior Brother Pu Zhen and I will carve open a path. No matter what, we’ll get you out of here.”

As he spoke, waves of chanting echoed in the distance, like a Buddha reciting sutras.

Buddha Venerable Shiye stated, “If I am not mistaken, the one beside you should be Lin Xun, the fiftieth successor of Fangchun Mountain?”

In the depths of his eyes, a pair of golden lotus seals flared to life, radiating streams of mysterious light as they fixed on Lin Xun, filled with astonishment and surprise.

The four Brahma Lords also revealed strange expressions. None of them had expected that while pursuing Pu Zhen and Xue Ya, they would also stumble upon this young man whose name already resounded across the heavens.

“This talk is meaningless.” Pu Zhen’s muffled voice rumbled like thunder. His towering figure surged with vast currents of dao laws that unfurled into one mysterious and profound dao diagram after another, forming screens of protection before him and Lin Xun.

“It really is dull. In the end, only victory and defeat matter. Why waste words?” Xue Ya said calmly. A scroll appeared in his hand as vast, powerful qi surged from his body, soaring straight into the heavens. His robes whipped wildly, and his aura was so immense it seemed to pierce through the eternal skies.

Across the void, Shiye stated indifferently, "This is not meaningless talk. If this child joins the Zen Sect, the one whom the Lord of Fangchun Mountain has awaited for countless ages would fall into our hands and all his lifework would be destroyed in an instant. For us, nothing in this world could be more important."

"Absurd," Xue Ya snapped. With a sweep of his sleeve, golden dao symbols erupted across the heaven, each one shining as though cast from divine gold. A wisp of noble spirit rides the wind for a thousand miles!

"So aggressive!"

Brahma Lord Hong Ke stepped forward, casting the snow-white rosary from his hand as he pressed his palms together.

Boom!

One hundred and eight prayer beads transformed in midair, becoming one hundred and eight solemn Buddhist figures, each moving in unison to display a supreme inheritance of the Zen Sect. A violent roar split the heavens as the dao symbols summoned by Xue Ya were shattered one by one, dissolving into a rain of radiant light.

At that moment, Buddha Venerable Shiye spoke calmly, his voice resounding like a great bell, "Xue Ya, you are already gravely wounded, like an arrow at the end of its flight. Insisting on fighting will only ruin the foundation of your dao. I advise you to abandon thoughts of anger and bloodshed."

Xue Ya raised a brow and laughed. "Thoughts of anger and bloodshed? I'm no baldy monk, why should I heed your preaching? Come, let's fight!"

With that, he tore a page from the scroll in his hand and gave it a flick. At once, a torrent of sword qi condensed, stretching a thousand feet long, blazing like a rainbow as it pierced the sky, as though to split heaven and earth itself. A sword and a cup of wine, the unshaken heart of a man!

Shiye's brows furrowed. This time, without waiting for the four Brahma Lords, a thirty-six-petaled jade lotus beneath his feet flared to life, shooting forth a dazzling beam of Buddha light that slashed across the void.

Bang!

The light was peerlessly sharp, shattering the sword qi as though it were nothing. The force remained undiminished, driving straight toward Xue Ya. This was the might of the Transcendence Stage! A single ray of Buddha light could suppress the cycles of reincarnation across all worlds!

"I'll take it!" Pu Zhen bellowed, stepping forward as his fist swung out. It was a simple strike, nothing ornate, but it was so fierce and unstoppable that he seemed invincible.

Boom!

The Golden Light Dharma Realm shook violently, as if a colossal hand was crushing the sea of auspicious clouds, scattering them like torn cotton. Mountains quaked, rivers roared, and an unmatched immortal might swept across the heavens and earth.

Lin Xun's eyes burned with stabbing pain. His mind reeled, and his chest felt so oppressed it was as though he could barely draw breath!

This clash had already surpassed the limits of the Heavenly Longevity realm, its power utterly beyond imagination. Had he not possessed the might of an Immortal, he would have been obliterated in an instant.

Pu Zhen staggered, his tall frame trembling. Blood gushed from his lips and his dark face paled.

"Senior Brothers!" Lin Xun's heart tightened.

Pu Zhen grinned through the blood. "The power of Transcendence is indeed formidable...but it can't kill me. Don't worry."

