

## Prodigies 291

### Chapter 291 Stirring Winds in the Capital

The assistants were bewildered.

In front of the map, Xu Qianjing turned around and calmly asked, "Are there any records?"

The guard nodded. He extended his hand and a wind shadow hawk with pitch-black wings flew out.

Xu Qianjing walked forward and grabbed the hawk by the neck. Everyone heard a high-pitched shriek as a bead was spat out from the bird's mouth.

The bead hovered in the air for a moment before suddenly projecting a light screen depicting the scene of a bloody battle.

It was an eagle's eye view that allowed everyone to see every detail of the entire battlefield.

As the video began to play, the assistants' expressions changed indeterminately as they gasped repeatedly.

The joint operation consisted of thirty elite cultivators: five Heaven Dipper, ten Earth Dipper, and fifteen Human Dipper experts.

Each individual had been armed with a Divine Arm Crossbow and an entire set of equipment plus other weapons!

However, this amply prepared force became as frail as paper when facing the target. In a matter of seconds, the force was easily crushed without resistance. It was more horrifying than they had imagined.

When they saw the arrow barrage being skillfully neutralized by the target, the assistants' eyes bulged in shock as stupefied expressions crossed their faces.

This...is way too powerful, right?

From the information they had gathered, they already knew that the target was the champion of the southwest provincial exam and was certainly no ordinary individual.

However, after witnessing the bloody massacre, they realized that he was more than just extraordinary and was basically a heaven-defying abnormality!

The screen soon disappeared, leaving a somewhat heavy atmosphere in the room.

Only Xu Qianjing seemed unfazed, his expression still calm and composed. He tossed the bead back to the hawk, told the guard to leave, seated himself, and fell into thought.

"Young Master Xu, should we make changes to the original arrangement?"

Someone could not help but ask, breaking the silence.

Contrary to their expectations, Xu Qianjing merely revealed a faint smile and said, "No need. This first operation was merely a probe and I never expected them to kill the target. From this, I have roughly judged that the target's combat power is not much different from my initial estimation."

Probe?

The assistants' expressions changed slightly as their hearts turned cold. Thirty elite cultivators had been sent to their deaths merely to probe the target's strength...Xu Qianjing was ruthless!

However, this made them no longer dare to underestimate the frail-looking Master Tactician.

Perhaps only such cold-hearted individuals had the ability to devise flawless strategies?

Xu Qianjing seemed oblivious to the change in their expressions. In a voice that seemed colder and more emotionless than usual, he said, "Everyone, please follow my earlier instructions. The show has just begun and the real entertainment will soon begin..."

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Atop a certain nine thousand nine hundred feet tall stargazer platform in the outskirts of the capital.

The Heavenly Seer stood alone amidst the chilling night wind as his ageless eyes stared at the night sky. His gray pupils, however, shone with a pure light that belonged to a child.

Like always, the Heavenly Seer was dressed in the same black robe. From his hunched back and white hair, it felt as if a gust of wind could blow him away.

Everyone in the capital knew that the Heavenly Seer was very, very old. However, his power and wisdom had only grown over countless years.

As for how strong he was exactly, no one knew.

Footsteps sounded from a distance, and a healthy, slim figure soon stepped onto the top of the platform.

He was an extraordinarily good-looking young man. He had a heroic appearance, the presence of a noble dragon, and the elegance and grace of a phoenix. Each movement he made gave off a noble aura that a person could only be born with: properly contained yet full of authority while not pressuring others.

"Greetings Heavenly Seer."

The young man bowed. There was nothing to nitpick about his flawless etiquette.

The Heavenly Seer softly replied without turning his head, "The operation has already started, but you seem to be rather impatient."

The young man was unfazed. "It's not impatience. I'm merely curious about how he managed to survive after his Origin Aeth Artery was taken years ago."

The Heavenly Seer asked, "Merely curious?"

The young man was taken aback. He smiled and said, "Of course it's not just curiosity. I do not wish to see him return to the Forbidden City."*nOvelNExt.CO*m

The Heavenly Seer was silent for a moment. He raised his head to gaze at the night sky as he sighed. "Many people in the Forbidden City do not wish for that affair to cause any more ripples. Like you, they also do not wish for this child to return."

The Heavenly Seer finally turned around. His iconic ageless eyes stared at the young man. "However, no matter what any of you wish for, the agreed operation has already begun. What you must do is silently wait for the outcome instead of leaving the royal palace so late at night and appearing on this stargazing platform."

The young man's expression changed slightly. He quickly displayed a respectful expression and said, "The Heavenly Seer is right. I was too impatient. However, I do not understand why the strongest force was not dispatched for this matter."

This was the reason why he had come tonight!

The Heavenly Seer turned his head again to gaze at the vast night sky. "You will understand in the future. From the moment the child's identity was ascertained, it will no longer be easy to kill him."

This answer clearly did not satisfy the young man. He frowned and asked, "Because of Black Glory Sacred Hall?"

The Heavenly Seer shook his head. "Even if Black Glory Sacred Hall said nothing, it would not have changed anything about the operation."

The young man was taken aback. He could not help but smile bitterly and ask, "Heavenly Seer, will you give me a clear answer? Why exactly is it like this?"

The Heavenly Seer shook his head.

The young man could not help but sigh. After thinking about it for a long time, he ultimately gritted his teeth and plucked up his courage to ask, "Do you wish to see him survive and enter the Forbidden City?"

The Heavenly Seer did not answer as if he had not heard the question.

The young man's expression fluctuated slightly. In the end, he took a deep breath, forcibly pushed down his dissatisfaction, and cupped his hands together. "Farewell."

He turned around and left.

Just as he began walking down the steps, the Heavenly Seer's old and indifferent voice suddenly sounded in his ear, "Ninth Prince, this old man has one piece of advice. Anyone who dares to affect this operation will die. Remember, anyone."

The young man's body turned rigid as a chill rose in his heart, causing him to dazedly stand there like an ice statue.

This was the first time he had ever heard such threatening words from the Heavenly Seer!

After a long time, the young man raised his head to stare at the top of the nine thousand nine hundred feet tall stargazing platform. Copious amounts of time passed before he withdrew his gaze, turned around, and walked into the darkness.

On the stargazing platform, the Heavenly Seer stared at the night sky and softly sighed. "It is finally time to resolve that affair from so many years ago..."

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The Castle of Darkness.

The voices of an old man and the Dark Night Queen sounded in a certain pitch-black hall that resembled the eternal night.

"We've confirmed that the Chi Clan is in charge of the operation and has tasked it to one of their most outstanding members of the younger generation, Chi Cangmei. She has enlisted the help of last year's Qinglu Academy Godly Stratagems Department Master Tactician, Xu Qianjing. The forces they are deploying do not exceed the Spirit Dipper stage."

"Have you discovered that old man's true motives?"

"Not yet."

"Continue to look into this and pay close attention to the entire affair. I have a feeling that once we uncover the truth, we'll know why Lu Boya suddenly disappeared and the real reason why he chose to hide in the Violet Abyss Mine Prison!"

"Understood."

"Other than this, go investigate how the remaining Lin Clan members are doing. Although all of those things have already happened, Lin Xin deserves to know about them if he succeeds in returning."

"Mistress, that might not be appropriate. Lin Xun is different from the other Lin clansmen, his mother is..."

"No need to say anything else. Just follow my instructions."

"Understood."

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Lin Xun did not know that his decision to head for the Forbidden City had already created numerous undercurrents in the city.

Seven days had passed since the Blood Wolf Plains battle. Lin Xun had long left the plains behind and was currently exiting a swamp to arrive at a winding mountain range.

The mountain range was called Maple Night and was known for its many cliffs and savage beast sightings. After passing the Maple Night Mountain Range, one would arrive at a city built next to the mountains.

Normally speaking, travelers and merchants would use the rune shuttle service to cross the Maple Night Mountain Range because it saved time and was extremely safe.

There was a specially built station right before the Maple Night Mountain Range where several rune shuttles were parked.

The main goal of the station was to serve travelers that were crossing Maple Night Mountain Range.

It was currently noon and there were already quite a number of travelers waiting on the large plaza in front of the station. Most of them were ordinary folk but there were also a good number of cultivators among them.

After all, even cultivators could not fly without Spirit Sea cultivation, and the rune shuttle was undoubtedly the safest and most convenient method to cross these mountains.

Lin Xun's figure soon appeared in front of the station.

His appearance made many people uneasy and some of the cultivators even displayed wary and alarmed looks.

It was only logical. Lin Xun was still carrying a blade and bow on his back. His clothes were splattered with blood and his eyes gave off a fierce killing intent that made everyone feel an assaultive pressure.

The No-Nonsense Bow was especially frightening with its body that seemed to be made from skulls and its blood-red bowstring. Even from a distance, its sinister and eerie aura made one's heart tremble and one's hair stand on end.

The crowd's expressions slightly stunned Lin Xun. He immediately returned to his senses, hurriedly withdrew his aura, and smiled apologetically at them.

He had encountered a number of ambushes over the past seven days. Although he ultimately survived each time, it had made him tense and on guard. He did not dare to be negligent lest he succumb to a mishap in a sudden ambush.

However, it also made him unintentionally give off a murderous air like a sword that was ready to be unsheathed at a moment's notice. This was the reason for the travelers' earlier fear and uneasiness.

## Chapter 292 Crossing Maple Night

The crowd's expression eased substantially after Lin Xun withdrew his aura. However, their gazes were still filled with wariness as if they still viewed him as a dangerous person.

There was nothing Lin Xun could do. Thankfully, a shuttle train soon began to power up, indicating that it was about to set off.

After handing over the fare of one silver coin, Lin Xun and the other travelers boarded the rune shuttle, and it soon dashed into the clouds amidst a rumbling noise.

In the spacious carriage, there was a clear empty space around Lin Xun. No one dared to approach him and Lin Xun was more than happy for the peace it provided. He took the opportunity to begin sorting through his spoils from the past few days.

Lin Xun had encountered three ambushes during the seven days after he left the Blood Wolf Plains

The first occurred in a forest. There were a total of forty enemies who were all adept in forest assassination. Each enemy had been equipped with a specialized Bramble Crossbow and had been assigned to different districts in the forest. They moved like ghosts, making them very troublesome to locate and deal with.

However, such tactics were mere child's play against a formidable expert who had walked out from Blood Kill Camp like Lin Xun. He used their own specialty against them and swiftly dispatched them one by one. In the end, only thirteen people managed to escape.

After the battle, Lin Xun ended up with seven injuries, dozens of medicinal pills, sixteen undamaged Bramble Crossbows, and twenty-three aeth weapons.

The second ambush occurred in the swamp. There were fifty enemies in total who excelled at array combat. Through a killing array that had been set up in advance, they attempted to slay Lin Xun.

However, this tactic was clearly wrong from the start!

If Xue Jin, Chu Feng, and the others were told that someone tried to use a rune array against Lin Xun, they would definitely laugh themselves to death. Anyone who knew Lin Xun would never do such a deranged and stupid thing!

Sure enough, the outcome was Lin Xun using his superior mastery of runes to easily seize control of the rune array, slaughtering all of the enemies inside.

