

Prodigies 2991

Chapter 2991 Blood Refining Principle

Ling Xuanzi was stunned for a moment, then hurried after him. “Junior Brother, isn’t this a little too reckless?”

“Senior Brother, you’ll understand soon enough.” Lin Xun smiled, rose into the air and shot toward Yingzhou Mountain.

Ling Xuanzi arched his brow. “It’s only been a few years and you’ve become this arrogant?” But seeing Lin Xun’s figure about to vanish into the bloody haze, he dared not linger. With a flick, he surged forward and summoned the Dao Endless Pagoda.

No matter what, Lin Xun was his junior brother, and as his senior brother, how could he let him charge alone into the deadly depths of Yingzhou Mountain?

Yingzhou Mountain stretched thirty thousand miles, its ridges undulating like a slumbering beast beneath a sky dyed scarlet. As Lin Xun drew near, he felt an obscure, dense fluctuation of principle power, like an invisible, crushing tide enveloping the entire mountain.

Ling Xuanzi quickly warned, “Junior Brother, this is one of the Five Principle Laws of the Return Dominion. We call it the Blood Refining Principle. If you just rush through it like that, you’ll...”

Before he could finish, the Immortal law swirling around Lin Xun gently rippled, effortlessly countering the power of the Blood Refining Principle. Then, he stepped onto Yingzhou Mountain as casually as if strolling through a garden.

Ling Xuanzi froze mid-air, eyes vacant. For a moment, he nearly slapped himself. Blood Refining Principle? And I was worried about him?

Now he could only watch as reality smacked him in the face.

“Fourth Senior Brother, why aren’t we going?” Lin Xun turned back, genuinely puzzled.

Ling Xuanzi let out a startled grunt. Only then did he notice the Immortal law around Lin Xun dispersing the surrounding principle power, opening a clean, safe path. They moved closer to the mountain without any obstruction.

“Junior Brother...your Immortal law can actually counteract principle power!” Ling Xuanzi exclaimed as he hurried over.

Lin Xun nodded. Honest as always with his senior brother, he said, “After refining most of the Nirvana law power, my Immortal law isn’t quite the same as others. Well, at the very least...it’s comparable to a Divine Rank law.”

This was Lin Xun being modest. Along the way to the Dao Burial Ground, he had refined countless Eternal laws, causing his Immortal law to evolve beyond even Divine Rank.

Even so, Ling Xuanzi couldn’t help but gasp, “The Nirvana law! You...I’m honestly jealous.”

He meant it. Before Lin Xun joined Fangchun Mountain, Ling Xuanzi had been the undisputed prodigy among all the disciples. His talent was peerless and his foundation unmatched. He was hailed as ‘unparalleled through the ages.’

However, ever since Lin Xun’s arrival, that illustrious title ‘unparalleled through the ages’ had lost much of its brilliance.

“It really is true...comparison only makes you suffer...” Ling Xuanzi muttered bitterly under his breath.

“Fourth Senior Brother, your breakthrough speed has always surpassed mine, and your comprehension of the dao is far deeper than mine. If Master hadn’t suppressed you for countless ages, your dao attainment today would be far beyond this.” Lin Xun said with a smile as he walked along the rugged, winding mountain path.

Ling Xuanzi brightened at once, a satisfied grin spreading across his face. “Little Junior Brother, well said!”

But before his smile had fully settled, his expression abruptly shifted. “Junior Brother, watch out!”

In the drifting mist ahead, a shadow flashed past, its murderous aura vast and suffocating. It was a Blood Soul Wraith, born from the blood and qi of a fallen Eternal being! Even as he shouted, Ling Xuanzi lunged forward without thinking, activating the Dao Endless Pagoda to strike it down before it reached Lin Xun.

That instinctive act of protection warmed Lin Xun’s heart.

Shua! The blood-red wraith lunged like a bolt of scarlet lightning. It was faint and illusory, its entire body condensed from blood-red radiance. As it tore through the air, a tidal wave of killing intent swept out, making Lin Xun’s heart tremble.

Just as Ling Xuanzi had warned, the ferocity of a Blood Soul Wraith was ten or perhaps even a hundred times stronger than that of an Eternal Will Dharma Form. Even if all five of Lin Xun’s dao bodies were present, they likely would be no match for it!

Buzz!

The Dao Endless Pagoda shot forth, releasing a blazing beam of white radiance. The instant the Blood Soul Wraith charged toward them, the pagoda’s light trapped it completely. The wraith let out an earth-shaking roar of fury, but no matter how violently it struggled, it could not break free. In just a breath, it was utterly suppressed and locked within the pagoda.

“I never realized the Dao Endless Pagoda has such terrifying power...” Lin Xun murmured in awe.

When the pagoda was in his hands, it had been like a vast storage vessel and never possessed such might.

Ling Xuanzi lifted the Dao Endless Pagoda with a smile, “Junior Brother, that wasn’t your fault. Master has sealed most of this treasure’s power. Back then, you could only use the power of its first floor, the Wonder-Gold Dao Light, so of course it seemed limited.

“But ever since Master’s Will Dharma Form left within the pagoda awakened outside the Ruins of the Gods, the seals inside the pagoda have unraveled. Now I can use the White Oblivion Dao Light, the power of its thirty-ninth floor, which can suppress a Blood Soul Wraith with ease.”

He sighed regretfully. “The only downside is that with my current cultivation, I can use it no more than six times...and each use can subdue only one Blood Soul Wraith.”

“How many levels does the Dao Endless Pagoda have in total?” Lin Xun asked.

“Forty-nine,” Ling Xuanzi replied. “Our master has always followed the numerology of the great dao in everything he does. For example, this Dao Endless Pagoda has forty nine formed floors, while the pagoda as a whole symbolizes the fiftieth. You’ve heard the saying, ‘Of the fifty grand daos, only forty-nine are derived from the heavens while one escaped.’ This is exactly what this represents.

“It’s the same with our Fangchun Mountain. It originally has forty-nine blessed lands and forty-nine successors.”

He paused, then cast Lin Xun a meaningful glance. “Junior Brother, now you understand just how extraordinary it is that Master accepted you as the fiftieth successor...”

Lin Xun thought for a moment, then said calmly, “Although I respect Master deeply, I’ve never concerned myself with such arrangements. Whether things are predetermined or whether the great dao follows certain cosmic numbers, from the moment I began cultivating, I have sought only my own path. Everything else is just clouds drifting past.”

Ling Xuanzi raised a firm thumbs-up. “Well said. Cultivation is ultimately personal. Master has always said that disciples need not always walk in their teacher’s shadow. The dao he pursues and the truths he upholds aren’t necessarily what we must blindly follow. Otherwise, how could we ever hope for the day when blue surpasses indigo?”

He let out a long sigh, emotion welling in his voice, “But surpassing Master’s height...I fear that road is still unimaginably long.”

As the two were speaking, Lin Xun's pupils suddenly contracted. Ahead on the mountain path, more than a dozen monstrous, violent auras erupted all at once! Ling Xuanzi froze for a moment, then his expression changed sharply. "I told you! Once you step onto Yingzhou Mountain, you'll provoke a whole swarm of Blood Soul Wraiths! Run!"

As he shouted, he was already preparing to flee Yingzhou Mountain. Even with the Dao Endless Pagoda, facing so many Blood Soul Wraiths head-on was impossible!

At that moment, Lin Xun's eyes lit up. Instead of retreating, he inhaled deeply and said calmly, "Senior Brother, leave them to me."

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Dozens of Blood Soul Wraiths hurtled toward them. Each one seethed with monstrous blood qi, and their murderous aura was so violent it felt like it could tear the heavens apart.

Ling Xuanzi's face turned ashen as he shouted in panic, "Junior Brother, you're courting death! Run! Now!"

However, Lin Xun didn't move. He stood still as stone, watching the swarm of Blood Soul Wraiths close in. Only when they were almost upon him did he lift his hand and activate the Gate of Exile.

Boom!

A spacetime portal hundreds of feet wide tore open behind him, like the maw of an abyssal hell. A chilling radiance poured out, swallowing everything before it.

The next instant, the dozens of Blood Soul Wraiths plunged straight into the Gate of Exile, like a school of fish diving willingly into a waiting net. In the blink of an eye, they were gone and not a trace remained.

Ling Xuanzi, who had been prepared to burn his life to help, stared dumbfounded. "What....what kind of innate divine power is that?" he stammered.

Dozens of Blood Soul Wraiths that could kill cultivators of our level have vanished as if they were nothing. Wasn't that too easy?!

"The Gate of Exile, the fourth stage of the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer." Lin Xun said casually, shrinking the vast portal into a wisp of light. "Senior Brother, before the divine power fades, let's move quickly. We might sweep up even more prey."

Without waiting, he shot forward. Ling Xuanzi's lips twitched. Only now did he truly understand why Lin Xun had dared to charge straight up Yingzhou Mountain.

His Immortal law neutralized the Blood Refining Principle, and his innate powers allowed him to capture Blood Soul Wraiths as easily as scooping fish from a pond!

To others, Yingzhou Mountain was a place of unmatched peril in the world. Even an Eternal Will Dharma Form stepping onto it would be no different from seeking death.

To Lin Xun, on the other hand, it was nothing less than a hunting ground where he could roam as he pleased, and where prey would throw themselves into his trap.

"Junior Brother, wait for me!" Ling Xuanzi snapped out of his daze and hurried after him, his heart suddenly burning with excitement.

For years, he had been hiding miserably in a remote canyon far from Yingzhou Mountain. He had waited for so long for the upheaval to erupt, yet once it finally came, he found that hunting Blood Soul Wraiths was fraught with danger and difficulty.

He couldn't even step onto Yingzhou Mountain. He could only stay outside, luring the Blood Soul Wraiths out like a fisherman casting bait. Even then, success was never guaranteed. All he could do was endure and wait.

Sometimes, if luck was on his side, he would catch one Blood Soul Wraiths within two hours. More often than not, even after ten days or half a month, he wouldn't even catch a single one.

Now, watching Lin Xun effortlessly sweep away an entire swarm, a spark ignited in his heart. This was a chance to completely and mercilessly sweep the mountain clean of prey!

“After sweeping away the Blood Soul Wraiths on Yingzhou Mountain, there’s still the Eternal Fiend Corpses of Penglai Mountain, the Undying Fierce Souls of Fanghu Mountain, the Dao Spirit Monsters of Daiyu Mountain, and the Eternal Demonic Armaments of Yuanqiao Mountain...If we keep this up, won’t all the fortunes of the five sacred mountains end up belonging to the two of us?”

The more Ling Xuanzi thought about it, the more his blood burned. It felt as though the dawn of eternal enlightenment was finally waving him forward!

Chapter 2992 The Grand Sweep

A thick fog churned as blood-red light spread across the heavens and earth. Amid the vast, undulating ridges of Yingzhou Mountain, Lin Xun raced forward like a streak of lightning.

Shua!

A Blood Soul Wraith lunged from the mist, but before its ferocity could even erupt, the Gate of Exile swept it away, as casually as netting a fish from a pond.

Ling Xuanzi followed right behind him, his eyes shining with excitement. He unleashed his full cultivation, deliberately stirring up violent disturbances that echoed across the mountain, drawing forth wraith after wraith to aid Lin Xun’s hunt.

Sure enough, their harvest multiplied. Wherever they passed, Blood Soul Wraiths hidden across the different regions of Yingzhou Mountain were roused in droves, surging forth like scarlet tides. Without exception, they were all swallowed into the Gate of Exile.

In just a quarter of an hour, they had already hunted more than forty Blood Soul Wraiths. Ling Xuanzi felt invigorated, his entire face glowing with exhilaration.

However, when the power of Lin Xun’s Gate of Exile was running dry, Ling Xuanzi immediately tensed up and asked, “Junior Brother, should we leave the mountain and rest for a bit?”

Lin Xun shook his head. "It's fine, let's continue. Senior Brother, keep acting as bait, and I'll handle the rest."

Bait!

Ling Xuanzi shot him a look. He had indeed been acting as bait all along, but did his junior brother really have to say it so bluntly?! Of course, he didn't dare complain now. If he annoyed Lin Xun, who knew how the 'loot distribution' would go later!

Buzz!

As Lin Xun once again activated the power of the Gate of Exile, the two surged forward, sweeping through the mountain path. Their coordination grew more fluid with every step. There was no need for Lin Xun to speak. A faint look or a tiny gesture, no matter how subtle, was enough for Ling Xuanzi to grasp his intent and respond instantly.