He drew a deep breath, and his aura surged, growing even more terrifying. In the distance, Buddha Venerable Shiye and the four Brahma Lords remained utterly composed, their expressions unruffled. It was the bearing of those certain of victory, as calm and effortless as drifting clouds and a gentle breeze.

“Most of your trump cards have already been spent in the previous battle. Now you stand at the end of the road. Your life and death rest in our hands.” Shiye spoke, his voice resounding like a mighty bell. “I have refrained from striking ruthlessly, for I could not bear to destroy the one who the Lord of Fangchun Mountain has awaited for countless ages. But now, I give you ten breaths to decide. Submit to my sect, and you may be reborn anew. Refuse, and I can only uphold the dao with my strength and eradicate the enemy.”

His expression remained calm, solemn and majestic.

“Hahaha, Since ancient times, the struggle between orthodox lineages has always been a battle to the death. Enough of this nonsense! Strike!” Xue Ya laughed loudly, his aura surging higher and higher.

A man’s heart remains iron-strong, even unto death!

“Our Fangchun Mountain has never bred traitors!” Pu Zhen’s deep, wooden voice rang with unwavering resolve.

In the distance, Shiye nodded, his tone calm as ever. “I anticipated this answer. Very well, today I shall personally ferry you beyond the sufferings of this world.”

Slowly, he raised the Purple-Gold Demon-Subduing Pestle in his hand.

Boom!

Suddenly, countless streams of golden law power, thick as dragons and pythons, surged across heaven and earth, all converging upon the Purple-Gold Demon-Subduing Pestle. In an instant, the treasure blazed like a burning sun. An indescribable, suffocating aura of death swept straight into the hearts of Pu Zhen, Xue Ya, and Lin Xun.

“Let’s attack together and carve out a path of survival for Little Junior Brother,” Pu Zhen said in a deep, steady voice.

A pitch-black hoe appeared in his grip, the aura around him erupting like a volcano on the verge of explosion, violent and berserk beyond comparison.

“Naturally.” Xue Ya smiled, his vast aura shaking the heavens and the earth. In the distance, the sound of the great dao rumbled like thunder across the sky. Facing Shiye’s attack, the two had chosen to fight to the death.

Boom!

Far away, Shiye’s expression remained calm and solemn as he swung the Purple-Gold Demon-Subduing Pestle. In that instant, it was as though a colossal purple sun had risen into the sky. Within that blazing sun lay three thousand Buddha realms, with Sanskrit chants rolling like thunder as billions of radiant beams bursting forth in all directions.

This strike was beyond terrifying! So terrifying that even a Nirvana Spirit Immortal would fall into utter despair!

Pu Zhen and Xue Ya exchanged a glance, and then both smiled. It was the composure of men who had already cast life aside. They treated death as a return home, calm and unshaken!

Suddenly, Lin Xun’s voice rang out, “Senior Brothers, this time it’s my turn.”

Pu Zhen and Xue Ya’s pupils constricted sharply. Just as they were about to stop him—A majestic, god-like figure appeared above the heavens.

He radiated dazzling brilliance, immortal might surging about like a boundless ocean. It condensed into millions of sword-shaped laws that circled around him, clashing and resonating like a tidal wave, sweeping across the nine heavens.

His momentum alone pressed down so heavily that the Golden Light Dharma Realm itself seemed to collapse. The heavens caved in and all things crumbled, unveiling a scene of terrifying ruin.

Almost at the same time, Shiye's strike came crashing down from the heavens. It was like a blazing purple sun crushing the void, its golden laws unraveling into raging torrents of light, as if to melt heaven and earth into nothingness.

Boom!

The towering figure, proud and domineering, straightened his body and hurled forth a punch. With a single punch, the blazing purple sun shattered into fragments. Endless streams of golden laws scattered like fire as the entire world quaked violently.

Such a peerless, domineering strike instantly drew the attention of everyone present! Even Pu Zhen and Xue Ya were shaken, realizing that although this was only a manifestation of will, it surged with the terrifying might of the Transcendence Stage. This was none other than the will of the Origin Sky Pavilion Master!

In the distance, Shiye's eyes narrowed, but his expression quickly settled back into calm. "So it is Fellow Daoist Yan Ji. Only a wisp of your primordial spirit remains, leaving behind nothing but this will dharma form. How pitiful."