In this battle, he not only came out unscathed but he also effortlessly obtained an astonishing amount of battle spoils.

The third ambush occurred on a lake where the enemy gathered a large fleet of ships in an attempt to surround Lin Xun on the water.

The enemy had clearly learned from their previous attempts and made sure to be extremely prepared this time. Ships weren't the only thing they had. They also outfitted two hundred elite cultivators with a huge amount of battle gear.

Unfortunately for his opponents, they could never predict that Lin Xun would somehow use the Heavenly Water Sacred Bead in his mind-sea to slip away by traveling along the lake bottom. By the time the enemy realized that something was wrong, Lin Xun was already long gone.

A meticulously prepared ambush had whiffed completely. It made everyone involved feel very awkward.

Even Lin Xun could not help but smile awkwardly when he recalled it. This was the power of luck. When you were lucky, even the heavens would be on your side. When fortune turned its back on you, even the most well-prepared ambush would end in failure...

Of course, the enemy would only grow increasingly vigilant after these failures. The next time they moved, the forces they dispatched could not be underestimated.

Lin Xun likewise understood this and made sure to make his own preparations in response.

After sorting through the battle spoils, Lin Xun could not help but sigh. The most violent method of raking it in was definitely killing and looting.

He was a prime example. The overall value of his battle spoils was at least ten thousand gold coins!

“Big Brother, there’s a lot of blood on you. My mother said to give these clothes to you.”

A young voice roused Lin Xun from his thoughts. He raised his head and saw a small girl who seemed to be between three and four years of age in the carriage nearby. Her tiny hands were clasped around a set of clothes as she stumbled toward him.

The little girl’s hair was twisted into a stalk above her head, making her look especially adorable when paired with her large innocent eyes.

Lin Xun was stunned. He looked further up and saw a woman in simple clothes smiling at him.

A warm feeling filled his heart. Lin Xun was touched by the kindness shown by the mother and daughter despite being strangers that had met by chance.

“Thank you, Little Sister.”

Lin Xun knelt down and smiled as he rubbed the little girl’s head before receiving the clothes from her.

He did not lack clothes but could not bring himself to reject the kindness behind the gift.

“Bye bye Big Brother.”

The little girl waved goodbye before she turned around to return to her mother.

Lin Xun smiled and nodded at the mother as he carefully packed the clothes. He began to ponder about how he should find a chance to give the mother and daughter a few gifts after crossing the Maple Night Mountain Range to express his gratitude.

“Big Brother, can I chat with you?”

The little girl suddenly walked over again and looked at Lin Xun with large expectant black eyes.

“Of course you may.”

Lin Xun chuckled and lifted the little girl onto his leg. “Little Sister, what do you wish to talk about with Big Brother?”

“Big Brother, they are all very scared of you. Is it because you’re very fierce?”

“Oh, do you think Big Brother is fierce?”

“Not really, I feel that Big Brother is very pretty like the dolls in my house.”

“Pretty? Hahaha, Little Sister, the word ‘pretty’ is usually not used to describe boys.”

The two of them engaged in their childish conversation. The little girl was in high spirits as Lin Xun tirelessly indulged her.

The other passengers gradually began to relax, becoming less wary and stopped subconsciously shunning Lin Xun.

All of this was attributed to a small act of kindness from a young child. Perhaps, this was the power of kindness.

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A certain old mansion in the Forbidden City.

Xu Qianjing was seated before the table. Cold intelligence shone in his clear eyes as he went through the reports.

Detailed reports about the past few days were placed on the table together with several report summaries that were personally written by Xu Qianjing.

In the end, Xu Qianjing arrived at three precise conclusions.

The target, who was a Blood Kill Camp graduate, was extremely proficient in ambushing and counterattacking. In addition, he was exceedingly perceptive toward danger.

He had discovered this from the forest ambush plan a few days ago. Although it had been mentioned before in previous reports, it had never been talked about with much emphasis.

None of them, including Xu Qianjing himself, had expected the target to perfectly display the skills he had learned in Blood Kill Camp in such an outstanding manner.

As a result, the forest ambush plan ended in failure.

However, that did not affect Xu Qianjing's mood. It was enough for him to have exchanged a single failure for a deeper understanding of the target.

What truly surprised him was the battle in the swamp!

The killing array they had set up in the swamp was called the Nine Dragons Bind Array, which was invented by a rune grandmaster from the Chi Clan. It was an extremely formidable trapping array that even Spirit Sea experts would be hard-pressed to escape from, let alone a mere Human Dipper expert.

Xu Qianjing had invested a tremendous amount of resources and manpower into the array and had originally believed it would be sufficient to checkmate the target. Who could have imagined that the plan would end in such a catastrophic failure?

Xu Qianjing had already discovered the reason for their failure. Not only did the target possess strong combat abilities and seasoned battle tactics, he was also a skilled rune master!

This was far too inconceivable.



When Xu Qianjing arrived at this conclusion, he could not help but feel doubtful. However, the bloody reality told him that it was true. Otherwise, it would have been impossible for the target to seize control of the array and wipe out all of their forces!

Instead of feeling dispirited after this revelation, Xu Qianjing grew increasingly interested in cornering the target.

Hence, he came up with a seemingly perfect plan to destroy the target on a lake.

However, not even in his most ridiculous predictions could Xu Qianjing have anticipated that the target would have the means to slip away undetected via the lake bottom...

After finding out all of this, Xu Qianjing could not help but be stunned for a time. He never imagined that a Human Dipper cultivator would be able to traverse the lake bottom as if it was flat ground. It must be known that no matter how strong a cultivator's foundations were, it was impossible to survive prolonged periods underwater without Spirit Sea stage cultivation!

And yet, the impossible had been done by the target. Moreover, he had used it to safely avoid all danger.

Since the target first appeared, they had attempted four operations against him. However, all four had ended in failure.

Xu Qianjing was unaffected, but the assistants could no longer maintain their composure. They made a constant din and some even believed that Xu Qianjing was undeserving of his Master Tactician title.

Take now for instance. While Xu Qianjing was reading the reports, the assistants were bickering nearby until their faces turned red.

Some of them believed that they should gather all of their forces to directly crush the target. Others felt that even if they didn't use everything, they should stop being so reserved.

Essentially, they were indirectly displaying their dissatisfaction with the person in charge: Xu Qianjing.

Xu Qianjing did not say anything. After all, it was very normal for them to grumble and complain. Unless they dared to go against his instructions, he was still the one making all the decisions.

Someone sarcastically asked, "We just received news that the target is taking a rune shuttle to cross Maple Night Mountain Range. Has Young Master Xu come up with any high-level strategy yet?" **nOvELnext.Com**

The others looked toward Xu Qianjing.

Although the words were barbed, Xu Qianjing seemed completely unaffected. He calmly replied, "It will not be too late for us to wait until he crosses Maple Night Mountain Range. I've already made some preparations that I believe will give the target a 'pleasant surprise'."

Someone coldly snorted, "Hmph, that's too conservative. If memory serves me right, didn't we have six of those new series Violet Hero Battleships? We should use this opportunity to blast the target to death in the air. Wouldn't that be far better?"

The others nodded. It was impossible for a rune shuttle to avoid the attacks of a Violet Hero Battleship, making it an excellent opportunity for them to easily kill the target.

#### Chapter 293 The Aeth Cannon's Power

Xu Qianjing frowned. His gaze swept across the group as he solemnly said, "The target is not the only person on the rune shuttle and there are many innocent people riding it as well. If we dispatch Violet Hero Battleships, will any of you be able to bear the consequences?"

There was a questioning tone in his voice.

However, Xu Qianjing was bitterly disappointed by their response. The assistants revealed disapproving expressions and one of them even sneered and said, "It's just a group of lowly citizens. What's the big deal about sacrificing them to kill the target?"

Lowly citizens!

These words stabbed Xu Qianjing's heart. Prior to entering Qinglu Academy, wasn't he also a 'lowly citizen' in these noble disciples' eyes?

One of the assistants tried to persuade him, "Young Master Xu, there's no need to hesitate anymore. This is the best opportunity to kill the target. As for those lowly citizens, who will know as long as we say nothing?"

"Hehe, if Young Master Xu is worried about bearing responsibility, feel free to push it all to us. Honestly, it's just the lives of a few lowly citizens. No one will care even if they find out."

His words were filled with disdain.

Xu Qianjing fell silent as a wave of indescribable anger filled his heart.

Bang!

The doors were pushed open and Chi Cangmei walked in.

Chi Cangmei indifferently said, "Qianjing, we shall proceed as they've suggested. I've already given the order and dispatched a Violet Hero Battleship to Maple Night Mountain Range."

Xu Qianjing's eyes narrowed. His always calm and composed expression finally changed, darkening ever so slightly.

Xu Qianjing stood up, took a deep breath, and icily said, "Do you know that this is no different from butchering the empire's citizens?!"

Chi Cangmei was unfazed and nonchalantly agreed.

The assistants revealed disdainful expressions. They had originally felt respect toward Xu Qianjing, but after several successive failures, they had begun to doubt his capabilities and lose respect for him.

When they heard that Xu Qianjing did not dare to make the smart decision because of a few lowly citizens, they began to suspect whether his title was real or not and wondered why he was being so pigheaded.

Xu Qianjing saw all their mocking looks and disdain, causing him to suddenly feel a surge of powerlessness and disappointment.

"I am against this."

Even so, he did not back down but stood firm on his principles.

Chi Cangmei said, "Sorry Young Master Xu, starting now, your mission is complete. I shall take care of everything else."

The few failures had also made her begin to doubt Xu Qianjing's capabilities. When she heard he would rather give up on the best opportunity to kill the target because of a few lowly citizens, she felt that she could no longer put her faith in him.

Xu Qianjing dazedly asked, "Does that mean that I can leave now?"

"Hehe, do you still need to ask? Master Tactician Xu, please hurry up and go. Our humble hall is too small for a mighty being like you."

One of the assistants could not help but laugh, his words filled with sarcasm.

The others roared with laughter.

Chi Cangmei frowned but did not reprimand the assistants. She looked at Xu Qianjing and solemnly said, "Young Master Xu, you may leave."

The final word was firm and left no room for negotiation.

Xu Qianjing was stunned for a long time. In the end, he took a deep breath and cupped his hands together. "I've repaid my debt to the Chi Clan. Farewell."

After speaking, he turned around, pushed open the doors, and left.

"Hmph, he dares to call this repaying his debt? It's already very nice of us to not hold him accountable for all those failures."

"Master Tactician my ass. From the moment the target appeared, all of his plans ended his failure. If we believe in him again, all of our forces will probably be wiped out!"

Scathing remarks sounded from behind, causing sorrow to surge in Xu Qianjing's heart.

What do these noble disciples understand about tactics?

It only took a few failures to make them so agitated and restless. How comical.

However, Xu Qianjing understood that this was how noble disciples acted. When they needed you, they would treat you as a VIP, but when you were useless to them, they would immediately abandon you without blinking.

It was a pity none of them understood how terrifying the target was!

They thought they could use the Violet Hero Battleships to kill the target?

Naive!

From information he had collected over the past few days, Xu Qianjing had a strong feeling that the target would not be killed so easily!

If the target survived the Violet Hero Battleship attack...