Lin Xun couldn't help but exclaim in admiration, "Fourth Senior Brother, when it comes to support, you're absolutely unmatched!"

Time flowed quickly. Another quarter of an hour passed before the power of Lin Xun's Gate of Exile was fully spent, leaving him no choice but to retreat from Yingzhou Mountain with Ling Xuanzi.

He had no choice, his strength was completely drained.

Inside the cavern hidden within the canyon Lin Xun sat cross-legged in silence, steadily replenishing his strength. Meanwhile, Ling Xuanzi was off to the side, planning their next move.

"This run took barely half an hour, yet we easily captured seventy-three Blood Soul Wraiths and cleared nearly thirty percent of Yingzhou Mountain...Little Junior Brother needs time to restore his cultivation..." Ling Xuanzi calculated silently. "At this pace, we could sweep the entire Yingzhou Mountain clean within three days!"

A wave of bittersweet emotion washed over him. He had lurked here for years, but the number of Blood Soul Wraiths he had managed to hunt was far less than what Lin Xun had accomplished in just a few days!

Half a day later, once Lin Xun's strength returned to its peak, the two wasted no time and charged toward Yingzhou Mountain once again.

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As Ling Xuanzi had calculated, in just three days the two swept across the vast thirty thousand mile stretch of Yingzhou Mountain. Every Blood Soul Wraith roaming the mountain became their prey.

The final tally was nearly five hundred! This meant nearly five hundred Eternal Bloodstones!

"Junior Brother, you've worked hard." When they returned from Yingzhou Mountain, Ling Xuanzi immediately handed Lin Xun a gourd of wind, his voice warm with admiration. "Have a good rest. This time, you truly carried the operation. Even I'm impressed."

Lin Xun downed a mouthful and laughed. "Don't worry, Senior Brother. You'll naturally get your share of the Eternal Bloodstones. But now isn't the time to divide the spoils."

Ling Xuanzi blinked, then realization struck him. "Junior Brother...don't tell me you want to sweep the other four sacred mountains as well?"

Lin Xun nodded. "Correct."

Although Yingzhou Mountain was vast beyond measure, the number of Blood Soul Wraiths it birthed was not particularly large. In just three days, the two of them had swept it clear, harvesting nearly five hundred wraiths in total.

"Good!"

Ling Xuanzi slapped his thigh, his spirits blazing. "Then our next target is Penglai Mountain! It stretches for ninety-nine thousand miles and is shrouded in the Flesh Refining Principle, one of Return Dominion's origin principle laws. The Eternal Fiend Corpses born there are forged from the physical power left behind by fallen Eternal beings. Their combat strength far exceeds that of Blood Soul Wraiths. But with your Gate of Exile, Junior Brother, taking them down will be as easy as breathing..."

He spoke with great enthusiasm, detailing every aspect of Penglai Mountain.

Lin Xun simply said, "Let's go."

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Penglai Mountain.

Black mist churned upward, jagged rocks jutted everywhere, and the winding mountain range stretched across the earth like the spine of a colossal ancient dragon. The origin principle law covering this mountain was entirely different from that of Yingzhou Mountain, but even it could not withstand Lin Xun's Immortal law.

Not long after stepping onto Penglai Mountain, Lin Xun encountered an Eternal Fiend Corpse. It resembled an old man. Its body was decayed and thin as a corpse. Half of its head looked as though it had been cleaved off long ago, now hanging crookedly by the neck, making him look utterly savage and grotesque. A tattered, blood-soaked daoist robe still clung to his frame.

This was different from the shattered remains seen along the road to the Dao Burial Ground. Although this Eternal Fiend Corpse was damaged, it was unmistakably whole. Moreover, its aura was eerily terrifying, brimming with a destructive and violent killing power.

When it attacked, Eternal power surged across its entire body like flames. With one palm strike, it seemed capable of shattering the heaven and splitting the earth itself. This creature was unquestionably more troublesome than any Blood Soul Wraith.

Lin Xun activated the Gate of Exile in a flash. He didn't bother conserving energy and instantly expanded it to a span of a thousand feet. Then he charged straight at the Eternal Fiend Corpse.

Boom!

The Eternal Fiend Corpse's strike was terrifying beyond words. Even though the Gate of Exile swallowed it, the impact made the entire portal shudder violently.

Fortunately, it possessed not even the faintest trace of intelligence. Seeing Lin Xun charge forward, it did not dodge or retreat. It simply hurled itself straight at him, as though determined to smash apart the Gate of Exile and rip Lin Xun and Ling Xuanzi to pieces.

Its brutal, ferocious aura made Ling Xuanzi's scalp prickle and cold sweat dripped down him. Fortunately, the creature was ultimately swallowed whole by the Gate of Exile, leaving the two unharmed.

"Taking down one Eternal Fiend Corpse consumes nearly thirty percent of the Gate of Exile's power. At this rate, a single activation will only be able to handle at most three Eternal Fiend Corpses..." Lin Xun murmured, frowning slightly.

"Junior Brother, you should be satisfied. In all my years in the Dao Burial Ground, I've never even dared to set my sights on an Eternal Fiend Corpse. These creatures are even more terrifying than the Dao Spirit Monsters on Daiyu Mountain." Ling Xuanzi sighed deeply.

Lin Xun nodded, and without lingering further, the two continued onward. Compared to the Blood Soul Wraiths, the Eternal Fiend Corpses on Penglai Mountain were far fewer. Even after sweeping nearly ten thousand miles, Lin Xun only managed to hunt down two more, and his physical strength was already severely depleted.

With no other choice, they withdrew for the time being and returned to the canyon cavern to recover.

Half a month passed.

Lin Xun and Ling Xuanzi had swept across all of Penglai Mountain, yet they managed to hunt only twenty Eternal Fiend Corpses. In terms of numbers alone, this paled in comparison to the swarms of Blood Soul Wraiths they had captured on Yingzhou Mountain.

However, Ling Xuanzi explained that each Eternal Fiend Corpse represented an Eternal Realm powerhouse of the previous epoch who had fallen in the Kunlun Dominion! By refining an Eternal Fiend Corpse, one could obtain the Eternal law forged by that fallen Eternal Realm powerhouse!

Although they were inevitably damaged, they were still incomparably rare, and far more valuable than Eternal Bloodstones.

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After sweeping both Yingzhou Mountain and Penglai Mountain clean, the two did not pause for long. After resting for a day, they set off once again. This time toward Fanghu Mountain.

Fanghu Mountain spanned only nine thousand miles, but it was rugged and steep, shrouded in the origin principle known as the Refining Soul Principle. Across the mountain roamed Undying Fierce Souls, fiendish entities born from the spirit power of the Eternal beings who perished in the previous epoch.

Their numbers were overwhelming, as countless as a swarm of locusts, and like a vast, unending tide. This was only natural. When an Eternal Realm existence fell, their spirit and soul had already shattered into dust. These Undying Fierce Souls were merely the remnants of the primordial spirit energy that lingered afterward.

Their ferocity was inferior to that of the Blood Soul Wraiths, and far beneath the Eternal Fiend Corpses. Their only frightening trait was their overwhelming numbers. Even so, they posed no real threat to Lin Xun.

With the Gate of Exile in hand, sweeping up these swarms of Undying Fierce Souls was no different from casting an enormous net into a sea of fish.

Within seven days, the Undying Fierce Souls on Fanghu Mountain were completely wiped out.

Next, Lin Xun and Ling Xuanzi set their eyes on the Dao Spirits Monsters of Daiyu Mountain and the Eternal Demonic Armaments of Yuanjiao Mountain.

Daiyu Mountain was governed by the origin principle known as Dao Refining, a terrifying force capable of refining the cultivation and dao power of any cultivator.

The Dao Spirits Monsters roaming Daiyu Mountain were born from the cultivation power of fallen Eternal beings, and their strength rivalled that of the Eternal Fiend Corpses. Though devoid of intelligence, they possessed innate combat instinct and could unleash a myriad of battle techniques, making them even more troublesome to deal with.

It took Lin Xun and Ling Xuanzi a full month to hunt down all eighteen Dao Spirits Monsters scattered across Daiyu Mountain.

As for Yuanjiao Mountain, it was shrouded in an origin principle known as the Armament Refining Principle. The entire mountain resembled a colossal cage, within which countless Eternal armaments glimmered with cold light and murderous intent.

These were the life-bound weapons of Eternal Realm beings from the previous epoch. Though broken and ruined, each had once been drenched in enemy blood and had accompanied its master through countless battles. The killing aura they exuded was enough to pulverize any being beneath the Eternal Stage!

These armaments lacked true intelligence, yet they radiated Eternal ferocity and wielded a myriad of strange divine powers. Some could even vanish into the currents of time and space, and strike without warning. They were utterly terrifying.

Lin Xun has had several close brushes with death while dealing with them. Fortunately, with the Gate of Exile, as long as he stayed within its range, no matter how extraordinary those Eternal Demonic Armaments were, the moment they drew near, they would be dragged into the Gate of Exile and swallowed whole.

In the end, Lin Xun and Ling Xuanzi spent more than twenty days sweeping Yuanjiao Mountain clean, harvesting over forty Eternal Demonic Armaments. Of course, every single one of them was damaged.

Chapter 2993 A Great Harvest

“Oh, it’s over?”

When he returned from Yuanjiao Mountain, Ling Xuanzi stood there dazed, a strange hollowness swelling in his chest. After all, he and Lin Xun had spent nearly three full months sweeping through the five sacred mountains: Yingzhou, Penglai, Fanghu, Daiyu, and Yuanjiao.

The Blood Soul Wraiths, Eternal Fiend Corpses, Undying Fierce Souls, Dao Spirit Monsters, and Eternal Demonic Armaments they had hunted...the sheer quantity was staggering. It was a fortune so immense it defied belief. Such a fortune could only exist in this abandoned Dao Burial Ground.

To Ling Xuanzi, it felt unreal, like a dream he was afraid to wake from. In less than three months, they had utterly emptied the five sacred mountains. Before today, he would never have dared imagine such a thing was possible!

Only after returning to the cavern did he slowly regain composure. Then his eyes blazed, and he stared at Lin Xun with unconcealed excitement. "Junior Brother...with fortune like this, do we need to worry about failing to attain eternity?"

Lin Xun was equally overjoyed. He had never imagined that investigating the upheaval in the Return Dominion would instead grant him such a heaven-defying stroke of fortune.

Furthermore, everything had gone so smoothly from start to finish that they had never faced any true fatal danger.

"Senior Brother, wait here a moment. I'll enter the Gate of Exile and take a look," Lin Xun said, activating its power.

"Wait! Take me with you!" Ling Xuanzi blurted. Having seen the terrifying power of Lin Xun's forbidden innate ability, he had long been curious about the Gate of Exile.

Lin Xun was momentarily stunned. "Fine, but you must stay close to me. Otherwise, a single misstep here could lead to disaster."

A moment later, the two figures flickered and vanished into the Gate of Exile.

The Realm of Exile.

The instant they stepped inside this hazy, gray world, Ling Xuanzi's expression changed dramatically. A crushing pressure descended on him, hurling his body uncontrollably through the air. With a thought, Lin Xun dispersed the binding force that had seized Ling Xuanzi.

Still shaken, Ling Xuanzi murmured, "Junior Brother, what kind of hellish place is this?"

"The Realm of Exile," Lin Xun replied calmly. "As for where it is...even I do not know."

"You don't know?" Ling Xuanzi stared in disbelief.

Lin Xun nodded. The Realm of Exile was incredibly mysterious. Only by grasping the power of the Gate of Exile could one open this realm and control it. However, its true origin remained unknown to him.

Before long, the two arrived at where the Corpse Severing Millstones hung suspended in the void. In the next instant, a flood of dazzling and brilliant dao radiance filled their vision. Around the Corpse Severing Millstones, treasures were heaped like mountains, countless, resplendent and overflowing with divine brilliance.

Ling Xuanzi sucked in a sharp breath, shock etched across his face. Even Lin Xun found himself stunned by the sight. From the moment he began sweeping Yingzhou Mountain, every captured creature had been thrown into the Realm of Exile, but he had never stopped to take stock.

Now, faced with this sea of treasures, the sight was almost overwhelming. A moment later, as Ling Xuanzi stepped forward to collect them, his body suddenly convulsed, struck by a terrifying force. If Lin Xun hadn't intervened at once, he would have been swept straight into the revolving black and white millstones and crushed to dust.

"This...this is principle power!"

Ling Xuanzi stood frozen, staring wide-eyed at the Corpse Severing Millstones. “Junior Brother, this Realm of Exile of yours is simply too heaven-defying!”