The alarm on the four Brahma Lords' faces also faded, restoring their composure. After all, it was nothing more than the will dharma form of the Origin Sky Pavilion Master. It posed no true threat, not when they had Buddha Venerable Shiye and the Golden Light Dharma Realm on their side!

"Since when have I fallen so low that even you bald monks dare to pity me?"

Yan Ji's will dharma form let out a cold snort. Around him, billions of sword-shaped laws clashed and roared. Its might was so overwhelming that it was hard to believe such power belonged to a will dharma. As he spoke, he strode forward, sleeves billowing, his thunderous voice booming across the heavens. "Baldies, come and fight!"

Chapter 2760 Finish Him!

The four Brahma Lords' faces darkened as they were called bald monks one after another. Shiye, however, remained calm as ever. "You deal with the three remnants of Fangchun Mountain. Remember, do not harm Lin Xun. As for old Yan Ji's will dharma form, I will handle it."

As his words fell, the thirty-six-petaled jade lotus beneath his feet roared to life, lifting him into the air. With a solemn motion, he swung down the purple gold Demon-Subduing Pestle in his hand.

Boom!

Vast, blazing law power condensed into a single beam of purple-gold light, crashing toward Yan Ji.

"Today I'll show you that even a will dharma form is not something a nobody like you can destroy!" Yan Ji gave a cold snort. As his sleeve billowed, a torrent of brilliant sword qi burst forth.

A battle erupted. The two clashed in the skies, waging a fierce battle at the Transcendence level.

Yan Ji was truly terrifying. Even as a will dharma form, his words carried law and his sword intent veiled the heavens. With every slash, it was as though he would tear apart the eternal azure dome and shatter the barriers of the great dao. His dominance was boundless. That momentum and that might were like the rebirth of a legendary sword god!

Shiye was no less terrifying. He was a true Transcendence powerhouse, one of the nine Buddha Venerables of the Zen Sect. His age was unfathomably ancient, and he had stepped into this realm tens of thousands of years ago.

The thirty-six-petaled jade lotus beneath his feet was condensed from his immortal laws, while the Purple-Gold Demon-Subduing Pestle in his hand was the supreme treasure that commanded the Golden Light Dharma Realm. In the clash with Yan Ji, he was in no way inferior!

Boom!

Where the two collided, the battlefield turned to chaos, turmoil roared, destruction raged, and an aura of annihilation spread in all directions. If such a clash had erupted in the outside world, who could imagine how many cities and rivers would be wiped from existence?

However, Lin Xun had no time to concern himself with such things. Because while this battle was raging, the four Brahma Lords, Hong Ke, Hong Jing, Hong Yi and Hong Yuan, had already made their move, striking in unison.

The Brahma Lords of the Zen Sect were equivalent to the elder figures of the three pavilions of the Origin Sect. Having been at the Nirvana Spirit Stage for countless years, they were true old monsters, beings who had walked the world for no less than ten thousand years!

At this moment, as the four Brahma Lords acted together, an unmatched killing intent surged forth, sweeping across the heavens like a boundless tide.

“Arrogant!” Hong Ke’s solemn voice resounded, his expression dignified as he raised the snow-white rosary in his hand. At once, one hundred and eight phantom Buddhas surged forth, descending in a suppressive attack.

Boom!

Hong Jing was like an enraged Vajra, wielding a black discipline ruler. A vision of a thousand-year-old stupa rose behind him as he struck down, shattering the void into dust. Hong Yi, silent as a shadow, advanced with a withered wooden Zen staff in hand, his aura locking tightly onto Xue Ya.

“Little friend, do not resist, or you will only bring needless suffering upon yourself.”

Meanwhile, Hong Yuan, smiling gently with kind eyes, swept forward with a bronze lantern in hand.

At once, Lin Xun also transmitted his decision to Pu Zhen and Xue Ya, “Senior brothers, follow my plan. Together, we’ll finish off these old baldies.”

The situation was dire and he dared not conceal anything. This battle had to be resolved swiftly, otherwise the consequences would be disastrous.

“Alright.”

Without hesitation, Pu Zhen and Xue Ya moved to shield Lin Xun at the center. Pu Zhen swung his pitch-black hoe, while Xue Ya unfurled his dao scroll, meeting the incoming assaults head-on.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun summoned the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron. At once, it erupted with billions of radiant beams, forming a shield of light that enveloped all three of them. Suddenly, Pu Zhen and Xue Ya keenly sensed that the oppressive suppression the Golden Light Dharma Realm had exerted on their cultivation had completely dissolved. Their spirits immediately lifted.