Xu Qianjing immediately shook his head and stopped himself from pursuing this train of thought. It was meaningless to think about such things now. He had originally prepared many follow-up plans for the target. What a pity that none of them were going to be used.

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In the room, the assistants were still ridiculing Xu Qianjing for being a softy, a fraud, and failing to live up to his reputation.

In fact, they had already decided that after the target was killed, they would spread how incapable and useless Xu Qianjing was to make sure he lost all credibility!

Chi Cangmei frowned unnoticeably at the group's reactions as a slight sense of unease rose in her heart. However, it was quickly discarded.

The orders had already been given. Chi Cangmei did not believe the target in the rune shuttle would be able to survive the Violet Hero Battleship's bombardment!

After all, the new series Violet Hero Battleship was a very recent innovation. It was rumored to have been personally created by a Grandmaster Mo from the Divine Workshop and its overall power had been raised to a whole new level. In fact, some even called it the trump card among the small-scale battleships. Even a Spirit Sea expert would be hard-pressed to defend against a full-power blast from the Violet Hero Battleship, let alone a mere Human Dipper cultivator.

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Beep~~Beep~~

A blaring alarm suddenly blasted in the peaceful carriage, causing the passengers to panic. They jumped to their feet and jerked their heads from side to side but were unable to figure out what they should do.

The greatest worry when riding a rune shuttle was that an accident would happen while it was flying. In the history of the empire, there had been many cases where rune shuttles would suddenly explode and crash.

This was why the alarm made everyone panic, including the cultivators. If they were to fall from such a great height, even the cultivators would not be able to survive.

Lin Xun had been chatting with the little girl called Luoluo when it happened. His eyes immediately narrowed and he abruptly rose to his feet.

Through the windows of the rune shuttle, a cone-like shape could be seen in the distance. It was estimated to be several dozen feet in length and was a small-size battleship that gleamed with a dark purple light.

"It's an empire battleship!"

“Oh, it’s an empire battleship approaching. Phew, it should be fine then.”

Numerous passengers revealed relieved expressions. They had originally been worried that some accident might have happened. Fortunately, it was just the appearance of an empire battleship and there was nothing to be alarmed about.

Someone joked to try and lighten the mood. “I was wondering what it was, turns out the empire’s battleship has come to give us an escort.”

Several people laughed, although more in relief than amusement.

In contrast, Lin Xun’s heart dropped like a stone as his hands and feet turned ice-cold. He had recognized it in a single glance. It was the new series Violet Hero Battleship he had helped Old Mo design. There was only one possible explanation for such a ship to suddenly appear here: it was here for him!

Sure enough, a blinding beam of light abruptly surged on the Violet Hero Battleship!

Lin Xun’s body turned rigid as his eyes widened. It was the Violet Hero Battleship’s aeth cannon!

As one of its makers, how could he possibly fail to recognize it?

“Everyone, watch out!”

Lin Xun’s face turned white as a sheet as he furiously yelled. He never expected the enemy to be so vicious that they would destroy an entire rune shuttle just to get him!

They...clearly had zero regard for the other innocent passengers!

Many passengers were shocked and confused. A few sharper individuals managed to piece together what was happening and immediately shrieked in horror. **nOvELnext.Com**

The entire carriage descended into chaos. The piercing alarm seemed to ring even more urgently as the terrified passengers began to howl and curse in despair and helplessness.

Lin Xun had no time to care about anything else. He tightly hugged the little girl, Luoluo, and hurriedly circulated his full power. With a roar, he swung at the wall of the carriage.

Boom!

The carriage was blasted open.

The aeth cannon blast from the Violet Hero Battleship arrived at this moment and blasted the rune shuttle.

Rumble~~

A terrifying blast of wind unfurled as destruction ravaged the narrow carriage. It was as if armageddon had descended.

Pain showered Lin Xun’s body and his eardrums felt as if they were being ripped apart by needles. His vision turned dark and hazy and the world violently shifted around him. His body was grabbed by a terrifying force and flung into the air, sending him spiraling uncontrollably.

He could see nothing.

He could feel nothing, but searing pain rapidly spread to his entire body. Despite this, Lin Xun desperately curled his body around the little girl to protect her.

It seemed as if many years had passed yet it also felt as if only an instant had elapsed. Lin Xun suddenly found the strength to open his eyes.

He instantly saw that there were only a few dozen feet between him and the ground!

Almost by instinct, Lin Xun gritted his teeth and let loose a savage roar as his body fiercely twisted in the air.

Thud!

His back crashed into the soft grasslands a split second later, creating a sizable hole in the ground amidst a spray of dirt.

Right before he hit the ground, Lin Xun successfully used a technique to shift all the falling force of the little girl to himself before gently tossing her to a nearby grass patch.

Lin Xun felt as if every bone in his body was on the verge of snapping. He could not help but vomit a large mouthful of blood, causing his face to turn deathly white as he gasped in pain.

It hurts!

The incomparable pain made Lin Xun feel as if his organs were shifting. His vision rapidly turned dark as his consciousness began to slip away.

#### Chapter 294 Bone-deep Hatred

Lin Xun rapidly gasped for air. His face was frighteningly pale and an almost feral look surged in his eyes.

It contained the instinctive desire to live but also held more of a strong will that had been tempered for years.

After a few minutes, clarity gradually returned to Lin Xun, and his head no longer felt as fuzzy as before.

He found himself at the bottom of a canyon with cliffs jutting out like halberds above. At a glance, he could see no immediate danger for the time being.

Without hesitation, Lin Xun began to check his injuries while enduring intense pain.

Three ribs on his left side were broken, his right shoulder had been dislocated, and his back was badly burned...

Fortunately, although the external injuries were serious, none of them were fatal.

In Blood Kill Camp, such injuries were considered trifling and would not affect Lin Xun's movement.

However, there was one piece of bad news that made him frown: he had sustained substantial inner injuries that greatly affected his combat capabilities.

Lin Xun took a deep breath to regain his calm and focus. After which, he began to clean and tend to his wounds like an injured lone wolf.

In Blood Kill Camp, there were always combat medics available to heal the students' injuries. Lin Xun had learned much from being a patient countless times and thus proceeded with practiced and precise movements.

It did not take long for Lin Xun to finish. He gritted his teeth, stood up, and tried to get a feel for his body. He swiftly gauged that he could only display forty percent of his peak combat power.

The most urgent matter, for now, was to find a safe place to recover. **NovelNext.com**

Lin Xun scanned the surroundings and found the little girl, Luoluo, in a nearby grass patch. She was not injured but had fallen unconscious due to shock.

This made Lin Xun feel a little better. However, an unquenchable fury soon flared in his heart, making him feel as if every inch of his body was on the verge of exploding.

He never expected that the enemy would be so vicious and cruel. They had dispatched a Violet Hero Battleship to destroy a rune shuttle filled with passengers!

Who could have imagined that an empire battleship would slaughter its own citizens?

Were the lives of the common people so worthless in their eyes?

Lin Xun could still recall the scene of him chatting with the little girl on the rune shuttle with all the other passengers still alive and well around them. However, the subsequent scene of the explosion, fire, and smoke made him feel as if a knife was carving into his heart.

This was the first time a group of innocents had lost their lives because of him!

Indescribable feelings of guilt and rage tortured Lin Xun's heart and mind like a whip, making him deeply hate the enemy that had caused this!

"Mummy, I'm scared..."

In his arms, Luoluo softly murmured. Her small, ash-covered face was filled with anxiety and helplessness.

This caused another wave of bitterness and self-blame to wash over Lin Xun. Luoluo's mother had given him a set of clothes, and more importantly, the kindness and warmth of a stranger, and yet...

She had died because of him!

Lin Xun suddenly took a deep breath and cast away his thoughts. If he continued thinking about these things, he was worried that he would lose control of himself.

"I will avenge all of you!"

Lin Xun tightly pursed his lips as his black eyes turned colder than ice.

He gently put Luoluo on his back and carefully secured her using some spare cloth before setting off.

.....

A certain old mansion in the Forbidden City.

When news of the rune shuttle being destroyed was received, everyone in the room burst into cheers as their faces lit up in joy.

"I told you we only needed to send a Violet Hero Battleship to blast the target into smithereens!"

"Hahaha, I'm dying to find out what kind of expression Mister Master Tactician Xu Qianjing will show when he hears about this. It'll definitely be very entertaining to see."

"What better way to describe the word 'effortless?' We didn't deploy a single soldier or tactic. All we did was send a single Violet Hero Battleship and everything was solved. Not like Xu Qianjing who still needed to collect information and come up with his so-called 'flawless' plans. What a joke."

Amidst the excitement, they did not forget to ridicule Xu Qianjing again like winners gloating over the loser.

Someone suddenly asked, "Lady Chi, since the target has been eliminated, should we organize a celebration banquet?"

"Wait a while longer."

Chi Cangmei thought for a bit and said, "From the report, the target's death has yet to be determined. After his death is confirmed, I will make sure the clan acknowledges everyone's contributions!"

Everyone burst into hearty chuckles again.

They believed that the verification was merely a formality and should not take long to do. They were already subconsciously sure that it was impossible for the target to survive.

After all, even a Spirit Sea expert could only choose to avoid the new series Violet Hero Battleship, let alone a Human Dipper youngster.

From start to end, there was not a single mention of the many innocents who had also been killed in the rune shuttle.

This uncaring attitude proved that the lives of the other passengers were nothing in these noble disciples' eyes!

.....

After walking out of the canyon, a rocky shoal greeted Lin Xun.

It was currently evening. The setting sun hung far the distance, sprinkling its blood-red rays onto the land.

When Lin Xun arrived, he immediately came to a stop. He could see the scattered wreckage of the rune shuttle in the distance.

Lin Xun's footsteps suddenly felt somewhat heavy. The Violet Hero Battleship was personally designed by him and no one knew better than himself how terrifying its aeth cannon was.



Even Spirit Sea experts could not withstand a full-power blast from its aeth cannon!

In the face of such power, the rune shuttle's defenses had instantly crumbled like paper.

This meant that when the explosion happened, none of the passengers had any hopes of escaping.

If Lin Xun had not cut open the rune shuttle's wall and dashed out of the carriage with Luoluo, he would have probably died together with the rest of them back then.

He gazed upon the rune shuttle's cold and still wreckage. When he thought of how the passengers were killed by a battleship designed by him, Lin Xun felt as if a rock had been shoved into his chest, making it difficult to even breathe.

Lin Xun stood in silence under the setting sun. His handsome face had turned so pale it was nearly transparent, but a bright fire seemed to burn in his eyes.

An unknown amount of time passed. At a certain moment, Lin Xun's figure suddenly darted to the side and hid in the shadows within a crevice of a boulder.

A coldly gleaming Divine Arm Crossbow had appeared in his hand.

"Quick! There's some wreckage of the rune shuttle here. Search the area. If you find any survivors, immediately kill them without question!"

"Our main goal is to find the target, regardless of whether he's dead or alive!"

Figures began to appear from the distance, almost immediately after Lin Xun hid.

There were fifty to sixty of them and they were led by a man in black clothes with a thick beard and a knife scar on his face.

They immediately got to work the moment they appeared and began combing the rocky shoal.