His voice trembled with shock. He simply couldn’t fathom what kind of realm could contain such mysterious, unfathomable principle power. Moreover, within this realm, Lin Xun could effortlessly command and wield all its power! It was nothing short of unbelievable.

Lin Xun had no idea how to even begin explaining it, so he didn’t bother. He flicked his sleeve.

Swoosh! A tide of treasures surged forth, cascading through the air. Ling Xuanzi’s eyes immediately widened, drawn in as if by a spell.

After a careful count, the results were astonishing: four hundred and ninety-three Eternal Bloodstones, twenty incomplete Eternal laws, eighteen Eternal Dao Stones, and three thousand four hundred Eternal Soul Crystals.

Among them, the most precious were without question the Eternal laws, the condensed law power of an Eternal Realm being. Even in their damaged state, each one was still comparable to flawed Divine Rank law.

As for the Eternal laws Lin Xun had refined earlier from those corpse fragments, they were merely slivers of the law power an Eternal being possessed. They couldn’t compare at all to the Eternal laws refined from the Eternal Fiend Corpses.

“With these...I should be able to refine my Immortal law to its absolute limit.” Lin Xun murmured inwardly, heart stirring.

Ling Xuanzi, meanwhile, held up a palm-sized translucent Eternal Dao Stone shimmering with primal chaos light. “Junior Brother, look at this. These Eternal Dao Stones are condensed from the cultivation base of Eternal beings. The power inside them is terrifyingly vast. Think about it...an Eternal Realm cultivator’s entire lifetime of cultivation compressed into a small stone.

“To put it plainly, refining an Eternal Dao Stone is like absorbing the cultivation of an Eternal Realm figure. Of course, it isn’t the entirety of their power, but even a fraction is enough for us to reap immeasurable benefit.”

He then picked up an Eternal Soul Crystal the size of a pigeon egg, its surface rippling with ethereal, dreamlike light. His eyes blazed with excitement. “This treasure is even more astonishing. It’s condensed from the spirit power of an Eternal being. Once one steps into the Eternal Stage, this is the perfect treasure for forging and tempering an Eternal Will Dharma Form.”

Lin Xun was also examining the treasures. Like the Eternal Bloodstones, they could temper one’s blood and qi, and were indispensable for refining an Eternal physique.

“Hold on, where are the Eternal Demonic Armaments?” Ling Xuanzi blurted out. He swept his gaze across the surroundings, but not a single armament was in sight.

“Senior Brother, follow me.” Lin Xun said, stepping forward through the air.

Before long, they arrived at a cliff overflowing with radiant light: Treasure Drop Cliff. Suspended in the air before it were forty-five kinds of Eternal Divine Materials, each glowing brilliantly, illuminating heaven and earth. The sight was magnificent.

Eternal Divine Materials were nothing like ordinary divine materials.

Each piece had been refined from a different Eternal Demonic Armament, terrifying weapons forged from countless rare and peerless divine materials, then tempered and nurtured by Eternal beings through endless years of battle.

Although these Eternal Demonic Armaments had long since been shattered and their spirituality extinguished, the Eternal Divine Materials born from them were still priceless treasures of the world.

Ling Xuanzi explained that each of these forty-five Eternal Divine Materials was in essence a ‘weapon embryo,’ a seed from which an Eternal weapon could be born!

Such an embryo had already stepped into the realm of Immortal-grade weapons. With a sweep of his sleeve, Lin Xun collected all forty-five Eternal Divine Materials.

Just as they were about to leave, Ling Xuanzi suddenly asked, “Junior Brother, what kind of principle power governs this Treasure Drop Cliff?”

“Naturally, the Treasure Drop Principle. Cultivators swallowed by the Gate of Exile are ground to nothing by the Corpse Severing Millstones, but the treasures they carried are taken in by the Treasure Drop Cliff.” Lin Xun explained patiently.

Ling Xuanzi couldn’t help exclaiming, “The Principle of Treasure Drop...such a bizarre principle power actually exists in this world! If someone ascended to the Eternal Realm and refined this principle into their own Eternal Law, wouldn’t they be able to strip an opponent’s treasures right out of their hands in battle?”

Lin Xun paused, startled. Ling Xuanzi’s words struck him like a jolt of lightning. He’s right. Once I set foot upon the Eternal Path, I could completely comprehend and refine the Principles of Annihilation and Treasure Drop within the Realm of Exile!

“Junior Brother, are there other principle powers in this place?” Ling Xuanzi asked.

“Yes.” Lin Xun’s heart stirred. Taking Ling Xuanzi with him, he shot off into the distance.

Before long, a vast white waterfall came into view, plunging down as if it flowed from beyond the ninth heaven. Its radiant glow and billowing white mist spread outward like drifting clouds. In this gray, hazy world, it looked magnificent beyond comparison.

Flow of Time!

This was a waterfall entirely condensed from the principle laws of time, plunging through heaven and earth like an endless river of ages!

Ling Xuanzi was utterly stunned, his eyes wide with disbelief. Time! A supreme, near-forbidden dao had now manifested in the form of a waterfall, unfolding into a principle power visible to the naked eye!

If any Eternal Realm existence were here, they would be utterly dumbstruck. After all, Emperors might be able to faintly perceive the power of time, but such insight was only superficial, simply an impression within the heart.

Immortals could study and probe the mysteries of time, but truly grasping or commanding it remained almost impossible. Only Eternal beings could truly comprehend and wield the power of time. However, even among them, those who could refine the power of time into their own Eternal law were extremely rare!

“Junior Brother, do you really not know the origin of this realm?” Ling Xuanzi finally asked after a long silence.

A single mysterious realm contained three different principle powers: Annihilation, Treasure Drop, and Time. It was nothing short of unbelievable. This was no different from a world housing three Divine Rank laws at once!

Even the mighty Eternal Divine Clans of the Ninth Heaven Domain each only possessed one Divine Rank law.

Lin Xun shook his head. He understood his fourth senior brother’s shock. When he first saw all of this, he too had been shaken and wondered what kind of place this Realm of Exile truly was.

Ling Xuanzi stood silent for a moment, then let out a sigh of awe. “With so many fortunes swept into your hands and with three principle powers under your control, if you step into eternity, Junior Brother, you’ll soar straight to the top of the Eternal Path.”

Eternal Dao Stones, Eternal Divine Materials, Eternal Soul Crystals, Eternal Bloodstones, Eternal Laws...every single one was a treasure countless Eternal beings dreamed of obtaining. Moreover, the principle powers within the Realm of Exile could be used to further temper and perfect his Eternal law. Once he set foot into eternity, nothing would be able to hinder his rise.

Lin Xun said with a soft smile. "Fortune may be many, but only one's heart decides one's dao. That is the true root of cultivation."

Ling Xuanzi froze for a moment before realizing that his junior brother was reminding him not to let greed cloud his mind. Warmth rose in Ling Xuanzi's chest. He chuckled and said, "Don't worry, I won't repeat the mistakes of Martial Uncle Kong Jue."

Chapter 2994 Imprinting Principles

Inside the cavern, Lin Xun and Ling Xuanzi stepped out from the Realm of Exile. Lin Xun divided all the treasures into two portions and handed half to Ling Xuanzi.

"You're giving me this much?" Ling Xuanzi blurted out in surprise.

"You don't want them?" Lin Xun teased with a smile.

Ling Xuanzi immediately swept the treasures into his sleeve, laughing, "Who would ever complain about having too many treasures like these?"

His laughter gradually faded, and he couldn't help but say, "Junior Brother, don't you think the Realm of Exile feels strangely similar to the Dao Burial Ground?"

Lin Xun was taken aback. The five origin principle laws of Return Dominion also refined cultivators, but each in a different manner: one refined the qi and blood, others the physical body, the spirit, the cultivation base or even external treasures.

The same could be said for the two principle powers governing the Gate of Exile. The difference was that the Principle of Annihilation refined everything into dust, whereas the Principle of Treasure Drop only stripped away external treasures.

Regardless, the resemblance between the Realm of Exile and the Dao Burial Ground was unmistakable!

"Senior Brother, did you discover something?" Lin Xun couldn't help but ask.

Ling Xuanzi thought for a moment. "In my opinion, a place like the Dao Burial Ground can only exist within one of the four dao dominions. Junior Brother, could the Realm of Exile be hidden within one of the other three dao dominions?"

The thought sent a jolt through Lin Xun, plunging him into deep contemplation. Tracing everything to its source, the innate talent Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer originated from the Eternity Coffin, which according to Chen Linkong, should actually be called the Eternity Boat.

The great dao power wielded by the Eternal Night Divine Emperor also came from this Eternity Boat. As for the origin of the Eternity Boat itself...that was something only the Eternal Night Divine Emperor likely knew.

However, one thing was certain: hidden within the Eternity Boat was a mysterious star map that pointed the way to the Eternity Door. Long ago, Luo Tongtian had used that star map to reach the Eternity Door, only to be intercepted and besieged by the Ten Immortal Giants lying in ambush...

Of course, these clues might have appeared disconnected and insignificant, but Lin Xun could feel that if he wanted to uncover the truth of the Realm of Exile, he had to start from the Eternity Boat.

After all, the Gate of Exile was the fourth stage of the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer, and that innate divine talent originated from the Eternity Boat! Now, that treasure, the Eternity Boat, was in Xia Zhi's possession.

"Senior Brother, have you ever heard of the Eternity Boat?" Lin Xun asked.

Ling Xuanzi shook his head. "Never."

Lin Xun said softly, "Then forget it for now. Sooner or later, we'll uncover the truth."

Ling Xuanzi smiled lightly. "Junior Brother, would you consider staying here? The two of us could cultivate side by side and ascend into eternity together?"

Lin Xun thought for a moment before shaking his head, "Let's talk about that after I've finished refining those Eternal laws."

He had to return to bring his family and friends safely back to the Eternal True Realm. He also couldn't linger for too long, after all, he was now the Origin Clarity Pavilion Master of the Origin Sect and carried heavy responsibilities.

Ling Xuanzi said, "This upheaval in the Return Dominion won't be stopping anytime soon. The Ancient Nebula Road will only grow stronger in the future. If you are looking for a place to settle...the Return Dominion isn't a bad choice."

Lin Xun smiled. "We'll talk about the future when the time comes."

Seeing this, Ling Xuanzi dropped the subject.

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For the next period of time, Lin Xun and Ling Xuanzi each immersed themselves in their own cultivation. Ling Xuanzi was wholly focused on seeking enlightenment in the Eternal Dao.

Lin Xun, meanwhile, was pushing his Immortal law toward an unprecedented pinnacle. At present, he had ten Eternal laws refined from the captured Eternal Fiend Corpses. Each one was comparable to an incomplete Divine Rank law.

He was eager to see how much he had to refine before reaching its ultimate perfection.

Time slipped by. A month passed in the blink of an eye.

Lin Xun had already refined four Eternal laws, and just as he prepared to begin refining the fifth, a sudden, instinctive realization surged through him. His Immortal law had reached its absolute limit!

In other words, the refinement of those four Eternal laws had already pushed his Immortal law toward its ultimate extreme.

“Finally...perfection.” he exhaled softly, a tide of emotion rising in his chest.

Over the years, his Immortal law had absorbed countless law powers, everything from the Earth Rank up to the ninth grade Heaven Rank. There had been so many that he had lost count of them. He had even refined dozens of ninth grade Heaven Rank laws. Among them were even five exceedingly rare ninth grade Heaven Rank laws.

However, even with all that, he had never been able to reach true perfection. It was only after entering the Dao Burial Ground and refining five Eternal laws, each comparable to a flawed Divine Rank law, did he finally achieve perfection.

How could his heart not tremble with emotion? At this moment, he could clearly sense that his Immortal law had already surpassed the level of Divine Rank altogether!

“There are still six Eternal laws left. I should store them away. Treasures of this level are enough to drive any Eternal Realm existence mad...” he murmured to himself.

Rising from meditation, he glanced at Ling Xuanzi, who was still deep in cultivation. Without disturbing him, Lin Xun quietly stepped out of the cavern.

Moments later, his figure appeared atop Yingzhou Mountain. He stood in the drifting mist, silently circulating his Immortal law as he began to sense its changes.

Buzz—The Immortal law roiled around him, deep as an abyss, solemn as a divine prison, its radiance flickering with obscure, unfathomable brilliance.

Back in the Great Thousand Battle Domain, the Nirvana law had already revealed a glimpse of its mysterious power, allowing Lin Xun to seize two law powers of the previous epoch, Little Immortal and Little Netherworld, from a forbidden zone.

