

Prodigies 2811

Chapter 2811 Disciple of an Old Acquaintance

For the next week, Lin Xun studied the mysteries of the hundreds of cultivation systems undisturbed. However, Fortune Divine City had been quite eventful.

The previous deaths of several divine-level characters let all residents know that even if they dispatched more of those, it would still not be easy to kill Lin Xun. Therefore, whenever a divine son or maiden arrived during this time and caused quite a stir, none of them went to find him to cause trouble.

All of them started to hole up, but this only made the other cultivators in the city tremble even harder with fear. It was clear to everyone that the big divine clans would never let Lin Xun get off lightly. Perhaps when more and more of those divine juniors converged, a storm of unprecedented scale would erupt!

Some people had counted close to thirty divine juniors from various divine clans coming to the city in just these seven days!

Every one of them was a legend in an epochal world, having shown unrivaled potential and battle records in the Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage. Some among them were monsters who had ranked dazzlingly high in the Hundred Clan Assembly.

At the moment, these existences that would never have set foot in Fortune Divine City in the past were flocking here, nearly thirty of them in just seven days, raising uncountable shocked outcries.

Fortunately, after learning about what Lin Xun had done, all of them chose to lie low, taking no action for the time being. Despite that though, the atmosphere in the city only became more and more tense and secretly turbulent with time.

Right at this moment, an outstandingly handsome man in white clothes appeared near the Fortune Starry Firmament. He looked at Lin Xun before his eyes quickly landed on a fiery red jade pendant hanging at the latter's waist. He stared for a long time at the word 'Chen' that was carved on it.

Afterward, the white-clothed man left. From beginning to end, no one noticed his presence. Even Lin Xun was oblivious.

Half a month passed quickly. The number of divine-level characters entering Fortune Divine City had also gradually increased.

During this period, the cultivators who left the city could sense the addition of many supreme auras in the depths of the surrounding universe. Each and every one of them had the might of the Eternal Stage!

They were like gods descending upon the mortal world, concealing themselves in the darkness of the void but also sealing off all routes leading out of Fortune Divine City.

There was no doubt that those 'gods' were all old relics from big divine clans. For the sake of the Eternity Coffin on Lin Xun, they had gone out of their way to personally come and station themselves here!

This event struck another wave of shock into the citizens. Not only did the divine juniors appear, but now even the old monsters of all the great divine clans had also gathered. Such a thing would never have happened in the past!

This was something absolutely never before seen!

As a result, people had a certain doubt that kept growing bigger by the day: Could it be that the secret in the Eternal Coffin really concerned the way to become the ruler of fortune? That whoever got it would be able to tower over all the other divine clans?

Various speculations were made, but all the spearheads were pointed at Lin Xun! What no one expected was that even in this kind of situation, he remained sitting in meditation under the Fortune Starry Firmament day and night like nobody's business...

"Who wouldn't be impressed by such a mind of steel and heart of courage?"

"Even if Lin Xun falls in the future, the commotion he's caused today already enshrines him in history."

Those had been the sighs and laments of many recently. As a matter of fact, Lin Xun's fame had attracted countless cultivators who came just to take a look at him from afar.

Among those visitors, there was no lack of heaven-defying divine juniors, but none of them made a move to provoke or disturb him. As a result, there was only his solitary figure under the huge Fortune Starry Firmament.

Time shuttled by. A month had gone since Lin Xun started exploring the great dao in this place. Today, there were many visitors as usual, but unlike in the past, a wisp of a voice transmission rang in his ears.

"I am Lu Zong. Per the order of my master, I have come to pay my respects."

Lin Xun's expression remained steady, but his spirit sense spread out and immediately locked on a gray-clad young man standing in the crowd. He had a heroic air about him and carried an ancient sword on his back.

"Who is your master?" Lin Xun asked via transmission.

"My master is a former friend of Senior Taixuan. Her name is Mo Yang," replied Lu Zong.

Mo Yang!

Lin Xun's mind was shaken, and an indescribable, pleasant surprise washed over him.

How could he forget Battle Emperor Mo Yang who had given him the legacy of No Escape in the Supreme Realm? How could he forget how that wisp of will power she had left behind that had regarded him as a comrade?

However, time had changed. The Battle Emperor Mo Yang of that year, like Taixuan, probably could no longer be called a battle emperor.

Lin Xun pressed down the excitement in his heart and transmitted, "I see. It's an honor to meet you, Senior Disciple. Where is Senior Mo Yang now, if I may ask?"

Lu Zong replied, "She did not come to Fortune Divine City, but she has long since learned about your matters here. She said that nowadays, Eternal experts from major divine clans have surrounded the city, so you shouldn't be in a hurry to leave. Aside from that, Master said that she has gotten in touch with some of her old friends. When the opportunity arises, they will act together and help you leave the Fortune Dominion."

Unspeakable warmth welled up in Lin Xun's heart. He was touched. With all the divine clans laying a siege to the city, anyone else wouldn't have been able to take this massive risk to help him, but Senior Mo Yang did.

Perhaps, this was on account of Senior Taixuan, or perhaps, there were other reasons, but no matter what, Lin Xun only had gratitude for her.

It was also at this moment that he understood what Taixuan had meant by 'an opportunity to turn the tide.'

Lin Xun transmitted, his voice solemn, "Please relay my thanks to your master and tell her that I, Lin Xun, will never forget this favor!"

Lu Zong said, "No need to be so formal. Master said that you and she both came from the Ancient Wasteland Domain, so she cannot stand back and do nothing when you are in trouble. Fellow Daoist, you must take care. There is no lack of unique and unrivaled individuals among the divine sons and maidens who have gathered in the city, so don't be careless."

With that, Lu Zong quietly left. Lin Xun, on the other hand, took a deep breath to calm the emotions in him and got back to meditation.

Before leaving the Fortune Dominion, he had to figure out one thing first: what on earth had Xia Zhi's former, true form had been painstakingly searching for back then?

At the same time, he also needed to give Thirteen a definite answer! As for those divine-level characters in the city, it wasn't that Lin Xun ignored them, but rather, it was hard for these kinds of things to affect his mental state at this point.

Another half a month unconsciously passed.

“We cannot keep waiting.”

In a palace in the middle of the city, a group of over ten divine juniors were having a meeting. The one occupying the main seat was clad in a python robe, wore his black hair down, and had a pair of eyes as clear as a lake. Casually sitting there, he radiated the intimidating might of a monarch.

Pu Yun!

Coming from the Divine Pu Clan, this absolute cultivation genius had ranked fifteenth in the Hundred Clan Assembly. Meanwhile, his clan had a secure place in the top five among the various divine clans with its heritage and power.

That was why Pu Yun was able to summon over a dozen divine-level figures with his name and prestige.

“If we delay until the divine sons and maidens from the Three Great Divine Clans in the World of the Divine get here, we won't have much of a chance with the fortune on Lin Xun,” Pu Yun's voice reverberated clear and loud like a morning bell.

World of the Divine!

The divine sons and maidens of the Three Great Divine Clans!

All the people present in the hall narrowed their eyes. They naturally understood the implication in his words.

A person frowned. "Brother Pu, aside from us, there are currently at least sixty divine sons and maidens in the city. If we act now, we will definitely become their target, and even if we succeed in seizing the fortune from Lin Xun, I'm afraid the others will eagerly rob it from us."

Another said, "For some time now, everyone has been dormant. No one wants to be the first to move not because they are scared of Lin Xun, but because there are too many rivals around here.

"But it has led to this stalemate where everyone is holding each other back, and it's by no means a good idea. What's more, if the Three Great Divine Clans enter the fray... Who in this city dares to compete with them?"

The analysis made the crowd hesitate.

A while later, one person resolutely said, "I agree with Pu Yun's decision."

"Count me in."

"Given this situation, I'll go with Brother Pu."

"And I as well."

Quite a few people chimed in at once.

Seeing this, Pu Yun immediately stood up and declared, "Thank you, everyone. If our operation is a success, I swear on my clan that I will not forget your help!"

"Let's go," he concluded his speech and headed out in quick strides.

The others followed him closely. As soon as the group exited the palace, they rushed toward the Fortune Starry Firmament.

It wasn't that they didn't want to conceal their aura. It was just pointless because there were eyes everywhere in Fortune Divine City, since people like them all needed to monitor their competitor's movements.

In short, acting in secrecy and hiding one's tracks were no longer viable, so it was imperative that they get to the destination as fast as possible and capture Lin Xun in one fell swoop before those rivals could react!

However, what Pu Yun's party had never expected was that when they arrived at the periphery of the Fortune Starry Firmament, another group was even a step faster, sweeping over at full speed from a different direction!

The other side was also a group of divine sons and maidens, in fact larger than them with close to twenty people. Their leader was a handsome, dignified young man clad in cerulean armor.

Upon seeing this person, Pu Yun could not help but frown.

Gongye Hui!

He was the Gongye Clan's divine son, a strong opponent that even Pu Yun had to be wary of. Back in the day, Gongye Hui had ranked twelfth in the Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage, which had been three places above him!

"I was right after all, Pu Yun. You indeed gathered your friends to conduct a sudden strike on Lin Xun. Luckily, I called my allies as soon as I guessed your intention, or else you could really have gotten the jump on us." This remark came from Gongye Hui, who couldn't help but laugh aloud when he saw Pu Yun.

Chapter 2812 Seek Death Together

Gongye Hui laughed maniacally, and so did the divine sons and maidens around him. Pu Yun's group, on the other hand, looked quite unsightly. They had intended to beat everyone else to it, but their plan had fallen through in the end.

"So to speak, you wish to compete with us, Brother Gongye?" asked Pu Yun coldly.

“Why not?” Gongye Hui asked back.

The atmosphere immediately grew oppressive and tense.

This was already the territory of the Fortune Starry Firmament. Quite a few cultivators nearby had noticed the arrival of the two groups, and while each of them was shaking like a leaf, they couldn't help but think the same thing.

This storm that has been building up momentum for weeks is about to erupt today!

Whoosh~

The onlookers all retreated from the area out of survival instinct, fearing that the great battle would spread to them. What made them speechless was that even at this point, Lin Xun was still sitting in place without a hint of a reaction!

Counting the divine-level characters brought by Pu Yun and Gongye Hui, there were roughly thirty. The scale of this could simply make anyone in Fortune Divine City despair. In Lin Xun's shoes, any divine son or maiden would probably have trouble standing straight. But the man himself...was a little too calm!

“Interesting. If nothing else, the courage of this fellow alone can definitely contend for number one.” Gongye Hui chuckled softly, bringing his group step by step closer to the Fortune Starry Firmament as he spoke.

“When two tigers fight, one is bound to suffer. He might have realized no matter who wants to kill him, they cannot avoid a clash among themselves first, and that he may just sit back and watch and then reap the benefits.” Pu Yun also led his party closer over, refusing to back down.

The atmosphere became hostile as the two groups entered a deadlock, unwilling to give up their ‘prey’ so easily. Right at this juncture, a leisurely laughter reverberated through every inch of space, “I’m not too late, what a relief.”

Pu Yun's and Gongye Hui's parties frowned in unison. Another?!

Meanwhile, the distant audience was clamoring as they watched a group of splendid teleportation lights cut through the horizon. Arriving instantly at the area, they were revealed to be individuals with frighteningly powerful auras.

The new group consisted of more than twenty people, led by an extremely gorgeous woman clad in shining silver battle armor. Her inky hair was tied up in a bun, clearly showcasing her features which were so fine that they seemed to have been directly drawn on. Her tall, slender, and elegant frame was draped by a fluttering scarlet cloak.

Wenren Ruoxue!

She was the Wenren Clan's divine maiden, a supreme prodigy who had ranked ninth in the Hundred Clan Assembly!

