Prodigies 3121

Chapter 3121 Unexpected Change

Lin Xun had heard of the Chaos Dao Fruit from Yingshan Ying and knew it to be a supreme fortune that existed only within the All-Wonder Dominion.

“It seems that only by reaching the All-Wonder Dominion can one truly unravel the ultimate mystery of the Immeasurable Realm,” Lin Xun murmured to himself.

After the banquet ended, he returned to his cavern and entered silent meditation. At present, he had only just stepped into the initial stage of the Immeasurable Realm. There was still much to be done, such as consolidating his cultivation and tempering his physical body and refining his primordial spirit.

More importantly, a new realm meant new power. Any newly acquired strength had to be fully understood, mastered, and integrated, so that it could be unleashed without restraint in battle.

Another ten years slipped by in the blink of an eye. On this day, a startling change occurred above the Sea of Fate. The sixth Great Dao Fate Lotus emerged!

“Finally...”

Xing Jianxia stepped out from his cavern, anticipation flickering unmistakably in his eyes. Not far away, Fu Nanli’s figure also appeared. This time, they planned to bring only Lin Xun with them into the Fate Lotus World.

As for Gu Yueming, Shun Huaijia, and Xue Ye, they would remain behind together with Ren Futian to guard Dao Seeking Sacred Mountain.

The reason for this decision was because they had made far too many enemies during their previous trip to the Fate Lotus World. Aside from the two great factions of the Shamanic Epoch and the Buddhist Epoch, there was also the Demonic Epoch, as well as numerous forces harboring deep hostility toward Fangchun Mountain.

Under such circumstances, bringing along three Lesser Boundless Realm cultivators would be inappropriate.

“Young Friend Lin Xun, are you ready?” Xing Jiangxia asked, spotting Lin Xun approaching from afar.

Lin Xun smiled and nodded.

“Good! Then let us depart.” Without delay, Xing Jiangxia rose into the air with Fu Nanli and Lin Xun following close behind as they headed straight toward the Great Dao Lotus above the Sea of Fate.

On Dao Seeking Sacred Mountain, cultivators of the Origin Sect and Spirit Sect, along with the successors of Fangchun Mountain, watched in silence as the three figures vanished into the distance.

Above the Sea of Fate, just as before, terrifying figures from various epoch worlds began to appear. Streaks of divine radiance descended like rain, dazzling and densely packed, filling the sky.

“Look...that’s Lin Xun. Last time in the Fate Lotus World, he was the one who broke through to the Immeasurable Realm and slaughtered numerous Greater Boundless Realm beings.”

The appearance of Lin Xun, Xing Jianxia, and Fu Nanli immediately drew countless gazes. Among them, Lin Xun was without question the center of attention. What had happened in the Fate Lotus World last time was simply too sensational. His name had already been deeply etched into the memories of these terrifying beings.

Now that he had appeared again, how could anyone not take notice? Naturally, some of those gazes brimmed with hostility and chilling murderous intent. For instance, the fearsome figures led by Du Feng of the Buddhist Epoch, and the group headed by Weng Xinghai of the Shamanic Epoch...

At the same time, Lin Xun also noticed Ying Tiansheng’s group, Zhu Tianjun’s group, as well as Huanglong Zhenjun and his companions. When Lin Xun’s gaze swept over them, none of these enemies bothered to hide the icy killing intent burning in their eyes.

Lin Xun ignored them completely. Once he entered the Fate Lotus World, he would settle every score with them!

Soon after, he spotted Daoist Shanfeng and Xiao He. Beside them stood a man as gaunt as bamboo in black robes, and an old man with tangled hair and beard, shuffling along in a pair of worn, ancient shoes.

The former was Mo Baize, and the latter was Mu Changyun. They were the 'Old Baize' and 'Old Mu' that Xing Jianxia had spoken of. Meeting again on the Sea of Fate, they exchanged a distant nod of acknowledgment without speaking.

Afterward, Lin Xun met Divine Lord Linglong and Xun Daoyan. The two exchanged smiles in greeting.

"Let's go." Xing Xianjia led the way.

There were only ten breaths of time to enter the Fate Lotus World, and not a single cultivator dared to hesitate.

Ten breaths later, as the nine petals of the Great Dao Fate Lotus slowly closed, the violently surging Sea of Fate instantly returned to calm.

"This time, even more old monsters have entered than before. A total of three hundred and sixteen!" Ren Futian's expression shifted slightly atop Dao Seeking Sacred Mountain.

"No need to worry. Young Friend Lin Xun is no longer who he once was." Gu Yueming smiled.

All of them were filled with confidence in Lin Xun and the others.

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Inside the Fate Lotus World.

Buzz! With a ripple in the void, Lin Xun appeared out of thin air.

“I’ve returned after more than twenty years...” He glanced around, emotion stirring within his heart. “The scenery is the same, yet the people are different.”

With his hands clasped behind his back, he strode forward. In less than half a day, he reunited with Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli.

“I’ve already arranged with Daoist Shanfeng and the others,” Xing Jianxia said. “We’ll meet at the Four Symbols Heavenly Pass once we arrive at the Fate Lotus World. We can head directly there now.”

“The Four Symbols Heavenly Pass...” Lin Xun paused, then smiled and nodded, secretly wondering whether he would encounter Ying Tiansheng and the others there again.

Four hours later, the vast silhouette of the Four Symbols Heavenly Pass gradually emerged on the horizon, majestic and ancient. When Lin Xun and his group arrived, they found that the pass was already occupied, but not by Ying Tiansheng’s group.

Lin Xun felt a faint sense of disappointment.

“It’s Guan Qianqiu and his group from the Dao Epoch.” Xing Jianxia said, recognizing them at once.

“Lin Xun!”

“Why did that guy come here again...?”

“Stay alert!”

A commotion immediately broke out among the old monsters gathered nearby. Many gazes turned wary and guarded. The last time Lin Xun had arrived here, he was still at the Creation Realm and was utterly ignored by the crowd of old monsters, like an ant wandering into a den of crocodiles.

Now, everything had changed.

“Xing Jianxia, are you also here to seize the pass?” A voice suddenly rang from atop the Four Symbols Heavenly Pass.

The speaker was an old man with youthful features and snow-white hair, holding a jade ruler in his hand. Though he addressed Xing Jianxia, his gaze remained fixed on Lin Xun, a hint of seriousness appearing between his brows.

“Young Friend Lin Xun, this is Guan Qianqiu, an old monster who has survived seven Great Silence Unlife Calamities.” Xing Jianxia said with a smile. “Old Guan, relax. We’re just here to wait for someone. We’ll leave once they arrive.”

Guan Qianqiu’s expression eased. “I figured as much. You don’t strike me as someone reckless enough to stir trouble here.”

Xing Jianxia smiled and said nothing more. He had no personal grudge with Guan Qianqiu, and there was no reason to provoke a conflict now. As time passed, more and more figures arrived near the Four Symbols Heavenly Pass.

However, when they noticed Lin Xun’s group, most instinctively kept their distance.

“Young Friend Lin Xun,” Xing Jianxia transmitted, “do you believe the news of our appearance here has already been spread by those old monsters present?”

“So in the days ahead, it’s very possible our enemies will come knocking?” Lin Xun asked.

Xing Jianxia thought for a moment before answering, “That depends on whether they’re bold enough. After all, you slaughtered quite a few Greater Boundless Realm experts last time. Anyone who wants to move against us now has to think very carefully about the price they’ll pay.”

Lin Xun smiled. “Even if they don’t come...we’ll seek them out ourselves.”

Xing Jianxia laughed. “Exactly what I was thinking.”

As they were speaking, Fu Nanli suddenly said, “We’ve waited nearly four hours. Logically speaking, even if Daoist Shanfeng and the others were teleported to the farthest corner of the Fate Lotus World, they should have arrived here by now, given their speed.”

Xing Jianxia frowned. “Do you think something has happened?”

“It’s possible,” Fu Nanli replied.

Just then, Guan Qianqiu’s voice rang out from atop the Four Symbols Heavenly Pass, “Xing Jianxia, I just received news from an old friend. A fierce battle has broken out near the Five Elements Heavenly Pass. Daoist Shanfeng and the others are currently being besieged by Ying Tiansheng’s group. If you hurry over now, you might still make it in time to assist them.”

Xing Jianxia’s expression shifted. He drew a deep breath, cupped his hands toward Guan Qianqiu, and said, “Old Guan, many thanks.”

Without another word, he, Lin Xun, and Fu Nanlu immediately shot into the sky, racing toward the Five Elements Heavenly Pass.

“Let’s go! We can’t miss this.”

“Alright! I’m also curious just how powerful this Lin Xun truly is.”

Many of the old monsters nearby followed suit, streaking through the air toward the Five Elements Heavenly Pass. In the blink of an eye, most of the cultivators who had been gathered before the Four Symbols Heavenly Pass had vanished.