Boom!

The battle erupted, plunging the scene into utter chaos.

In an instant, shadows of Buddhas swept across the sky, performing various unfathomable secret arts. Each strike of the black discipline ruler conjured the vision of a Buddhist stupa subduing the world. Threads of dim yet crystal-clear light flashed like blades and swords, brimming with unmatched sharpness. These were the killing power unleashed from the withered wooden zen staff.

And as the bronze lantern swayed in midair, threads of snow-white Buddha fire blossomed like burning stars, radiating an unimaginable purifying power.

The four Brahma Lords simultaneously unleashed their own divine powers and treasures, surrounding Lin Xun and his two companions on all sides, and raining down an overwhelming assault.

The scene was chilling to the core. Truly terrifying!

Xue Ya was already heavily wounded, and Pu Zhen was injured as well. Even though they fought together, they were forced into a passive state, and soon suppressed under the assault. The four Brahma Lords pressed in relentlessly, closing the distance with every step!

Lin Xun did not make a single move from beginning to end. He only urged the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron to shield his senior brothers. His expression was so calm it was frightening. Ordinary attacks were useless against the four Brahma Lords. If he struck rashly, he would only give them a chance to exploit.

So he waited. As time passed, the battle grew ever more perilous.

Pu Zhen and Xue Ya were already gravely wounded, yet they fought on with everything they had. Fresh injuries piled upon old, blood spilling from their lips again and again. That battered, desperate sight filled Lin Xun's chest with both anguish and a towering hatred.

It was not that his two senior brothers were weak, but instead their injuries had been inflicted earlier by Buddha Venerable Shiye himself.

Had they been at their peak, the two of them could have stood shoulder to shoulder against these four Brahma Lords. However, such thoughts were meaningless now.

"If you can't endure, why struggle so bitterly? The sea of suffering has no end; turn back and you'll find the shore." Hong Ke sighed deeply, his expression solemn, as though truly pained by the miserable plight of Lin Xun and the others.

However, once he struck, he showed no mercy. His might surged fiercely as he pressed forward step by step.

"The struggle between orthodox lineage allows not the slightest mercy. I deem them heretics, and they deem us the same. To uphold the dao and to eradicate Fangchun, one must be prepared to give one's life!" Hong Jing's expression was resolute, his gaze glaring fiercely across the world, his authority terrifying to the extreme.

His attack was the fiercest of them all.

"Remember Buddha Venerable's command. Lin Xun must be captured alive," Hong Yi reminded the others.

As they talked, their combined might swelled higher and higher, so oppressive that Pu Zhen and Xue Ya struggled to even lift their heads.

“Little friend, come with me!”

The kind-faced Hong Yuan suddenly thrust out his hand, shattering through Pu Zhen and Xue Ya’s weakened defenses in a single motion, reaching straight for Lin Xun. His speed was beyond imagination!

At this critical moment, Lin Xu’s eyes gleamed with a piercing cold light. The innate divine powers he had kept suppressed until now erupted forth in a sudden blaze. The four Brahma Lords froze in place, their movements stalled for a moment.

In the same instant, a rift in time and space quietly unfolded, like a passage to hell, spreading into a thousand-foot gate that descended to shroud the battlefield.

His two innate powers, Time Stopping and the Gate of Exile, erupted into existence together! The terror of that scene defied words.

Lin Xun, Pu Zhen, and Xue Ya had all been waiting for this exact moment. When their counterattack finally began, there was no hesitation, only the unleashing of their full might.

The four Brahma Lords, though caught in the grip of the Time Stopping divine power, still reacted with astonishing speed. However, because they had been pressing forward relentlessly, when they tried to retreat, the Gate of Exile was already upon them!

“Retreat!” Hong Ke bellowed, his voice laced with both fury and dread.

Relying entirely on instincts tempered through countless years of battle and slaughter, the four violently retreated at that perilous moment, unleashing their full cultivation in a desperate attempt to escape.

A chill of fatal danger struck them all at once. In the end, they were still a step too late. Pu Zhen, Xue Ya, Lin Xun had already struck with all their strength, sealing off every path of retreat.