Her arrival and that of the group of divine peers she led put gravity on the expressions of Pu Yun, Gongye Hui, and the others.

This terrifying woman is a force to be reckoned with!

The tension in the air had reached a peak. With the addition of Wenren Ruoxue's party, there now were over fifty divine-level characters. In short, more than half of the divine sons and maidens from the various divine clans in the Fortune Dominion were present! Throughout history, when had this dominion ever seen such a spectacle?

"I didn't expect to see you here today, Miss Ruoxue," Gongye Hui let out a long sigh. "I really don't want to be your enemy."

"Enemies? Far from. We are at most rivals who compete over a fortune. Once the winner is decided, we can each go our own way." Wenren Ruoxue's tone was casual, her silver battle suit enhancing her valiant bearing.

"I guess that's the only option." Gongye Hui's smile became calm. As a divine son, his state of mind would not be affected by this situation.

“Our target has heaven-defying battle power, the Liangqiu trio and a whole bunch of others have died at his hands. I suggest we surround him together before competing with our own means, unless you guys already have other arrangements?” said Pu Yun solemnly.

The three sides were at daggers drawn, but no one paid Lin Xun any heed, as if they already considered him a bag of goods they could divide as they pleased. The hearts of the onlookers trembled. There was only one thought in their minds: This time, Lin Xun is done for!

More than fifty divine sons and maidens had shown up, and among them, there were many monsters more terrifying than Liangqiu Hu. No matter what approach they took, hunting down Lin Xun would be without suspense!

“Swarming him together is bound to start a messy scuffle and casualties none of us want to see, I'm afraid. How about we draw lots to determine who goes first?” Gongye Hui proposed after a brief consideration.

“How do we draw lots?” asked Wenren Ruoxue.

Apparently, she had also understood the situation. A free-for-all might let them capture Lin Xun in the end, but they would inevitably have to pay the price with unwanted casualties. As divine sons and maidens, who would want to risk their lives here? As such, drawing lots was a great way to resolve it.

Although Pu Yun didn't utter a word, he clearly acquiesced to this method as well. Right at this moment— “Why draw lots? Just do it together.”

Lin Xun, who had been motionless in meditation, had risen up at some point, and was looking this way with a flat expression as his voice echoed.

Together?!

The crowd was stunned, showing weird looks on their faces.

Pu Yun, Gongye Hui, Wenren Ruoxue, and their allies froze for a good second in disbelief. Then they exchanged glances, a strange feeling rising up in them. The arrogance of this guy just keeps shooting past everyone's expectations time and time again.

At such a time, in such a situation, even someone with the biggest guts in the world would be compelled to tone down a notch, but Lin Xun...did not!

Gongye Hui just had to ask, "I really want to know, who gave you your courage?"

Lin Xun pondered for a moment before replying in all seriousness, "Aren't you guys here to seek death? No matter what you do in the process, the outcome is already decided anyway, so why make it so complicated?"

Gongye Hui raised his brow and said in amusement, "Did you hear him, guys? Is that what a soon-to-die prey should say? Simply unhinged!"

Pu Yun calmly analyzed, "From how I see it, he probably knows that a big battle is inevitable, so he spurs us to go together because that way, we'll definitely entangle each other. This man acts arrogant, but he actually isn't stupid. He knows how to seize the opportunity that will work out well for him."

His viewpoint earned the approval of many people. A heaven-defying character like Lin Xun, as brazen as he was, could not be an idiot. By trying to provoke them into attacking him together, he obviously had already realized that all three parties wanted to capture him for themselves and thus would have to restrain and confront each other.

This in turn would allow him to fish in troubled waters.

"If that's your plan, then you've made a huge mistake," said Wenren Ruoxue. "We have no problem setting aside our differences to capture you first, and then discuss who will get to have you."

"That's a good idea." Gongye Hui nodded.

"Works for me," Pu Yun also agreed.

Instantly, all eyes, all hostility were directed at Lin Xun alone. The distant spectators uncontrollably sweated for him. However, the man himself actually smiled and said, "It's long overdue."

After a pause, he turned to the faraway crowd. "Does anyone else want to join them? I'll give you all a chance to seek death together."

The entire field went silent. Every single living thing was dumbfounded. All of those people...still isn't enough for you?!

Gongye Hui, who had been unable to stand Lin Xun's attitude, shouted at his breaking point, "Do it! Wreck him!"

Boom!

The cerulean armor on him glowed, and he took the lead, storming out with a silver trident in his grip. Seeing this, how could Pu Yun and Wenren Ruoxue, who had long been ready for action, fall behind? Almost immediately, they shot out together.

Swish!

From Wenren Ruoxue's hand, a long, black shuttle flew out and spun around, weaving afterimages and shooting billions of sharp tips that tore the void apart.

Clank!

Pu Yun summoned a treasure pagoda shrouded in intense lightning arcs, smashing it at Lin Xun from above.

Besides them, the crowd of divine sons and maidens also made their moves at once. Over fifty divine-level characters, each one a legend of an epochal world who was without equals in the same realm, were attacking together. How could one even describe the terror?

The whole region quaked. An unparalleled power torrent covered the dome above and drowned the void below. Dazzling lights of every color imaginable and the densely packed dao laws and treasures in them all swept toward Lin Xun alone.

The destructive energy scared all the cultivators in the vicinity to the point that their livers cracked. They frantically scrambled away. It was just too terrifying!

However, facing the crowd of murderous enemies coming fast at him, Lin Xun laughed as if he was watching a group of prey sending themselves to his mouth...

Whoosh!

In this instant, a huge crack in the void abruptly appeared behind Lin Xun and transformed into a swirling portal that was ten thousand feet tall.

The Gate of Exile!

From afar, it looked like a massive bloody mouth had suddenly opened up between heaven and earth. Meanwhile, in front of this mouth, the group of charging divine juniors resembled a school of fish rapidly swimming in.

KABOOM!

That world-destroying power torrent got swallowed whole by the swirling portal. The attackers at the front, wanting to be the first to catch Lin Xun, couldn't evade in time and got swept directly into the gate that looked like it was connected to the depths of hell.

"Damnit! Fall back!"

"Watch out!"

“Run!”

Frightened shrieks resounded. Pu Yun, Gongye Hui, and Wenren Ruoxue were the first to notice the danger and subconsciously tried to retreat, but how could Lin Xun let them have their way?

Rumble!

The Gate of Exile immediately expanded, releasing a horrid spacetime devouring power that shattered and twisted the surrounding void. Seemingly, it strove to swallow this universe in one gulp.

Even from so far away, the onlookers issued horrified screams as they sensed a deadly threat. They ran like the end of the world was chasing, as if staying a second more would plunge them into a catastrophe.

The divine sons and maidens, who were in the very eye of this storm, got dragged one by one into the Gate of Exile against their will, vanishing in the blink of an eye like tiny black dots. Only their mournful, terrified, angry, and unwilling cries were left behind to echo.

Most of them had already set foot on the path of immortality with bright futures awaiting. Perhaps they would even get to inherit their clans one day and wield immense authority over an epochal world.

They were divine children, the heart and effort of a lineage. They were invincible geniuses in their realm!

Today, however, they appeared utterly pathetic, panicking to the last one like a bunch of helpless ants in a flood as they got exiled to oblivion...

Chapter 2813 Five Years

This shocking and bizarre scene lasted for merely three breaths before fading. The Gate of Exile disappeared.

Peace was returned, but including Wenren Ruoxue, Pu Yun, and Gongye Hui, only seven divine juniors remained. Their hair was disheveled and their clothes were messy. All of them panted for breath with unconcealable shock on their faces as their inner spirits spiraled.

The other divine sons and maidens who had accompanied them here had all but vanished, devoured by the Gate of Exile with not a trace left. That horrifying scene drove them out of their minds, causing them to shiver all over.

The horizon was also in disarray. The crowd of spectators who had fled earlier kept a great distance. Each had a terrified look and a palpitating heart. What they had witnessed was simply a nightmare that left a deep, long-lasting impact.

No one had expected that right at the start of the battle, Lin Xun would unleash a taboo power that would wipe out over fifty divine sons and maidens! To think that they had felt bad for him. They had been sure that he was done for this time, with the only question being at whose hands.

However...he had turned everything around in just three breaths!

“Go!” Pu Yun swiftly teleported, wanting to flee. As if there was a telepathic connection, Wenren Ruoxue, Gongye Hui, and the few remaining divine juniors also chose to retreat in unison.

The power displayed by Lin Xun earlier had completely shattered their confidence and fighting spirit while hammering panic and chills into them. Since they had only managed to escape with great difficulty, how could they dare to linger?

Just then, Lin Xun shook his head and sighed softly, “You came here to seek death, so how could I possibly let you leave empty-handed?”

He cast Time Stopping, and then, the fleeing opponents one by one acted like bugs caught in a spider's web, their figures freezing mid teleportation for a split second. It was in this split second that countless qi swords blanketed them like a waterfall.

Poof poof poof!

In a series of muffled sounds, Pu Yun, Wenren Ruoxue, Gongye Hui, and the other three were chopped to bits and met their ends. Their blood dyed the void with an appalling scarlet layer!

In a blink, Lin Xun had exterminated a big group of enemies, crisply and efficiently. Once again, he became the sole presence underneath the Fortune Starry Firmament. His elegant figure resembled that of a heavenly god peering down on the world.

Were his enemies too weak? No. One could only say that the mysteries of time were too criminally strong!

The most fatal thing lay in the fact that in Fortune Divine City, one could only utilize the cultivation of the Emperor Stage at most. If unrestricted, Lin Xun would have to go through a lot of effort to kill these Immortal divine-level characters.

Then again, though, with his Eternal Supremacy depths and power in the outside world, why would he fear these opponents?

"Too terrifying..." The people who had been watching from a great distance were in a daze.

"That's the power of spacetime, unstoppable in the Emperor Stage!" exclaimed somebody in shock.

"With that kind of forbidden technique under his belt, who can be his opponent in Fortune Divine City? No wonder he was so fearless..." Many were emotional as they understood why Lin Xun had been so undaunted.

It wasn't arrogance, but instead absolute confidence!

"The rumors are true, the Eternity Coffin really hides a divine ability related to time. Just, who would have dreamed that this power would be so scary?" The gazes on Lin Xun had apprehension and awe written all over them.

Rumor had it that there were three taboo powers within the Eternity Coffin, namely karma, fate, and time, and whoever obtained them would become the ruler of fortune and command the respect of all clans.

Without a doubt, Lin Xun really possessed the Eternity Coffin and had comprehended the amazing power of time from it. Only that could explain why he was able to deploy the terrifying art just now!

“Let's hope that there are still people who dares to come here to seek death...”

Lin Xun's sigh drifted beneath the Fortune Starry Firmament.

As soon as these words came out, the hearts of the distant crowd tumbled. Who couldn't hear the implication in them? Lin Xun clearly had ascertained that after the news of today's battle spread, no one would have the nerve to come to provoke him again! Still, he was yet to be satisfied, judging from his tone....

Once again, Lin Xun sat down cross-legged and entered meditation. Seeing that, the onlookers came to their senses and hurriedly dispersed. On the same day, the news spread and sent a shock through the whole city.

“Fortunately, we were slow enough and heard about it before we could get there, or else...we probably wouldn't have been able to return.”

The rest of the divine juniors in the city, upon learning of the massacre befalling their peers, all gasped and then were thankful for their good luck.

Meanwhile, outside the city...

“Reporting to Ancestor, the young master...the young master has fallen!” The first one to rush out and report the news was an expert of the Wenren Clan, sobbing as he knelt before the clan's relic with fear and anxiety.

From the depths of the starry void, an enraged voice reverberated, “How?!”