Now, Lin Xun was attempting to use his perfected Immortal law to capture and imprint the Blood Refining Principle's mysteries. He could only trace and imprint its mysteries, and not truly comprehend them because only Eternal Realm cultivators could truly grasp and understand principle power.

Eventually, his Immortal law surged like a rising tide, and within its depths, an obscure and profound aura was firmly sealed.

It worked!

Lin Xun's chest tightened with excitement, and a quiet smile emerged. This obscure, mysterious aura was the essence of the Blood Refining Principle, now engraved into his Immortal law.

It was like planting a seed. Once Lin Xun reached the Eternal Stage, his power would awaken it, allowing that seed to take root, sprout, and ultimately blossom into complete Blood Refining Principle power!

This discovery further confirmed something to Lin Xun: ever since fusing with the Nirvana law, his Immortal law had taken on many of its unfathomable mysteries, enabling him to trace, imprint and reconstruct any law or principle under heaven! This was one of the greatest secrets of the Nirvana law power.

Next, Lin Xun made his way across the remaining four sacred mountains, Penglai, Fanghu, Daiyu and Yuanjiao. When he finally returned, he had already imprinted within his Immortal law the profound mysteries of the Flesh Refining Principle, Spirit Refining Principle, Dao Refining Principle and Armament Refining Principle.

In other words, he had grasped the secrets of all five origin principle laws of the Return Dominion!

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"Senior Brother." Bang in the cavern, Lin Xun paused for a moment, then called out softly, waking Ling Xuanzi from meditation.

"Junior Brother...are you preparing to leave?" Ling Xuanzi opened his eyes and asked.

Lin Xun nodded. "Senior Brother, do you have an estimate on when you'll be able to attain eternity?"

At that question, Ling Xuanzi exhaled a long breath. "It will be difficult. For the next thirty-five years, I see no opportunity of ascending into eternity."

During this time, he had constantly cultivated with the Eternal Dao Stones, but he ultimately discovered that these treasures did little to help him take that final step into eternity. After all, he was already at the pinnacle of the Transcendence Realm, lacking nothing but the one decisive opportunity to transcend tribulation and obtain eternal enlightenment.

Lin Xun said, "As far as I know, even Eldest Senior Brother has yet to find his opportunity."

Then he added, "What's more, Eldest Senior Brother concluded that before the epochal calamity arrives, there will be no further opportunities to attain eternal enlightenment within the Eternal True Realm."

"But this is the Return Dominion," Ling Xuanzi said solemnly.

"I understand." Lin Xun replied. "But Senior Brother, have you considered that the Return Dominion will also be affected by the epochal calamity?"

Ling Xuanzi froze. "But Master said that there is an opportunity for me here to attain eternal enlightenment."

"Things aren't the same as before. The situation has completely shifted." Lin Xun said, "Still, if you can sense an opportunity to breakthrough in the near future, that would of course be best. But if the opportunity refuses to come no matter how many times you try, then you can't keep wasting your time here."

Ling Xuanzi nodded. "I understand, but what about you, Junior Brother? If you go back to the Eternal True Realm now, you'll never have an opportunity to attain eternity there."

Lin Xun gave a quiet smile. "Senior Brother, to tell the truth, every breakthrough I've made in my life, I've sought it out myself. I never waited for the opportunity to descend. Even if I can't break through in the Eternal True Realm, I will follow in Eldest Senior Brother's footsteps and head to the Kunlun Dominion."

Ling Xuanzi murmured, "Seeking opportunity instead of waiting for it...one is active, the other passive...Junior Brother, your words have enlightened me." He looked up, eyes brightening. A determined light filled his gaze. "Now I know what path to take. Whether I succeed or fail, I must at least try."

Lin Xun cupped his hands with a smile. "Then I wish you success, Senior Brother!"

Ling Xuanzi burst into hearty laughter. "Before you leave, how about a drink?"

"Gladly." Lin Xun agreed without hesitation and retrieved a jar of aged wine he had treasured for many years. Inside the cavern, the two brothers drank together, talking and laughing freely.

On that very day, Lin Xun departed the Dao Burial Ground. He and Ling Xuanzi had already made a silent pact: before the epochal calamity descended, they would meet again in the Kunlun Dominion.

This trip to investigate the upheaval in the Return Dominion had lasted more than four months. During that time, Lin Xun not only encountered his fourth senior brother by sheer fate, but also harvested an astonishing wealth of fortune and treasures.

Most importantly, his Immortal law had finally reached absolute perfection! If it weren't for this trip to the Return Dominion, he would never have realized that his own Immortal law still held flaws. All in all, this trip had yielded tremendous gains.

A day later Lin Xun safely returned to the Fangchun Secret Realm. He had already planned to leave together with everyone. Although the upheaval in the Return Dominion had reshaped the Ancient Nebula Road, it was still far from comparable to the Seventh Heaven Domain where the Origin Sect stood.

Perhaps the Ancient Nebula Road would grow stronger in the future, but he could not wait that long. The Fangchun Secret Realm was just as tranquil as when Lin Xun left, without the slightest disturbance.

“Husband, Xia Zhi and I have brought my parents back.” Zhao Jingxuan arrived the moment she heard of his return, accompanied by Xia Zhi, Zhao Yuanji, and Ao Xingtang.

“Father-in-law, mother-in-law,” Lin Xun greeted quickly, stepping forward.

Zhao Yuanji smiled warmly. “Jingxuan has told me all about your deeds in the Eternal True Realm. And I know the current peace of the Ancient Nebula Road is largely your doing. Excellent! Truly excellent!”

“Enough of that, it’s not easy for our family to reunite after so many years.” Ao Xingtang smiled, then asked as she looked around, “By the way, where is Fan’er?”

Zhao Jingxuan also turned to Lin Xun expectantly. Lin Xun answered, “Fan’er is in closed-door cultivation and should emerge in about half a year.”

Afterward, Lin Xun personally arranged a grand banquet and invited senior figures such as Lin Zhong, Xuan Shangchen, and Lin Huaiyuan. The clan hall soon became filled with laughter and warmth as guests and hosts enjoyed themselves to the fullest.

When the banquet finally drew to a close, Lin Xun announced the plan to return to the Eternal True Realm. No one was surprised. They had long known this day would come.

That very night, they began spreading word to the New Genesis Sect, the Lin Clan, the Xuan Clan, the Jintian Clan, and other allied forces.

Chapter 2995 Ten Years After Leaving

Early the next morning, Lin Xun went outside the Fangchun Secret Realm alone and stood in the void.

“Rise!”

He took a deep breath and raised his hands above his head. The entire Fangchun Secret Realm suddenly trembled and then slowly levitated. As he made finger gestures and uttered an incantation, the secret realm began to gradually shrink until finally, it became a fist-sized ball of light and floated down between his palms.

This was the most skillful execution of spatial law. With Lin Xun's current cultivation, he was capable of completely refining a big world into his own if given enough time. Therefore, it was not difficult for him to do this with the Fangchun Secret Realm.

“Whew~”

Storing the ball of light, Lin Xun exhaled a long breath and walked out of the Return Dominion. Since Xia Zhi, Xuan Jiuyin, Jintian Xuanyue, and the others were all in the Fangchun Secret Realm, he only needed to take it with him.

Outside the Return Dominion, there was not a shadow of a cultivator within a thousand miles of sea. However, beyond this scope, numerous forces were stationed, mostly foreign forces from other cosmic planes. There were even quite a number of Immortal auras among them!

As soon as Lin Xun stepped out of the Return Dominion, he sensed their presence and couldn't help but frown. Exterminating these alien forces would take but a snap of his fingers, but that would be no different from an indiscriminate slaughter. Moreover, he could see that they were disciplined and didn't dare to take a step beyond the thousand-mile range around this dominion.

Finally, the fact that these forces were able to survive Wushuang's power was, undoubtedly, proof they hadn't done anything immoral during this period of time.

“Master.” Wushuang suddenly materialized out of thin air. With skin as white as snow and an innocent beauty, she blinked her big watery eyes. “Are you leaving?”

Lin Xun was surprised. “What’s the matter? Worried that I'll leave you behind in the Ancient Nebula Road?”

Wushuang meekly said, "Shuang'er obeys Master's arrangement, but Shuang'er also believes that master won't leave me here unattended."

Lin Xun couldn't help but smile and rubbed her little head. "Since you've said it out loud like that, how dare I leave without you?"

Wushuang's eyes sparkled, her smile sweet and bright. Her voice rang crisply, "I know Master dotes on Shuang'er the most. It's just that...without my law power, this Ancient Nebula Road might be plunged into turmoil again. What to do?"

With that, her brows scrunched up.

Lin Xun flipped his hand, and a violet gourd emerged. "We'll leave it to A'zi guard the Ancient Nebula Road."

A'zi was the name he gave the violet gourd, which was a precious ninth grade Heaven Rank treasure. The green divine sword inside it was its law spirit. Although this one didn't manifest in a human form like Wushuang, it was intelligent and able to register Lin Xun's orders.

Swish!

Lin Xun threw it up and the gourd flew into the air. A green sword as divine as the age-old sky came whistling out, then turned into a rainbow as it swept toward the depths of the firmament.

"Alright, you can retract your power," said Lin Xun.

"Mhm." Wushuang waved her hand. An endless rain of light began to converge in the high space before surging into her petite figure like a waterfall. A long while later, she looked up at the sky and asked, "Master, aren't you worried that someone will subdue A'zi?"

Lin Xun chuckled. "Those under the Eternal Stage can't do anything about A'zi. As for Eternal characters, how could they possibly be in the mood to run to the Ancient Nebula Road when the epochal calamity is imminent?"

He then shot into the air. "Let's go."

Wushuang turned into a white light and disappeared into the Immortal law around Lin Xun. To her, his Immortal law that had integrated ninety percent of the Nirvana law was like a womb in which she could be nourished by the power of Nirvana.

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The southwestern border of the Ziyao Empire, Shiwan Mountain Range.

Feiyun City was bustling and hustling with endless streams of people.

"You might not know, but this Feiyun City actually holds quite a status. This story all started with Emperor Daoyuan's rise to power, who had stayed here for a period of time during his youth. However, back then this was but a small barren village, and the villagers relied on growing aeth plants to make ends meet... "

In one of the largest teahouses in the city, a storyteller was speaking eloquently, attracting many guests to stop and listen.

Emperor Daoyuan! This name, now the most resounding in the nebula, had long since become the target of admiration of billions of residents. The deeds concerning his past were also the most fascinating.

Just like how time can turn seas into mulberry fields, the tales of back then only exist in memory now...

In the crowd, Lin Xun inwardly lamented and turned around. None of the guests knew that the legend they revered had just rubbed shoulders with them.

Next, Lin Xun's trail led to Donglin City. Once upon a time, he and Xia Zhi had stayed here for a while. It was also in this city that they had once parted ways, she to the Dark Night Sacred Hall and he to the Blood Kill Camp.

When Lin Xun arrived at where the Blood Kill Camp used to be, it was a pity to find that it had long since become a branch location of a sect. Next, his footsteps appeared in the southwest city of the Ziyao Empire where Haze City was originally located, then in the Forbidden City, the Ancient Wasteland Domain, the Great Emperor Pass...

It was also a trip down the memory lane. He was following the exact path that the younger him had once arduously trekked. Walking it again, everything he now saw along the way was completely different from the past.

Upon reaching the Ancient Nebula Road, Lin Xun couldn't stop the ripples rising in his heart. However, bygones were ultimately bygones, lost in the far past. Such was the reality of the cultivation path. The moment one stepped on it, there was no turning back.

"A'zi, from now on, I entrust you to guard the peace of this Ancient Nebula Road." Lin Xun took one last look at the vast star river before turning around. On this day, he who was worshipped by the world left the Ancient Nebula Road.

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Ten years later. The Eternal True Realm, in the Origin Sect.

"Brother Fan, is Master still in seclusion?" asked Tang Jiang. Wearing a fiery red dress that accentuated her snow-white skin and elegant figure, she resembled a charming haze.

"Uh-huh." Lin Fan nodded. His temperament had become more composed and refined as he grew, approaching that of a gentle breeze and a bright moon.

After his father had returned to the Origin Sect with the Fangchun Secret Realm, he had entered seclusion. Ten years had gone by since then without any sign of him coming out.

"Brother Fan, so when will you certify immortality?" Tang Jiang blinked, her voice soft and pleasant.

“No hurry,” replied Lin Fan casually.