Watching their retreating figures, Guan Qianqiu couldn’t help but smile faintly. I should be the one thanking you, Xing Jianxia. If not for you, how would all these competitors have been lured away so easily?

The pressure around the Four Symbols Heavenly Pass instantly eased. It was truly killing two birds with one stone. He had not only earned Xing Jianxia's goodwill, but also eased the tense situation before the pass.

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Half an hour later, Lin Xun and the others could already make out the Five Elements Heavenly Pass far in the distance. The pass stood upon a vast, boundless ocean, like a colossal island floating atop the waves.

At this very moment, an earth-shattering battle was unfolding above the vast ocean.

Rumble!

Towering waves roared skyward as divine weapons crisscrossed the air, clashing again and again. Supreme powers erupted in every direction, tearing the void apart and plunging heaven and earth into chaos.

On one side stood Daoist Shanfeng, Xiao He, Mo Baize, and Mu Changyun. Xun Daoyan and Divine Lord Linglong were also present, fighting alongside them.

On the other side were more than a dozen terrifying beings from the Demonic Epoch, including Ying Tiansheng, as well as Zhu Tianjun and several other old monsters.

The battle was brutal. Daoist Shanfeng and the others were completely encircled, each already wounded and in grave danger. At the sight of this, Xing Jianxia's and the others' expressions darkened.

This was only the first day in the Fate Lotus World, yet Daoist Shanfeng and the others had already been heavily encircled by their enemies. It was far beyond anything they had anticipated.

Clearly, ever since the last clash in the Fate Lotus World, their enemies had been secretly plotting, preparing for this very moment! In fact, Ying Tiansheng and Zhu Tianjun must have already joined forces!

“Hahaha! Fortunately, we arrived in time. Otherwise we would have missed today’s grand spectacle!” A thunderous laugh suddenly echoed across heaven and earth.

In the next instant, yet another group of terrifying figures descended, joining forces with Ying Tiansheng and Zhu Tianjun as they surged toward Daoist Shanfeng and the others. The situation instantly became even more dire!

Lin Xun’s, Xing Jianxia’s, and Fu Nanli’s expressions all turned utterly grim.

Chapter 3122 Breaking Through the Encirclement

Xing Jianxia immediately recognized the newly arrived group of terrifying figures. They belonged to the same faction, led by Sage Emperor Kong Yu of the Confucian Epoch.

He was an unparalleled giant who had once forged the ancient laws of civilization and compiled the chronicles of entire epochs. His learning encompassed both heaven and humanity. He studied the dao and comprehended creation itself. He was revered as one of the three sovereigns of the Confucian Epoch.

The Dao of Etiquette and Laws that he personally established was regarded as the supreme iron law of the Confucian Epoch. At this moment, Sage Emperor Kong Yu led a host of terrifying figures straight into the battlefield, their killing intent aimed squarely at Daoist Shanfeng and the others.

This left Xing Jianxia utterly baffled. Why? His old friends had never harbored any grudges with the Confucian Epoch!

“Senior,” Lin Xun suddenly said, his eyes flashing. “No one has claimed the Five Elements Heavenly Pass yet. When we move, you all go seize the pass. I’ll go rescue Senior Shanfeng and the others.”

“By yourself?” Xing Jianxia narrowed his eyes.

“I’m only saving people, not fighting to the death,” Lin Xun replied calmly. “I alone will be enough.”

Xing Jianxia clenched his teeth. “Then we’ll do it this way!”

He didn’t believe Lin Xun would boast recklessly about something like this.

“But...” Fu Nanli was about to object.

Xing Jianxia cut in, explaining patiently, “Young Friend Lin Xun’s plan is the wisest. Once we occupy the Five Elements Heavenly Pass and he rescues Shanfeng and the others, we can rely on the power of the pass itself to hold off the enemy. At that point, no matter how many enemies there are, if they wish to confront us, they will have to challenge the Great Dao Ring Monuments. That kind of one-on-one battle will be far more advantageous for us.”

Fu Nanli’s eyes narrowed slightly. He nodded in agreement.

“Seniors, I’ll go on ahead.” Lin Xun shot forward.

Shua!

His figure shot across the void like a streak of divine light, completely unconcealed. Instantly, countless gazes locked onto him.

“Look! It’s Lin Xun!”

“He’s insane! Does he even realize how many terrifying existences are on that battlefield?”

“This is perfect...let’s see if this brat is really as strong as the rumors claim!”

All across the surrounding sea, the spectators erupted into excitement. Although Lin Xun had left the previous Fate Lotus World early, his deeds had already become legend. Of course, legends were still just legends, so who wouldn’t want to witness his true strength with their own eyes?

Now, the opportunity had arrived!

“Hm?”

At the same time, Ying Tiansheng’s group, Zhu Tianjun’s group, as well as Sage Emperor Kong Yu’s group all noticed Lin Xun’s arrival.

“Heh...as expected, the brat really came.” A cold smile crept across Ying Tiansheng’s face.

This was exactly what they had anticipated. What surprised them was that Lin Xun had come alone.

“You’ve walked straight into our trap! Let’s see where you can run this time!” Zhu Tianjun’s eyes blazed with murderous intent.

Today’s battle had been meticulously arranged from the start. Everything was meant to lure Lin Xun out and slaughter him in one decisive strike.

“Is this the lotus that old Bodhi spoke of?” A mysterious light flickered deep within Sage Emperor Kong Yu’s eyes.

“Lin Xun, it’s a trap! Run!” From within the encirclement, Daoist Shanfeng and the others went pale and shouted in alarm.

“Too late!” A cold voice rang out.

Boom!

Before Lin Xun could even draw near, a figure wreathed in blazing crimson burst forth. Clad in a fiery red daoist robe and wielding a massive sword, his features were as handsome as a young man. It was Lu Zhongyan, a terrifying existence who had survived six Great Silence Unlife calamities.

Back in the previous Fate Lotus World, he had once joined forces with Jiang Mingshui and the others to besiege Xing Jianxia’s group. The moment Lu Zhongyan appeared, he cut off Lin Xun’s path.

“It truly is...too late.”

At the same time, an explosion thundered through the void behind him. Space shattered as Jiang Mingshui and more than a dozen Greater Boundless Realm experts appeared out of thin air, each face cold and murderous.

Last time, Lin Xun had personally slaughtered nine of their Greater Boundless Realm figures, crippling their camp and even stripping them of their qualifications to compete for heavenly pass. Seeing Lin Xun again now, how could their hatred not erupt like a volcano?

“Just a bunch of defeated dogs.” Lin Xun laughed lightly.

So it really was a trap. Daoist Shanfeng and the others had been bait. On the surface stood the three major factions led by Ying Tiansheng, Zhu Tianjun, and Sage Emperor Kong Yu. However, hidden in the shadows were even more enemies, including Lu Zhongyan and Jiang Mingshui.

“This time, Su Wanjun won’t be able to save you.” As that calm voice echoed, Huanglong Zhenjun stepped out of the void and strolled forward leisurely.

Immediately afterward, ripples spread through space. One figure after another emerged. There were more than a dozen in total, men and women, each radiating terrifying pressure. However, their faces were unfamiliar. Lin Xun had never seen any of them before.

Without a doubt, they were all enemies of Fangchun Mountain! At this point, the situation had completely reversed. Daoist Shanfeng and his group were trapped in a deadly encirclement, their situation extremely perilous. Likewise, Lin Xun himself was now surrounded, with no path of escape!

The sheer number and strength of the enemy forces made one thing unmistakably clear: though they came from different camps, they had long since formed a secret alliance. Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli felt their hearts sink, their limbs turning cold.

The next instant, Xing Jianxia clenched his teeth, forcibly suppressing the urge to rush to Lin Xun’s aid. “Once the battle erupts and everyone’s attention is drawn there, we seize the chance and storm the Five Elements Heavenly Pass immediately.”

Fu Nanli gave a heavy nod.

“Is that all?” Lin Xun swept his gaze across the encirclement, his expression calm and indifferent.

“Hah! You think it will be like last time?” Jiang Mingshui sneered coldly. As he spoke, he raised his hand.

“Kill!”

In an instant, Lu Zhongyan, Huanglong Zhenjun, and the rest moved simultaneously. Dao weapons were summoned in a flash, and every single attack was aimed at Lin Xun alone.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Twenty-six Greater Boundless Realm experts were joining forces. What kind of apocalyptic scene was that? Brilliant dao weapons tore through the sky, unleashing torrents of divine power. Countless secret arts and supreme techniques erupted together, their radiance drowning heaven and earth.

The world plunged into violent chaos as countless doomsday visions unfolded, forming a despairing scene of utter apocalypse. Those watching from afar gasped in unison, their scalps tingling, their faces pale with shock.

Too terrifying! Who in the entire Fate Lotus World could possibly withstand such a siege? Despite that, in the face of this onslaught, Lin Xun did not budge. At that moment, the Black Water Dao Body shot out from the void.

Shua!