These days, everywhere around this starry void lurked an unknown number of Eternal lords. Many of them gloated at the Wenren Clan's misfortune, but it didn't take long for their furious shouts to bombard the space as well.

These Eternal experts were utterly discomfited, unable to calm down when they learned how many divine sons and maidens had fallen, and that their juniors were among this number. At this point, no one had the heart to gloat or laugh at anyone. All sounds had been replaced by angry voices.

“That damned sinner!”

“I must grind his bones to dust!”

“The power of time? It was one of the most powerful talents of the Eternal Night Divine Emperor back in the day. If she hadn't fallen under a great calamity, the entire Fortune Dominion would have been subjugated, falling under her feet.”

“No matter what, Lin Xun cannot leave this place alive!!!”

The stars quivered in the shrieks and roars from the old monsters of the big divine clans. Countless cultivators in Fortune Divine City who heard the din were frightened.

There was turmoil inside and outside the city, but none of it affected Lin Xun, who was researching the hundreds of cultivation systems while waiting for the ‘turnaround.’ The only difference was that for a long time from today onward, not a single person came to beef with him.

One year, two years, three years... Time moved like a shuttle, and five years had passed.

No one had expected Lin Xun to have such patience. He seemed to have become obsessed with the Fortune Starry Firmament, sitting underneath day and night to explore it. He would occasionally get up and take a stroll around the city, but would then soon go back and continue meditating.

Gradually, the cultivators in Fortune Divine City had adapted to his presence. In the past five years, it had been serene and undisturbed with no more turbulent and bloody events.

It was said that five years ago, the divine juniors of the Three Great Divine Clans in the World of the Divine had arrived at Fortune Divine City. However, after hearing about Lin Xun's deeds, they had all chosen to lie dormant and hadn't made a single move since, appearing exceptionally patient.

In the deep darkness surrounding Fortune Divine City, the old relics from the big divine clans hadn't given up either. They had remained waiting here for the last five years.

To mortals, five years was not short, but to cultivators, it was nothing at all. This was especially true for cultivators above the Emperor Stage whose closed-door sessions were measured in hundreds of years.

However, the idea that those old relics willingly spent five years of their time waiting for the same goal still surprised people a great deal. This undoubtedly showed that they were determined to get Lin Xun!

A person could lie low for a while, but how could he hide for the rest of his life? Everyone had something to do, whether it was for the sake of cultivation, things concerning their friends and family, revenge, or something else. It was destined to be impossible for Lin Xun to hide in Fortune Divine City for the remainder of his life and not come out!

During these five years of no killing and turbulence, Fortune Divine City had reclaimed its usual bustle and prosperity.

However, whenever people passed by the Fortune Starry Firmament and saw Lin Xun sitting cross-legged below it, they knew very well this city was bound to experience more turmoil in the years to come so long as he was here!

"It's been five years..."

On this day, Lin Xun quietly opened his eyes, and there was a flash of realization in them. It had been over five years since he had left the Eternal True Realm. Before coming here, he had set up two goals.

One was to rescue his parents from the Flowing Light Forbidden Realm. The other was to investigate Xia Zhi's identity. The first goal had long been accomplished, but the second was still shrouded in confusion.

He only knew that Xia Zhi's true form had once been called the Eternal Night Divine Emperor, had faced a great calamity, and her misfortune had been exploited by a group of old relics from the World of the Divine. Other than that, her origin and background was still a mystery.

Besides his goals, Lin Xun was currently facing two more problems: One was how to leave Fortune Divine City, and the other was to decipher the final mystery hidden in this Fortune Starry Firmament.

Regarding the former, he could only wait for the turnaround that Taixuan had said would come. Luckily, he was not in a hurry to leave, and was just as patient as those old relics in the depths of the universe outside the city.

As for the second problem... During the past five years, apart from using a dao body for protection and keeping an eye out, Lin Xun's true form and the other four dao bodies had been perceiving and studying.

By now, he had grasped all of the hundred or so cultivation systems in this place, but none of them were complete because he was only at the peak of the Heavenly Longevity Realm. The principles of the realms beyond were out of his current reach.

Even so, the benefits gained so far had been tremendous and could even be described as immeasurable! Lin Xun was sure that if his cultivation hadn't been limited in Fortune Divine City, he would have been able to certify the Nirvana Spirit Realm and conduct a brand new breakthrough.

The only thing that put a frown on his face was that up until now, he hadn't been able to figure out the ultimate mystery hidden in the Fortune Starry Firmament.

In fact, he had no idea where to even begin to find a clue. In these five years, he had performed various calculations, attempting to deduce anything at all from the positions of the scattered stars above, but every effort had ended in failure.

"No wonder that countless years have passed, but no one has been able to penetrate the mystery in them. This is indeed too difficult..." Lin Xun couldn't hold back a long sigh.

He simply retracted his spirit sense and lay down on the black ground. Resting his head on his arms, he looked straight at the sky and, with no other action and zero thought in his mind, began appreciating this mysterious dome in the purest way.

The numerous stars that dotted it all stood still, just like in a quiet and profound painting. Without using one's spirit sense, it was impossible to detect the breath of the almighty dao lingering around them, impossible to peek into the mysteries of those different cultivation systems embedded therein.

However, gradually, as Lin Xun gazed at the stars, a talisman pattern inexplicably surfaced in mind. It was the Infinite Divine Talisman combined from the Nine Great Divine Talismans. Like a cosmos that was constantly changing, the trajectory of the pattern kept shifting, presenting an infinite and magical enigma...

The Infinite Divine Talisman came from the Infinite Divine Scroll, which was the highest legacy of Mister Lu's sect. Right now, the profound mystery of this legacy was crossing his mind like a flash of enlightenment, and it rattled him like a bolt of lightning.

Could it be...?!

Chapter 2814 Piercing Through the Mystery

Lin Xun quietly closed his eyes and began to re-deduce the one hundred cultivation systems in the star dome using the dao of runes.

Each system was the crystallized wisdom of a cultivation civilization, but in the final analysis, they were all derived from the heavenly principles. In Lin Xun's mind, they were taking the shapes of different rune charts whose trajectories were outlined by the profound mysteries they contained...

In short, what he was doing was to copy different cultivation systems with runes and then deduce them with rune knowledge. There were around a hundred cultivation systems, each of which was unique but still able to be converted into runes. This art could in turn act as a medium to bridge a connection.

It was equivalent to stringing together scattered beads to make a necklace. The ultimate goal was to link all the hundreds of epochal cultivation systems into one big system!

When this realization had struck Lin Xun earlier, he had been shaken to his core, vaguely fathoming the purpose of that supreme being by creating this Fortune Starry Firmament.

If this could be accomplished, then it would be the same as grasping a power that could dominate all the hundreds of epochal cultivation systems!

Therefore, Lin Xun now looked at the star dome with a new understanding: In the eyes of that supreme being, each epochal cultivation system was a star. Creating a space capable of encompassing them was precisely that figure's ultimate goal!

With this enlightenment, Lin Xun went back to deduce the epochal cultivation systems with a brand new state of mind.

.....

Another year had passed.

Lin Xun, who was meditating alone in silence, suddenly opened his eyes and looked up at the sky. At the same time, several fist-sized rune charts appeared in front of him, each glowing brightly with completely different dao auras.

"Huh?!"

Many cultivators in the vicinity noticed this scene and were taken aback. What is Lin Xun trying to do?

For six years, he had been meditating here, ignoring worldly affairs and conflicts. Today was the first time in six years that people had seen him make a move.

Around a hundred rune diagrams rapidly emerged around him, crystalline and brilliant as they each radiated a unique aura of the great dao. Right after, these diagrams abruptly turned into light streaks shooting up at the tranquil star dome. They proceeded to light it up like blazing torches!

The sudden brightening of the space stung the eyes of everyone present, and they were quickly astounded.

“No way...”

“Can it be that Lin Xun has grasped the final mystery in the Fortune Starry Firmament?”

“Heavens!”

Outcries rang as the Fortune Starry Firmament burned and boiled in people's fields of vision. In this moment, every star became fiery, pouring out limitless radiance!

“What happened?”

In every part, nook, and cranny of Fortune Divine City, the billions of cultivators stopped whatever they were doing and looked up in unison. The blazing starlight was there for everyone to see, incinerating the clear sky! That inconceivable spectacle instantly threw the whole city into a commotion.

“It's at the Fortune Starry Firmament. Let's go!” they clamored and rushed in a certain direction, incomparably excited.

For countless moons since time immemorial, the Fortune Starry Firmament had been a mystery that no one had been able to unravel. No one knew how many divine clans' great experts had come and exhausted their efforts and time to find it, only to leave empty-handed.

As a result, all the world's cultivators to this day even thought that this ultimate mystery did not actually exist.

However, such a heavenly phenomenon was currently transpiring in the city. Could this mean that the mystery no one had been able to shed light on since ancient times was no longer a mystery?

When the slew of cultivators arrived at the periphery of the Fortune Starry Firmament, they saw that blinding white starlight spilling down and drowning a figure.

“It's him, it's Lin Xun!”

“How is this possible...”

“Don't tell me he really cracked the ultimate mystery in the Fortune Starry Firmament?”

“Doesn't this mean he will get the most precious treasure left by that supreme being?”

More and more people kept flocking to this area, and when they learned that it was Lin Xun who had caused this phenomenon, none of them could stay calm.

Seemingly, no one had expected him to explore the final mystery of the Fortune Starry Firmament in just six years. This was simply too inconceivable. Those who hated Lin Xun's guts were permeated with jealousy.

.....

Lin Xun couldn't feel what the crowd was feeling. He no longer perceived anything happening outside. After he had interpreted each of the hundreds of cultivation systems through the dao of runes, astuteness had blessed him with the key leading to the ultimate mystery!

Afterwards, using his own cultivation as a guide, he had derived those cultivation systems into hundreds of rune charts, and they had immediately resonated with the hundreds of stars in the Fortune Starry Firmament, thus triggering the ongoing heavenly phenomenon.

At this moment, in the blinding white space of burning starlight, Lin Xun saw a majestic and refined figure who was clad in green clothes and carried an ancient sword on his back.

He traversed the long river of time, appearing to be searching for something. Whenever he passed by an epochal civilization, a magnificent and mysterious diagram would appear at his back and it meticulously interpreted the cultivation system of that civilization.

That diagram was clearly the Infinite Divine Talisman!

The green-clad figure acted as if he was fearless of spacetime's restraints and impacts. He walked like a deity through different epochs with such a transcendent elegance that shook even Lin Xun in both heart and mind.

Spacetime could not impede him, and the epochs could not trap him. What kind of level is this?

A very long time later, the green-clad figure arrived in an area of primal chaos, where a great tribulation suddenly befell him!

Birthered by the void, this tribulation was formless, colorless, and odorless. Although Lin Xun could not capture it, he could feel an air of true despair and death. It seemed to be the very order of the almighty dao, capable of and actively erasing even time and fate!

An indescribable sense of suffocation hit Lin Xun like a landslide, making him feel like collapsing. Right at this moment, the green-clad figure let out a long sigh, "Sure enough, there is a mastermind behind all of this."

As his lament echoed, a dao light surged in front of him and violently spread outward.

Boom!

Lin Xun's vision went white and then it was immediately filled by a peculiar scene. That green-clad figure had built a massive and expansive city in the chaos void, which was clearly the first form of Fortune Divine City!

After that, he waved his hand, and a black sky appeared above. The various cultivation systems born from different epochal civilizations transformed into stars and embedded themselves in that sky.

Clang!

Finally, the green-clad man took out a round, black tortoise shell and gently tossed it. The object transformed mid air into an invisible law power that shrouded the entire Fortune Divine City including its sky.

“In this way, the Fortune Origin won't be destroyed...”