At first, his cultivation breakthrough had been swift and fierce, in a way that stunned everyone who knew. Nowadays, however, after being baptized through the several lives he had lived in that Reincarnation World, his state of mind had changed tremendously. He no longer pursued breakthrough speed.

“Tang Jiang, I've decided to leave the Origin Sect for a while,” Lin Fan suddenly said.

“Where to?” Tang Jiang asked.

Lin Fan casually said, “Just to go traveling in general. Anywhere where I can train and temper my cultivation heart.”

“I'm going with you,” Tang Jiang said without thinking. “Master told me that my cultivation only lacks one thing, and that is practical training. This is a great opportunity for me to go out and experience the world.”

Lin Fan laughed, “You are cultivating under the ninth peak, so you'll have to get the peak master—Senior Mo Lanshan's permission first.”

“Then I'll go and ask him.” An excited Tang Jiang left right away.

Lin Fan was stunned. Then, he sighed in his heart. How could he not see the affection Tang Jiang had for him? He was acquainted with her upon coming to the Origin Sect ten years ago. During all these years, he had always considered her a little sister, and that was the end of that.

“I also must inform my mother as well.” After a brief thought, Lin Fan got going.

In an ancient palace, Zhao Jingxuan was chatting with Luo Qingxun.

“Mother, Grandmother.” Lin Fan's figure walked into the hall and greeted them with a smile.

Luo Qingxun's eyes lit up. "It's Fan'er. Quickly, come and sit next to me."

Ten years ago, Lin Xun had returned with Zhao Jingxuan and their son. It couldn't have been a better pleasant surprise for Luo Qingxun, who had never dreamed that her son not only had married a wife but also even had a child. She even complained several times that he had never told her about this matter before.

Lin Fan took the seat next to Luo Qingxun and smiled. "Grandma, why don't I see grandpa?"

"Your grandpa is playing chess with your grandfather Zhong." Luo Qingxun smiled warmly. The more she looked at this grandson of hers, the more it filled her with happiness and love. "Knowing you, you're not here without a purpose, so just tell me about it. You know I'll do anything in my power to fulfill your wish."

Hearing this, Zhao Jingxuan was helpless. She had nothing to complain about her mother-in-law, except for the part where she always spoiled Fan'er too much.

"I intend to leave the Origin World for some experience," Lin Fan muttered.

Luo Qingxun's gaze grew serious. "Fan'er, this is a matter you must be cautious about when making decisions. The Eternal True Realm may appear calm and peaceful at the moment, but many dangers lurk in the dark. If your father's enemies find out about your identity, you will definitely incur murderous ordeals..."

Lin Fan interrupted her with a bitter smile, "Grandma, I know very well about all this. Please rest assured, I will not expose my identity when I go out there."

Luo Qingxun was still uneasy. "Why do you have to insist on going out?"

Lin Fan replied seriously, "For the sake of my cultivation."

In the end, Luo Qingxun relented, but only after Lin Fan had promised to take some life-saving cards with him, not to be out for too long, and to send home a message every once in a while to let them know he was safe, along with a long list of other things.

Lin Fan smiled as he listened to her rambling to the end. Finally, he turned to Zhao Jingxuan and asked, "Mother, do I have your permission?"

Zhao Jingxuan angrily said, "Since you have convinced your grandmother, can I not agree?"

With that, she took out a jade talisman and gave it to Lin Fan. "This is a Will Dharma Form your father left to me before his seclusion, take it with you."

Lin Fan received it with both hands and stowed it.

Zhao Jingxuan seemed to remember something and said, "By the way, your senior brother Su Bai is also wandering the Eternal True Realm to train himself. Do bring him back with you when you return."

"Yes," Lin Fan readily agreed. On the same day, he left the Origin World together with Tang Jiang.

Chapter 2996 Time to Certify the Dao Approaches

In these ten years, many changes had taken place in the Origin Sect. For example, one batch after another of younger generation disciples had risen to prominence, while many seniors of the older generation had made important cultivation breakthroughs.

However, the most dazzling one among them was Lin Fan. As the son of Origin Clarity Pavilion Master Lin Xun, his every move was watched by countless people, which was both an enviable honor and a heavy pressure.

As it was not Lin Fan's wish to live under his father's halo, he chose to go out and train. He also wanted to carve out his own unique path and power.

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Ten years since Lin Xun had conquered the Eighth Heaven Domain and overthrown the Ten Immortal Giants, there hadn't been any other events major enough to startle the world. The Ninth Heaven Domain had severed the path that connected it to the Eighth Heaven Domain. As the epochal tribulation was approaching, they had no attention for anything else.

The Shaman Sect and the Zen Sect also seemed to have vanished after the fiasco. There hadn't been other movements from them.

To all beings in the Eternal True Realm, the past tranquility seemed to have returned. However, to the Four Great Ancestral Courts and the Eternal Divine Clans in the Ninth Heaven Domain, this state was bound to be temporary.

With the passage of time, the epochal calamity that would definitely upend the world would come as it always had!

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During these ten years, many bright new stars had emerged from the major heaven domains, each of them quickly gaining fame and public attention. However, the brightest ones were only a handful of people, and among them, Su Bai's name was present.

Coming from the Ancient Nebula Road, he had killed his way out of the Great Thousand Battle Domain and came to prominence in the First Heaven Domain. In just ten years' time, he had conducted battles in all the major heaven domains. He had defeated many powerful same-stage opponents and forged with blood an impressive battle record that disturbed the entire world.

Numerous Immortal Imperial Clans tried to recruit him, while numerous forces hated his guts and regarded him as a thorn in their side. There was something none of them knew, though, that the teacher of this young man was the current pavilion master of the Origin Sect's Origin Clarity Pavilion, Lin Xun.

As this world had trillions of beings, among which were uncountable demonic talents and geniuses, it wouldn't let Su Bai be the only one standing out. He still had a long way to go.

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The Origin Sect, at Origin Sky Pavilion.

Dugu Yong casually wondered, "It's been ten years, how come Lin Xun is still in seclusion? Hasn't he already reached the peak of the stage?"

Fang Daoping, Yuan Wutian, and the other old monsters of the sect were also present.

"Perhaps he's exploring some sort of secret art." Xuan Feiling sipped wine from his cup. "Since it's currently impossible to certify eternity in this world, his seclusion can't be about stage breakthroughs."

"Alas, time doesn't favor us." Fang Daoping sighed softly.

An epochal calamity had taken away the opportunity to witness eternity. This was undoubtedly serious and the worst possible news for old men like them who had been stagnant in the peak Transcendence Stage forever.

"There's only about nine hundred years left until that epochal calamity. When it comes, it will drown the Eternal True Realm, the Great Thousand Battle Domain, and the Great Thousand Worlds. The beings therein...probably have no idea that they only have nine hundred years left to live, no matter who they are..." Dugu Yong's voice was low.

"Nothing can be done to defy the predestined trend. The epochal calamity has occurred many times without fail in history, destroying one epochal civilization after another. Those who were able to survive it, in the end, amount to a meager number." Xuan Feiling drained another cup of wine before he continued, "Not to mention the others, even our sect can't guarantee to survive this one."

Dugu Yong asked, "I thought Divine Rank laws can protect anyone under the Eternal Stage from the epochal calamity?"

Cultivators below the Eternal Stage would be hit by the Five Dao Decays during the epochal calamity, but if they came under the shelter of a Divine Rank law, they would have a great chance of resisting it.

Xuan Feiling patiently explained, "Divine Rank laws can indeed help resist most of the effects of the Five Dao Decays, but whether or not one can survive, it still boils down to their own luck."

"Our sect has a Divine Rank law, yet still has to face such a big risk. How should the masses...get through..." Fang Daoping couldn't help another sigh.

When the nest fell, no egg was safe. At the thought that the entire civilization and countless beings would suffer in the epochal calamity, these old monsters were all heavy-hearted.

"That's not necessarily true. Do you still remember the Fortune Dominion?" Xuan Feiling suddenly spoke up. "Many past epochal civilizations that were supposed to have fallen in an epochal calamity later appeared in the Fortune Dominion. In other words, there's a good chance it will happen to our civilization as well."

The Fortune Dominion was like a giant mother nest with hundreds of epochal civilizations distributed within. All of them had undergone an epochal tribulation, but the Fortune Dominion preserved their flames like preserving a seed in the rubble, allowing them to live on in it.

Dugu Yong said, "But the Fortune Dominion has been turned into a prison. The epochal civilizations in there can never leave."

Fang Daoping agreed, "That's right, and until the mastermind behind epochal destruction is defeated, it will remain one, trapping not only those civilizations but their residents."

Old experts like them naturally knew the Fortune Dominion to a certain extent.

"Being imprisoned isn't so bad in this case. As long as we survive, sooner or later there will be a time we break out," Xuan Feiling commented with a smile.

Dugu Yong said heavily, "Brother Xuan, don't be too optimistic. The Immortal Martial Epochal Civilization before us was powerful and flourishing, but the epochal calamity reduced it to ashes all the same. Even its origin power was said to have been shattered, which robbed it of the opportunity to appear in the Fortune Dominion."

The destruction of the Immortal Martial Epoch had been too thorough, making it an epochal civilization that never reappeared in the Fortune Dominion as far as the old timers knew.

Xuan Feiling sighed and waved his hand. "Even those Eternal figures can't do anything about it, so let's end this topic here."

Right at this moment, Origin Sky Pavilion Elder Tao Leng came and delivered a jade slip. "Senior Pavilion Masters and Deputy Pavilion Masters, Pavilion Master Lin instructed me to bring you this."

A surprised Xuan Feiling took the jade slip. After one look, his pupils shrank. "How is it possible..."

"What's not possible? Let me see." Dugu Yong next to him snatched the slip. After a quick read, he also froze. "What the..."

The two's unusual reactions got the rest intrigued. One by one, they took the jade slip and read it. Then, one by one, they froze there while their minds tumbled.

After what felt like half a day, Xuan Feiling broke the silence. "What are your takes, everyone?"

"It should be real." Fang Daoping inhaled deeply as if to suppress his shock. "Lin Xun never jokes about such things."

"It must be real!" Dugu Yong exclaimed with a blazing light in his eyes. "Something that can trap us can't trap him who is on the Eternal Supremacy Path. Don't forget what the founder of the Spirit Sect, Xu Yin, once said: Lin Xun's path has threatened the mastermind behind epochal calamities!"

Yuan Wutian was excited. "So to speak, in three months, we'll be able to witness a never before seen miracle?!"

Xuan Feiling said seriously, "We will find out, but until then, help him keep this secret. If word got out, we'd attract the gaze of the Shaman Sect, the Zen Sect, and those Eternal Divine Clans in the Ninth Heaven Domain again."

Everyone nodded.

None of them could calm down their hearts, all because of the short message in the jade slip: "Seniors, three months from now, I will certify eternity. Please make preparations in advance!"

Certify eternity!

Who didn't know that in this certain period of time preceding the epochal tribulation, there would be no more opportunities to attain eternity? Despite that, Lin Xun had announced that he would do just that in three months!

This shocked Xuan Feiling and the other old monsters immensely.

Dugu Yong murmured, "If Lin Xun is really going to certify to eternity, his Eternal tribulation will inevitably affect our Divine Rank law power. I'm sure you haven't forgotten how terrifying the one belonging to Pavilion Master You Beihai was.

"Therefore, we have to make preparations. I believe this is what Lin Xun wanted to convey through his announcement."

Fang Daoping was solemn. "The commotion of an Eternal tribulation is too loud. The Shaman Sect, the Zen Sect, and those Eternal Divine Clans would certainly notice at once. When they march over, we will be under threat."

Xuan Feiling said, "At present, those Eternal figures are preoccupied enough with themselves, being on constant guard against the Great Silence Unlife Calamity. I don't think they'd dare to act recklessly again during this time."

After a pause, he continued, "Of course, we still have to prepare our defense. In case there really is an Eternal who would lay down their life to prevent Lin Xun from eternalizing his dao, we need to think up a plan to deal with them."

Dugu Yong sighed. "But, we have no Eternal guarding our sect nowadays..."

The single sentence weighed down the hearts of the others.

A long silence later, Xuan Feiling gritted his teeth and made a decision, "We do what we can and leave the rest to fate. I don't believe that this huge Origin Sect could be trampled by the enemy!"

The other old monsters all nodded with ruthless looks on their faces. When Pavilion Master You Beihai had proved eternity, he had triggered an unearthly catastrophe that had invited a horde of enemies, but in the end, the sect had overcome it.