The Black Water Dao Body drew a deep breath, then his figure vanished in a blur.

Boom!

Three thousand clones erupted into the sky, densely packed like a torrent of divine light, dazzling beyond measure. Each clone radiated an aura comparable to Lin Xun at the initial Creation Realm.

It should be noted that even back at the initial Creation Realm, Lin Xun had already slain Jue Wutian, a heaven-defying monster whose strength rivalled that of Greater Boundless Realm experts!

Now, with all three thousand clones wielding such power, it was as if three thousand Lin Xuns from the initial Creation Realm were charging into battle at once! That sight alone was enough to shock the ages and shake every epoch.

“That...”

The eyes of Jiang Mingshui, Lu Zhongyan, and Huanglong Zhenjun nearly bulged from their sockets. They were completely stunned, their minds momentarily frozen by the sight before them. Before they could react, the three thousand clones surged forward, each unleashing terrifying divine power, like an army of gods descending upon the world.

Rumble!

The sky collapsed, the earth split apart, and all things seemed on the verge of annihilation. The combined offensive of Jiang Mingshui and the others was smashed apart, scattering and disintegrating in the void. Even their dao weapons were violently blasted back, letting out mournful cries as they trembled in midair.

Indeed, there were more than twenty of them, each a terrifying existence at the Greater Boundless Realm. Jiang Mingshui and Huanglong Zhenjun in particular could be considered true giants.

However, at this moment, they had been completely caught off guard. Their formation was shattered. Each of them was forced to face attacks from hundreds of clones at once!

The sight sent chills down the spines of the distant spectators. Their eyes widened, and their minds became blank with disbelief. Wasn’t it said that Lin Xun only possessed five dao bodies?! Then where had these three thousand come from?!

Even Ying Tiansheng, Zhu Tianjun, and Sage Emperor Kong Yu were shaken. Their expressions changed drastically as they frowned, unable to conceal their astonishment. The art of creating dao bodies was not rare; anyone could use it. With real and illusory intertwined, they were almost impossible to guard against.

However, Lin Xun's dao incarnations were different. There were three thousand of them, and every single one possessed combat power comparable to the initial Creation Realm!

Of note, even at the initial Creation Realm, Lin Xun's strength was completely incomparable to others of the same realm. He could even threaten Immeasurable Realm beings! Who in the world would not be shaken by this?

Rumble!

Heaven and earth plunged into utter chaos. The skies trembled, divine light surged like oceans and the echoes of the dao thundered endlessly. At this moment, with a single thought, Lin Xun charged toward Ying Tiansheng and the others in the distance. Behind him followed thousands of Black Water Dao Body clones.

From afar, it was as if an eternal night had descended, sweeping across the heavens and earth in a tide of killing intent, drowning all in its path. In the blink of an eye, Ying Tiansheng's and the others' formation was completely disrupted. They could no longer regroup, each forced into a desperate battle with endless clones.

Seizing this opportunity, Lin Xun appeared beside Daoist Shanfeng and the others, reuniting with them in an instant. Even Daoist Shanfeng and his group were completely stunned.

In just a few breaths of time Lin Xun had summoned three thousand clones and single-handedly reversed the entire battlefield! It was simply unbelievable.

"Seniors, to the Five Elements Heavenly Pass."

Lin Xun sent a swift voice transmission, then disengaged completely, leaving his three thousand clones behind to hold the enemy at bay as he turned and departed. He immediately swept toward the Five Elements Heavenly Pass.

Without the slightest hesitation, Daoist Shanfeng, Xiao He, Mo Baize, Mu Zhangyun, Xun Daoyan, and Divine Lord Linglong followed after him. Their hearts were surging with emotions, but even if following Lin Xun meant charging straight into death, not a single one of them would so much as frown.

“Damn it!”

“Stop them!”

Ying Tiansheng and the others turned ashen with fury, rage surging as they charged forward without hesitation to intercept them.

However, it was already futile. The countless clones surged like endless tidal waves, besieging them on all sides. How could they possibly break through?

They could only watch helplessly as Lin Xun and the others burst out of the battlefield and headed straight toward the Five Elements Heavenly Pass, leaving them so furious that they nearly coughed up blood.

Chapter 3123 Challenge

The scene was one of utter chaos. The spectators in the distance were completely stunned. Moments earlier, the three great factions led by Ying Tiansheng, Zhu Tianjun, and Sage Emperor Kong Yu had joined forces to besiege Daoist Shanfeng and the others. It was clearly a carefully laid trap.

Then Lin Xun arrived. In the very next instant, Jiang Mingshui, Lu Zhongyan, Huanglong Zhenjun, and other old monsters lurking in the shadows surged forth as well, surrounding Lin Xun from all sides, like a beast walking straight into a hunter’s net.

That sight alone was enough to drive anyone to despair. Even the greatest giants of the Fate Lotus World would have been doomed under such a siege, with no hope of escape. No one believed Lin Xun could survive.

However, under those seemingly hopeless circumstances...Lin Xun struck back! With a single move, he reversed the tide of battle and overturned the entire situation! It all felt unreal, like a dream. Utterly unbelievable!

Rumble! Rumble!

The battlefield descended into a frenzied melee. Lin Xun's figures appeared everywhere, like a raging torrent, fearlessly charging forward and cutting down enemies on all sides.

Soon, people began to notice something. Although rumors claimed that Lin Xun's dao bodies were no weaker than his true self, these Black Water Dao Bodies clones only possessed cultivation of the initial Creation Realm, and they also seemed to lack intelligence, with crude and unsophisticated combat instincts.

They were vastly inferior to Lin Xun's five true dao bodies. Scenes of clones being cut down and dissolving into nothingness played out endlessly. Even so, those three thousand clones still caused enormous trouble for the old monsters, trapping them firmly and leaving them unable to break out for the time being.

Ying Tiansheng, Jiang Mingshui, and the others quickly regained their composure and realized their opponents were not as formidable as they had imagined. At the very least, with their strength, even under siege, they were still capable of eliminating those clones one by one.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The battle intensified further.

As Lin Xun's clones continued to vanish, a calm voice suddenly rang out across the battlefield, "Return."

In an instant, the Black Water Dao Body clones transformed into flowing streams of light, surging like a tidal wave toward the Five Elements Heavenly Pass.

"Kill!"

Unwilling to let them escape, Ying Tiansheng, Jiang Mingshui and the others all moved to block them. Although they managed to intercept some of the clones, many still broke through and swept away toward the Five Elements Heavenly Pass.

Only then did everyone suddenly realize that Lin Xun and his group had already occupied the Five Elements Heavenly Pass!

“What a brilliant tactic!” one spectator exclaimed in awe. “With this, Lin Xun and the others no longer need to fear being encircled. Anyone who wants to kill them now must challenge them one-on-one.”

Who could have imagined that, in such a desperate situation, Lin Xun would not only save Daoist Shanfeng and his group, but also turn the tables and claim the Five Elements Heavenly Pass?

“Earlier, we were all wary of a great battle and the hidden forces lurking in the shadows, so no one dared set their sights on the Five Elements Heavenly Pass. Who would have thought this would become Lin Xun’s brilliant move to break the deadlock.” Another spectator sighed.

“This is what it means to put oneself in a do-or-die situation!”

“Although neither side suffered any casualties, it’s obvious that Lin Xun had seized the advantage and won this round!”

The spectators were deeply stirred. Lin Xun had won this battle beautifully, turning the tide and reversing the situation. It was nothing short of a miracle, utterly shocking and awe-inspiring.

In contrast, Ying Tiansheng, Jiang Mingshui, and the other old monsters who had gone to such lengths to set this deadly trap ended up empty-handed, suffering nothing but a crushing humiliation.

If word of this spread, it would surely cause another great stir in the Fate Lotus World, turning them into a laughingstock. After all, so many terrifying figures had joined forces, yet they still failed to suppress a single Lin Xun.

“Damn it!”

Ying Tiansheng and the others’ expressions were dark and livid. At this moment, the battlefield had fallen into silence. The clash was over and old monsters from the various factions had gathered together. There were forty or fifty in total, each exuding overwhelming presence.

Of note, every one of them was seething with resentment, their fury barely contained.

Just as everyone had suspected. Ever since the previous Fate Lotus World, these factions had already formed a secret alliance, determined to eliminate Lin Xun, Xing Jianxia, and their group at all costs this time.

Thus, the moment they set foot into the Fate Lotus World, they immediately began sprang into action, coordinating across camps, exchanging intelligence, and finally tracking down Daoist Shanfeng and the others, thereby laying this killing trap.

Who could have imagined...that this supposedly inescapable net would be torn apart by Lin Xun alone? The outcome was not what they expected.

“If I had known this would happen, I should have seized the Five Elements Heavenly Pass first.” Sage Emperor Kong Yu sighed softly. He was clad in a scholar’s robe with wide flowing sleeves, exuding a noble aura, like a sacred sage.