Lin Xun silently observed from the shadows with cold, indifferent eyes. No one knew about the suppressed hatred and killing intent that was boiling within him.

"How can there be any survivors when even the rune shuttle was destroyed? This search is a waste of time and effort."

The cultivators were clearly relaxed, finding time to grumble as they searched.

"Yeah, all we found in the other areas were a few body parts. There's obviously not a single survivor. How could the target have survived?"

"Stop complaining and hurry and search. These are orders from above, who will dare to go against them?"

"Hmph, I guarantee that the target has already been blasted to pulp. If he's still alive, I'll immediately cut my neck to kill myself!"

One of the cultivators disdainfully snorted, causing the others to laugh.

However, the cultivator suddenly froze in place a split second later.

Shlick!

His throat abruptly exploded, sending out a spray of blood. At the same time, his body was grabbed by a hand and swiftly dragged into the shadows of a crevice.

“Third Oldy Yang, why have you stopped talking? Did you really cut your own throat?”

A cultivator nearby seemed to sense something and walked over with his spear.

His pupils soon shrank when he saw Third Oldy Yang’s corpse in the shadow of a boulder!

“No...”

His expression changed drastically. Just as he was about to shout, he suddenly felt a pain in his head and his vision rapidly turned to darkness as he lost consciousness.

Although no noise was made, the disturbance still drew the attention of several cultivators. Their eyes narrowed as they carefully began to approach the site.

All of them had armed themselves with Divine Arm Crossbows.

Rustle!

A black shadow suddenly charged out, causing them to instinctively press the crossbow mechanism. A series of sharp whistling noises rang out as the shadow was turned into a porcupine.

However, the cultivators were shocked to find that the black shadow was one of their companions.

Shit!

Their expressions rapidly changed, realizing they had been tricked.

Before they could react, the familiar swoosh was heard as a rain of arrows abruptly blossomed in their sights.

Shick shick shick~~~

Blood flowers appeared on the cultivators’ throats, chests, heads, and other fatal spots like exploding firecrackers, sending out sprays of hot, red blood. It was a beautiful yet chilling scene to behold.

In an instant, all seven approaching cultivators were killed!

“Oh no!”

“Enemy attack!”

The other cultivators spread out over different districts immediately reacted with shouts of alarm and anger before they also began to approach.

Their response was quick, but Lin Xun was quicker!

Swoosh!

His figure darted forth like a lightning bolt, crossing several dozen feet in the blink of an eye. The Flowing Light Blade flashed in his hand as he beheaded one of the cultivators, sending his body falling to the ground.

Before the corpse could reach the ground, Lin Xun had already charged forward again and killed four more people before the enemy could react.

With each fatal slash, a storm of blood soon unfurled!

## Chapter 295 Slaughter

All the cultivators could barely believe their eyes that Lin Xun was still standing when they recognized that it was him.

Who would have imagined that a Human Dipper Stage teenager could survive the bombardment of a Violet Hero Battleship?

It was too unbelievable! [Novelnext.COM](http://www.novelnext.com)

However, no one had the time to puzzle over it anymore because Lin Xun had already launched an attack.

He was alone with a little girl on his back but when he appeared, he seemed like an invincible king on the battlefield. His imposing manner engulfed the entire area in an unstoppable manner like a violent storm!

Every strike of his blade took a life. His simple, precise and swift method of killing served as a chilling deterrent.

Lin Xun had no scruples. He wanted to vent the anger, hatred, and self-blame that had accumulated in his heart. He was like an erupting volcano. He couldn't control himself, but he also didn't want to control himself!

Die!

As he clasped the Flowing Light Blade, his aura tumbled around him like a tsunami. He went on an unstoppable rampage, like a storm sweeping across the world.

"Hurry! Stop him together!" the scarred-faced leader roared.

Many cultivators sped towards Lin Xun in an attempt to suppress him with their advantage in numbers.

Rumble!

However, before they neared Lin Xun, a blade streaked across the sky, crushing the surrounding air and blasting away dozens of enemies. Several cultivators cried out in agony and collapsed. They had lost the ability to fight.

Many enemies stared, horrified at the scene and unable to believe it.

It was too terrifying. They had many Heaven Dipper Stage cultivators among them, yet not a single one of them could stop Lin Xun!

Die!

As Lin Xun charged forward, blood spurted across the rocky beach and broken limbs were hurled everywhere. Miserable shrieks followed one after another in rapid succession.

The bloody and tragic scenes made the place resemble purgatory.

Scree

A cultivator aimed an attack at Lin Xun from behind. His black spear swung forward like a python spitting out venom, speeding straight towards the little girl on Lin Xun's back.

Bang!

Lin Xun acted as if he had eyes on the back of his head. Without turning to look, he fired the Bramble Crossbow that suddenly appeared in his left hand.

Lin Xun's sudden attack completely caught the cultivator off guard. A crossbow arrow pierced through his left eye and into his head, and, with an anguished scream, he collapsed to the ground with a thud.

The terrifying scene deterred the other cultivators from approaching. The space around Lin Xun was suddenly empty.

The scarred face leader roared, "Idiots! What are you waiting for? Hurry up and fire the arrows!?"

As though they had snapped awake from a dream, the cultivators brought out their crossbows in a flash and all aimed at Lin Xun from different directions.

However—

Before they could make any move, Lin Xun was already holding a different short crossbow in his left hand!

It wasn't the Divine Arm Crossbow or the Bramble Crossbow or any other short crossbow on the market.

The crossbow looked ordinary with an entirely jet-black body.

However, when Lin Xun pulled the trigger, a bizarre sound that resembled the airy hum of a flute that felt like it reverberated across the world.

Instantly, silvery starlight filled everyone's vision like blooming fireworks. It was magnificent and gorgeous.

An intense feeling of crisis surged in everyone's heart. Their souls trembled with fear and almost collapsed.

It was a dreamy and stunning shower of silver arrows!

They were as beautiful as fireworks, as mysterious as the stars, and as chilling as frost as they spread across the void.

Its beauty made the world pale in comparison and bewitched a person's spirit!

Thump!

Before the cultivators could even struggle, the silver arrows had already pierced their bodies. Their faces were contorted with bewilderment and disbelief up until their death. It was hard to imagine how something so beautiful yet terrifying could exist in the world.

When the spectacular starlight vanished, dozens of corpses appeared on the ground and blood flowed everywhere. The people had died in an instant.

It was the Flying Star Crossbow!

Lin Xun had personally made this killing weapon in Blood Kill Camp and had astonished Xiaoke, Xiaoman and Xu Sanqi.

Old Mo, an experienced rune master, also repeatedly marveled at the crossbow!

The Flying Star Crossbow was one of the little toys that Lin Xun had personally forged before he left Haze City.

Unfortunately, the rune materials required to create a Flying Star Crossbow were all very precious and rare, and so he could only make one with his financial power at the time.

Although the Flying Star Crossbow was extremely powerful, it could only be used once. This was its greatest weakness.

Lin Xun couldn't correct the flaw even with his current rune skills.

.....

Instantly, a rain of arrows flashed across the sky like fireworks and simultaneously killed a dozen cultivators!

All the cultivators who escaped the calamity felt as if their souls had left their bodies and felt hollow inside.

Even the scarred-faced leader's hands went cold as though he had fallen into an ice cave. Unprecedented terror flooded his heart.

After a rough calculation, he realized that over thirty of his comrades had died one after another in the slaughter.

Yet his opponent was unscathed!

The terrified cultivators were filled with despair and had lost their spirit to fight when they saw the power of the Flying Star Crossbow.

Therefore, when Lin Xun launched another killing spree, the remaining twenty-odd cultivators couldn't help but scream in horror and flee the battlefield.

Lin Xun's astonishing strength had already horrified them to death and now that they had witnessed the destructive power of the Flying Star Crossbow, how would they dare to fight anymore?

Run!

Lin Xun was like a ruthless and cold-blooded demon who killed without batting an eye. They felt unprecedented despair when they faced him.

A cold glint flashed in Lin Xun's eyes. He didn't intend to stop. Instead, he gave chase once he saw them flee.

However, he only ran a dozen of feet before he suddenly grunted and blood overflowed from the corner of his lips.

He seemed unscathed from the battle, but he had sustained internal injuries from the repeated mobilization of his cultivation. He felt a burning sensation in his meridians and organs.

Even so, Lin Xun didn't stop. The rage and murderous intent that filled his body made him unable to watch his enemy escape under his nose.

Bang!

While pursuing them, Lin Xun drew out a Divine Arm Crossbow, pulled the trigger, and shot a cultivator hundreds of feet away. The cultivator instantly collapsed to the ground with a thud.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The ear-piercing whistle of the crossbow echoed endlessly across the mountains.

Lin Xun was like a fierce but steady hunter constantly chasing after fleeing prey.

A few days ago, he had seized a large number of short crossbows from his battles. He had planned to exchange them for money, but he couldn't care anymore and used them all on hunting down his enemies.

Although his accuracy with the crossbow decreased significantly when he was trying to hit moving targets, his rapid strikes still killed more than a dozen cultivators.

Before he knew it, he had come to an empty hilly area. He killed another cultivator again, but his pupils suddenly shrank. He saw a Violet Hero Battleship moored a few thousand feet away.

Without any hesitation, Lin Xun gave up the pursuit, turned around and left. His speed was visibly much faster than before.

Boom—

With a thunderous roar, the Violet Hero Battleship rose into the air, casting a huge, long shadow across the ground.

At that moment, Lin Xun sped into a mountain range and was rapidly climbing a hundred-foot-tall mountain peak with both hands and feet.

Hu—

He took a deep breath, took out the No-Nonsense Bow, and crouched on the ground. He peered into the distance like an eagle.

He stretched out a finger and pulled the blood-red trigger while maintaining an absolute state of calmness in his mind-sea.

Instantly, the scene before him changed. The Violet Hero Battleship in the sky was clearly presented to Lin Xun.

Every inch of the battleship seemed to have been magnified several times. It was moving towards Lin Xun at full speed.

The center deck of the battleship suddenly lit up and dazzling rays of light shot everywhere. Countless runes were endlessly circling like they were alive.

It was a rune cannon set up on the Violet Hero Battleship. It had a spectacular name—City Destroyer Cannon!

It could kill Spirit Sea cultivators with its tremendous power!

The Violet Hero Battleship was going to launch a catastrophic attack at Lin Xun by operating the City Destroyer Cannon.

Lin Xun stood motionless atop a mountain peak. He didn't care about the risk of exposing himself, so he drew his bow and aimed while maintaining an absolute state of calmness and focus.

In the blink of an eye, the Violet Hero Battleship had already sped across hundreds of feet. The cannon was locked on the mountain peak that Lin Xun was on.

Swoosh!

Lin Xun suddenly relaxed his fingertip and an almost invisible rune arrow silently shot out.

Boom!

Almost at the same time, the City Destroyer Cannon was suddenly fired amid an explosion of dazzling light.

However, the silent arrow directly struck the fired cannon that could instantly kill a Spirit Sea cultivator.

A terrifying explosion rapidly swept across the deck like the eruption of a volcano. The fire instantly tore apart the deck and engulfed the Violet Hero battleship.