Now that Lin Xun was about to certify eternity in three months, the old fellows refused to think that they wouldn't be able to protect him!

Meanwhile, in a cave haven on Origin Clarity Mountain. Lin Xun was chatting with Xia Zhi as they had a meal together, looking relaxed like nothing important was on his schedule.

Chapter 2997 When the Tribulation Nears, Enjoy a Drink Alone in the Vast Expanse

During these ten years of seclusion, Lin Xun hadn't taken a single step outside. Xia Zhi had also remained by his side the whole time.

"In three months, I will certify eternity." Lin Xun put down the chopsticks and looked at Xia Zhi who was sitting opposite him. "When that time comes, stay inside the Origin World and guard it with Jingxuan and the others."

Xia Zhi was puzzled. "Why can't I guard you?"

Lin Xun laughed. "I never need protection during my tribulation. Just do as I say, okay?"

Xia Zhi did not insist anymore and continued eating. Lin Xun, on the other hand, retrieved a pot of wine and drank it.

During the ten years in seclusion, he had focused on only one thing: tempering his mind. To do this, he had combed through all of his past experiences and battles one by one. In the process, he hadn't suppressed any feelings that had arisen, quietly reliving everything he had gone through since he was little, from the time he set foot on the road of cultivation to the present day.

Ten years didn't allow him to gain much visible advancement, but Lin Xun knew that his state of mind was now without a weak spot.

Inexplicably, he thought of the saying: Sharpen your heart like a blade, temper it as smooth as jade.[1]

“That senior with supreme attainments in the sword dao...used only a few words to pierce through all the mysteries about the state of mind...”

He couldn't help lamenting, now that he had finally understood deeply what it meant to have a dao heart like a blade and also jade at the same time! It was a fully broad and fulfilled state of mind. It could be as free as a blade of wind gliding across the sky but also as concealed and refined as the beauty within a piece of jade.

Suddenly, Xia Zhi asked, “Lin Xun, why do you have to wait three more months to certify eternity?”

Lin Xun smiled. “Because there is still one thing I need to do before that.”

“What thing?”

Lin Xun's gaze was profound as he slowly replied, “I need to first draw out the opportunity to eternalize my dao.”

Xia Zhi was curious. “How do you plan to do that?”

Lin Xun thought for a moment and said, “Use myself as bait.”

He pointed up. "Others wait for their chances, whereas I will actively seek mine, which is beyond the heavens."

A stunned Xia Zhi shook her head. "I don't understand."

Lin Xun chuckled. "It's okay if you don't."

.....

Time passed, day by day. At the end of the last minute of the three month period, Lin Xun and Xia Zhi exited the cave haven.

"Why is there no one?" Lin Xun was dumbfounded as his spirit sense picked up a completely empty Origin Clarity Mountain. Apart from him and Xia Zhi, there wasn't a single silhouette.

"Let's check out Origin Sky Mountain." He teleported away.

Soon, he found a group of old monsters including Xuan Feiling and Fang Daoping at the destination.

"You brat, you finally came out." Xuan Feiling and the others flocked over the moment they noticed him. "How prepared are you? How certain are you about success?"

Lin Xun laughed. "We'll know when we get there. By the way, where are the rest of the sect?"

Xuan Feiling said, "The last of them were moved to the Heavenly Origin Secret Realm half a month ago. Currently, we're the only ones here in the sect."

Lin Xun was stupefied. Quickly realizing that he had made a blunder, he didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Seniors, I don't intend to conduct my Eternal tribulation in the Origin World."

What he said caught Xuan Feiling's group off guard.

They had all thought that he was going to certify eternity in the Origin World. Worried that the sect's Divine Rank law would be suppressed, they had moved everyone else into the Heavenly Origin Secret Realm beforehand. The reason was that the origin power of the Divine Rank law, which couldn't be damaged easily by the enemy, was there.

Who had expected that Lin Xun was not going to certify his Eternal dao in the Origin World?!

"Where are you going to do it, then?" asked Fang Daoping.

"The Thousand Star Sea is as good a place as any." Lin Xun nonchalantly said, "When the time comes, we only need to withdraw the law power over the Thousand Star Sea back inside the Origin World."

This was his plan. Back then, when You Beihai had certified eternity, the descent of his Eternal tribulation had subjected the entirety of the sect's Divine Rank law to a suppression that prevented it from working.

Lin Xun didn't want to leave everyone in the Origin Sect unprotected because of his own tribulation.

"Out of the question!" Xuan Feiling was the first to object. "Certifying eternity is a serious matter. If the enemy comes, then your tribulation will definitely be disturbed out there at the Thousand Star Sea. I'm sure you don't need me to tell you how fatal a lapse in your state of mind will be."

The other old monsters also chimed in to dissuade Lin Xun. However, the latter shook his head. His attitude was resolute. "The only thing in this world that can affect my state of mind is the safety of you and everyone else in the sect. As long as all of you are safe, I am without worry."

The expressions of Xuan Feiling and the others were gloomy as they shifted for a while.

"Do you know that once the Eternal tribulation descends, it will definitely be noticed by the Shaman Sect, the Zen Sect, and even the Eternal Divine Clans of the Ninth Heaven Domain? If they disregard everything and send Eternal figures to hinder you, it will be disastrous!" Fang Daoping looked dead serious,

“That’s exactly why all of you must stay inside the Origin World where you’ll be protected by the Divine Rank law,” said Lin Xun without thinking. “As for me... Heh, even if Eternal characters come, do they truly dare to act recklessly within the scope of an Eternal tribulation?”

Seeing that nothing could talk him out of it, the old monsters could only agree to his plan. Lin Xun in turn was relieved. He had really been scared that he wouldn’t be able to persuade them.

On that day, he exited the Origin World alone. As usual, at the top of the Absolute Sunder City, he stood casually, his moon-white clothes fluttering among the clouds. In the distance was the magnificent Thousand Star Sea under the spilling of dreamlike starlight.

When You Beihai had crossed his Eternal tribulation, Lin Xun had stood in this spot and guarded this place. Today, he was here again all by himself, except that this time, he was the one who was going to cross his Eternal tribulation!

Glug~ Glug~

Lin Xun retrieved a wine gourd and drank to his heart’s content. Then, he gazed deep into the sky, his eyes as sharp as lightning.

His handsome figure suddenly released a shocking unrivaled aura. It was like a divine sword that had been sealed away for infinite years suddenly unsheathed and stabbed up, piercing through all layers of clouds and shaking the void beyond.

His entire cultivation base was also unleashed in full at this moment.

Rumble!

The surrounding sea suddenly tumbled, lifting roaring dragons of waves. Drizzling light of the great dao filled heaven and earth. It was as though there was a great furnace trying to melt the skies.

At Lin Xun's back, the Immortal Halo was clearly visible. It resembled an obscure abyss, surging with the vast power of his Immortal law that rattled the heavenly law of the region, causing the latter to buzz and creak as if under immense pressure.

In the Origin World, Xuan Feiling's group was witnessing everything through the power of the Divine Rank law, and they were stupefied.

His Immortal law is so strong that it caused the heavenly principles to tremble?

This completely toppled their imaginations because in their cognition, only Eternal characters were capable of such a thing! The most incredible part was that in the following time, Lin Xun's aura kept climbing and climbing...

Boom! The boundless sea boiled up. The heavenly law quaked and exploded. Billions of dao light drifted out from Lin Xun, beautiful, brilliant, and immeasurable. Like a sword, his qi shot through the skies to the very depths, giving people the feeling that he was fighting a great enemy outside the heavens.

Such a state continued for the next period of time, but two whole hours later, the Eternal tribulation that Xuan Feiling's group had been anticipating was slow to show up...

"Is it really impossible for the energy of an Eternal tribulation to appear during the preceding period of the epochal calamity...?" They were dazed and unable to remain calm.

Unlike them, Lin Xun seemed blissfully unaware of the outside world. He was releasing the entirety of his power, cultivation, body, soul, dao, and state of mind...all without reservation. He was using himself as bait to fish for the heavenly opportunity!

The fish was bound to bite, it was only a matter of when. How long it would take could no longer affect his mental state. He had achieved what was preached by that supreme being to sharpen one's heart like a blade and temper it as smooth as jade!

Six hours later...

Suddenly, a hint of stifling tribulation energy silently appeared in the depths of the sky. It gradually coiled into a shadow, and then, the world abruptly darkened, as if day had fallen into night over a split second.

Chapter 2998 The Will of the Alpha Origin Stone Statue

The Zen World, where the Zen Sect Ancestral Court was located, was also known as the Land of Light. Ever since their founder, Shi, had established his legacy here, no matter how much the world outside had changed, the Zen Sect had always stood firmly amongst the Four Great Ancestral Courts.

Brahma Sun Secret Realm, the seclusion retreat of Present Age Buddha Jianan.

Huh?

Old Jianan, who had been in secluded meditation for years, quietly opened his eyes. A solemn look crossed his face while his heart quivered—he detected the aura belonging to an Eternal tribulation!

“How could the opportunity to attain eternity still appear when the epochal calamity is nigh?” Jianan was stunned with disbelief.

Right at this moment, a wisp of an aged voice suddenly rang out, “Jianan, hurry to my abode.”

Shaken, Jianan immediately stood up and disappeared into thin air.

In a cave haven full of blooming nine-colored lotuses, an old monk with a snow-white beard sat cross-legged on a praying mat. His figure was thin and hunched.

When Jianan arrived here, he bowed and greeted this old man, “Martial Uncle.”

The white-bearded old monk was none other than Fan'an, the one with the highest seniority and status in the Zen Sect today. Furthermore, he was the sole disciple of Founder Shi and had already practiced under the latter when the sect was established.

“The fleeting aura of an Eternal tribulation just now, I trust you have sensed it as well?” Fan'an asked, his voice low and old.

Jianan nodded. “Yes.”

Fan'an rose from the praying mat, his murky eyes fixed on Jianan. “Before his departure, the founder left us three items, which are the Mahayana Ruyi that controls our sect's Divine Rank law, one of his Will Dharma Forms, and a stone statue with the words ‘Alpha Origin’ engraved on it.”

After a brief pause, he resumed, “The stone statue sent out a decree, thus Jikong was dispatched with the founder's Will Dharma Form, leading a group of our experts to join forces with the Shaman Sect to capture Lin Xun, the successor of the Master of Fangchun Mountain. However, they...failed.”

A shadow eclipsed Jianan's expression.

That operation had to be classified as a complete failure. Not only had Ji Kong and a host of other peak Transcendence members been annihilated, but even their founder's Will Dharma Form, Past Age Buddha Jiaxiu, and Future Age Buddha Jiajing had gone missing in a bizarre manner!

Fan'an continued in a heavy voice, “Now, the stone statue has sent out a second decree.”

“What!?” Jianan exclaimed in shock. “It can't be...it can't be that we've been asked to deal with the Origin Sect again?”

Fan'an's murky eyes became unfathomable. “No, with Lin Xun.”

Lin Xun!

Jianan's eyes narrowed, and then something hit him. “That Eternal tribulation aura just now...it couldn't have been triggered by him?”

Fan'an sighed, "Who else if not him? Even I was frightened there. I can't imagine what he could have done to possibly invite that ray of opportunity to eternalize his dao."

Jianan went silent for a while before he asked, "What did the will of the Alpha Origin stone statue say?"

"What I received was a supreme intent, not any specific words or text," Fan'an said. "Lin Xun triggered the Eternal tribulation, that being noticed and immediately ordered us, the Zen Sect, to go kill him."

He paused and added, "The Shaman Sect and the Eternal Divine Clans of the Ninth Heaven Domain will also join us."

Jianan said, "There doesn't seem to be any difference between this and our last attack on the Origin Sect."

Fan'an's eyes gleamed, unreadable and chilling. "No, it is different now because the Origin Sect no longer has any Eternal figures to guard it. If Lin Xun chooses to cross his tribulation inside the Origin Sect, its Divine Rank law will lose all effects.

"And during this operation, you won't have to worry about the Great Silence Unlife Calamity. In fact...if we succeed, we won't ever have to worry about it in the future."

Jianan was shaken. "The stone statue said that itself?"

Fan'an said, "Of course not with its own mouth, but it's certain that this is the will from that being."

Jianan sharply breathed in. "Martial Uncle, who exactly is that existence? Is he...actually a person or an inconceivable law power?"

Fan'an shook his head. "Regarding this, perhaps only the founder knows something."

Jianan pondered for a moment and said, "Okay, leave it to me!"