“Who could have imagined that, even with the combined power of so many factions, such an accident could still happen?” Jiang Mingshui said bitterly, grinding his teeth.

Now that Lin Xun and his group had taken control of the Five Elements Heavenly Pass, there was only one way left to deal with them...one-on-one challenges!

“Unexpected setbacks are nothing to fear. In my view, it’s far too early to speak of defeat.” Ying Tiansheng suddenly spoke in a deep voice. “As long as we win three consecutive life or death duels, or six consecutive battles of victory or defeat, we can claim the Five Elements Heavenly Pass. At that point, Lin Xun nor the others will be able to escape!”

Those words caused the eyes of the surrounding old monsters to gleam. They were indeed unwilling to retreat just like that, and Ying Tiansheng's proposal rekindled the flames in their hearts.

Jiang Mingshui frowned. "That brat Lin Xun is strong enough to kill Qiu Fengchi. I fear that even if you, Ying Tiansheng, personally took action, you still wouldn't be his match. Under such circumstances, how can we even speak of seizing the pass?"

He had personally witnessed Lin Xun's terrifying power. Last time, before the Four Symbols Heavenly Pass in the Fate Lotus World, Lin Xun had singlehandedly slaughtered nine Greater Boundless Realm figures from his camp. That display of strength made even Jiang Mingshui shudder with fear.

"It seems Fellow Daoist Jiang has been frightened by that brat." Ying Tiansheng laughed coldly. "But that's easy to resolve. We only need to engage in battles of victory or defeat. With so many of us, even if we take turns challenging him, it will be enough to wear him down until he collapses!"

"That will work." Huanglong Zhenjun nodded. If we don't kill him today, once our factions disperse and return to our respective territories, would he not seek revenge on us one by one? At that time...things will become troublesome."

A chill ran through everyone present. Indeed, their factions could not possibly remain united forever. In fact, when the time came to seize the Fate Lotus Dao Altar, they would inevitably become rivals. Under such circumstances, if Lin Xun was not eliminated today, endless calamities would surely await them in the future.

"Then it's settled. Until Lin Xun is dead, we will cooperate with all our strength. After he is eliminated, we go our separate ways." Sage Emperor Kong Yu decided.

Soon after, Jiang Mingshui, Lu Zhongyan, Zhu Tianjun and the others all nodded in agreement. Then, all of their gazes turned toward the Five Elements Heavenly Pass. An invisible storm of killing intent spread through the air.

"They intend to seize the pass!"

Those watching from afar immediately sensed Ying Tiansheng's and the others' intentions, and a wave of commotion rippled through the crowd.

"After all, they come from different factions. It was already difficult for them to cooperate in the first place. If they don't seize this chance to deal with Lin Xun now, they may never have another opportunity to join forces again."

Some keen-eyed spectators saw straight through their scheme. This was, after all, the Fate Lotus World. In just ten days, all factions would have to compete for the Fate Lotus Dao Altar to gain entry into the All-Wonder Dominion.

That also meant that it was impossible for these factions to maintain their alliance indefinitely. They had joined forces to kill Lin, and once that was done, they would inevitably go their separate ways.

"Doesn't this mean Lin Xun and his group are in danger once again?"

"That depends on whether they can withstand the challenges from all these factions."

"It will be difficult...extremely difficult. Even a relentless battle of attrition could wear them down to death. Unless another unexpected variable appears, Lin Xun and his group are basically doomed."

Discussions broke out everywhere. Meanwhile, atop the Five Elements Heavenly Pass, which hovered like a massive island above the boundless sea, Lin Xun and the others were quietly discussing their next move.

"As expected, they refuse to leave and they're coming to challenge us." The trace of smile on Xing Jianxia's lips gradually faded. Earlier, Lin Xun's decisive counterattack had overturned the situation and rescued Daoist Shanfeng and the others, stunning both Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli and leaving them deeply relieved.

After occupying the Five Elements Heavenly Pass, they had finally been able to breathe a sigh of relief. Now, Xing Jianxia sensed that the crisis was far from over.

“They’re relying on their advantage in numbers,” Fu Nanli said solemnly. “They believe that by challenging us one after another, they can wear us down and eventually seize this pass. If that happens...we’ll have no way out.”

They were all ancient monsters who had lived through countless ages. How could any of them fail to see through the enemy’s intentions?

“Let them come.” Daoist Shanfeng’s eyes blazed with killing intent. “We’ll fight them one by one. Let’s see who breaks first!”

He and the others had been ambushed earlier and were all wounded, but fortunately none of the injuries were serious enough to significantly affect their combat strength.

“One-on-one? I’ve never been afraid of that.” Xun Daoyan even revealed a hint of eagerness. The earlier siege had left a blazing fire of rage in his chest

“Seniors, focus on recovering your injuries first.” Lin Xun said with a smile. “Once you’re fully healed, you’ll all have your chance to fight.”

He could feel the fury burning within them all. In truth, who wouldn’t be enraged after being surrounded and assaulted like that? Even Lin Xun himself felt murderous intent surging through his heart.

To encounter such a deadly trap the moment they entered the Fate Lotus World could only mean one thing: Their enemies had been plotting all along, determined to wipe them out at the very first opportunity.

Hu—

Lin Xun exhaled slowly, releasing a breath of turbid air. “Esteemed seniors, please follow my plan.”

As he spoke, an unfathomable and mysterious power of the Principles of Fate quietly spread out, enveloping the entire Five Elements Heavenly Pass. Now that Lin Xun was the master of this pass, he could naturally wield and control that principle power.

Unfortunately, this principle power had many limitations and could not be used to kill enemies... However, Lin Xun had never intended to place his hopes of victory on the Heavenly Pass alone.

Chapter 3124 Why Use a Butcher's Blade to Kill a Chicken?

"They're here." Xing Jianxia's eyes flashed like lightning as he gazed into the distance.

From every direction, old monsters from the various factions advanced in force, forming a vast and aggressive army that swept toward the Five Elements Heavenly Pass. Their numbers were staggering and their lineup terrifying.

Such a display was rare even within the Fate Lotus World. The gazes of countless spectators shifted toward the pass. Killing intent filled the heavens and the earth.

Lin Xun's eyes were deep as an abyss as he slowly swept his gaze across the incoming figures. A cold smile curved his lips. "Unwilling to retreat even after defeat? Fine. Line up and wait to die, one by one."

The words were spoken casually, almost lazily, yet they carried an overbearing dominance. Ying Tiansheng and Jiang Mingshui's expressions darkened.

Line up to die? What kind of arrogance was that?!

"When we seize this Five Elements Heavenly Pass," Jiang Mingshui said coldly, "I'll make you repeat those words."

"Enough nonsense. Who's first for a life or death duel?" Lin Xun declared bluntly, too lazy to waste any more breath on them.

Life or death...

Jiang Mingshui and Ying Tiansheng both faltered. Even with their overwhelming numbers, they had never truly intended to stake everything on life-or-death duels. Lin Xun's blunt challenge made their chests feel stifled, their expressions growing darker and darker.

Seeing this, Lin Xun couldn't help but laugh softly, his eyes filled with undisguised disdain. "I thought you all had such great courage. Turns out you're nothing more than this."

Xing Jianxia and the others burst into laughter as well, their mocking voices echoing across the battlefield.

Jiang Mingshui and Ying Tiansheng felt their blood boil.

Arrogant! Unbearably arrogant!

"I'll deal with this brat."

Lu Zhongyan's eyes turned ice-cold. With a flick of his sleeve, he struck the Great Dao Ring Monuments engraved with 'victory or defeat.'

Buzz!

A shower of radiant light erupted into the sky, weaving together in the void before transforming into an ancient battlefield steeped in cold, bloody aura.

At the same time, Xing Jianjia's killing intent surged. "Let me handle him."

Lin Xun shook his head calmly. "Why use a butcher's blade to slaughter chickens? Senior, don't rush. You'll have plenty of chances later."

Chickens?!

Lu Zhongyan's youthful, handsome face twisted with fury, his eyes blazing with murderous light.

Buzz!

The next moment, he and Lin Xun appeared on the battlefield simultaneously, standing opposite one another across the void. All eyes locked onto them.

Lu Zhongyan was a terrifying existence who had survived six Great Silence Unlife Calamities. His battle power surpassed that of Qiu Fengchi and Demon Lord Huyong, and was enough to contend with giants like Ying Tiansheng and Jiang Mingshui.

Even within the Fate Lotus World, he stood among the absolute peak. Despite that, neither Ying Tiansheng nor the distant spectators dared to say with certainty that he would win.

Because his opponent was Lin Xun! He was a terrifying figure who had once slain Demon Lord Huyong while still at the perfect Creation Realm. Now, he had stepped into the Immeasurable Realm.

Who could forget that Qiu Fengchi and other Greater Boundless Realm giants had been slaughtered by him before the Four Symbols Heavenly Gate? Who could forget that, just moments ago, Lin Xun had single-handedly overturned the entire battle and pulled Daoist Shanfeng and the others back from the brink of destruction?