The sea of flames and smoke billowed into the sky. The Violet Hero Battleship wildly vibrated, swayed, and rumbled in the void!

A single arrow had almost destroyed a brand-new Violet Hero Battleship!

If other cultivators in the empire saw the destruction, their jaws would drop. They would never believe that a Human Dipper teenager was able to cause such astonishing destruction!

However, Lin Xun didn't find his performance particularly crazy or ridiculous because he was the one who designed the Violet Hero Battleship!

In the eyes of other people, the operation of the City Destroyer Cannon involved just a series of eruptions of blinding light, but Lin Xun was able to accurately predict when the cannon would fire.

Taking advantage of his ability, he could use the power of the No-Nonsense Bow to seize that one second of opportunity to destroy the ship!

Chapter 296 Unbelievable

Flames continued to blaze as the Violet Hero Battleship rocked and crumbled apart.

However, it didn't fall or collapse in the end. Instead, it turned around and disappeared into the distance while swaying like a drunken man.

Lin Xun sighed inwardly and put away the No-Nonsense Bow. *nOvElNExt.com*

He could only blame himself for designing the Violet Hero Battleship to be that powerful. As long as the aeth engine wasn't fatally damaged, the ship would never collapse.

Given Lin Xun's current ability, he couldn't find an opportunity to strike the Violet Hero Battleship's aeth engine.

Then again, if the Violet Hero battleship was easily destroyed, it would be due to Lin Xun's poor design.

He felt helpless. I was the one who designed the outstanding little battleship but it is now being used against me. Even the thought of it is absurd.

"Mother...Mother..."

Suddenly, the little girl yelled out faintly, which snapped Lin Xun out of his thoughts. He glanced around and quickly chose a path to head down the mountain.

He had fought off the enemy for now and it was best to use the time to tend to his injuries. As for the little girl Luoluo...

He would never leave her!

.....

The Forbidden City.

Cheerful chatter echoed in the old mansion.

"Well, once this mission is over, I'm going to get drunk at the Thousand Gold Smile. Many women are waiting for me there, hahaha."

"What's so fun about brothel women? I have asked someone to pick up a group of Magi Brute Race women from the slave market a while ago. At that time, we can try what foreign women taste like."

"You guys only care about women. But I'm different from you guys. The clan has already arranged a top-secret realm for me to train in. I will go into closed-door cultivation once we complete this mission and prepare to attack the Spirit Sea Stage."

The youngsters beamed and laughed as they chatted about their plans after the mission. Even their conversations were full of competitive spirit.



This was the style of most wealthy children. They had to compete with each other whether it was in eating, drinking or cultivation.

“Everyone, no matter what you all are going to do, don’t forget that there is a celebration feast. If someone doesn’t come, don’t blame me for unfriending them.” Chi Cangmei seemed to be in a very good mood. It was rare to see her make a joke and make everyone laugh.

Bang!

Suddenly, the door slammed open and a guard sped in, yelling, “This is bad! A message from the front line says the target isn’t dead!”

What?

The joyous atmosphere abruptly turned heavy and depressing. They all looked at each other in dismay, finding it hard to believe what they had just heard.

That guy survived the bombardment from a Violet Hero Battleship?

How is that possible!?

“What the hell is going on?”

Chi Cangmei’s face was as cold as ice and her clear eyes as sharp as knives.

The guard shuddered, gulped, and was about to say something when another guard rushed over in a panic and almost ran into Chi Cangmei.

“Look at you, why are you panicking?” Chi Cangmei scolded.

The guard cried, “Miss, it’s bad. The battleship, Violet Hero Battleship, that was dispatched to the Maple Night Mountain Range has been severely damaged and almost destroyed!”

Everyone looked dumbstruck and froze like lightning had struck them. Even the Violet Hero Battleship is damaged? How...is that possible!?

Every one of them was terror-stricken and was in no mood to talk or joke around anymore.

“Is there a written account?” Chi Cangmei asked with a deep frown. She took a deep breath, suppressing her unease and bewilderment.

The guard swiftly took out the Wind Shadow Sparrowhawk and pinched its throat. It quickly spat out a glistening bead.

The bead spun in mid-air, casting a light screen in the air. The screen started to flash with images showing Lin Xun slaughtering a group of cultivators while carrying a little girl on his back.

He isn’t dead!

The faces of the assistants became overcast.

Even Chi Cangmei's face clouded over. She was certain that their mission would succeed after the Violet Hero Battleship was dispatched, but who would have thought that their target would miraculously survive the battleship's attack!?

Soon, the light screen showed the explosion of the Violet Hero Battleship. Even just watching what happened from the light screen made the assistants jump up in fear and their eyes widened with disbelief.

That's the Violet Hero Battleship. How could a Human Dipper cultivator damage it?

The light screen didn't show how Lin Xun achieved that, but Chi Cangmei and the others were certain that the Violet Hero Battleship had sustained heavy damage!

When the light screen faded, the atmosphere had turned deathly still and suffocating in the room.

They had exploded a rune shuttle but failed to kill their target. Instead, they allowed their target the opportunity to heavily damage their Violet Hero Battleship. Everything that had happened was too absurd and unimaginable.

However, it was the truth!

Could their target be an invincible monster?

"Damn it, damn it..." someone fumed.

"How could that happen? That guy isn't a Spirit Sea cultivator, how can he be that strong?"

"Could someone have secretly helped him?" someone speculated.

But Chi Cangmei immediately disagreed, "Impossible!"

However, she didn't explain the reason.

"But what the hell is going on?" Many people looked glum.

"Now is not the time to think about that. Instead, we need to plan what to do next!" Chi Cangmei said coldly.

"We have almost lost two hundred elite cultivators in total and a Violet Hero Battleship. The loss isn't particularly serious, but the target is very strong so we have to treat him seriously."

"Princess Mei, what do you think we should do?" All assistants turned to look at Chi Cangmei.

Chi Cangmei pondered for a moment but she looked more and more troubled. Inexplicably, she thought of Xu Qianjing, and she couldn't help but regret letting Xu Qianjing leave so easily...

However, Chi Cangmei felt no guilt for sending Xu Qianjing away.

She knew very well that someone like Xu Qianjing only helped her to repay a favor. Even if he were to stay, she couldn't possibly control him.

Chi Cangmei suddenly remembered something and asked aloud, "By the way, did Xu Qianjing make any arrangements or preparations regarding the target's plan to cross the Maple Night Mountain Range?"

The assistants exchanged awkward glances with one another. They had been very displeased with Xu Qianjing for a long time. They had only ridiculed him and had never thought to ask Xu Qianjing about his plans and arrangements.

Seeing this, Chi Cangmei couldn't stop her temper from rising, but she managed to suppress her anger in the end. "From now on, you all will do your best to help me collect intelligence and formulate tactics. Whereas, I will issue orders."

After a pause, she restored tranquility to her face and said indifferently, "Unless the target is dead, no one is allowed to leave here without authorization!"

Everyone trembled inwardly and stayed silent.

.....

In a remote and cramped cave in Maple Night Mountain Range.

A fire was about to burn itself out while the smell of barbecue lingered in the air.

Lin Xun sat cross-legged on one side, watching the little girl Luoluo sleep on a soft animal skin. He breathed a sigh of relief.

The moment the little girl woke up, she cried for her mother and Lin Xun did everything to soothe her. He ate barbecued meat with her and then put her to bed.

Luoluo's mother was very unlikely to have survived. Lin Xun felt incredibly guilty about her mother's death but also doted on Luoluo. How would he not take good care of her?

However, Lin Xun felt a headache coming on at the thought of the many dangers he would face along the way because he didn't know how to settle Luoluo.

He didn't want a four-year-old little girl to face danger with him.

After giving it a long and hard thought, Lin Xun still couldn't think of a way. In the end, he shook his head and decided to forget it for the time being.

After extinguishing the fire, Lin Xun activated the alarm device, placed it at the entrance of the cave, and set up a rune formation to conceal their auras. Only then could he relax and tend to his injuries.

He had many kinds of pills and medicine on him. If he made good use of time, he estimated that he could heal in around five or six days.

As a result, Lin Xun stayed in the Maple Night Mountain Range to rest and recover. In addition to recovering, he took care of Luoluo every day.

A three to four-year-old child needed company the most, but Luoluo had to suffer from disasters and lose her mother. She was no doubt emotionally vulnerable.

To prevent Luoluo from being too heartbroken, Lin Xun summoned Jiujiu, who was in deep slumber, to his palm and let Luoluo play with it.

Unexpectedly, it had a miraculous effect. Luoluo's eyes lit up when she saw Jiujiu's soft and round body and cute and silly face.

After Lin Xun had urged, ordered, and told Jiujiu to play with Luoluo, it had a lot of fun.

Lin Xun was overjoyed. He could concentrate on recuperating with Jiujiu taking care of Luoluo.

After seven days, Lin Xun's injuries had completely recovered. He immediately left the area with Luoluo.

"Luoluo, can you promise me one thing?"

"Huh? Big Brother, what is it?"

"If we run into bad people on the way, you must close your eyes. Otherwise, you will be frightened."

"Okay! I'll do whatever Big Brother says!"

"Luoluo is such a good girl. Big brother will buy you a lot of toys in the future."

"I don't want it. I just need Jiujiu with me."

"Uh...sure."

Lin Xun carried Luoluo across the rugged and steep mountain path of Maple Night Mountain Range. Along the way, he inadvertently thought of Xia Zhi as he talked to Luoluo. I wonder if she is doing well?

#### Chapter 297 Maple Night Restaurant

Qingliu Town was adjacent to the Maple Night Mountain Range, and so most of the residents made a living by gathering herbs and hunting in the mountains. They weren't considered poor, but they were not rich either.

Like most towns in the empire, Qingliu Town was small but densely populated. It had good transport, restaurants, inns, and businesses.

It was noon.

Maple Night Restaurant, the most well-known restaurant in the town, was already very busy. It was filled with young cultivators taking a rest from traveling around the martial world, merchants and traders, and rich young masters and ladies sneaking out of their houses to drink and eat.

All sorts of people were in the restaurant.

Restaurants were a special place. They were always lively with all kinds of people gathered together, drinking and chatting freely about everything from the important affairs of the imperial court to the trivial matters on the streets. All were topics that livened up their drinking times.

That night, the Maple Night Restaurant was as busy as always, but the atmosphere on the second floor of the restaurant was a little quiet.

It wasn't very empty on the second floor. On the contrary, many of the seats had been filled.

However, the figures were all drinking in silence and didn't say much, and it made the atmosphere very dull.

“What are the signature dishes here?”

“Sir, we have many signature dishes such as braised purple-tail fish, stir-fried sparrow tongue and all sorts of stewed mountain delicacies...”

“Then I’ll have one of each. What about wine?”

“Sir, the cloud steamed maple brew is a must-try in Maple Night Restaurant. Everyone who has tried it says it's good.”

“I’ll try a jar first.”

“Okay, please wait upstairs.”

A handsome and graceful figure walked up to the second floor of the restaurant.

He was dressed in a plain white robe and his jet-black hair was casually tied up with a strand of straw, accentuating his handsome and sharp face.

On his back was a basket where a three to four-year-old girl was sitting inside, looking around curiously with her huge eyes.