The green-clad man muttered, then seemed to think of something and abruptly turned his head. At that instant, Lin Xun keenly felt the man's gaze penetrate the boundless spacetime and land on him. His heart jumped.

“If one day someone deciphers this array I've set up, then it probably means this humble one surnamed Chen is no longer the sole walker on this path...”

The green-clad man's voice was still drifting when the scene burst in front of Lin Xun like a bubble. When he looked up again, the starry dome was quiet and the stars were calm. The previous phenomenon was completely gone.

Right then, however, a picture sprang up in Lin Xun's mind – A complete map of Fortune Divine City!

Every area, every building, every corner, and even the every move of the billions of beings that inhabited it, were all perfectly rendered in this map. He didn't even need to look at it to know what was happening anywhere in this city.

A wave of realization flooded him: He had become the controller of Fortune Divine City! With a single thought, he could change any place in the city. Similarly, he could operate the omnipresent forbidden power here to take the lives of the billions of residents!

“Holy...” Lin Xun was dumbstruck.

It can't be that Fortune Divine City is the treasure left behind by that supreme being as the reward for figuring out the ultimate mystery?

This was completely out of Lin Xun's expectation. Who would dare to imagine that Fortune Divine City, the number one city of the Fortune Dominion known for being 'beyond the divine's reach,' was actually a treasure?

Too incredible!

"That green-clad man must be that supreme being... He called himself 'surnamed Chen,' so could it be Senior Chen Lingkong, or maybe an elder in his clan?"

Countless doubts rose within him, but before he could dive into them, a hubbub sounded.

He raised his eyes and looked around to meet the countless eyes of the cultivators in the surrounding area. They were all staring at him with shock, envy, and disbelief written all over their faces. There was no doubt that everyone present had seen what had occurred to him earlier.

A cultivator summoned up the courage and asked in a trembling voice, "Senior Lin Xun, may I know if you have already explored the ultimate mystery of this place?"

Lin Xun casually said, "If I say I haven't, I'm afraid you guys won't believe me."

In fact, he was still rattled inwardly by what he had just seen.

Was what that supreme being surnamed Chen had done in the Fortune Dominion the answer that Xia Zhi's true form was searching for?

Hold on, that's right! He also faced a terrifying and bizarre tribulation but he was unharmed and didn't even lose a single hair!

Moreover, he built Fortune Divine City here right after that, then enveloped it with law power transformed from the black tortoise shell treasure, all to prevent the Fortune Origin from being destroyed, or at least that's what he said!

Does this mean the location of Fortune Divine City was the origin place of the Fortune Dominion?

While Lin Xun contemplated this, his reply had raised a complete stir.

"It's actually true!"

"To think the mystery of countless eons would be solved today!"

"I wonder what the treasure left by that supreme being is..."

The cacophony of voices tumbled between heaven and earth like frying oil.

At this moment, Lin Xun, who had cracked the final mystery of the Fortune Starry Firmament, undoubtedly hoarded all the spotlight.

Chapter 2815 Undetected by Gods and Devils

The onlookers wore different expressions. Some were envious, some jealous, some astounded.

It had been six years, and Lin Xun, who was loathed by all the big divine clans, not only was still alive but had also explored the greatest mystery of the Fortune Starry Firmament and triggered a heavenly phenomenon! What kind of huge benefit had he received? Had the precious treasure rumored to have been left by that supreme being fallen into his hands?

Everyone's hearts were racing, but Lin Xun paid no heed to the crowd. He still had many questions that he needed to calmly ponder over. The next moment, he vanished.

"Hmph, whatever good stuff he's gained, he's still nothing more than a trapped beast," a person coldly grunted, and the remark sounded particularly harsh to those in the periphery of the Fortune Starry Firmament.

Many were shocked because these days, very few people in this city dared to openly denigrate Lin Xun, fearing that they would suffer retaliation from him for doing that. When everyone got a good look at who the grunt came from, they all understood.

It was a black-robed, white-haired man with a tall and lean stature. His skin was as fair as polished jade, and there was a mysterious mark between his brows with the shape of flowing water.

He was Jiang Linqiu, a divine son from the Divine Jiang Clan in the World of the Divine! In the entire Fortune Dominion, the Jiang Clan was a well-deserved leading hegemon whose power was among the top three of all major divine clans.

Meanwhile, Jiang Linqiu was a genius amongst geniuses with perverse depths. He had ranked fourth in the Hundred Clan Assembly! Having that kind of over-the-top background and heritage, he naturally had the courage to make such a comment.

However, the crowd didn't echo this opinion. After all, this was Fortune Divine City. Lin Xun had also proved his terror with a bloody battle record six years ago, and on top of that, threats from the big divine clans couldn't scare him. Under these circumstances, no one dared to say for certain that Jiang Linqiu was capable of defeating Lin Xun.

"Such talk is pointless. The important thing is: when will he leave? Our priority is to guard the four city gates strictly and give him no chance to abscond," rang a voice as gentle as water. The speaker was a woman in a long, lake-green dress. With clear, defined features and a cultivated posture, she was as beautiful as could be.

It was Ji Xiao, the divine maiden of the Divine Ji Clan!

Once ranked third in the Hundred Clan Assembly, she possessed the talent of 'Far Past Divine Blood' and had set foot on the Immortal path a long time ago. She was currently the justified number one divine maiden in the World of the Divine and even among all the major divine clans in the dominion!

Seeing Ji Xiao, all the people present opened their eyes wide, showing fervor and admiration.

“There are countless old relics waiting outside the city. The moment he sets one foot out the gate, he will be discovered. I'm more concerned about how long he's going to cower here.” Jiang Linqiu frowned.

“Not for long,” an indifferent voice suddenly resounded from extremely far away. “Many elders have predicted a great, unprecedented change that will occur in Fortune Divine City very soon. While they don't know what it's about, they surmise that it's related to Lin Xun.”

This voice was indistinct and untraceable, at which both Jiang Linqiu and Ji Xiao quietly squinted.

Out of the cultivators here, only they knew that the speaker was a member of the Divine Gaoyang Clan, an extremely unfathomable monster ‘whose dao was unique in all heavens,’ as many old relics had praised!

This person was Gaoyang Jue, a legend from Divine Gaoyang Clan who had once dominated the path of the Emperor Stage all by himself. Under his light, all other divine sons and maidens paled in comparison.

“Thank you for letting us know, Brother Gaoyang.” As proud as Jiang Linqiu was, he clasped his fist and expressed his gratitude. Gaoyang Jue's voice never rang again afterward.

Jiang Linqiu and Ji Xiao also quickly left one after another, but the people in the area around the Fortune Starry Firmament were no longer able to calm down.

"A huge change will occur in the near future? What is the meaning of this?"

“Could it be that Lin Xun is planning to leave Fortune Divine City?”

“There's no way, or he'll be courting death. Word on the street is that after these six years, the number of Eternal bigwigs sitting outside the city has reached nearly thirty!”

“Out of the roughly one hundred divine clans, only about thirty percent of them have Eternal guardians, yet they have actually sent so many here. This is too scary...”

On this day, after a lapse of six years, Fortune Divine City was once again stirred into a massive sensation. For one thing, it was because Lin Xun had explored the final mystery of the Fortune Starry Firmament, an unprecedented feat that sparked countless heated discussions.

The other reason was a piece of news: In the near future, a huge change would occur in Fortune Divine City! As for when exactly this startling change would start and what kind of scene it would make, no one could tell, which was precisely why people were worried.

The unknown was always the most terrifying, and once any shocking change broke out, it would most likely affect the citizens. As the saying went, a fire at the city gate brings disasters upon the fish in the moat.

While the commotion washed through the city, Lin Xun had already returned to Misty Moon Lake. It had been six years since the bloody event. Despite Lin Xun's absence, no one dared to occupy this territory that had originally belonged to the Divine Liangqiu Clan.

Such was the deterrent of a notoriety established through killing!

That supreme being surnamed Chen underwent a horrifying tribulation and lived, and this might be the answer that Xia Zhi's true form traveled to Fortune Divine City to look for.

Unfortunately, on her way here, a great tribulation suddenly descended and interfered with her plan...

In a pavilion at the center of the lake, Lin Xun sat cross-legged in contemplation.

After his tribulation, that supreme being constructed Fortune Divine City and covered it in a restrictive law power in order to prevent the Fortune Origin from suffering destruction.

Whoever can figure out the deepest mystery of the Fortune Starry Firmament will become the lord of Fortune Divine City, meaning this city is a treasure in itself.

Thinking of this, Lin Xun realized something.

The green-clad man said that once someone deciphers that mystery, he would 'no longer be the sole walker on this path.'

Does this mean that I have become his 'comrade on the path'?

After pondering for a long time, Lin Xun entered meditation, and in an instant, everything in Fortune Divine City was projected in his mind. It felt as though this city had become part of him. So long as he wished to, he could utilize its power with a single thought to do whatever he wanted!

A bold idea couldn't help but pop up in his mind. All the major divine clans had forces entrenched in the city. Dealing with them one by one was bound to be a tedious and complicated task that would consume copious amounts of effort and time, not to mention that some fish would likely slip through the net.

However, it was a different story now that this city was under his control. If he wanted them dead, how could they have a chance to live? It was also simple to identify who were his enemies as he could 'see' everyone everywhere, including their every movement and every word. As such, it was easy as pie to accurately capture the identity and location of the other party!

At this thought, Lin Xun immediately began to sense. Everything going on in the entire Fortune Divine City surged up in his mind like a vast torrent.

In a temple in the eastern part of the city, a group of divine juniors were having a secret meeting.

"That man grasped the mystery of the Fortune Starry Firmament. If the rumors are true, then he must have obtained a supreme treasure, but there's nothing we can do about it in this damned city where we're limited to the Emperor Stage. I would have killed him at the first opportunity otherwise."

"In that case, Lin Xun would have died numerous times over."

"It's useless to say that kind of thing now. I, on the other hand, look forward to seeing what the big change is going to be."

"It naturally has something to do with Lin Xun."

These divine sons and maidens hailed from various divine clans. When they talked about Lin Xun, their teeth were all gritted in hatred. He had been cowering here in the last six years, forcing them to endure and wait without any other choices. As a result, they all felt extremely stifled.

As they were talking, Lin Xun soundlessly appeared out of thin air, sending the conversation to an abrupt end. The room of divine sons and maidens were stupefied for a moment before jumping to their feet with visible incredulity.

“How did you...get in here?” one of them asked, looking like they were seeing ghosts.

Putting aside the fact that this temple was covered with heavy restrictive arrays, they were shocked that their spirit senses had not detected a single energy fluctuation when Lin Xun had emerged.

“I walked in, of course,” replied Lin Xun casually. “Everyone, come with me.”

The divine juniors were stunned. After glancing at one another, they tacitly and unhesitantly decided to attack.

Kaboom!

They went all-out with the most deadly moves right off the bat. The grand hall shook in the noises of explosions. However, Lin Xun merely sparked a thought, and a wave of law power surged forth, dissolving all the attacks without a sound.

In the next second, these divine juniors were all subdued and put to their knees, unable to struggle in the slightest!

“It's the law power of this city! How could you possibly control it?!” someone shouted in shock and anger. The others couldn't maintain composure either, the color and expressions on their faces changing drastically.

The law power of Fortune Divine City was something that no one had been able to resist since the beginning of time. Any Immortal expert would be suppressed to the Emperor Stage. Furthermore, should an Eternal character try to intrude, they would be rejected outside and bombarded by the city's law power, which could be described as both miraculous and horrifying.

Despite that, Lin Xun had actually taken control of this law power! This completely flipped the perceptions of the divine juniors present. They looked like they had been struck by lightning, realizing how bad their situation was.

“This is the secret hidden in the Fortune Starry Firmament.” Lin Xun smiled faintly.