Although Lin Xun had yet to undergo even a single Great Silence Unlife Calamity, his combat prowess alone was already enough to make every giant present feel deeply wary.

"What? You don't agree with me saying this is using a butcher's blade to slaughter chickens? Fine. Then I'll show you what it really means to kill a chicken to warn the monkeys!" Lin Xun said calmly, without the slightest hint of courtesy.

Those words were an outright humiliation, causing Lu Zhongyan's expression to flicker violently between rage and gloom. He drew a deep breath and spoke through clenched teeth, each word heavy and cold. "Then I'll really have to see it for myself!"

Buzz—

Soon, the suppressing law power around them dissipated. Almost at once, Lu Zhongyan made his move.

Boom! His fiery robes billowed as blazing dao light erupted from his body, making him look as though he was wreathed in divine flames. His aura surged to its absolute peak. A massive sword appeared in his hand.

The blade burned like liquid fire, its sword intent boiling and roaring, radiating a terrifying power that seemed capable of incinerating the heavens themselves. This was his Eternal weapon, Burning World.

“Slash!”

Lu Zhongyan surged forward, shattering the void with a single step. The giant sword reversed in his grasp like an inverted galaxy, and a torrent of world-destroying flames cleaved downward. It was as though a sea of heavenly fire had descended upon the world!

This single strike alone was enough to leave countless old monsters outside the battlefield inwardly shaken. As expected of someone who had survived six Great Silence Unlife Calamities, his very first move was already a full-force killing blow, terrifying beyond measure.

Boom! Divine flames raged wildly, wreaking havoc as a heaven-burning sword aura swept forth.

Despite that, Lin Xun merely stood with one hand behind his back, while the other casually swept forward. The movement was light, relaxed, as though brushing dust from his sleeve.

Boom! The divine flames shattered. The sword intent collapsed. Worse still, the giant sword in Lu Zhongyan’s hand trembled violently, as if struck by a heavenly hammer. With a deafening clang, it was nearly knocked out of his grip.

His face instantly drained of color. His figure froze mid-strike before being blasted backward like a falling meteor. With a single casual motion, Lin Xun repelled a peerless enemy. That sent a jolt through all the old monsters outside the battlefield, their expressions changing at once.

Especially Ying Tiansheng and the others, who had previously witnessed Lin Xun's combat power after he ascended to the Immeasurable Realm. Now they realized that Lin Xun was far stronger than he had been over twenty years ago!

Even Xing Jianxia and the others were stunned. This was the first time they had seen Lin Xun fight one-on-one. Watching Lu Zhongyan be crushed so effortlessly, a chill crept into their hearts. The present Lin Xun was truly terrifying!

"Is that all you've got?"

Lin Xun spoke lightly, but the contempt in his words was impossible to conceal. Lu Zhongyan's expression finally became serious. He drew in a deep breath, gripped the sword with both hands, raised it before him, and slammed the hilt toward the void.

Boom!

Thousands of sword intents surged forth, transforming into towering sword mountains that arranged themselves across the void, dense and endless, like a forest of blades stretching into the heavens. Each sword mountain resonated with the others, forming layer upon layer of impenetrable barriers.

It was as though, to even touch Lu Zhongyan, one would first have to cross this vast mountain range of swords. Ying Tiansheng and the others finally breathed a sigh of relief. They could all see that Lu Zhongyan had changed his strategy, abandoning offense for absolute defense.

In this way, they could stall for time, gradually wearing Lin Xun down. Even if were defeated in the end, at least his life would not be in danger.

Seeing this, Lin Xun merely shook his head, "It's useless."

Before the last word had even faded, he stepped forward into the air.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

With each step, the heavens trembled and the earth cracked. The void itself sank inward as Lin Xun's aura surged higher and higher, rising like an unstoppable tide. By the time he reached the towering sword mountains, his presence was like that of an unparalleled sovereign descending upon the world, his figure shrouded in hazy, chaotic divine radiance woven from boundless law power.

Lu Zhongyan drew a sharp breath, his expression changing once more.

"Go!" he roared. In an instant, thousands of sword mountains began to rotate and rise, transforming into colossal divine swords that pointed toward Lin Xun and cleaved down from every direction.

At that moment, Lin Xun raised a single finger. A wisp of finger force shot forth, like a razor-sharp ray of light that pierced through eternity itself.

PU! The foremost sword mountain was instantly pierced through, and then...

Pu! Pu! Pu!

Visible to the naked eye, that finger force tore straight through thousands of sword mountains as if they were layers of paper, advancing with unstoppable momentum!

So fast! It surged forward with unstoppable momentum, arriving before Lu Zhongyan in the blink of an eye. At this critical moment, a fiery-red bronze mirror, as if forged from divine gold, appeared out of thin air before Lu Zhongyan.

Boom!

A deafening explosion shook the battlefield. The mirror managed to block the finger force, but was immediately covered in dense, spiderweb-like cracks before shattering into countless fragments.

Lu Zhongyan spat out a mouthful of blood, his face filling with horror. The defensive power of the thousands of sword mountains was incomparably strong, yet it was pierced through by a single finger, and his crimson shield was shattered on the spot!

This crushing power sent chills down the spine of even an old monster like Lu Zhongyan, making him truly realize how terrifying Lin Xun was. He even began to regret being the first to step forward and challenge Lin Xun...

“Is there any difference between you and a chicken now?” Lin Xun strode toward him, his gaze cold and piercing.

Treating a Greater Boundless Realm giant like livestock...it was the greatest humiliation imaginable. The old monsters outside the battlefield all felt their faces burn with shame and fury.

However, Lu Zhongyan had no time to care. Seeing Lin Xun closing in, he retreated in a flash, attempting to fight while maintaining distance. In the outside world, such tactics could have worked perfectly.

Unfortunately, this was a battlefield of victory or defeat. No matter how vast it appeared, it still had its limits, which greatly restricted Lu Zhongyan’s movement. In addition, Lin Xun would never give him any chance to maneuver at all.

Boom! With a flick of his sleeve, a torrential rain of swords descended from the heavens, filling the void and roaring like a collapsing sky.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Lu Zhongyan struggled to defend, swinging his blade wildly, but was forced back again and again, his blood and qi surging chaotically, and his entire state in utter disarray. He had done everything he could, yet he still looked utterly miserable.

Shua!

Just as he tried to dodge again, a massive hand descended from the sky, crushing all resistance, shattering all defenses, and seizing him by the throat.

Bang!

Lu Zhongyan's body exploded. Before the blood and flesh could even scatter, they were instantly refined by the terrifying principle power surging from Lin Xun's palm, transforming into a pure and surging mass of Eternal origin power. This was the Five Principle Laws of the Return Dominion, now fused into the profound meaning of Nirvana. With a single thought, Lin Xun could unleash its might.

"No...!" Lu Zhongyan's primordial spirit screamed in terror. To have an Immeasurable Realm dao body completely refined was a devastating loss. Even if one wished to recover, it would take countless years.

"If this wasn't a victory or defeat battlefield, do you think you'd still be able to scream?"

As Lin Xun spoke, his fingers tightened once more. Agony tore through Lu Zhongyan's primordial spirit, as though pierced by ten thousand swords, his consciousness blurring into haze.

At that very moment, the laws of the battlefield erupted, forcibly carrying away Lu Zhongyan's primordial spirit at the brink of life and death.

Lin Xun was already used to such scenes and showed no surprise. He picked up the massive sword Lu Zhongyan had left behind, then his figure vanished into thin air from the battlefield.

Looking around, everyone was utterly stunned!

Chapter 3125 The Dao Heavenly Stairway

Lu Zhongyan was defeated, and it was a total and crushing defeat! In the shortest span of time, his dao body had been destroyed and his primordial spirit gravely injured! It was a devastating blow to the other old monsters present.

After all, Lu Zhongyan's strength was already among the very top, rivalling that of Ying Tiansheng and Jiang Mingshui. Now, even he had been defeated so effortlessly. From this moment on, anyone who wished to challenge Lin Xun would have to think very carefully about the price they might pay.

The atmosphere instantly grew heavy and oppressive. Ying Tiansheng and Jiang Mingshui both fell silent, their expressions uncertain, each lost in their own thoughts.

Meanwhile, atop the Five Elements Heavenly Pass, Xing Jianxia and the others beaming with excitement. Lin Xun's victory had been far too easy. He looked utterly unstoppable, crushing Lu Zhongyan in a single exchange! This also meant that even if their enemies hoped to exhaust Lin Xun through a war of attrition, their chances were slim at best!

The spectators in the distance were equally stirred. Once again, their perception of Lin Xun rose to a new height. In their eyes, he had now truly reached the level of Ying Tiansheng, Jiang Mingshui, and Sage Emperor Kong Yu!

"Continue?" Lin Xun said calmly, breaking the heavy silence.

Jiang Mingshui and the others exchanged glances, each showing a trace of hesitation.