Of course, the handsome man was Lin Xun.

He was wearing the clothes that Luoluo’s mother gave him.

As he reached the second floor, he swept a glance over the other customers and his eyes imperceptibly narrowed while a smile curved the corners of his lips. He sat down by the window and took Luoluo out of the basket and set her down on the chair next to him.

“Big Brother, I want to play with Jiujiu.”

Luoluo raised her little face and stared unblinkingly at Lin Xun.

Lin Xun readily agreed and summoned Jiujiu out on the table to play with Luoluo.

Many customers in the restaurant couldn’t help but narrow their eyes and withdraw their gazes.

Lin Xun didn’t seem to notice as he was still watching Luoluo play with Jiujiu with a smile on his face, but his attention was suddenly drawn to the disturbance on the first floor of the restaurant.

“Damn! A rune shuttle collapsed! I heard that hundreds of people were on it, including cultivators!”  
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“I also heard about it. It happened a few days ago. It was said that a savage bird attacked the rune shuttle when it was crossing the Maple Night Mountain Range. In the end, the shuttle was destroyed and all passengers died.”

“All died?”

“Of course, even if they didn’t die in the attack, how could they survive in the Maple Night Mountain Range?”

“What an unexpected disaster!”

Lin Xun suddenly felt indescribably suffocated. What do you mean by an unexpected disaster? What do you mean by a savage bird attack?

It was clearly a premeditated massacre!

The enemy used a ridiculous story to cover up the truth from the world!

Lin Xun knew that the enemy had strong backing given that they dared to make up that lie. He realized that he had underestimated their shamelessness.

Perhaps, this was one of the ways the so-called influential figures deceived the world. All they needed was a casual excuse to hide their filth.

Lin Xun knew that no one would believe him even if he told them the truth!

After all, who would believe that a battleship from the empire would slaughter the citizens of the empire?

Just as Lin Xun's emotions were fluctuating, a burst of smug laughter rang out.

"Ah Jiao, I don't want to sound arrogant but my Rui Family is second to none in Qingliu Town! Ah Jiao, if you follow me, I guarantee that you will receive the attention of the entire Qingliu Town."

"Brother Rui Qing, I don't want other people's attention. I just want you to treat me well," a sweet woman's voice sounded.

Lin Xun was taken aback. How could there be someone who praises himself so much in this world?

Lin Xun was most surprised by the woman's exaggerated response. This was obvious from her coquettish voice.

Then, he noticed a young man in a luxurious robe and a pretty fair woman coming up the stairs.

The two seated themselves on the second floor. The young master called Rui Qing frequently boasted about how great his family was and the woman named Ah Qiao constantly flattered him. They seemed very intimate.

Lin Xun shook his head and paid no more attention to the two. His drinks and food were being brought over and so he concentrated on eating with Luoluo.

Yawning, Jiujiu lay on its side. It had no interest in the food as his favorite thing to eat was aeth crystals.

"Hey, what a cute little thing. Look, Big Brother Rui Qing, what kind of rune beast is that? I want to pinch its round belly."

Suddenly, Ah Jiao pointed to Jiujiu and screamed like a love-struck little girl.

"Haha, since you like it, I will get it for you." Rui Qing chuckled, got up and strolled towards Lin Xun's table. He gave Lin Xun a sidelong glance and said, "Buddy. Is this your rune beast? How about this? I'll give you one hundred silver coins for it."

He brought out a bag of money and slammed it on the table. Before Lin Xun agreed, he was already stretching out his hand to grab Jiujiu.

PA!

A pair of chopsticks accurately swatted Rui Qing on the wrist. Rui Qing drew back his hand with lightning speed, inhaling sharply in pain.

Ah Jiao shrieked, sprang to her feet and anxiously ran over. "Big Brother Rui Qing, are you all right?"

He had lost face in front of his woman and had been hit. How could he control his anger? "I'm fine, but that kid won't be! I have never suffered such humiliation in Qingliu Town!"

He swung his hand to slap Lin Xun in the face.

Simple, direct and bad-tempered were all words that described Rui Qing. Lin Xun wondered whether Rui Qing was just too arrogant or just plain stupid.

PA!

Lin Xun sat there motionless, but his chopsticks accurately stabbed Rui Qing in the wrist again. Rui Qing screamed in agony and his face twitched.

"Damn it, you have a death wish! How dare you hit me! You're dead. Don't even think about leaving Qingliu Town alive today!" Rui Qing roared in rage.

After being taught a lesson twice in a row, not only did he not take the hint, but he also became even more aggressive. Lin Xun realized that he hadn't only encountered an arrogant rich young master, but an absolute idiot.

Suddenly, Lin Xun noticed something. He furtively swept his eyes around and scrunched his brows. Without any hesitation, he rose to his feet and said with a smile, "Friend, how about I send you to find reinforcements?"

Roaring in rage, Rui Qing was taken aback. "What the hell do you mean?"

Lin Xun grabbed Rui Qing by his clothes with lightning speed and threw him out of the window.

Following a muffled thud on the street, Rui Qing's shrill cry rang out, "Bastard, just you wait!"

Ah Jiao was so frightened that her pretty face blanched and she screamed, "You—you—do you know who Rui Qing is? He is the third young master of the Rui Family, the strongest clan in Qingliu Town. If you've angered him, don't even think..."

Before she finished, Lin Xun grabbed her and threw her out the window.

Lin Xun shook his head nonchalantly. "What a weird couple."

He lowered his head and asked Luoluo, "Are you full?"

Luoluo nodded and tightly wrapped her arms around Jiujie as though she was afraid someone would take it away.

"Then let's get ready to go."

Lin Xun picked up Luoluo and placed her in the basket. Then, he carried the basket on his back.

"Big brother, were those two bad people?" asked Luoluo.

"They're not exactly bad. At worst, they are a pair of idiots."

As Lin Xun explained, he ran his eyes across the customers in the restaurant and an imperceptible smile came to his lips. "But Luoluo, close your eyes. The real bad people are about to appear."

Luoluo was terrified, but she still listened to Lin Xun and covered her eyes. She crouched in the basket and said, "Big brother, don't worry, I won't watch."

Lin Xun nodded and his dark eyes suddenly became void of emotions. As he swept a glance across the customers on the second floor, he said with a smile, "Everyone, we have finished eating and it is time for us to go. What about you guys?"

Clang!

As he was speaking, the Flowing Light Blade suddenly appeared in his hand. With a slight movement, the blade slashed through the air with an incomparably fierce aura toward the three people at the nearest table.

Almost at the same time, the three charged forward. They were waiting to strike. When Lin Xun attacked, they subconsciously launched a counterattack.

"He saw through us! Let's attack together!"

Following a roar, all customers eating on the second floor sprang up with chilling expressions. They clasped their aeth tools and attacked together.

The calm atmosphere was instantly destroyed and the restaurant had turned into a battlefield. Swords glinted and blades flashed while murderous intent raged like the storm!

All the customers on the first floor screamed and fled in panic.

The entire Maple Night Restaurant was caught in a bloody slaughter. Blasts of wind wreaked havoc, walls were torn down, and tables, chairs and cups were constantly being shattered.

Even the pedestrians on the nearby streets avoided the area for fear of being swept into the battle.

However, no one noticed that figures were silently lurking on the top of the many residential buildings and shops around the restaurant.

Each figure was wielding a crossbow or bow and aiming it at the Maple Night Restaurant!

Chapter 298 Surroundings Perception Ability

Ma Ming was hiding in the shadows of a roof, waiting quietly.

As the person in charge of the operation, he naturally had the power to make people listen to him.

He had a cultivation base of the Heaven Dipper Stage and had superb archery skills that allowed him to snipe enemies from a distance of more than three thousand feet.



Most importantly, he had rich experience and battle knowledge developed from years of battle and assassination.

This was the fundamental reason why he became the person in charge of the operation.

Ma Ming held a simple and unadorned slender bow in his hand. The bow was called Throat Seal, meaning it would seal the throat with an arrow.

A bloody battle was taking place in the Maple Night Restaurant one hundred and thirty-six feet away. The restaurant was constantly vibrating and its walls were on the verge of collapsing.

However, Ma Ming knew that their target wouldn't be easy to assassinate given that he managed to survive the bombardment of the Violet Hero Battleship.

In other words, Ma Ming didn't expect his comrades in the restaurant to be able to kill the target.

Under his arrangement, the twenty-seven comrades in the restaurant were only tasked to stop the target from leaving!

As long as they could hold the target back, Ma Ming would have the chance to deploy forces to block the target's escape route. At that time, the target wouldn't be able to escape even if he had grown wings!

Of course, the twenty-seven comrades would likely be sacrificed as cannon fodder, but Ma Ming didn't care.

In his opinion, it was a price they had to pay to kill such a ruthless and abnormal target.

The current situation proved that Ma Ming's deployment was correct. After a battle had broken out in the restaurant, the people he had ordered to hide in different areas around the restaurant all blocked the surroundings as planned.

Now, they were just waiting for their target to appear!

Of course, it would be best if their target died in the restaurant, but Ma Ming wasn't optimistic about that.

After a few minutes.

Unable to bear the impact anymore, the crumbling Maple Night Restaurant finally collapsed.

Ma Ming suddenly narrowed his eyes and signaled the other cultivators lying in ambush nearby to get ready. They would launch an earthshaking attack at the sight of their target!

Their method of attack was extremely simple and crude—completely cover the areas where the target would potentially appear with crossbows and bows.

Ma Ming was confident that even a fly would be crushed into pulp under that scale of the attack, let alone their target!

The atmosphere turned tense and chilling. Not a single person remained on the streets and the area was completely deserted.

But as time passed, the rubble of the collapsed restaurant remained quiet and still with no signs of their target.

Of course, none of the twenty-seven comrades also showed up.

It was terrifyingly silent!

Ma Ming suddenly felt a sense of crisis. In his view, their target should have rushed out of the restaurant to avoid the attacks.

However, the deathly quiet situation wasn't what he expected.

Could the target have died with the others?

When that thought flashed across his mind, a sharp whistle exploded in his ear. His pupils rapidly constricted.

It's the sound of the Divine Arm Crossbow!

Who the hell ignored my order and acted?

Ma Ming raged. But when he looked over, his face blanched with terror. He saw one of his comrades plunge to the ground from the roof of a building and the center of his forehead was pierced with a bloody hole!

Pshhh!

Ma Ming inhaled sharply and realized that he assumed wrongly. It wasn't one of his comrades who fired a Divine Arm Crossbow but their target!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Before Ma Ming could react, a series of sharp whistles rang out one after another. It reverberated throughout the silent and empty streets like a demonic sound from hell.

Ma Ming's face dramatically changed. He couldn't compose himself because he saw dozens of arrows shoot out from the rubble of the restaurant. They were speeding across the air towards him from different directions.

Rumble—

Suddenly, nearby buildings were torn apart, rocks were blasted everywhere, and smoke filled the air. Tragic screams followed, creating a hair-raising atmosphere.

Ma Ming witnessed eight comrades hiding in different areas killed in an instant!

His hands and feet went cold like he had fallen into an ice cave.