Boom!

A deafening roar shook the heavens, fierce and world-shattering, like chaos itself detonating. Wild immortal currents surged in every direction, flooding and drowning the universe.

“No—!”

Amidst panicked, unwilling cries, Hong Yuan was the first to be devoured by the Gate of Exile. Moments ago, his face had been kindly, his smile gentle, but at the critical moment he had revealed his fangs, lunging straight for Lin Xun. It was also because he had been the closest, he was also the first to fall.

Next came Hong Yi, clutching his withered zen staff. Struck hard by Pu Zhen’s full-force blow, he staggered and was seized by the devouring power of the gate. He was dragged screaming into its depths.

Then it was Hong Jing’s turn. Like a wrathful Vajra, fierce and domineering, he struck out on instinct even as the Gate of Exile swallowed him whole. He shattered Xue Ya’s right arm with one savage punch. In the end, he too could not escape, vanishing utterly into the gate.

Only Hong Ke survived. His reaction was the sharpest. His retreat the swiftest. Even when Pu Zhen, Xue Ya and Lin Xun struck in unison, he tore his way through their assault and broke free from the Gate of Exile’s pull. However, his face was ashen, and his eyes were blazing with shock and fury!

The calamity had struck them without warning, like the gate of death crashing down, catching them utterly unprepared. All he could do was stare helplessly as three of his fellow Brahma Lords, Hong Jing, Hong Yi, and Hong Yuan, were consumed by that eerie, horrifying Gate of Exile.

A shudder ran through him, not from cold, but from terror! In the distance, bloodied and broken, Xue Ya burst into wild laughter. Even he had not expected that his junior brother would deliver such an earth-shaking reversal!

Pu Zhen wiped the blood from his mouth and muttered, “Just one short...” He looked somewhat unwilling.

Lin Xun was even more unwilling. Without a second thought, he said, "Finish him!"

The rage and hatred pent within him had to be unleashed. The moment his words fell, he once again unleashed the divine power of Time Stopping.

Though far away, Hong Ke had not lowered his guard. He instantly summoned every defense at his disposal and attempted to flee. However, the terror of Time Stopping was that it drew directly on the power of time itself. So long as time flowed in this world, the technique was invincible.

Although Hong Ke was a Nirvana Spirit powerhouse, he had never touched the mysteries of time. No matter how much strength he poured out, he was still frozen still for an instant. In that gap, Pu Zhen, Xue Ya, and Lin Xun appeared before him, each unleashing their mightiest strike.

Boom!

Pu Zhen's hoe smashed down at the advanced Nirvana Spirit Brahma Lord. Hong Ke's body exploded into bloody fragments and even his primordial spirit was brutally wounded.

Xue Ya's vast power transformed into sword qi, and together with Lin Xun's Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, they blasted Hong Ke's damaged primordial spirit into pulp. With a single blow, the enemy was destroyed!

The carnage left the three brothers exhilarated, their pent-up fury finally vented. All of it had unfolded in the span of just a few breaths. As the carnage drew to an end, a cold, thunderous shout suddenly split the heavens, "Next time, I will take your heads!"

It was Buddha Venerable Shiye's voice. Almost at the same time, Yan Ji's icy voice rang out, "Leaving without even deciding the victor. Since when did you bald monks become so spineless?"

Lin Xun and the others looked up. In the heavens, Yan Ji's will dharma form stood battered and dimmed, but his aura remained so overwhelming it made the soul quiver.

Opposite him, Buddha Venerable Shiye was in no better state. The thirty-six-petaled jade lotus beneath his feet was cracked, his face pale, and a sword gash had split his cheek so deep that bone gleamed beneath!

As Lin Xun and the others looked up, Shiye gave a cold snort. With a wave of his Purple-Gold Demon-Subduing Pestle, his figure flickered and vanished into nothingness. At once, the Golden Light Dharma Realm collapsed, dissolving like a bubble in the wind.

Only then did Lin Xun realize they were now standing above the skies of the Cloud Guardian Workshop. All around was vast emptiness and the figure of Buddha Venerable Shiye was already nowhere to be seen.

At that moment, the skies were boundlessly clear, and the mountains and rivers were like a painting come alive. All that had happened just moments ago now seemed no more than an unreal dream.