Fan'an said, "Set out immediately. If you go at full speed, you should be able to arrive at the Origin Sect within twenty hours."

Jianan nodded and left.

Watching his figure disappear, Fan'an sat back down and retrieved from his bosom a pitch black stone statue that looked like it was made of jade but not quite jade-like.

The stone statue was clearly human-shaped—a tall one from the looks of it. However, the face was so blurry that it was impossible to tell if it was a man or a woman.

At the bottom of the statue, the words 'Alpha Origin' were engraved. The will decree mentioned had been diffused from these two words.

"I also wonder, who on earth are you...?" Fan'an stared at the stone statue in a trance.

.....

In the Shaman Sect.

A mountain range that was a hundred thousand feet long quaked as a thin figure walked out from it.

"As long as I can avoid the threat of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity, let alone killing Lin Xun, you can tell me to trample the Origin Sect's mountain gate and I won't even bat an eye," declared the thin figure ruthlessly.

Looking closely, he was dressed in animal skin, revealing part of his skin that looked like solid bronze. His tanned face was chiseled, and in the depths of his eyes flickered a petrifying vision of something akin to a blood-red purgatory.

Heaven Shaman Tan Wu!

“Alright then, I'm on it,” Tan Wu said and took a step forward. The void in front of him suddenly cracked open into a spatial vortex tunnel, and as he entered it, they both disappeared.

.....

The thick, inky clouds painted the world black. The oppressive aura of calamity was like invisible molten lava, boiling and screeching in every inch of space. As Xuan Feiling's group observed from the Origin World, their hearts jumped in trepidation.

This was an Eternal tribulation! Even old monsters who had lived for hundreds of thousands paled at the mention of it. At this moment, Lin Xun stood in the void like he was the only person in the world, his clothes dancing behind him.

Two hours had passed since this tribulation made its entrance, but there was still no sign of an outbreak, as if it had been building up momentum. Even the deepest part of the sky dome had been flooded with black torrents of tribulation energy.

Lin Xun wasn't in a hurry, nor was he apprehensive. His mind was serene, clear, and free from emotions. He was calm and relaxed. He gazed into the depths of the firmament as if wanting to penetrate all the secrets within.

Time trickled by. Suddenly, something tossed and turned in the black depths. Following that, a blinding light appeared like a sharp sword, tearing through the heavy clouds and illuminating this whole blanketed world.

Boom!

This light started out as an inconspicuous flash, but when it shot out of the thick clouds, it became a sky full of lightning bolts. Like wildly dancing snakes, they dropped like a dense rain of ice.

“It's come!” Xuan Feiling's group stopped breathing.

“It's finally here...” In contrast, Lin Xun smiled. He made no attempt to dodge and instead waited. When the ocean of lightning bolts came crashing down, billions of lights suddenly surged out from him, manifesting into a cauldron that glowed radiantly in the void.

Rumbleeeee!

The sky crumbled and the earth split. Everything sank into oblivion. The eye-piercing lightning contained a power so dreadful that it threatened to strike this world to dust. However, as the cauldron transformed from Lin Xun's Immortal law popped and rotated, the sky-blotting bolts were stuffed into it one by one.

Using a dao cauldron to subdue tribulation lightning!

Immediately after that, the destructive lightning energy was worn away, refined until it became pure and abundant vitality. Lin Xun's flesh then drew on it and absorbed every last drop.

Meanwhile, he was completely unscathed! From afar, he looked like he was treating the Eternal tribulation as a delicacy and devouring it raw.

The shocking sight had Xuan Feiling and the others staring blankly. They'd break their heads and still fail to expect such a method of crossing one's tribulation.

Swallowing the lightning? Simply heaven-defying!

“Is this the vitality of the great dao contained in tribulation lightning...”

Lin Xun intimately experienced the lightning vitality permeating his fibers. A wonderful feeling filled him from head to toe, as if he was absorbing a nourishment that would let him achieve the ultimate metamorphosis.

CRACKLE!

Without waiting for him to further savor the experience, another dull thunder exploded somewhere deep in the clouds. It reverberated through the nine heavens and shook the ten directions. The heavenly might permeating that sound alone could scare Immortals to the point their livers ruptured.

Immediately following, dense tribulation light ripped the black clouds like berserk chains of law, but their appearance was crystalline and gorgeous.

These tribulation chains were indeed very beautiful, but they were also horrifying to an unimaginable extent. The second they appeared, they transformed into spears filled with judgment and extermination power as they stabbed toward Lin Xun.

Clang!

One struck the cauldron transformed from his Immortal law. In the deafening collision sound, the cauldron trembled. The next instant, a myriad more arrived. Their destructive powers bombarded the cauldron so hard that it rumbled nonstop.

Xuan Feiling's group paled in terror. However, they saw the destroyed cauldron collapse into an abyss. Deep and obscure, it swiftly expanded countless times and flew up like it aimed to devour the sky.

Rumble!

The sea of judgment spears made of tribulation light were swallowed whole by the abyss. The only thing they left before disappearing into nothingness was a series of roars.

Lin Xun merely let out a muffled grunt before he took a deep breath and operated his cultivation to its limit. In turn, the massive abyss made of his Immortal law continuously exploded as it refined away the light spears trapped within one by one...

"Isn't this kid a little too perverse?"

"When Pavilion Master You Beihai certified his Eternal dao, how sorry and tattered his state was, but look at Lin Xun now... There's absolutely nothing to compare..."

“His Immortal law is too powerful. Since it's capable of swaying the heavenly principles, no surprise it can forcefully crush the power of his Eternal tribulation!”

Xuan Feiling and the others were appalled as their eyes registered in this scene, their faces turning slightly dazed.

“It's only just begun and the tribulation already comes on so strong. I'm afraid it will only worsen exponentially.” Dugu Yong frowned. As he had observed You Beihai's Eternal tribulation firsthand, he could perceive how noticeably more powerful Lin Xun's one was!

The rest were also taken over by anxiety at how dire the situation looked.

Chapter 2999 The Profound Truths of Nirvana

The black clouds tumbled violently. If nothing unexpected happened, the power of this Eternal tribulation would become increasingly perilous in the following time. Pillar upon pillar of tribulation light blazed like meteors, stirring up the nine heavens and cascading toward the land. In the process, they manifested a variety of unimaginable destructive phenomena.

One presented the sun, moon, and the whole void of stars in a huge cosmic chart, which dropped from above among a majestic flood of calamity energy.

One was a cohesion of mountains and rivers. Every blade of grass, every tree, every grain of sand, and every stone were branded with supreme heavenly power and brimming with the destructive power that made people despair.

One reflected the illusion of gods who seemed to walk out of eternity, their figures shrouded in the flow of the tribulation light.

There were many more of them, and under all these layers of assault, one could only imagine the horrid blow that Lin Xun was faced with.

To the spectators' shock, however, he resisted head-on with his cultivation base every single time, and his Immortal law then crushed and ate away at all of them.

His handsome figure flickered, sometimes like a cauldron suppressing the world, sometimes like an abyss swallowing the sky. Submerged in the volatile tribulation light, he was as strong and overbearing as could be.

Xuan Feiling and the others were repeatedly astounded. This was no doubt the most terrifying Eternal tribulation they had ever witnessed, and Lin Xun's power was every bit as unexpected.

Such a spectacle lasted for two full hours until, all of a sudden, the raging clouds lurched into silence. However, they did not dissipate. The pressure in the atmosphere instead intensified.

Looking at Lin Xun again, although unharmed, his energy was obviously drained, to the point that he looked slightly pale. His foundation was strong and solid, but two hours of going all-out proved to be a little too much to swallow. In fact, it was already incredible that he was able to hold up for so long under such a menacing onslaught.

However, it was clear that his Eternal tribulation had yet to end. Lin Xun's clothes flapped as he gazed at the sky and consumed a drop of Primordial Divine Dew, which instantly restored his immensely depleted strength to its peak state.

Fifteen minutes later...

In the depths of the heavenly dome, a bright red color that should belong to blood suddenly appeared and dyed the inky clouds in a depressing scarlet.

"This is..." Xuan Feiling and the other old monsters widened their eyes.

The ancient texts of the Origin Sect recorded various past Eternal tribulations, with many described in detail. Those descriptions were mostly similar at their core. However, none of these ancient texts had ever recorded anything about an Eternal tribulation turning scarlet. It was absolutely unprecedented and unheard of!

Even Lin Xun slightly squinted at it. He had also studied those ancient texts over the years, but a quick comparison told him the Eternal tribulation he was facing was utterly different from the others. Not only was the power much greater, but also the aura emanating from it was unusually bizarre!

Boom!

Not waiting for Lin Xun to react, a blood-red light descended from the sky, transforming into a guillotine blade that was dripping with blood. From it, calamitous energy wafted out and caused the space fabric to crumble with its boundless horror.

Duang!

Lin Xun swung his fist to parry. In the shocking explosion that ensued, the scarlet guillotine was blasted apart, but he was also shaken and staggered back, his qi churning. It was at this moment that his expression became grave.

The heavenly tribulation had become stronger! Its destructive might had more than doubled!

RUMBLE~

Not leaving him much time to think, a thunderbolt shattered the oppressive atmosphere. The sea of scarlet clouds started to boil like lava, and dense blood-colored tribulation light started to rain down, ripping the air in their wakes like countless swords.

The infinite, blinding red turned the region into a bloody furnace, and it sought to completely exterminate Lin Xun in its belly. It was a scene straight out from a horror story! Even Lin Xun's heart shuddered. The intense sense of danger crept him out, causing his body to stiffen.

Buzz!

He operated his dao without delay and transformed into a great abyss. Abstruse Immortal law crackled as it worked at maximum capacity and sheltered him entirely.

Bang bang bang bang!

Densely packed tribulation light blasted in. The place where he stood instantly produced fluctuations with the lethality of when countless stars exploded together. In the turbulence, the color of blood stained the area.

Petrified, Xuan Feiling and their others felt their hearts leap to their throats. Just watching from afar gave them a sense of despair, so one could imagine how perilous it was for Lin Xun who was in the eyes of the raging storm.

On top of that, the rolling red clouds above kept pouring down flood after flood of tribulation light. In the form of endless guillotines, they kept heading for Lin Xun's location... This situation lasted for long enough for one to leisurely savor a cup of tea!

When the scarlet tribulation clouds finally started to die down, the devastated void was already veiled in a red haze. The tumbling aura of calamity lingered in the air for a long time before it slowly dissipated.

That was when Lin Xun's figure was revealed. Or rather, it could no longer be called a figure. The damage was so severe that his shell had been blown to bits, from flesh to bones. Only a ball of primordial spirit wrapped in his essence blood was left wobbling.

His state was miserable beyond measure!

Xuan Feiling's group only felt their blood run cold and their scalps going numb. In the previous round, Lin Xun was unharmed. Yet, this time, he had nearly been executed in that ghastly blood-red tribulation light!

"Huh?!"

Quickly, they witnessed something incredible. Lin Xun's primordial spirit was vaguely shaped like a mysterious lotus pattern. At first, it glowed with an abundant vitality pulse, and then, an astonishing metamorphosis began.

The tribulation aura in the four directions, among which were the scattered fragments of his flesh, suddenly acted as though they were pulled. They gathered like crazy toward his primordial spirit and wriggled, gradually outlining an illusory figure.

Afterward, this figure began to solidify little by little...

Several blinks of an eye later, Lin Xun was back, as good as new. The remaining energy of the blood-red tribulation light in the air was swallowed up by him, leaving behind not a drop!

Every inch of his skin now glowed brightly. When he breathed through his mouth and nose, dao sound rumbled. The strength of his aura was also a chunk more potent than it had been just moments ago!

“Rebuilt and nirvana’d in the light of the tribulation, this is like true immortality in the very sense of the word! Could this be the core mystery of the Eternal Supremacy Path?” Dugu Yong whispered in a shaking voice.

The other old monsters were also stunned by this scene of nirvana in destruction, new birth in the calamity. In fact, their guesses weren't far from the truth.

Lin Xun's Immortal law, from the very beginning, had been derived from his understanding of the Nirvana law. Up until now, ninety percent of the Nirvana law power of the Nirvana law had been fused into it. This coupled with the numerous Eternal laws he had absorbed in the Return Dominion's Dao Burial Ground, had allowed his Immortal law to surpass the Divine Rank.

Such was the reason he had been able to realize rebirth after suffering such a murderous bombardment and even metamorphosed!

“There's still a lot to go...” Lin Xun placed his hands on his back and looked up.