Hearing this, those divine sons and maidens seemed to understand at once. They looked at each other in a state of shock and anger, their hearts churning in waves of emotions. The ultimate mystery in the Fortune Starry Firmament is the method to wield the law power of this city?

“Lin Xun, I dare you to fight me in a fair battle!” shouted a young man, his face gloomy. Being suppressed to his knees like this drove him crazy with shame and indignation.

“If you have the power to make those old things outside the city retreat, then I will fight you fair and square,” said Lin Xun calmly. “If you can't, then shut up so you don't make a fool of yourself.”

“You...” That young man struggled to get up, but it was no use at all.

So what if he was a divine son? The law power of Fortune Divine City was also simply not something any of them could fight against!

Lin Xun delayed no more. He stowed the seven divine juniors into his spatial treasure with a wave of his hand collected, and then, he vanished.

From start to end, the people outside the temple had noticed nothing out of place. His moves were as light as clouds, undetectable to even gods and devils.

Chapter 2816 All in One Net

Ji Xiao was taking a bath. The waterfall cascaded into the pond at flying speed. Through the misty steam, her snow-white and delicate figure could barely be seen.

Immersed in the clear and warm aeth spring, she appeared lazy and relaxed. Her beautiful phoenix eyes were half closed. Her black, silky hair spread and drifted in the water like swaying seaweed. On her stunning oval face was an expression of private pleasure and enjoyment.

Since there was no one else around, Ji Xiao freely exposed her body to the water mist. When Lin Xun arrived out of thin air, he was stunned by the scene. As Ji Xiao gently held up her hair to wipe herself, she seemed oblivious to his presence, except that the corner of her eye fluttered slightly.

Whoosh!

A matchless sword qi chopped toward Lin Xun at an incredible speed. The latter stood still in place, but the sword qi dispersed when it was only an inch away from him, erased without a sound.

Boom!

The pond erupted, swirling up countless streams which then shot toward Lin Xun like a rain of arrows. He still refused to move, but in front of him, there seemed to be an invisible barrier. The billions of water arrows hit that barrier, producing a burst of thumping and exploding noises as they got blocked to the last one.

"It's you? How?!"

Ji Xiao, who had put on a long lake-green dress in the meantime, was blooming with dao light. Her eyes zapped like electricity as she looked at Lin Xun with a flash of astonishment on her beautiful face.

This was her residence in the city. Ordinary people simply couldn't break in, so his unannounced appearance caught her completely off guard.

"Nice body," praised Lin Xun with a smile.

Ji Xiao's eyes were full of frost, and her jade-like face carried a lofty and chilling air. "You saw it?"

"What I should and shouldn't have seen, I accidentally saw it all," Lin Xun answered honestly. "If you consider this to be blasphemy, then there's nothing I can do about it. Who told you to choose this time to bathe, right?"

Ji Xiao froze, simply unable to imagine how there could be such a shameless person in this world, and how he could utter such shameless words! However, she was ultimately the divine maiden of a clan, a peerless genius known throughout the dominion. Quickly regaining composure, she said, "What are you here for, to kill me? Or to get something from me?"

"I won't kill you yet, but you'll have to come with me," replied Lin Xun.

"What if I don't agree?" asked Ji Xiao. She looked as ethereal as a fairy, but there was a biting killing intent surging around her.

Lin Xun tapped a finger in the air.

Rip!

Ji Xiao's long dress was torn open, revealing a part of snow-white thigh. She shuddered. "The law power of the city!"

Lin Xun said, "That's right. So, are you going to continue resisting, or are you coming with me?"

Ji Xiao's expression repeatedly shifted for a long while before she replied, "I'll go with you."

Lin Xun smiled. "Smart decision."

.....

Jiang Linqiu was in meditation. Fortune Divine City, to him, was like a cage. With his cultivation being suppressed to the Emperor Stage, meditating in quiet didn't do much for his cultivation. Despite that, he still did it.

The path of cultivation was all about keeping a forward momentum and perseverance. Despite possessing heaven-defying aptitude and strong background, he never relaxed his demands on himself. That was also the key to why he was able to step into the Nirvana Spirit Realm in just less than five hundred years.

The world thought that he achieved it with the support of his clan and talent. No one knew how much effort and dedication he had put in behind the scene.

A meditating Jiang Linqiu was what greeted Lin Xun when he appeared. Alerted by the intrusion, Jiang Linqiu woke up with a start, and his first reaction was to strike without any nonsense whatsoever.

Boom!

From leaping to his feet to throwing a punch, it happened in almost an instant. On top of that, the punch packed a virtually unstoppable power.

Lin Xun waved his sleeve.

Bang!

A force hit Jiang Linqiu. He fell on his butt with a drastic change in expression. After the silence that followed, he appeared to have understood the situation and said, "The greatest mystery of the Fortune Starry Firmament is the method to control the law power of this city?"

Lin Xun nodded. "Exactly."

Jiang Linqiu sighed. "So to speak, as long as you want, you can kill anyone at will in this city..."

Lin Xun corrected him, "No, I only deal with my enemies."

Jiang Linqiu said, "Even so, you're still going to have to face grave danger when you leave the city."

Lin Xun said, "That's why I'm capturing the likes of you. At that time, I want to see if your lives are important to those old fellows."

Jiang Linqiu was stunned. "I see."

.....

The South Heaven Gate came to view in the far distance. Gaoyang Jue was teleporting at full speed, working his cultivation to its limit. If nothing unexpected happened, then he should be able to leave through the South Heaven Gate in three breaths.

Unfortunately, when he reached the gate, a figure was already waiting there.

Lin Xun!

Gaoyang Jue's heart sank.

Clang!

A flying sword flew out, sweeping up an obscure and inexplicable cold gleam that tore the air in its wake. This was his most powerful strike. A long time ago, when he had still been a supreme Emperor Ancestor, this sword had allowed him to be invincible among his peers and garnered all the spotlight for him.

However, at this very moment, it was being blocked. Lin Xun, not moving one bit from where he stood, was staring straight at the flying sword. It was only a hair's breadth away from the spot between his brows, buzzing endlessly as it had been stopped dead.

Then, he raised his hand, casually pinched it between two fingers, scrutinized it for a moment, and commented, "Your dao attainments are quite extraordinary, no wonder they call you 'Dictator of All Heavens.'"

In the distance, Gaoyang Jue was silent for a while before he finally said, "In a fair fight with me, are you certain of victory?"

Lin Xun responded without thinking, "Yes."

Gaoyang Jue clearly hadn't expected such a casual reply.

Lin Xun asked, "Say, why were you trying to leave?"

From what he could see, Gaoyang Jue looked like an extremely ordinary young man, but the aura and power in him was so unfathomable that it made him rather mysterious.

"I was born with a keen sense of premonition and insight into danger. While you probably won't believe me, it's true," explained Gaoyang Jue.

"I believe you," said Lin Xun, still quick in his response.

Gaoyang Jue was stunned. "Unfortunately, you and I are enemies with no possibilities of becoming friends."

Lin Xun laughed. "I never intended to become friends with you people in the first place."

Gaoyang Jue let out a soft sigh and said no more.

.....

The captures of those who were like Ji Xiao, Jiang Linqiu, and Gaoyang Jue were continuously staged in Fortune Divine City on this day. When dusk fell, Lin Xun materialized at the center of Misty Moon Lake.

In half a day's time, he had captured all of the divine juniors in the city. Among the total of thirty-seven of them, Gaoyang Jue, Ji Xiao, and Jiang Linqiu were the most outstanding in terms of background and strength.

Is the Eternity Coffin more important, or the lives of these divine sons and maidens, I wonder?

Lin Xun decided that when it was time to leave this place, he would see what choices those old monsters who had been waiting outside the city for six years would make.

Late at night, an acquaintance came to visit. Upon seeing the other party, Lin Xun became serious. The visitor carried an old sword on his back and had an air of valor about his appearance. It was none other than Lu Zong who was Mo Yang's disciple.

"Fellow Daoist, I have come at the behest of my master with something to inform you." Lu Zong cupped his fist in greeting.

"Please go ahead." Lin Xun smiled.

"Master said that there will be a big change in the near future, so you should be prepared. Also, she and her friends will all come to your aid," Lu Zong said and took out a bronze pot. "Please accept this treasure. When the big change begins, use it to resolve the fatal ordeal that will come for you when you leave."

"Spirit Refining Kettle?!" Lin Xun was surprised when he saw the treasure. A long time ago in the Ancient Wasteland Domain, it had saved Underworld Son every time Lin Xun had killed him. This treasure was exceptionally miraculous no matter how one looked at it.

Lu Zong said, "Indeed. This item is precisely the most precious treasure in the possession of Senior Dark Blood Underworld Emperor. He heard about the grudge between you and his descendant Underworld Son, and was incomparably furious. But in the end, he still said that the grudges between juniors stay between them."

Lin Xun was startled. "He doesn't loathe me?"

Lu Zong thought for a moment before giving his answer, "If Senior Dark Blood Underworld Emperor loathes you, he wouldn't have given you this Spirit Refining Kettle, no? But of course, I wouldn't dare to speculate on what an existence of his caliber has in mind."

Lin Xun said, "If so, Dark Blood Underworld Emperor will also come to help me when I leave Fortune Divine City like Senior Mo Yang?"

Lu Zong nodded. "That's correct."

Lin Xun couldn't help but feel a strange pang inside. In the past, he had robbed Underworld Son on numerous occasions, yet the fellow's old man was giving him the Spirit Refining Kettle and helping him out. Did he really not care about those past grudges? If so, the Dark Blood Underworld Emperor sure was very broad-minded...

Lin Xun said after quick contemplation, "I understand. Please tell Dark Blood Underworld Emperor that I, Lin Xun, maintain a clear view between favor and enmity. I repay grace with grace like how I return hostility with hostility. I will make sure to settle the grudges between me and Underworld Son in the future."

Lu Zong nodded. "Alright. If there is nothing else, I will take my leave."

Lin Xun cupped his fist. "Thank you for traveling back and forth for my matter. If we have an opportunity on another day, I will definitely invite you to drink to your heart's content."

Lu Zong laughed. "Sure."

He then quickly disappeared into the vast night.

“There will be a big change in the near future... Looks like the rumor that has been circling around in the city isn't false. Just, what exactly is this big change?” Lin Xun rubbed the Spirit Refining Kettle and fell into thought.

Under the same night, outside the city... News of the disappearance of thirty-seven divine juniors including Ji Xiao, Jiang Linqiu, and Gaoyang Jue had reached the group of old relics in the depths of the starry void.

For a time, they were nonplussed, so shocked and furious that they could cough up blood.

“Not a trace of battle or conflict, and no one saw how they disappeared, yet they are no longer within the city?!”

“How is this possible?”

"Why are we guessing around? It's clearly the handiwork of that darned Lin Xun!"

“You’re saying he has wiped them all out—all of the divine juniors of big divine clans who have entered Fortune Divine City?”

“What a menace!!!”

A series of enraged growls echoed in the darkness of the night, shaking the stars. That very night, the old relics outside the city made an unanimous decision and sent a message to the city: They demanded to talk to Lin Xun in person!

Chapter 2817 Embodiment of Transcendent Grace

At Misty Moon Lake...

“Tell those old guys that we will discuss the life and death of these divine sons and maidens when I leave the city,” Lin Xun said and turned straight back.

The cultivators of the various divine clans who had been ordered to deliver the message to him were all relieved. They had all come here with readiness to embrace death, but fortunately, Lin Xun paid no attention to minor characters like them.

Soon enough, Lin Xun's reply spread throughout the city as well as the ears of those old relics outside the city.

"The brat is smart," an old relic snorted coldly.