He couldn't imagine how their target achieved that. My comrades were well hidden yet he saw through everything and launched a bloody slaughter without even showing up!

Terrifying!

Ma Ming finally realized why their target could survive the several encirclements and attacks.

That guy is simply a demon. All my plans and arrangements are useless in front of him and are all destroyed by his bloody, ruthless and abnormal means!

The sharp whistle of a crossbow continued to ring across the city like the roar of death.

Panic-stricken, Ma Ming couldn't care about anything else. He just screamed, "Retreat!"

Bang!

At that moment, an arrow accurately shot into Ma Ming's opened mouth like it had ripped through time and space. It lifted his entire body and nailed him to the eaves not far away.

Ma Ming's pupils dilated. Even at his death, he wondered how their target discovered his hiding spot...

The hurried, sharp whistle continued to ring freely in the air.

.....

After a short moment.

In the depths of the rubble of the restaurant, Lin Xun stood up and put away the No-Nonsense Bow. Around him were dozens of discarded crossbows.

The absolute state of calmness in his mind-sea that allowed him to perceive everything was rapidly fading. His jet-black eyes gradually became warmer.

He had sensed something was wrong from the moment he set foot into the Maple Night Restaurant.

Although the customers on the second floor of the restaurant had restrained their aura and disguised themselves, Lin Xun could tell that they were fierce characters who practiced martial arts all year round from the thick calluses on their palms!

Lin Xun wasn't sure that they had come for him but when Jiujiu appeared out of thin air and when he taught Rui Qing a lesson, he noticed they had reacted far too calmly, unlike ordinary people.

As if those clues weren't enough for Lin Xun to see through their plot, when he packed up his stuff and was about to leave with Luoluo, he noticed they had subconsciously stopped what they were doing.

At that moment, Lin Xun was certain that they were all waiting there for him!

Additionally, when the battle kicked off, Lin Xun sensed strange auras gathered outside Maple Night Restaurant.

When he slaughtered all the enemies in the restaurant and shattered the building to rubble, he summoned his No-Nonsense Bow and detected several cultivators concealed in the nearby buildings.

This was the magical ability of the No-Nonsense Bow. Whenever he drew the blood-red bow, his consciousness and emotions would fall into a state of absolute calmness, allowing him to perceive everything around him. All the dangers were plainly present in front of him.

When Lin Xun was in the Maple Night Mountain Range, he had already utilized the magical ability of the No-Nonsense Blade to severely damage a Violet Hero Battleship.

Unlike that time, he only used the mysterious perception ability of the bow and killed using the aeth tools or crossbows he gathered from the enemies.

It wasn't because he was wealthy and didn't mind wasting crossbow bolts. Instead, it was for the sake of conserving energy. Using aeth tools and bows didn't consume much aeth power.

"There were twenty-seven enemies in the restaurant, and thirty-three were waiting outside to ambush, and nine of them escaped in the end..."

"The surroundings perception ability of the No-Nonsense Bow had helped me a lot in this battle. If I had rushed out there, it would be similar to stabbing a hornet's nest."

Surrounding Perception was the name that Lin Xun gave to the magical ability of the No-Nonsense Bow. In addition to its ability to perceive the surroundings, it could help him maintain a state of absolute calmness.

The more battles he fought, the more he appreciated and understood the mysteriousness of the No-Nonsense Bow. It was no doubt a remarkable treasure that no other bows could compare to. Its two abilities—surroundings perception and absolute calmness were already unmatched.

Without further delay, Lin Xun flashed out of the rubble with a basket on his back.

The street was completely quiet and empty apart from blood-soaked corpses lying on the eaves of the nearby alleys.

Lin Xun didn't know whether there were enemies still lurking in other parts of Qingliu Town, so he planned to quickly leave the place.

It was at that moment when a group of people aggressively rushed toward him.

"Father, it's not because I'm incompetent, but that bastard is too ruthless. I even used the name of the Rui Family, but he still arrogantly attacked me. He attaches no importance to our Rui Family!"

"Father, you have to stick up for me. Qingliu Town is the territory of our Rui Family, how can we let an outsider cause trouble?"

The group was led by an imposing middle-aged man, and Rui Qing was following closely behind the middle-aged man.

Rui Qing was complaining about something to the man.

The imposing and dignified looking middle-aged man was Rui Qing's father, and the group of people behind the two were subordinates of the Rui Family.

"Huh? Why is Maple Night Restaurant destroyed? I was inside it a moment ago, how did it become like this?"

Rui Qing was startled when he saw the collapsed restaurant from afar. He looked around and noticed Lin Xun standing among the rubble of the restaurant. He gritted his teeth and shouted angrily, "It's him! It's him!"

Chapter 299 As Silent as a Cicada in Late Autumn

Rui Qing yelled angrily and made the imposing middle-aged man take a look at Lin Xun.

Lin Xun appeared to be a handsome, gentle and harmless youngster, but when the middle-aged man met Lin Xun's deep and dark eyes, he inexplicably felt a sense of fear surge to his heart.

He narrowed his eyes slightly, swept a glance around, and said in bewilderment, "A fierce battle seemed to have happened just now?"

Lin Xun smiled inwardly. He knew that the imposing middle-aged man was a cunning old fox and had already sensed that something was wrong.

"That's correct." Lin Xun nodded.

Rui Qing interrupted, "Father, don't waste time talking to him. Just kill him!"

Lin Xun smiled. "Friend, if I hadn't thrown you out of the restaurant just now, do you think you would still be alive?" He directed him to the rubble of the restaurant as he was speaking.

Rui Qing fumed, "What the hell do you mean by you saved me? Do I need you to save me?"

He stormed toward Lin Xun and swung his hand towards his face. He knew that he didn't need to fear anything with his father as his backing.

However, Rui Qing had just moved when his father stepped forward with a frown and lashed out with a slap to his face. He stumbled and fell on his buttocks while clutching his face and screaming.

"Father...you...what are you doing?" Rui Qing's face twisted with disbelief. Even the people standing behind them looked perplexed.

However, the middle-aged man ignored him and bowed his head at Lin Xun. He said gratefully, "Thank you, little friend, for forgetting about the past and repaying hatred with kindness. If I hadn't witnessed this with my own eyes, I would have been deceived by my son and caused a big misunderstanding."

"Don't mention it. It was nothing," Lin Xun replied casually.

"Father, you believe that guy's nonsense?" Rui Qing fumed.

PA!

The imposing middle-aged man slapped him again and scolded, "Are you blind? If it wasn't for this young master, would you still be alive?"

"I..."

Rui Qing wanted to weep but no tears came out. What do you mean he saved my life? He just threw me out of the restaurant!

How did he save my life?

"Shut up!" The middle-aged man shot a glare at him and made him shudder all over.

The middle-aged man was very furious. Given the state of the destruction, anyone with brains would know that Rui Qing wouldn't have been able to survive if he was inside the restaurant.

Even if Rui Qing was beaten, humiliated, and thrown out of the window, it didn't matter as long as he was still alive.

"Little friend, I'm sorry you had to see this. My son grew up in Qingliu Town and so is like a frog at the bottom of a well. He is arrogant and ignorant. He doesn't know how tall the sky is. Please forgive him if he has offended you," the imposing middle-aged man sincerely explained with a cupped fist salute.

Lin Xun couldn't help but wonder whether the father and son were a real father and son pair. One was as intelligent as an old fox and the other was as stupid as an idiot. The difference between them was too huge.

"Little friend, if you don't mind, please come to our humble abode so we can prepare a banquet for you to express our gratitude," the middle-aged man invited Lin Xun.

He could tell from one glance that, although Lin Xun was dressed plainly, he had a unique air around him and wasn't an ordinary person.

"There's no need. But I would like to ask Elder for a little favor," said Lin Xun

The middle-aged man was taken aback at first but he immediately urged, "Little friend, just tell me what it is?"

"There are fifty-one corpses nearby and in the rubble. Elder, can you send your subordinates to help me collect the items on them?" Lin Xun asked with a smile.

The middle-aged man narrowed his eyes, waved his hand, and told his subordinates to act as instructed. Then, he looked surprised at Lin Xun and whispered, "Little friend, can I ask if you are the one who...killed all those people?"

Lin Xun just smiled and didn't deny it.

However, his answer was obvious and the imposing middle-aged man couldn't help but inhale sharply. Judging from the state of Maple Night Restaurant, the battle was no doubt not a small one.

The youngster's opponents had to be extremely powerful, at least at the Human Dipper Stage!

"Amazing," the imposing middle-aged man marveled. He didn't ask about the cause of the battle, and he also didn't want to get involved.

Before long, a group of subordinates came back to report to him, all carrying a heap of various aeth tools, crossbows and bows.

The imposing middle-aged man's eyes went wide as he swept a glance over the various weapons. Divine Arm crossbow, Violent Armor crossbow and Blood-Breaking crossbow...

There are dozens of them! Together they are worth thousands of gold coins!

Moreover, that was only a small part of the youngster's spoils. In addition to weapons, there were dozens of armors, combat boots, and wrist protectors as well as upper human-grade aeth tools and hundreds of kinds of medicinal herbs!

The middle-aged man was most astonished that all the equipment, tools and medicines were high-quality products that couldn't be found on the market!

The subordinates were also in stunned silence. Their breathing was rapid and their eyes were red and blazing with greed.

Rui Qing looked even worse. His eyes almost popped out and his jaw dropped. A voice echoed repeatedly in his head. How much are those worth?!

"Everyone, although the items on the corpses are valuable, it's not a good idea to pocket them as they may bring you danger," Lin Xun suddenly spoke. His voice was indifferent, but it was as terrifying as a rumble of thunder in the imposing middle-aged man's ear.

His face suddenly paled and a terrifying cold glint flashed in his eyes. "Whoever has pocketed any must return them this instant. Otherwise don't blame me for being impolite!"

The subordinates all stiffened and many people's expressions turned awkward. But no one dared to admit that they took advantage of the chance to pocket some of the items.

Lin Xun smiled. "All right, since you're not afraid of retaliation from the influential figures in Forbidden City, I don't need to remind you further." As he was speaking, he started to pick up spoils on the ground.

However, the middle-aged man and his subordinates assumed terrified expressions.

All of these dead people were cultivators from the Forbidden City, the capital of the empire!?

The imposing middle-aged man yelled, "I'll give you one last chance to hand them over now and I won't pursue matters further. If anyone dares to hide anything, I will kill their whole family!" He was extremely afraid and didn't dare to take a chance on whether or not what Lin Xun said was true.

Immediately, eight subordinates sprang up and glumly handed over some aeth tools.

"You all deserve to die!" The imposing middle-aged man was so furious that his hair seemed to sizzle.

Lin Xun smiled, put away the spoils, and waved. "Everyone, farewell."

Before his voice faded, he was already strolling away from them.

As the middle-aged man watched Lin Xun's figure disappear into the distance, his expression changed indefinitely. In the end, he sighed and retracted his gaze.

"Father, are you just going to let him go?" Rui Qing said bitterly.

The middle-aged man didn't get angry. Instead, his face grew overcast and he said, "Those things are not something we can touch."

"Do you really believe what that kid said?" asked Rui Qing.

The middle-aged man waved his hand, signaling the subordinates to bring over the nearby corpses.