"Allow me."

Beside Huanglong Zhenjun, a gaunt man stepped forth, his skin a pale golden shade, his hair and beard disheveled, and his aura deep and steady. The moment he appeared, many of the old monsters felt a surge of relief.

Domain Lord Chengtu!

He was a terrifying existence who had survived six Great Silence Unlife Calamities. He walked the path of bodily cultivation, and legend said that when he broke through to the Immeasurable Realm, even a single drop of his blood contained enough power to crush the laws of an entire world. It was nothing short of monstrous.

With his indestructible immortal body alone, he already possessed an overwhelming advantage in any battle.

Xun Daoyan hurriedly transmitted his voice to Lin Xun, explaining Domain Lord Chengtu's origins. "Long ago, Domain Lord Chengtu's senior brother died in a clash with your master. That is why he harbors such deep hatred toward Fangchun Mountain."

A flicker of realization crossed Lin Xun's eyes. In truth, many of the enemies before him were faces he had never seen before. Even so, he could easily tell that they were all enemies of Fangchun Mountain!

Divine Lord Linglong said softly, "In the Sea of Fate back then, your master sent all his friends to the All-Wonder Dominion. But that also meant he offended many powerful opponents in every Great Dao Contest. So, when you appeared, you naturally became their target for revenge."

Lin Xun nodded. Why did Fangchun Mountain now have more enemies than friends? The reason was simple. Back then, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain had sent all his friends to the All-Wonder Dominion. Those who remained behind were mostly his defeated foes.

Now, all those defeated figures had turned their gazes toward Lin Xun, the successor of the Lord of Fangchun Mountain...

Understanding this, a strange light flickered in Lin Xun's eyes.

If I were to do the same in this epoch's Great Dao Contest, how many defeated foes would also be harboring thoughts of revenge?

Before he could think any further, Domain Lord Chengtu had already stepped onto the battlefield.

.....

On the battlefield of victory or defeat, as the suppressing law power around Lin Xun and Domain Lord Chengtu dissipated, the duel erupted.

Clang!

Lord Chengtu sat cross-legged. With a casual wave of his hand, he produced a purple ruyi and gently tapped it against the ground. A thunderous drumbeat resounded through the void. Immediately afterward, layers of purple stone steps unfurled beneath him across the void.

In an instant, his figure kept rising, while the purple stone steps beneath him extended downward without end, condensing into ninety-nine levels in the blink of an eye!

Each step seemed to be carved from divine jade, engraved with mysterious totem laws, gods and demons soaring through the heavens, the sun and moon hanging high, endless cosmic expanses crisscrossed with intricate patterns...

Each layer of the stone steps seemed to be transformed from mysterious and unpredictable laws. Looking up from below felt as though one was gazing across ninety-nine layers of heaven!

Lord Chengtu sat cross-legged at the top, like a supreme deity standing above the ninety-nine heavens, gazing down upon all realms, peerless and unrivaled. The sight was utterly inconceivable. The moment it appeared, it drew every eye, and every many old monsters couldn't help but reveal looks of shock.

Dao Heavenly Stairway!

This was the embodiment of Lord Chengtu's entire cultivation, the crystallization of his wisdom, effort, and supreme power. To confront him was like being separated by ninety-nine heavens. Ordinary opponents couldn't even come close.

Anyone who tried to force their way through would be annihilated by the overwhelming power of the laws embedded within each step of the Dao Heavenly Stairway! This Dao Heavenly Stairway could be said to be Domain Lord Chengtu's most powerful supreme divine ability, and now, he had brought it out right from the start. This alone showed that he also regarded Lin Xun as his greatest enemy.

"Fortunately, Lord Chengtu has attained enlightenment through bodily cultivation. Now that he is using the Dao Heavenly Stairway to confront him, it should be enough to hold Lin Xun at bay for some time," Huanglong Zhenjun said leisurely.

The old monsters nearby also gradually relaxed. Lu Zhongyan's earlier crushing defeat had dealt them a heavy blow, but now that Domain Lord Chengtu had personally taken action, their spirits were finally lifted.

“Lived so long, yet only grown more despicable!” Xing Jianxia and the others couldn’t help but curse inwardly. It was obvious that Domain Lord Chengtu was deliberately trying to wear Lin Xun down.

On the battlefield of victory and defeat, Lin Xun raised an eyebrow and chuckled, “Old thing, you really think this can help you hold out a little longer?”

Atop the Dao Heavenly Stairway, Lord Chengtu held a purple ruyi in his hand. His expression was calm and unruffled as he spoke, “Young friend, if you wish to win, then come.”

His tone was light and casual, yet it exuded absolute confidence.

Lin Xun nodded. “As you wish.”

He stepped forward, his robes billowing, his figure ethereal like that of a reclusive immortal.

Boom!

The moment Lin Xun approached, a god and demon totem suddenly manifested on the first purple step, its violet light blazing brilliantly. In the next instant, thousands of illusory gods and demon figures surged forth, as though bursting out a demon abyss, roaring as they charged toward Lin Xun.

That horrific sight made many spectators suck in a sharp breath. However, Lin Xun neither dodged nor retreated. He simply swept his hand through the void.

Shua!

A streak of sword qi infused with the power of Nirvana shot forth, stretching for thousands of feet, ripping through the void with an invincible and indestructible aura.

Pu! Pu! Pu!

The countless gods and demons were obliterated under the sword strike, dissolving into radiant motes of light. Then, Lin Xun stepped onto the first purple stone step. Before he could even fully steady himself, a boundless golden sea of fire surged out from the second step, like a celestial flood breaking its restraints, roaring as it engulfed the surroundings.

Lin Xun flicked his sleeve. Boom!

The sea of fire capable of incinerating the heavens and destroying the earth was split cleanly in two, flames scattering violently in all directions. With a single casual motion, the sea was cleaved apart! That effortless display caused the old monsters outside the battlefield to subtly pale. They could achieve the same feat themselves, but never with such effortless ease.

Boom!

Before anyone could even react, countless torrents of white blade qi erupted from the third purple stone step, carrying with them a chilling and tyrannical aura of unparalleled destruction. Lin Xun did not even spare them a glance. He simply thrust his palm forward.

Bang! The boundless blade qi froze in midair, as if gripped by an invisible hand, then shattered all at once and vanished without leaving a trace.

On the fourth purple stone step, dazzling lightning of destruction surged forth. In the next instant, Lin Xun opened his mouth and swallowed it whole, refining it completely. Thus, he continued ascending step by step, effortlessly neutralizing every destructive force that emerged from the purple stone stairs.

Everyone could see that with each higher level, the power unleashed grew increasingly terrifying. However, none of it posed the slightest threat to Lin Xun. In the blink of an eye, his figure had already reached the thirty-sixth step!

Although he was still far from Domain Lord Chengtu, who sat at the ninety-ninth step, his speed of advancement alone made many feel uneasy. Despite that, Domain Lord Chengtu remained calm. He gently tapped the purple ruyi in his hand against the ground.

Boom!

In an instant, the stone steps behind Lin Xun vanished. Before him, another thirty-five steps appeared. The step he stood upon, the thirty-sixth, had become the first. This bizarre change left Xing Jianxia and the others stunned. How could such a thing be possible?

Ying Tiansheng and the others were stirred with excitement.

“What an astonishing Dao Heavenly Stairway!”

“With this method, unless Domain Lord Chengtu’s power is exhausted, Lin Xun will never be able to get close!”

As they spoke, faint smiles of relief appeared on their faces.

At that moment, Lin Xun suddenly took a step back, withdrawing from the Dao Heavenly Stairway, and said calmly, “I originally wanted to see what mysteries this Dao Heavenly Stairway concealed, but now it seems it’s nothing more than a defensive divine power, like a turtle shell.”

His expression remained serene, though tinged with mild disappointment.

Domain Lord Chengtu remained expressionless. “In my view, any technique that can render one invincible in battle is the strongest divine power in the world.”

He paused, then looked down at Lin Xun standing at the foot of the ninety-nine steps. “At the very least, Fellow Daoist Lin seems to be helpless for now.”

Lin Xun raised an eyebrow and smiled. “Within three punches, I’ll shatter your turtle shell!”

As his sleeves fluttered, he threw a punch. It was casual and understated, formless and immaterial, colorless and without shape, with not the slightest trace of power spilling forth. But when that punch was unleashed....Bang! Bang! Bang!

The purple stone steps shattered from the bottom upward like a string of exploding firecrackers, erupting into billowing violet mist and cascading showers of radiant light.

Before the might of that strike had even dissipated, Lin Xun threw a second punch.

Boom!

This was even more tyrannical and violent than before. The remaining Dao Heavenly Stairway shook violently as countless spiderweb-like cracks spread across its surface. Lord Chengtu's expression finally shifted. Sitting cross-legged atop the stairs, he drew in a deep breath and slammed the purple ruyi in his hand heavily onto the ground.