This Eternal tribulation was far from over, and despite the incredible nirvana he had attained, he had an inkling that he was still far from the threshold of the Eternal Stage.

However, Lin Xun was not in a hurry, nor was he anxious. This Eternal tribulation might keep getting more scary, but his Immortal law was strong enough to let him undergo repeated rebirth and evolution in the midst of destruction!

In the dome of the sky, the scarlet clouds gradually turned into a mess of colors, and so did the tribulation light in their depths. Vaguely, the images of worlds took shape and continuously coalesced. Each world was overrun with chaotic tribulation light. Their shadows superimposed and undulated into something occult.

Although this tribulation round was only brewing, the terrifying aura atmosphere had alerted the billions of residents in the Seventh Heaven Domain. The entire sky of the heaven domain was welcoming angrily whistling winds. The tribulation clouds spread along the omnipresent tribulation breath and instantly covered every inch of space.

The countless beings inhabiting the worlds, cities, and secret realms of the Seventh Heaven Domain were collectively alarmed, frightened out of their wits. Horrified cries began to resound from every corner.

“What is this?!”

“It's so creepy!”

“Is this the end of the world coming?”

At the same time, somewhere extremely far away from the Thousand Star Sea, a figure that was zooming in through the air trembled and abruptly looked up.

“How could there be such a terrifying Eternal tribulation?” Clad in a monk's robe and had a skinny frame, he was Present Age Buddha Jianan of the Zen Sect. His pupils constricted and his expression flickered dimly as he had been greatly startled as well.

The next moment, he inhaled deeply and was about to move on when a cold voice rang out, “If we let this little thing with the Eternal Supreme potential certify eternity, no one in this world will ever be a match for him!”

Accompanying the voice, a man dressed in beastskin clothes who had a bronze-colored complexion materialized out of thin air. It was none other than Heaven Shaman Tan Wu!

Jianan solemnly said, "Therefore, he must die today."

Feeling the seething murderous power in Jianan's words, Tan Wu grinned. "I didn't know that your dustless Zen heart could breed such resolute killing intent."

Jianan made no comment and resumed on his way. Tan Wu retracted his smile and continued teleporting away.

Roughly fifteen minutes later, they arrived one after the other at the shore of Thousand Star Sea, just in time to see a long-brewed light struck down from the depths of the chaotic clouds.

The light was a mixture of clear and turbid, black and white like the primordial chaos before the creation of a world. It was filled with inconceivable destructive fluctuations.

KABOOM!

When it descended, the world was hurled straight into disarray. A heavy, gut-wrenching dao sound reverberated like the warring drums of doom. Even the two Eternal experts, Jianan and Tan Wu, uncontrollably gasped.

What a terrifying tribulation!

They exchanged a glance and saw the astonishment in each other's eyes. They had both certified eternity and had both endured perilous ordeals during their respective tribulation. Compared to this Eternal tribulation before them, what they had undergone was undoubtedly far inferior!

Chapter 3000 The Situation Has Gone Awry

The chaos light of tribulation rapidly submerged Lin Xun. For a second, both Jianan and Tan Wu thought that he had been smashed to death, for the grand tribulation power was so terrifying that it almost condensed into substance in their vision.

However, they gradually sensed that something was amiss. Even though Lin Xun was drowned by the chaos light, his aura remained, never actually dissipating. Chaos light was dropping on him in big columns, but it couldn't completely erase the wisp of aura that belonged to him.

This scene alarmed the two enemy Eternals, and they could not maintain their composure. The tribulation was unprecedented as it was far more bizarre and powerful than the general ones, yet it was failing to wipe Lin Xun out.

"Looks like we should get ready to kill him ourselves." Jianan took a deep breath, no longer concealing his aura as he strode into the air above the Thousand Star Sea.

At that instant, Xuan Feiling's group in the Origin World, who had their entire focus on Lin Xun's tribulation, detected his Eternal presence. Their expressions drastically changed.

"It's that old baldie from the Zen Sect!" Dugu Yong was shocked and furious as he recognized Jianan.

"Sure enough, they sent someone. Jianan doesn't even fear the threat of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity now?" Fang Daoping's face was gloomy and unsightly.

"If you were them, would you watch Lin Xun set foot on the Eternal path through such an unprecedented tribulation and do nothing?" Xuan Feiling looked livid as his words sounded like they were squeezed from between his teeth.

Fang Daoping took a deep breath and analyzed, "It's certain that Jianan wouldn't dare to act right in the midst of a tribulation of this magnitude, or else he would only suffer backlash. What I'm worried about is whether Lin Xun's state of mind would be affected."

Dugu Yong's expression suddenly changed again. "Brahma Lotus Lantern! That bald donkey even brought the Zen Sect's foundational treasure!"

Above the sea, Jianan was putting his palms together. A lantern swiftly swept out before him. It was shaped like a blooming lotus with thirty-six petals, and a Buddha's figure had been carved on each petal.

The moment it appeared, golden lotuses emerged out of nowhere all over the void. Their stamens burned like lamp wicks, on which bright divine flames danced.

All of a sudden, countless golden lotuses closed off the periphery of the sea area where Lin Xun was crossing his tribulation. Countless holy Buddhist flames quietly burned.

This was the Brahma Lotus Lantern!

It was capable of condensing billions of Buddhist lotuses instantly, and each lotus was able to condense a Buddhist kingdom. The flames steaming within were Brahma Buddhist Flames, which could incinerate Immortals with ease!

“With the surroundings blocked off by the Brahma Lotus Lantern, Lin Xun has nowhere to run. Even if he successfully passes the tribulation, he'll be met with the most fatal blow right away!”

The expressions of Xuan Feiling's group were already too unsightly to look at. Their hearts burned with anxiety. They were no match for Eternals. Not to mention helping Lin Xun, the only way they could stay safe was to hide in the Origin World where they had the protection of the Divine Rank law.

“What can we do?” For a while, they were at a loss.

Only after a long time did Xuan Feiling calmly say, “Let's stay calm for now. As long as Lin Xun's mental state is unaffected and he succeeds, the tribulation will disperse. Once it does, we'll dispatch the Divine Rank law power the first thing.”

“It's just that, will that be in time to do any good?” Dugu Yong frowned.

Every heart grew heavy as no one had the answer. The power of the Eternal Stage was too terrifying, capable of shaking even Divine Rank laws. However, they knew they had no other options!

Meanwhile, Jianan stood in the air above the Thousand Star Sea. In front of him, the Brahma Lotus Lantern spun as it drizzled out sacred Buddhist light.

He looked at the distant sky, where the chaos light of tribulation had become even more frightening. Lin Xun could no longer be seen among all that light, and only the faint wisp of his aura could be perceived.

“Brahma Lotus Lantern...” Tan Wu came over and glanced at the countless golden lotuses around.

“Using even this foundational pillar of an artifact, your Zen Sect is really going out on a limb to destroy Lin Xun.”

Jianan said calmly, “Only in this way can we ensure success.”

After a brief thought, Tan Wu said, “Then allow me to add some more oil to the fire.”

With that, he opened his mouth and spat out a black bone mirror. As the bone mirror shone and spun around to face all directions, boom!

In the surrounding sea, one black light curtain after another emerged. Countless black thunderbolts of law power flickered within them, emitting an appalling aura.

Jianan praised, “If it isn't the wondrous Thunder God Mirror, which can conjure a Thunder World that contains a Thunder Fury law. I've heard your founding ancestor spent three epochs crafting and refining it. Now that I've seen it with my own eyes, it is truly extraordinary.”

Tan Wu looked at the Brahma Lotus Lantern and said, “It takes one to know one.”

At the same time, Xuan Feiling's party all noticed Heaven Shaman Tan Wu and the Thunder God Mirror he had summoned. Their hearts sank to the bottom.

Another Eternal expert! One who wielded a supreme treasure no weaker than the Brahma Lotus Lantern at that! This simply was enough to make anyone despair. Even Xuan Feiling's group was utterly disconcerted.

Rumble~

Finally, the patches and patches of chaos tribulation light scattered. In the broken void, all that was left of Lin Xun was a wisp of dim primordial spirit. It was like a swaying lamp in a storm that would go out at any moment.

Soon, however, the dull primordial spirit brightened up a little bit, becoming radiant... Gradually, it resembled a blazing sun that illuminated the nine heavens and ten earths. Right in the middle of that glow, Lin Xun's figure gradually coalesced. The process then ended with him drawing and absorbing all that light.

He emerged in perfect condition, as if reborn in nirvana. When his qi came into motion, their rumbles shook the air around to the point it creaked. As his vast and surging Immortal law operated, he resembled a supreme overlord who walked out from destruction!

The heavy hearts of Xuan Feiling's group perked up when they saw this. He got through!

Although the tribulation clouds still remained above, the fact that Lin Xun hadn't fallen was already everything they could hope for.

As for Jianan and Tan Wu, who had also watched the whole thing, they both revealed grave looks. Their hearts tumbled in emotions, unable to calm down. Even that degree of havoc had failed to exterminate Lin Xun! How could Eternals like them remain calm after seeing that?

“Lin Xun, are you seriously in the mood to focus on your tribulation? Take a look around. No matter if you succeed or fail your tribulation, only death awaits.” Tan Wu’s voice resounded, coldly and sternly.

He had also noticed the once again churning tribulation clouds as well as the force that was crazily gathering in their depths. Obviously, what came next would only be a much more horrifying calamity!

Standing beneath the sky, Lin Xun scanned the surroundings and caught the presence of the two Eternal experts. He also perceived the power of the Brahma Lotus Lantern and the Thunder God Mirror that had sealed off his surroundings.

However, his expression was ever unperturbed, and he said, "Is that so? Let me be blunt, leave now and you may still secure a sliver of a chance to live. Stay, and the moment I overcome this tribulation is the moment when you'll die."

"Hahahaha."

Tan Wu burst out laughing at the sky like he had heard the funniest joke in the world. He then said in a chilling voice, "Since you chose to carry out the tribulation here, you must have been worried about affecting the Origin Sect. But I might as well tell you, without the protection of Eternal experts, your Divine Rank law won't be able to stop us forever. Once we get past it, you shall be wiped off of the face of the earth along with the rest of your sect!"

Jianan solemnly spoke up, "Dao Brother, don't waste your words on him. With you and me here, he cannot escape death."

"Heh." Lin Xun chuckled and looked up at the sky. "In that case, I should also make it clear: After I certify eternity, neither you two nor your Shaman Sect and Zen Sect shall prolong their pointless existence!"

Having declared that, he took a deep breath and called upon the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron. Then, he shot straight up toward the highest point of the sky dome.

Everyone was caught off guard. Xuan Feiling's party visibly faltered, thinking that Lin Xun's state of mind had been disturbed after all and that was why he was acting so reckless.

Jianan and Tan Wu glanced at each other and both smiled. Lin Xun was sending himself to the mouth of death!

The depths of the sky was where the Eternal tribulation converged, a taboo area that no one had dared to visit since the dawn of cultivation. Now that a terrifying tribulation light was accumulating momentum in there, did Lin Xun really think that he could take advantage of this period to nip it in the bud? He clearly had a death wish!

KABOOM!

When Lin Xun approached, a blinding-white glow suddenly flared, drowning him and the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron.

Not to mention Xuan Feiling and the others, even the two enemy Eternals could no longer see Lin Xun nor sense his aura. There was a forbidden place where even Eternal spirit sense didn't dare to probe, or else they would surely suffer a heavy backlash.

“When the tribulation clouds disperse, it means that he is dead both physically and spiritually!” Jianan set an expectation.

“Please... Nothing must happen to him...” Xuan Feiling's group had their hearts in their throats as they prayed.

Right at this juncture, ripple after ripple of something suddenly fluctuated in the distant void above the Thousand Star Sea, and an aura of eternity filled the air. It immediately caught the attention of Jianan and Tan Wu.

Afterwards, a row of figures emerged from the spatial ripples, men and women, old and young. Although their appearances varied, they all shared a common feature, which was their aura that belonged to the Eternal Stage!

In the end, the seven newly arrived Eternals stood above the Thousand Star Sea. The terrifying gathering of their aura shook Jianan and Tan Wu to the core, but upon recognizing their identities, they both relaxed.

“The Eternal Divine Clans of the Ninth Heaven Domain have also gotten involved!”

Xuan Feiling and the others in the Origin World looked like they were struck by lightning. Their eyes bulged as they watched. Those seven people, each from an Eternal Divine Clan, were all old relics who had lived for no one knew how long. Now that they had come hand in hand, their intentions were as clear as day!