The miserable way they died sent a chill down the middle-aged man's spine and made all his hair stand on end.

He drew a deep breath and said, "Take a look. These cultivators are all at the Heavenly Dipper Stage but they were all shot to death. It was the doing of the youngster."

Everyone became paralyzed with shock and horror. Even Rui Qing was no exception.

The middle-aged man continued, "Think about it. The aeth tools just now were all high-grade products that can't be found on the market. What sort of people could dispatch so many top experts at once and equip them with such weapons and armor?"

Everyone was so terrified that they shuddered all over. *NovelNExt.com*

"I have a hunch that the young man didn't lie to us. These corpses...are all cultivators from a certain major clan in the Forbidden City. Only they can dispatch so many elite cultivators at once."

The middle-aged man's expression was complicated—a mixture of fear, gladness, and shock.

"Father, that kid killed so many people. He...Is he not worried about them retaliating?" Rui Qing asked in a trembling voice.

"We shouldn't get involved in that kind of matter. And we shouldn't mention this matter again in the future. Although no one in Qingliu Town dares to touch our Rui Family, we are nothing to the true major forces and clans in the empire. Once we're swept into the storm, we could be wiped out in it!"

The middle-aged man drew several deep breaths before he said through gritted teeth, "Everyone, remember to not disclose what happened today. I will slaughter the entire family of whomever dares to disobey!"

Everyone nodded in unison and remained as silent as cicadas in late autumn.

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Meanwhile, Lin Xun had just left Qingliu Town. Ahead was a dense forest.

He surveyed the surroundings and he reckoned that he was halfway to the Forbidden City and would reach it in seven days.

He was well aware that his journey ahead would be increasingly more dangerous and it wouldn't be smooth.

However, he wasn't afraid of any danger that would come his way as long as he didn't encounter cultivators of the Spirit Sea Stage or above.

Luoluo was already deep asleep in the basket. Lin Xun was worried that the battle would frighten her so he had hypnotized her using his mind-sea power before the battle began.

"Xu Qianjing...a master tactician....the attacks that I would face would be more and more dangerous. Fortunately, I have just broken through to the Earth Dipper Stage. Even Xu Qianjing likely doesn't know about this..."

Lin Xun analyzed his situation as he hastened his journey to the Forbidden City.

Chapter 300 Bossy Young Master



Lin Xun had gathered from the enemies in the previous battles that the clan who dispatched people to deal with him was the Chi Family, one of the seven high clans in the Forbidden City.

The one in charge of the operation was Chi Cangmei, a descendant of the Chi Clan, and Xu Qianjing, a young tactician master from Qinglu Academy.

Lin Xun didn't dare to let his guard down since he was facing a tactician master like Xu Qianjing.

He was already worried that Xu Qianjing had learned a lot about his fighting style and strength after the several attacks and operations on him.

The more his enemy knew about him, the more disadvantaged his situation would be.

However, if he could break through to the Earth Dipper Stage, his situation would undoubtedly change again. Xu Qianjing would have to further investigate his strength if he still wanted to deal with him. To do that, the master tactician would have to put in more time to collect intelligence and conduct analysis on him!

That would buy a lot of time and create opportunities for Lin Xun to take advantage of.

However, Lin Xun was unaware that all his analysis was a waste of time because Xu Qianjing had already left under Chi Cangmei's orders.

Regardless, Lin Xun strongly felt signs that he was about to break through to the next cultivation level. If everything went as planned, he would successfully ascend to the Earth Dipper Stage within the next few days!

As long as a cultivator's foundation was solid enough, a cultivation breakthrough was insuppressible, natural, and unstoppable like a waterfall.

Lin Xun looked forward to the changes in his strength once he set foot into the Earth Dipper Stage.

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After a few hours of walking, the scenery ahead became more and more bright. He could vaguely see the outline of a city in the distance.

It was Yellow Dragon City, a large and prosperous city in the center of the empire.

According to the route that Lin Xun had planned to take to Forbidden City, Yellow Dragon City was one of the cities that he had to pass through.

He intended to reach Yellow Dragon City before night fell and find a safe place to go into closed-door cultivation to prepare for his breakthrough to the Earth Dipper Stage.

The wilderness was too dangerous. If anything happened during his breakthrough, he could be in life-threatening danger.

As to whether or not he would run into danger when he entered Yellow Dragon City, he wasn't too worried.

Yellow Dragon City was one of the most prosperous cities in the empire. Even if his enemies were unscrupulous and brazen, they wouldn't dare to openly target and deal with him.

Huh?

Lin Xun noticed a team of people heading his way from afar.

He narrowed his eyes, analyzing whether they were friends or foes. But he inadvertently noticed three words inscribed on the golden flag hanging on the beast carriage leading the group of people. It said Stone Cauldron Alms!

Why would I run into a Stone Cauldron Alms team here?

As he drew closer to the group of people he noticed a familiar figure—Wang Lin!

Wang Lin was the treasure appraiser of Stone Cauldron Alms in Donglin City and was also Mu Wansu's most capable subordinate.

Lin Xun had become acquainted with Wang Lin in Donglin City, but he didn't expect to run into him in Yellow Dragon City.

"Lin Xun!? Why are you here?"

Almost at the same time, Wang Lin, who was sitting on the beast carriage, noticed Lin Xun and waved enthusiastically.

Immediately, the team of hundreds of people came to a stop.

Smiling, Wang Lin hurried off the carriage and walked over to Lin Xun. "I didn't expect to see you in this wilderness."

"I didn't expect it either."

"Come with me, Miss Wansu is also here. She will also be very surprised to see you. Hahaha." As Wang Lin was speaking, he guided Lin Xun to the center of the team.

As Lin Xun followed Wang Lin, he noticed that the Stone Cauldron Alms team was very unique. In addition to dozens of elite and vigilant-looking guards, there were several young spirited youths.

When Lin Xun studied the young people, they also curiously looked at him.

"These are the good seedlings that Miss Wansu selected from the Stone Cauldron Alms in Yellow Dragon City," explained Wang Lin.

Lin Xun said in puzzlement, "You're just hiring subordinates, why did you have to travel so far?"

Wang Lin explained in a whisper, "Miss Wansu has just established a foothold in Haze City and only has a few people whom she can trust. She is worried that there are spies planted around her by people with ulterior motives so she traveled to other cities to hire people."

Understanding dawned on Lin Xun and he couldn't help but sigh, "If you want to do something well, you must first lay a solid foundation. Loyalty is undoubtedly the most important quality when employing people."

Wang Lin smiled. "Exactly."

Lin Xun remembered that Mu Wansu wasn't around when he wanted to say farewell to her in Stone Cauldron Alms in Haze City.

"Wang Lin, why did we stop?"

Before they came to the center of the team, a man in a silver robe came over looking displeased.

This silver-robed man was handsome and well-dressed. A feathered hat crowned his head and a jade belt was strapped around his waist. He wore dragon patterned boots and was fanning a gold-adorned fan. His every movement exuded an arrogant and bossy demeanor.

"We ran into a friend of Miss Wansu on the way so I'm taking him to see Miss Wansu now," Wang Lin explained as he continued to lead the way for Lin Xun, but his eyes had turned cold and he furrowed his brows in disgust.

The silver-robed youth coldly snorted and blocked their path. "What friend? Why don't I see him?"

He clearly saw Lin Xun but pretended to not see him, appearing extremely arrogant and rude.

Lin Xun also frowned. He sensed an undisguised hostility from the silver-robed man.

Wang Lin's face darkened and he drew a deep breath and said, "Young Master Lu, this is Lin Xun, Miss Wansu's friend."

Then, he introduced the silver-robed man to Lin Xun. "Lin Xun, this is Lu Shaoyun, Young Master Lu."

As Lin Xun nodded, Wang Lin whispered in his ear, "This guy's father is Lu Tianzhao, an elder who works at the Stone Cauldron Alms headquarters in the Forbidden City.

"And this Lu Shaoyun is arrogant, incompetent, and conceited. He messes around and stirs up trouble using his father's name. He has a very bad reputation. I heard that he has offended the son of an aristocratic family in the Forbidden City because of a woman and his father expelled him from Forbidden City.

"Lu Shaoyun ran into Miss Wansu when she went to Yellow Dragon City for business. At the time, he followed her everywhere and obviously lusted after Miss Wansu's beauty. But because his father is an elder at the Stone Cauldron Alms headquarters, Miss Wansu had no choice but to give face to his father and let him follow us."

A flash of realization struck Lin Xun.

As Wang Lin was explaining, Lu Shaoyun was sizing up Lin Xun. He blatantly looked him up and down before sneering, "This little guy is only in his teens and he is dressed in such shabby clothes. How would he be friends with Wansu?"

Anyone who wasn't deaf could tell that he was blatantly mocking Lin Xun.

Wang Lin's face darkened. He didn't expect Lu Shaoyun to be vicious. "Young Master Lu, please respect yourself!"

Lu Shaoyun raised the beautiful fan in his hand and aimed it at Wang Lin's forehead. "Slave, how dare you talk to me like that!"

PA!

A hand clutched the fan in the air. It was Lin Xun.

He couldn't stand it anymore. He thought that Rui Qing, whom he met in Qingliu Town, was arrogant but he realized that Rui Qing was nothing compared to Lu Shaoyun.

"You want to die!"

He struggled to free the fan from Lin Xun's firm grip and could only curse out loud and try to kick Lin Xun.

Crack!

However, Lin Xun attacked before him. He slammed his fist into Lu Shaoyun's cheek and broke his nose. Lu Shaoyun saw everything spin around him before he was uncontrollably blasted away.

It wasn't over. Without a word, Lin Xun stormed up to Lu Shaoyun and beat him violently until he curled up on the ground screaming.

Wang Lin stood in stunned silence. Lu Shaoyun might be arrogant, but he merely said some unpleasant things. Lin Xun took action without saying a single word. Comparing the two, Lin Xun seemed much more domineering.

In truth, Wang Lin felt very satisfied to see Lu Shaoyun being beaten to such a state, but when he thought of Lu Shaoyun's identity, he felt a headache coming on.

The disturbance on their side naturally attracted the attention of many people in the team. But no one stepped forward to stop Lin Xun when they saw Lu Shaoyun being beaten. On the contrary, they all felt as happy as Wang Lin.

Lu Shaoyun had always acted high and mighty and would scold anyone he found displeasing to his eyes along the way. Many people had to suffer silently because Mu Wansu had reminded them to not offend Lu Shaoyun.

How would they not be happy to see the arrogant and bossy young master being taught a lesson?

"This is ridiculous! Do you know who I am?" Lu Shaoyun roared, his face bruised and swollen.

Bang!

Only a kick responded to him.

"You're dead! You're dead—!" Lu Shaoyun screamed. He was so furious that his eyes almost popped out.

A handful of soil was stuffed into his mouth and he couldn't utter the slightest sound. In the end, his eyes rolled to the back of his head and he lost consciousness.

Only then did Lin Xun stop. He exhaled a breath of turbid air, feeling invigorating.

He glanced around and said with a smile, "I hope you guys don't mind. It's the first time I met someone who was asking for a beating. If I didn't fulfill his desire for a beating, I would feel very bad."