Rumble!

A vast and surging power of laws erupted outward. The shattered stone steps began to reform and extend once more, as though resurrected from destruction. At that moment, Lin Xun unleashed his third punch.

This punch was like the formless primal chaos before creation, like the boundless and bottomless abyss, like the nameless and eternal great dao itself. It carried the full profundity of Nirvana.

When that punch descended...Boom!

The law power covering the ninety-nine purple stone steps was utterly suppressed, crushed, and annihilated. The Dao Heavenly Stairway, hailed as the most powerful divine ability of Domain Lord Chengtu, also exploded in an instant. It was completely shattered by that single punch!

Chapter 3126 Suicide to Seek Defeat

Three punches shattered the Dao Heavenly Stairway. The shock of it sent waves through every spectator, dealing them a heavy blow. Earlier, Ying Tiansheng and the others had believed that with the divine power of the Dao Heavenly Stairway, Domain Lord Chengtu would stand invincible.

Who could have imagined that it would be destroyed in just three strikes? In particular, the unparalleled might of Lin Xun's final punch made even the old monsters outside the battlefield suck in sharp breaths, a strong sense of danger surging within their hearts.

Boom!

A shower of radiant light exploded outward, splattering in all directions. Caught completely off guard, Domain Lord Chengtu staggered as he sat cross-legged, his figure swaying violently. A thin stream of blood trickled from the corner of his lips.

The shock on his face was impossible to conceal. The Dao Heavenly Stairway was his most powerful technique. In past Great Dao Contests, he had relied on this divine power to remain undefeated time and again, even turning mortal danger into victory.

Now, it had been utterly destroyed by Lin Xun! How could he possibly remain calm?

"Young Friend Lin's strength is indeed heaven-defying and unparalleled," he said in a low voice, "but I will not admit defeat so easily."

Drawing in a deep breath, he tightened his grip around the purple ruyi and charged forward through the air. Although the Dao Heavenly Stairway had failed, his physical body remained incomparably powerful. He was completely unafraid to clash head-on with Lin Xun.

Even if victory was unlikely, at the very least, he had to exhaust as much of Lin Xun's strength as possible!

Buzz!

The purple ruyi smashed forth, dragons and tigers intertwining, purple qi surging from the east. Radiant torrents of law light poured down like a waterfall, stirring up a vast, fog-like sea of destruction.

“You really think that a battle of victory and defeat comes without a price? If you won’t admit defeat, I’ll beat you until you do!” Lin Xun’s expression remained indifferent as he leapt forward to meet the attack.

In an instant, a fierce battle erupted between the two. Dazzling torrents of law power filled the battlefield, sweeping and churning, plunging heaven and earth into chaos. In the blink of an eye, the two clashed hundreds of times.

Each exchange ended the same way. Lin Xun crushed Domain Lord Chengtu’s attacks head-on, sweeping them aside with unstoppable force, leaving him reeling, his blood and qi churning as he retreated in disarray.

The sight made countless old monsters turn pale.

Despite that, they had to admit that Domain Lord Chengtu’s dao body was truly terrifying. Even after suffering such relentless blows, he continued to fight tenaciously, and his injuries were far from severe.

Most unbelievable of all, every time he was wounded, his body recovered almost instantly, blood and qi flashing as his injuries vanished in the blink of an eye.

Lin Xun couldn’t help but frown slightly. Is attaining the dao through physical cultivation really this heaven-defying? I can’t get entangled with this old monster. The longer this drags on, the more my own strength will be consumed...

Boom!

The next moment, he no longer hesitated. He summoned the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron and launched a full-scale assault. The situation on the battlefield changed instantly.

Previously, Domain Lord Chengtu had been constantly at a disadvantage in head-on clashes, constantly suppressed and battered by Lin Xun. Though he managed to hold on, he was wounded again and again.

Once Lin Xun activated the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, Domain Lord Chengtu's situation turned truly perilous..

Crack!

In the blink of an eye, the purple ruyi in Domain Lord Chengtu's hand shattered as it collided once more with the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron. Under the violent impact, Domain Lord Chengtu coughed up a mouthful of blood, his face turning deathly pale.

Before he could even steady himself...Shua!

A dao sword shot out from the sword cauldron, flashing through the void. Blood sprayed into the air. Domain Lord Chengtu's body was split in two. The scene drew sharp gasps from the spectators.

Soon, as blood and qi churned, his body rapidly reformed, returning to its original state. Only his face had become even paler than before. This unbelievable sight left Xing Jianxia and the others deeply shaken.

"I'd like to see how many more times you can hold out!"

The killing intent in Lin Xun's eyes flared even brighter. Domain Lord Chengtu was simply too troublesome...practically unkillable. However, he also noticed that with each injury, Domain Lord Chengtu's power was being consumed at a rapid rate. He was clearly nearing his limit.

Rumble!

Lin Xun launched another assault. His attacks came like a raging storm, the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron roaring as it descended again and again, suppressing everything in its path.

Domain Lord Chengtu resisted with all his might, but his injuries only grew more severe. His dao body was shattered dozens of times. Although he recovered each time, everyone could see that his situation had become extremely dire!

“Argh!”

As Lin Xun shattered Domain Lord Chengtu’s body once more, he suddenly reached out.

Rumble!

A massive abyss opened in midair, spinning like a colossal vortex. Before Domain Lord Chengtu could even react, his shattered dao body was dragged into it and swallowed whole. Within the abyss, the profound mysteries of the Five Principle Laws of the Return Dominion circulated endlessly, refining him without mercy.

“Damn it!”

At this moment, Domain Lord Chengtu’s primordial spirit completely changed expression. He had attained enlightenment through physical cultivation, and all of his cultivation was contained within his physical body. If that body were completely destroyed, it would be no different from true death.

Seeing that most of his shell had already been refined, Domain Lord Chengtu made a decision that shocked everyone present. He destroyed his own primordial spirit!

This was no different from suicide. However, on this battlefield of victory or defeat, it produced a truly miraculous effect.

Buzz!

In an instant, a surge of law power erupted, forcibly snatching away the dao body and primordial spirit of Domain Lord Chengtu that were being refined. Caught completely off guard, Lin Xun froze in place, stunned. He committed suicide to escape? Was such a thing even possible?

Moments later, Lin Xun’s figure was also teleported away, returning to the Five Elements Heavenly Pass. The atmosphere in the area grew strangely heavy. Domain Lord Chengtu had been defeated. However, he had ended the battle through suicide. The result felt absurd, bizarre, and deeply unsettling.

Ying Tiansheng, Jiang Mingshui, and the other old monsters were all dumbfounded. Having taken part in so many battles in the Fate Lotus World, they had witnessed countless contests of victory or defeat. Despite that, this was the first time they had ever seen someone actively seek defeat through suicide...

If word of this spread, it would surely become a laughingstock for the entire world. Looking at Domain Lord Chengtu again, his expression was a storm of conflicting emotions. He had been gravely injured. Lin Xun had refined nearly thirty percent of the power of his dao body, which was equivalent to a devastating blow to his very foundation!

Of course, what truly tormented him was not the injury, but the humiliation he felt within. What else could he do? Under those circumstances, only in this way could he borrow the battlefield's law power to save his own life.

Otherwise, he would have ended up just like Lu Zhongyan before him, with his flesh and blood completely refined away, leaving nothing at all behind!

"Utterly disgraceful."

"Hahaha, this astonishing feat of 'suicide to seek defeat' will surely make your name soar through the ages, Domain Lord Chengtu."

"When this is spoken of in the future, you, Chengtu, will undoubtedly be remembered as the pioneer of this path. Your name will be etched into history for all eternity!"

Within the Five Elements Heavenly Pass, Xing Jianxia and the others made no attempt to conceal their mockery. Domain Lord Chengtu's face darkened until it was as black as the bottom of a pot.

Grinding his teeth, he crushed his Dao Fate Orb and withdrew from Fate Lotus World! It was obvious that the humiliation had left him unable to remain for even a moment longer.

Jiang Mingshui and Ying Tiansheng exchanged glances, their expressions grim. Following Lu Zhongyan, even Domain Lord Chengtu had been defeated.

All of this allowed them to witness firsthand the terrifying extent of Lin Xun's combat power. Even figures like Ying Tiansheng and Jiang Mingshui no longer possessed absolute confidence in defeating him. A heavy shadow now hung over their respective factions.

However, they also realized that after this battle, Lin Xun's strength must have been greatly depleted, and the cost he had paid was no small one. If they failed to seize this opportunity to challenge him now, then once Lin Xun recovered, the price Domain Lord Chengtu had paid would have been in vain.

What should they do? Should they fight...or retreat? The atmosphere was stifling. It was deeply frustrating.

Old monsters from all the major factions had gathered. There were forty to fifty in total, and the lineup was powerful enough to shake the world, but now, they were trapped in an awkward dilemma, unable to advance and unwilling to withdraw.