If Lin Xun had chosen to bargain at this moment, then it would have been a good thing for them as they could at least discuss terms with him and even use some good bait to lure him out. However, he clearly had no intention to talk right now.

Another said, "Even the smartest person wouldn't want to be trapped here for the rest of his life. His response reveals two things: One, he intends to leave Fortune Divine City, and two, our juniors are still alive. This means Lin Xun is keeping them as hostages so that he can use them to negotiate with us when it comes time for his departure."

The eyes of the others flickered as they naturally had realized this as well.

"Between killing Lin Xun and saving your juniors, what would you choose?" someone whispered.

Following the question, silence permeated the starry sky.

"When the time comes, we choose the right moment where we can try to accomplish both," someone finally said in a hoarse voice.

"What if we can only choose one?" The question sent the area into another silence.

"Why are we choosing? We must seize the Eternity Coffin; that's non-negotiable! Besides, don't tell me a small fly like Lin Xun can kill all those divine sons and maidens right under our noses?"

These coldly said words of someone immediately sparked a heated argument.

“But what if, just on the off chance, that the lives of those juniors would be in danger?”

“How can there not be bloodshed and casualties when something like this happens? We can always raise more divine juniors, whereas letting the Eternity Coffin slip through our fingers...means we will never have another chance at it...”

“No, the divine child of my clan shall not fall in this way. We would rather give up the Eternity Coffin instead.”

Even after a long discussion, they still hadn't reached an agreement. As a result, each of them was nursing a burning fury in their heart, and their hatred for Lin Xun caused them to gnash their teeth.

Over the past six years, they had surrounded this city but had not occupied a single advantage. On the contrary, the divine sons and maidens of their clans had all been captured. How could they even feel a shred of joy at this point?

.....

Lin Xun cared not what decision those old relics outside the city would make of his flippant response. He had also never placed all his hopes of leaving Fortune Divine City on the hostages.

Right now, he only had one matter that needed resolving: the origin of Xia Zhi's true form!

West of the city, Silent Night Range...

Lin Xun once again came to seek an audience with Thirteen. Regarding his arrival, the latter wasn't at all surprised. He said, “If the final mystery in that Fortune Starry Firmament is something very private, then you don't have to tell me about it.”

Lin Xun responded, "Not at all. I just can't be sure yet if it is the answer that your master was seeking back then."

He then recounted what he had seen upon exploring the ultimate mystery of the Fortune Starry Firmament without omitting anything.

After hearing everything, Thirteen emotionally exclaimed, "I understand now, what the lord was looking for back then should be the way to resolve that great tribulation! And that supreme being surnamed Chen held the method!"

Lin Xun said, "I also guess that's the case."

Thirteen looked at Lin Xun. "Since you have mastered the law power of Fortune Divine City, can you find out from it where that supreme being has gone?"

Lin Xun shook his head.

Thirteen's gaze went to the fiery red jade pendant hanging by his waist. "But you have a jade pendant engraved with the surname 'Chen' on you."

Lin Xun said, "It was a gift from a senior of mine. It should be related to that supreme being, but I had no idea before that he was surnamed Chen."

Thirteen was obviously a bit unwilling about this outcome. "Other than this, there is nothing else to gain?"

Lin Xun said, "That's why I'm here to ask you something, Senior. How much do you actually know about your lord's life and background?"

Thirteen replied after some silence, "I was once a homeless child who begged for food on the street. When I competed over food with other beggars, I almost got killed, and it was Her Lordship who coincidentally passed by and saved me."

"She told me she saved me because even though I was about to be beaten to death, I didn't beg for mercy or complain to the heavens, and in that respect, I was somewhat similar to her.

"It was also since then that I became her follower. She said that she would never take in disciples in her life, that she only casually saved those who caught her eye, and I was the thirteenth to be saved by her. So, I was given the name 'Thirteen.'

"The lord never talked to me about her past, but I know that she is very powerful, so powerful that she can make gods bow and make worlds submit!"

Speaking of this, his eyes glinted with a touch of fervor, "The World of the Divine is known as the number one epochal world in the Fortune Dominion, ruled by the Three Great Divine Clans. But during those years when the lord traversed that world, no one dared to mess with her!

"As my cultivation advanced later on, I only felt deeper and deeper how unfathomable her strength was. It was almost as if she didn't belong to this Fortune Dominion. She acted like a passerby, always searching for something and never asking about the affairs of this realm.

"I still remember the lord once asked me if I would be willing to go with her if she were to leave the Fortune Dominion one day. Of course I was, and I asked her where she would go after she departed. She said..." Thirteen came to a stop.

"Said what?" Lin Xun couldn't hold back.

Thirteen took a deep breath and continued, "The lord said that she stepped out of the darkness to find a ray of light where she could belong, thus becoming someone who had a home to return to."

Lin Xun's mind trembled as it reminded him what Xia Zhi had once earnestly told him. She said her world had been filled with darkness, and it was only after she met him that there was light!

"A home to return to..." Thirteen's eyes reddened and his voice became hoarse, "I realized right then that the lord was just like me, someone without a home. No matter how great the power we command, we can't help but feel alone at every moment, as if walking by ourselves in darkness..."

Lin Xun could not calm the tumbling waves of emotions in his heart. Having no home to return to... Her true form was such a powerful expert, yet what she was seeking was merely 'a home to return to'?

After a long time, Lin Xun inhaled deeply like he had finally made up his mind, then he looked at Thirteen and said, "Senior, I think I can give you an answer now."

Thirteen was rattled. "You... You have found a way to revive her, haven't you?"

Lin Xun nodded. Saying no more, he took out the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron. Accompanied by a shower of light, Xia Zhi's tall and slender figure appeared in front of Thirteen.

"My Lord?!" The ever stone-cold look on Thirteen's face was completely dropped. As if he had lost complete control of his own body, his knees dropped to the ground, "My Lord, so you have woken up long ago..."

There were sobs in his voice, faint but definitely there.

"Lin Xun?" Xia Zhi looked askance.

Lin Xun said softly, "This senior is connected to your origin. Do you...really not recognize him?"

Xia Zhi's clear eyes landed on Thirteen as she said, "Not at all."

Kneeling on the ground, Thirteen's voice was hoarse, "My Lord, now that you have awakened from your slumber, it doesn't matter if you remember this subordinate or not!"

"Elder, she is not your lord." Lin Xun calmed his heart and said, "To be exact, Xia Zhi is her life soul. Only she can bring your lord back to life."

Xia Zhi was stunned. "Life soul?"

Lin Xun gently held Xia Zhi's fair, delicate hand. "Xia Zhi, didn't I often ask you about your origin and past experiences? Even though you have had no clues yourself, I have poked around and found some information."

Xia Zhi calmly acknowledged and said, "Lin Xun, none of that matters. I'm good as long as you're with me."

Lin Xun's heart inexplicably ached. He opened his mouth with difficulty to say, "Don't worry, I'll always be by your side. It's just that...you should know your own past, learn what kind of person you really are and where you came from."

Xia Zhi met Lin Xun's eyes. "I'll listen to you."

One sentence. Four words. However, they put a weight on Lin Xun's heart, and he felt like he was unable to breathe.

This was unconditional trust, and Xia Zhi had asserted it many times in the past, but this time, it tormented him inside. He was scared, really really scared that when she awakened her past memories, she would entirely become another person. This would also mean that he would most likely lose his Xia Zhi!

"Little Friend." Thirteen suddenly spoke up, his voice low and hoarse, "Can you...listen to what I have to say first?"

"Senior, please speak," said Lin Xun.

"Do you still remember what the lord wrote before she entered the Eternity Coffin? 'If fate allows, I will sever this body's past, and never again endure the pain of darkness and loneliness.'" Speaking of this, Thirteen's chest rose and fell as though he was losing control of his emotions, "And I know that the lord's greatest wish is to leave the darkness to find a ray of light. In that case..."

At this part, he abruptly lifted his head and gazed at Lin Xun, about to say something when the latter hurriedly cut him off, "We cannot!"

Thirteen was astounded. Lin Xun sank into a long silence before he finally said, "If I don't let Xia Zhi know about this, my heart will feel uneasy for the rest of my life."

He then turned to Xia Zhi and told her everything. After listening to the whole thing, Xia Zhi appeared unperturbed. Her voice remained as clear and cool as heavenly music, "If this Eternal Night Divine Emperor is really the former me, Lin Xun, would you not want me anymore?"

Lin Xun said without thinking, "Of course that won't happen."

"It's the same for me," Xia Zhi was even faster to answer her own question, as if such a decision was a part of her very nature.

Lin Xun whispered, "Xia Zhi, when the shackles of fate in you are removed, you should be able to recover your past memories from your true form, and when that happens..."

"When it comes to a matter of great importance such as fate, why wait?"

A clear and dashing voice suddenly rang out. Immediately following, a dignified and majestic figure walked into the palace hall. Dressed like an otherworldly immortal, he was the embodiment of transcendent grace.

Chapter 2818 Not to be Passed to a Third Pair of Ears

The new arrival was dressed in a sophisticated robe. His figure was as upright as a pine, and his every movement made one think of a heavenly immortal!

Like Thirteen, Lin Xun was alarmed, but when the appearance of the visitor became clear to him, he was stunned. His eyes then glowed with a strange color as he clasped his fist and said, "Senior!"

The other party was none other than Chen Linkong, that strange man who had once referred to himself as 'Burning Immortal'!

"It's been quite a while." Chen Linkong smiled, then turned to Xia Zhi, "We meet again, Miss."

Xia Zhi gave a slight nod.

“This is Senior Chen Linkong.” Lin Xun introduced him to Thirteen.

Thirteen said, “Greetings, Sir. Since your surname is Chen, could it be that you are related to that supreme being?”

Chen Linkong smilingly nodded. “He is my grandfather.”

Lin Xun was inwardly shaken, recalling what Taixuan had said about the red jade pendant with the word Chen currently hanging at his waist: It was from Chen Linkong's grandfather. Furthermore, Taixuan had speculated that Chen Linkong's grandfather...was an extremely unimaginable existence!

It made sense when one reflected on it. To be able to travel many epochs without fear of spacetime constraints, and then even build Fortune Divine City in this place to pass down the Fortune Starry Firmament, how could someone like that be an ordinary character?

Thirteen excitedly said, “In that case, you should know something about the great tribulation befalling my lord back then?”

Chen Linkong replied, “That calamity, like the Five Dao Decays, was the work of the mastermind behind the change of epochs. However, it didn't specifically target your lord, but instead any existence at the Eternal Stage. Well, its actual name is Great Silence Unlife Calamity.”

Great Silence Unlife Calamity!

So, outside of the Five Dao Decays Tribulation, there was also an unbelievably bizarre tribulation that came from the mastermind behind the epochal changes! This was the first time that both Lin Xun and Thirteen had heard about such a thing.

Lin Xun couldn't help but ask, “Senior, who is that mastermind?”

Chen Linkong smiled, "Aren't you going to invite me to sit down before we talk?"

Only then did Lin Xun realize that Chen Linkong hadn't been properly welcomed yet. He hurriedly moved.

After everyone was seated, Chen Linkong said, "My travels in the Fortune Dominion started a long time ago. By now, I've roughly determined a few things, and the most important among them is about this mastermind."

After a pause, he continued, "As you all know, there are around a hundred epochal worlds in the Fortune Dominion. In fact, every one of them is trapped here. They cannot leave this dominion because all the inhabitants are blocked by an invisible law lower. Even those as powerful as Eternal experts are unable to break this force.

"To make it simple, this invisible law power is like a prison for all the living beings in the hundreds of epochal worlds. There is no possibility of them leaving in their entire life, even if they certify eternity.

"Initially, I thought that this law power originated from the Fortune Dominion itself, but then I learned that it's actually from the work of that mysterious mastermind behind the epochal changes!"

Lin Xun was creeped out. "Why did that 'mastermind' do this?"

Chen Linkong said, "I'm not sure, though I can confirm that my grandfather originally came to this place to look for that mastermind, only to find that they weren't in the Fortune Dominion, whoever 'they' were."

"Then where would they be?" Lin Xun asked.

After some pondering, Chen Linkong said, "I can only offer my opinion. Among the four great dao dominions, the Return Dominion is not only the origin of all dao paths, but also where they return to. This applies even to the powerful Eternal True Realm. The power of the heavenly principles covering it can also be traced back to the Return Dominion.

"The Kunlun Dominion, on another hand, is the main battlefield of every epochal change. Whenever the destruction of an epoch arrived, there would be countless contenders who went there to seek survival.

"Finally, there's this Fortune Dominion. It's a massive cage left by that mastermind. As for why it's imprisoning the one hundred epoch civilizations here, I'm not quite sure."

Lin Xun nearly jumped as this was his first time hearing such a staggering secret.

The Return Dominion was the origin of all dao paths under the sun. The Kunlun Dominion was the main battlefield of every epochal change. The Fortune Dominion was made into a prison by some mastermind.

Simply astounding!

"What about the All-Wonder Dominion?" Lin Xun asked, trying to calm his mind.

Chen Linkong said, "The land of mysteries, the gate to all wonders... That place... I don't know much about it, but I'll definitely take a trip there one day."

Lin Xun dazed out as he was reminded of the All-Wonder Dao Fire and the Picture of a Daoist Riding a Bull he had obtained. He also recalled that the owner of the two sword whetstones – 'Sharpen your heart like a blade' and 'Temper the heart as smooth as jade' – had once entered the All-Wonder Dominion!

However, no one could tell anything of substance about the All-Wonder Dominion. Of the four great dao dominions, it remained the most mysterious.

"All in all, no matter who that mastermind is, an entirety transformed from law power or an extremely formidable cultivator, I'm definitely going to unmask them," said Chen Linkong softly with a determined look in his eyes.

Thirteen, who had been quiet all this time, finally couldn't help but speak up, "Fellow Daoist, can we set this mastermind aside for now? If I may ask, do you...have the solution to the Great Silence Unlife Calamity?"

Chen Linkong said, "The solution is hidden in this Fortune Divine City."

"What?!" Thirteen looked like he had been struck by lightning.

Lin Xun was just as dumbfounded.

Chen Linkong turned to Lin Xun, "Little Friend, you have already comprehended all the mysteries in the Fortune Starry Firmament, so you should be clear about the reason why this Fortune Divine City was built."

"To shelter the Fortune Origin from being destroyed," replied Lin Xun without thinking.

Chen Linkong said, "That's right. The Fortune Origin is still here, and thanks to that, our mastermind hasn't been able to gain complete control of the Fortune Dominion. The power of the Fortune Origin can resist the Great Silence Unlife Calamity created by them.

"It was upon realizing this very fact that my grandfather used his entire cultivation to construct Fortune Divine City, and used the law power of the Precious River Map to shroud this city. Only by doing all this was he able to shield the Fortune Origin from that mastermind for these countless years."

The Precious River Map!

The scene of that green-clad figure surnamed Chen building Fortune Divine City fiercely surfaced in Lin Xun's mind. That man had thrown a black, rounded tortoise shell into the void where it transformed into a restrictive law power that covered the entire city.

So that was how he had ward off the power of that mastermind and sheltered the Fortune Origin!

It was no wonder that for eons now, even Eternal experts would be rejected and attacked when they attempted to approach Fortune Divine City. Since the law power transformed from the Precious River Map could go against that mastermind, how could it possibly fail to stop mere Eternal-level characters?

“So to speak, if my lord had entered Fortune Divine City, she would have very likely avoided that tribulation?” Thirteen's face was overcome with grief.

Chen Linkong nodded.

Lin Xun inwardly let out a long sigh as well. Back then, Xia Zhi's true form had obviously found some clues and thus traveled to Fortune Divine City, but the tribulation had arrived when she was still on the road. One could say failure had reached her when she was only one step away from success.

After a long trance, Lin Xun suddenly thought of something and said, “Your grandfather put the Fortune Starry Firmament here... Why is that?”

Chen Linkong chuckled. “You have now become the master of Fortune Divine City, and you're still unclear about it?”

A confused Lin Xun shook his head. “Please enlighten me, Senior.”

Chen Linkong said, “All of these hundred or so epoch civilizations have survived every epochal destruction. They represent different cultivation cultures and systems, and when you have fully mastered them one by one, you will be able to gauge the heights that those civilizations had once reached on the scale of almighty dao.

"Only by knowing this will you truly understand just how powerful an epoch at its peak of the great dao is, and only through that will you truly understand how powerful our mastermind is."

Lin Xun was shaken to his core. Just how high were the great dao achievements of the past epoch civilizations? He had no idea, but he knew that no matter how powerful they were, they couldn't withstand the power of the mastermind behind the epochal change!

Therefore, through understanding the peak power of the past epoch civilizations, one could at least surmise how terrifying that mastermind was. In this way, there might actually be a chance to catch up, surpass, and defeat the other party!

This was the reason why Chen Linkong's grandfather had created the Fortune Starry Firmament!

"Although these are still a bit far from your current reach..." Chen Linkong smiled. "It doesn't matter. What matters is that you are the first and only person to date to see through the ultimate mystery of the Fortune Starry Firmament. Your future path will surely be one that encompasses the lengths of all past epochs, towering above the past and present.

"And this path... Anyone who has the potential to embark on it is regarded as my grandfather's comrade on the path."

At the end of his speech, Chen Linkong felt a burst of sentiments. Even he had not expected that this disciple of Fangchun Mountain, who had been regarded differently by the golden cicada, would display such potential on the cultivation path.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun remembered the words of the green-clad man surnamed Chen about no longer being the sole walker on his path!

Chen Linkong mumbled, "My grandfather... That old man only ever acted after thorough planning, and only planned after thorough calculations. There must be something deeper to his arrangements here. When the time comes for you to certify eternity, my little friend, maybe you will find the true meaning of being the Fortune Divine City Lord."

Lin Xun hesitated again and again, but in the end, he found himself asking, "Senior, can you tell me your grandfather's name?"

In his mind, that man in green with an ancient sword across his back was truly too incredible. The more Lin Xun learned about Fortune Divine City and the things related to him, the more he realized how terrifying the other party's cultivation was.

Just think about it, an individual who could fend off the Great Silence Unlife Calamity, who had built Fortune Divine City to fight against the mastermind behind the change of epochs. Who could not wonder what kind of a person that was?

How could Lin Xun not be curious?

Chen Linkong contemplated for a while. Finally, he took a deep breath and said, "Well... Of course I can, but the dao is not to be passed to a third pair of ears, so I can only tell it to you, Little Friend."

Lin Xun found this utterly inconceivable. He was asking for a name only, why did it turn out to be associated with the 'dao'?

It was also at this moment that he thought of his master, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain. His senior brothers and sisters had also said that like the great dao, their master's name could not be uttered!

Lin Xun then saw a solemn expression that was rarely seen on Chen Linkong's face. The elegant man cupped his fist towards the void, as if he was a junior saluting his elders.

And then, a bell-like dao echo suddenly resounded in Lin Xun's mind, "Chen Xi!"

Chapter 2819 She Awakens in the Darkness

The two words reverberated like the very arrival of the great dao, shaking Lin Xun's heart and soul. When he quietly recited the name Chen Xi in his mind, he even felt as though he was looking at and listening to the sound of the dao. It was great, immeasurable, and indescribable.

This was simply unbelievable!

For one's mere name to touch upon the profound principle of the almighty dao, what kind of realm must one reach in order to have such power?

"Senior, just how high is your grandfather's cultivation?" asked Lin Xun subconsciously.

"No idea." Chen Linkong shook his head.

After a stunned moment, Lin Xun said, "When I am capable of confronting the mastermind behind the epochal changes, maybe I will understand."

Chen Linkong chortled, "Probably, yeah."

After a pause, he said, "Then again, this Fortune Divine City, in the final analysis, is a refuge prepared for the mighty ones who may encounter the Great Silence Unlife Calamity."

"So long as they arrive in the vicinity of this city before it descends upon them, the law power of the river map will shelter them and help rid the threat of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity."

"And to truly resolve this calamity is also simple: by gaining the approval of Fortune Divine City Lord to enter the city and perceive the Fortune Origin in here. After that, one can use the Fortune Origin's power to fight back this calamity."

One was to avoid the great calamity, one was to dissolve it. There was a fundamental difference between them. What Lin Xun had not expected was that the method of resolving the great calamity would require the approval of the 'city lord' before it could be realized!

He asked, "Doesn't this mean...I am in control of this authority now?"

Chen Linkong revealed an enigmatic smile, "Exactly. That is to say, moving forward, no matter what kind of mighty expert wants to resolve the Great Silence Unlife Calamity's threat, they will first have to get your approval before they can enter the city, and only then will they have the chance to study the Fortune Origin."

Lin Xun couldn't help but gasp. How could he not understand how great this authority was?

After some more conversation, Chen Linkong suddenly said, "If you really have made up your mind, bring out the Eternity Coffin."

Lin Xun looked at Xia Zhi. "No matter what you go through later, remember that I am always by your side."

"Okay," acknowledged Xia Zhi. Compared to Lin Xun's attitude, she acted like an outsider, like she didn't care about this matter at all. Thirteen, in contrast, appeared nervous for once.

Buzz!

Lin Xun delayed no more. A ray of green light swept out from the spot between his brows and transformed into a bronze coffin in the air, glowing with an ancient and vast aura.

Chen Linkong briefly assessed it and whispered, "The Eternity Coffin, according to my grandfather, should actually be called the Boat of Eternity. While in it, one is free of disasters and calamities. It is like arriving on a whole other side where you are eternal and indestructible."

Eternity Boat...

Lin Xun reached out and pressed his palm on the star atlas symbol in the center of the lid, the symbol that had been transformed from Omega Secret-Realm. With a long, heavy sound, the coffin lid revealed a crack.

Immediately, that eerie and horrid sense of mortal danger flooded Lin Xun's heart once again, causing him to freeze. At the same time, Xia Zhi let out a muffled grunt and subconsciously squeezed his left hand. Her fair face was showing a touch of panic and confusion.

Chen Linkong waved his sleeve. A magical law power emerged, soundlessly suppressing the eerie and dangerous aura radiating from the Eternity Coffin.

Lin Xun took a deep breath and pushed the lid with his right hand, revealing the scene inside. In the endless darkness, a delicate figure floated. She wore an ancient, black robe and a black crown. Her hands were crossed on her abdomen, and in the grip of the right hand was a divine scepter that looked like it was polished from black jade.

The scepter diffused an unfathomable mist that obscured her entirety. Even so, one could vaguely see that her eyes were closed, and on her stunning face that stole all the light from heaven and earth was tranquil serenity.

Her appearance bore every resemblance to Xia Zhi, and it was nothing like the world could have and hold!

Thirteen pupils dilated. In the end, he seemed to be out of control and issued a low, mournful sob, "My Lord... My Lord..."

This was the lord that he was most familiar with. She was like a heavenly deity, mysterious and supreme!

"Crown of Fate, Scepter of Karma, Jade of Time..." Chen Linkong's eyes glowed with a strange light. "It's really just as the legend says."

He seemed to know many things related to the Eternal Night Divine Emperor.

"Lin Xun, why does she look like me?" With her clear eyes fixed on the person in the coffin, Xia Zhi slightly frowned.

She clutched Lin Xun's hand tightly but other than that showed nothing unusual, because the aura permeating the coffin had been suppressed by Chen Linkong's law power earlier.

"She...she is you... You are her..." Lin Xun's voice was heavy as he struggled to speak. He didn't know whether this was the right or wrong decision to make, but if he didn't do it, he would definitely have no peace of mind for the rest of his life.

"Both of you, step back and leave the rest to me." Chen Linkong glanced at Lin Xun and Thirteen. The two immediately moved far away.

Xia Zhi did not want to let go of Lin Xun's hand, but she still listened to his arrangement and stood quietly in front of the Eternity Coffin. She had never been one to refuse his request, no matter what it was.

"Don't worry, I'm always right here," whispered Lin Xun.

"Mhm," said Xia Zhi.

Chen Linkong raised his hand and formed a seal with five fingers.

Buzz!

Wisps of arcane dao light appeared and intertwined. They sketched and then formed a seemingly burning, mysterious pattern that released a magnificent rain of light and drowned Xia Zhi's figure.

Xia Zhi suddenly trembled, and a look of pain uncontrollably spread across her face. Lin Xun's heart tensed up and he almost couldn't hold himself back from rushing over to her. That was when he heard Chen Linkong say, "It's the shackles of fate in her being lifted. Don't be anxious."

Even so, Lin Xun subconsciously clenched his fists. Thirteen was equally nervous.

"Eh? How on earth..." It wasn't long before Chen Linkong blurted out in shock.

"Senior, what's wrong?" Lin Xun hurriedly asked.

"The law of fate in this girl seemed to have undergone a nirvana. It's now completely different from before." Chen Linkong frowned. A long time ago, he had met Xia Zhi and sensed the power of fate in her, but now it had changed into something entirely new.

"Indeed...so."

Lin Xun fiercely remembered that back in the Eternal True Realm, he had placed the severely injured Xia Zhi into the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron to heal. It was then that she had been infused with the Nirvana law power.

During those years, the Nirvana law power had not only repaired her injuries but also remodeled the shackles of fate within her.

“Interesting. If that's the case, then it's not a bad thing...” Chen Linkong's eyes shone brightly, and as he spoke, he made continuous hand seals. Mysterious dao diagrams were conjured one after another and turned into torrents of light that poured into Xia Zhi.

Gradually, her figure became indistinct and illusory, which scared Lin Xun who feared that she would just disappear like that. Finally, Chen Linkong waved hand, removing the law power that had been restraining the Eternity Coffin.

Boom!

At that instant, the entire coffin violently shook as if awaking from forever silence. Simultaneously, the illusory Xia Zhi swiftly flew into the Eternity Coffin as a white streak of light.

As Lin Xun watched, his emotions were about to spin out of control, and his mind was a mess. If Xia Zhi recovered her past memories, would she become a different person? In the suffocating feeling that was hammering his heart, Lin Xun could only clench his teeth to hold down the unprecedented anxiety and uneasiness blazing in him.

Inside the Eternity Coffin, endless darkness tumbled like ocean tides. It covered everything so well that Lin Xun could not see the slightest detail despite using his full cultivation. When Chen Linkong happened to turn his back and see Lin Xun so anxious to the point of losing control, he couldn't help but be touched.

He softly consoled, “Don't worry, Little Friend. You and this girl are linked by karma and fate. Nothing bad will happen.”

Lin Xun said bitterly, "Only in this moment do I realize how irreplaceable she is to me. In the past... I have wronged her too many times..."

Chen Linkong smiled. "It's not too late to understand this now."

In the midst of their exchange, the billowing darkness in the Eternity Coffin returned to calm like waves receding.

Everyone instantly looked over and saw a person walking out from the depths of the darkness. She was dressed in ancient black clothing, wore a crown on her head, and held a divine scepter in her hand. It was as if a deity had stepped out of the endless darkness, which was now submitting under her supreme might.

Her face was fair and beautiful like a painting. Her features were the masterpiece of Creation that shouldn't exist under heavens. Every move she made exuded an absolutely ethereal charm. Anyone who laid eyes on her probably would shudder in both heart and soul. They would be shaken and awed, and they would look at her as if they were gazing at a god that could not be blasphemed!

When she walked out of the Eternity Coffin, the grand hall lurched into utter silence as an indescribable air of majesty quietly permeated it. She was clearly so close, but the impression she gave people was of one who stood proudly above the clouds of the ninth heaven. She could only be looked up at and could not be touched.

Breaking the silence, Thirteen shouted in a cracked voice, "My Lord!!!"

He was so excited that his eyes reddened red and tears quickly streamed down. He was unable to control how he acted, for before him was none other than his closest person, the Eternal Night Divine Emperor who had once led him to walk the world!

Lin Xun, on the other hand, felt a clog filling his entire chest. Xia Zhi... Has she...really changed completely?

"Thirteen," a cold, light sigh resounded as the woman's gaze landed on Thirteen. "Why do you torture yourself so, still waiting here after so many years?"

The single question proved that Xia Zhi's true form had awakened. To be exact, Xia Zhi had already fused with her true form and recovered her past memories!

Chen Linkong narrowed his eyes. Lin Xun went pale, and an indescribable sense of loss suddenly surged in his heart, like the most important part of him had been plucked out and robbed.

"My Lord, this subordinate has long sworn to dedicate...my whole life...to waiting for your return. How fortunate, you have finally woken up..." Thirteen was so emotional that he was somewhat incoherent.

Luckily, he quickly remembered something and looked at Lin Xun. "My Lord, it was this fellow daoist Lin Xun who brought back your life soul."

The woman's gaze went to Lin Xun, and what she saw was a deathly pale, lifeless face.

Chapter 2820 Asking My Heart If I Have a Guilty Conscience

After a moment of silence, she said, "Many thanks."

The two words shattered the last glimpse of hope supporting Lin Xun's heart, throwing his mind into disarray. When had Xia Zhi ever acted so unfamiliar and polite to him?

Never before!

His mind wandered off, his heart bitter and lost. If he could go back in time, would he still make this decision? Lin Xun had asked himself that and ended up with the answer that he would!

Right this moment, Chen Linkong couldn't help but ask, "Do you have Miss Xia Zhi's memories?"

Shrouded in streaming darkness, her slender frame appeared mysterious and majestic as she casually said, "So what if I have them? But a few memories that can be erased at any time."

Chen Linkong's eyes went wide open.

Even Thirteen became anxious and quickly said, "Lord, Mister Lin Xun..."

"There's no need," Lin Xun interrupted Thirteen. Then, with a wooden expression like he had no feelings left, he said, "Your lord is your lord, and Xia Zhi...is Xia Zhi."

Chen Linkong let out a long sigh. He also hadn't expected such an outcome.

"I'm going to get some air. You guys continue without me." Saying that, Lin Xun walked out of the hall.

The night was heavy on Silent Night Range. In the distance, countless lights stretched like a long dragon. Lin Xun sat alone on a rock, lost in thought. This result was actually in his anticipation, but he had never dared to imagine it would really play out in such a way.

The current Xia Zhi obviously had recovered her past memories, and along with that her past wisdom and mentality. Therefore, she was no longer the Xia Zhi he once knew. Lin Xun suddenly felt indescribable powerlessness. So what if he had high achievements and monstrous fame on the path of cultivation? In the end, those things...could not grant his wish!

He didn't know what would become of him in a future without Xia Zhi. He didn't know anything. Unprecedented sorrow and confusion drifted in his heart like a fog that refused to dissipate. He didn't even have the strength to be angry or remorseful. It was hard to feel anything else when all that loomed was the greatest misery of goodbye!

"Regretting it?" a cool voice rang out.

Lin Xun stiffened. He turned his head to see her arrive at his side. In the night, she was just so mysterious, lofty, and majestic. And...unfamiliar!

After a long silence, Lin Xun shook his head. "I made my choice."

"Haven't you ever thought of letting her drop her past life? I believe she wouldn't have a hint of opposition." She sat down, her fingers interlaced and her gorgeous eyes as bright as the stars.

"I did," murmured Lin Xun. "But I prefer no confusion in her life, so that she can navigate her path with full knowledge rather than just sticking to my side and disregarding the rest. I want her to accompany me while also living for herself."

At the end of it, he smiled bitterly, "Perhaps it is foolish of me to make this choice, but my heart told me that if I didn't, I would regret it for the rest of my life and never have peace."

"Life-long regret, no peace for the mind..." She nodded. "I have all of her memories. From the moment you two met in Feiyun Village up to when you found me, every scene is vivid in my mind. I know that her heart can only fit you alone, but you clearly have never looked straight at her feelings for you."

Lin Xun was stunned. "Can you elaborate?"

She stood up and gazed into the distance, her voice emotionless, "If you like her, why did you never tell her? Don't you think...she is very humble next to you?"

Lin Xun stared blankly. "Is that...so?"

"Does she ever care who you are? Has she ever cared that you already have a wife and a kid? Has she ever denied your requests once?" Her voice was clear and cold, and every question sent a shock through Lin Xun's mind.

In the end, her gaze landed on him. "Meanwhile you, what have you done for her? If you think that letting her tag along and not letting anyone bully her is enough, then as far as I'm concerned, there was no need for her to stay by your side, not since long ago."

These words hit Lin Xun's heart with the force of a hammer. He sank into a trance, and only after a long time did he bitterly speak up, "Maybe...I truly had it wrong. I regarded her as my own life, certain that unless I die, no one will ever be able to take her away from me."

"But now when I look back on it, I do owe her too much..." He coughed violently. Blood streamed out from the corner of his lips.

His state of mind had suffered a blow too heavy so it physically wounded him. This was also the first time in his cultivation that Lin Xun coughed up blood due to a drastic shift in mental state.

There had been no such thing before, and it would never happen again, because the only person in the world that could trigger this was Xia Zhi.

“If she is still alive, will you marry her?”

“Yes,” Lin Xun subconsciously replied and then looked stunned. He forlornly said, “But it's already too late. I originally thought I had never done anything that would give me a guilty conscience, but now...”

At this part, the sorrow rising from the bottom of his heart caused his eyes to redden. No shame, no guilty conscience? How ridiculous! Who in this world dared to say that they always went on about life with a clear conscience? The more Lin Xun thought about it, the more depressed his heart became.

An unknown period of time passed, and then a voice rang out, “Lin Xun, I'm hungry.”

“Okay, let me whip up something good.” Lin Xun unconsciously got up, pulled completely by a force of habit developed over the years. Whenever Xia Zhi uttered those words, he would naturally take out the best ingredients from his collection and make her something delicious.

It was like this once upon a time, and it remained so today, but this time, after getting to his feet, Lin Xun froze. He felt as if lightning had just struck him! He stared at the delicate figure standing before him, still wearing the same ancient-style gown, with a crown on her head and a scepter in her hand.

However...

“Lin Xun, why are you looking at me like that?” She frowned, incredulity written all over her clear and beautiful eyes. Just like in the past, she never concealed her emotions.

“You...” Lin Xun only felt something fermenting in his heart and about to explode. His head was dizzy. Why is this? Could it be...

"Did someone bully you?" she asked, looking him up and down with nothing but worry in her expression.

"I..." Lin Xun's voice trembled as his whole body shivered with excitement. "Xia Zhi, is it really...really you?"

Her crescent brows scrunched up. "Lin Xun, are you okay in the head? Of course I am me."

Dazed, Lin Xun fiercely took a few deep breaths and grinned. However, tears welled up as he did. Unable to control himself anymore, he went over and held that slender figure tightly, as if afraid that she would disappear again. The tears he had held in his eyes finally rolled down against his wishes.

"Xia Zhi, it's really you..." He murmured, joy dancing in him like an erupting volcano. The feeling of finding something dear after losing it submerged him like a great tide.

There had never been a point in life where he was this emotional, excited, and happy. He hugged her tightly as if holding on to dear life. At this moment, the night was just right.