If word of this spread, they would lose all face. More importantly, if they gave up and retreated now, endless troubles would surely follow in the future.

"You've only fought two battles, and you're already thinking of backing down?" Lin Xun's voice broke the silence, calm yet piercing.

"All our lives, we've defied the heavens. When have we ever feared life or death?" Suddenly, from within Zhu Tianjun's camp, an old man in hemp robes strode forward in fury, his expression stern and righteous. "Let me handle this!"

The crowd was stirred.

Zhu Tianjun pondered for a moment, then spoke in a deep voice, "How about this? Each faction will take turns sending out their strongest experts to challenge him. Regardless of victory or defeat, no one may retreat or hesitate."

"Agreed." Ying Tiansheng nodded.

The factions led by Jiang Mingshui, Huanglong Zhenjun, Sage Emperor Kong Yu, and others also nodded in agreement. Hesitation would only bring greater chaos. Since they were already trapped in this dilemma, they might as well go all out and claim this battle at any cost!

With the decision made, the old monsters gradually calmed down. Their expressions turned resolute, and the atmosphere shifted.

Lin Xun frowned slightly. He could also tell that the old monsters from the various camps had completely committed themselves and were ready to pay any price to attack. Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli were likewise unsettled. They realized that a series of brutal battles was about to unfold.

“Lin Xun, since this is a battle of victory or defeat, you shouldn’t push yourself too hard. We can take turns fighting in your place. Use this opportunity to recover,” Xing Jianxia transmitted.

Lin Xun nodded silently.

At this moment, the elder in hemp robes who had stepped forward spoke with satisfaction, “I am deeply gratified that everyone is united in purpose.”

He had never imagined that his moment of righteous indignation would prompt the various factions to make such a decision. Then, he strode forward and struck the Great Dao Ring Monument marked with ‘victory or defeat.’

“You just said you’ve weren’t afraid of life and death. I thought you wanted a real life or death battle.” Lin Xun sneered.

From afar, the old man in hemp robes let out a cold snort. “Young man, your provocations are useless. Be arrogant while you still can. When you die, I want to see if you’re still as arrogant as before.”

Lin Xun chuckled softly. “Lu Zhongyan lost his dao body and suffered severe damage to his primordial spirit. Domain Lord Chengtu sought defeat through suicide, setting a precedent in history. What about you? Which ending do you plan to choose?”

“You...” Before the old man could finish, the law power suppressing both sides suddenly vanished.

In that instant, Lin Xun moved.

Shua!

Like a streak of light tearing through the bonds of time and space, his figure crossed the battlefield in a flash. He was so fast it was almost unbelievable. The old man’s expression changed drastically. He roared and unleashed all his strength.

Boom!

A deafening explosion shook the heavens. In the next moment, the old man in hemp robes was blasted away, his physical body shattered by a single palm strike and his primordial spirit firmly captured in Lin Xun’s grasp. One strike suppressed the enemy!

Chapter 3127 Who Are You Calling Shameful?

The old man in hemp robes was an existence who had survived five Great Silence Unlife Calamities. Although his strength was slightly inferior to that of Demon Lord Huyong, the difference was not great. Of course, he was still far from being comparable to top figures like Lu Zhongyan and Domain Lord Chengtu.

Thus, many had already concluded that he was doomed to lose this battle. The only question was how long he could hold out, and how much of Lin Xun’s strength he could exhaust.

Who could have imagined that the old man in hemp robes would be defeated in a single strike? The outcome came so swiftly that everyone stared in disbelief.

On the Five Elements Heavenly Pass, Xing Jianxia and the others were also momentarily stunned, before bursting into laughter. This old fellow had looked righteous and imposing just moments ago...yet now he seemed nothing more than pitiful.

“How do you feel?” Lin Xun asked calmly.

The primordial spirit of the old man in hemp robes, clutched tightly in his hands, appeared completely dazed. After a long while, he hissed, “I told you! You’ll be killed eventually! Even if you defeat me now, what does it matter?”

“Good!” Zhu Tianjun couldn’t help but applaud.

The other old monsters also nodded in secret. This was what one called losing the battle but not losing face.

“But your dao foundation will suffer irreparable damage,” Lin Xun said lightly.

That single sentence made the old man in hemp robes’ expression change drastically. He couldn’t help but recall the scene of Domain Lord Chengtu seeking defeat through suicide.

“And you won’t even have time to commit suicide.”

Those additional words nearly drove his primordial spirit to the brink of collapse.

Bang!

The next moment, an immense force erupted from Lin Xun’s palm, like a peerless sword thrust directly into the old man’s primordial spirit.

Just as it was about to shatter and explode, a familiar surge of law power descended, forcibly pulling him away. Thus, the battle came to an end.

However, Jiang Mingshui and the others looked extremely grim. This time, the old man in hemp robes had been defeated far too quickly. The loss to Lin Xun’s strength was negligible, but the damage to the old man’s dao foundation was severe. The price he had paid was simply too great!

“Jiang Mingshui, it’s your side’s turn,” Zhu Tianjun reminded.

Jiang Mingshui snorted coldly, “No need to remind me.”

He swept his gaze over his camp. The faces of the old monsters stiffened. If possible, none of them wanted to face Lin Xun.

“Old Guan, you go,” Jiang Mingshui said.

The one who was singled out was a burly man. The corner of his mouth twitched, but he still forced himself to step forward.

Buzz!

Soon, the battlefield of victory or defeat reappeared. Once again, the one who stepped onto the field was Lin Xun. The battle erupted, and only moments later, the burly man, whose strength was no weaker than Demon Lord Huyong’s, was also defeated by Lin Xun.

The outcome was entirely predictable. What truly shocked everyone was that, in his final moment, the burly man chose the same disgraceful path as Domain Lord Chengtu: suicide to seek defeat...

This immediately drew mocking laughter from Xing Jianxia and the others. Although Jiang Mingshui and Ying Tiansheng looked gloomy, they had no choice but to admit one thing: compared to having their dao foundation shattered by Lin Xun, this method of ‘suicide to seek defeat’ was actually the better option...

“Sage Emperor Kong Yu, it’s your turn,” Jiang Mingshui reminded.

“Brother Jun’an, you shall take this battle,” Sage Emperor Kong Yu said, looking toward a man in yellow robes.

This Jun’an was a top-tier figure who had survived six Great Silence Unlife Calamities, a powerhouse whose combat strength was comparable to Lu Zhongyan’s. Despite that, after stepping onto the battlefield, he was defeated by Lin Xun in mere moments.

What was even more shocking was that he acted with even greater decisiveness. Upon seeing his physical body destroyed, he immediately committed suicide to seek defeat...

In the past, such a method had been regarded as shameful. Now, the old monsters present seemed to be gradually accepting it.

“Ying Tiansheng, it’s your turn.”

From that point on, one old monster after another stepped forward. Whether they liked it or not, the moment they entered the battlefield, they fought as if their lives depended on it, unleashing every last ounce of strength.

After all, whether you stuck your neck out or not, the blade would still fall, so you might as well fight with everything you had. And every time, the one who stepped onto the battlefield was Lin Xun. And every time, the one who emerged victorious was also Lin Xun.

The most absurd part was that every defeated old monster, without any prior agreement, chose the exact same ending: suicide to seek defeat, then immediately withdraw from the battlefield.

This succession of humiliating defeats piled up like heavy hammer blows, causing Jiang Mingshui and Ying Tiansheng’s expressions to darken to the extreme. They even began to look uneasy.

By all logic, after so many battles, Lin Xun should have expended a tremendous amount of strength. However, he looked exactly the same as when he started and never once showed the slightest sign of fatigue.

Even worse, Xing Jianxia, Fu Nanli, and the others had not yet entered the battlefield. Which meant that even if Lin Xun became exhausted, others could immediately take his place.

How could Jiang Mingshui and the others not feel uneasy?

.....

In the distance, the number of spectators continued to grow. Many old monsters rushed over after hearing the news. Among them were figures who hated Lin Xun to the bone, but after witnessing what had happened before the Five Elements Heavenly Pass, their hearts grew heavy. How could they possibly dare to rush forward?

Even if they did, they would merely end up lining up for a war of attrition like Ying Tiansheng and the others. If there were even the slightest chance of victory, that would be one thing. Unfortunately, the problem was that no such chance had appeared at all.

Just look at how many terrifying figures Ying Tiansheng and the various factions had gathered, yet even now, not a single one of them had managed to defeat Lin Xun! Of course, many also noticed that true giants like Ying Tiansheng and Jiang Mingshui themselves had yet to make a move.

If even they hadn't acted, how could those old monsters who had just arrived possibly be foolish enough to step forward first?

"That Lin Xun is simply too powerful."

Countless people were shaken to the core.

"In my opinion, if he were at his peak, even giants like Ying Tiansheng, Jiang Mingshui, Huanglong Zhenjun, and Sage Emperor Kong Yu might not be able to suppress him..." someone analyzed calmly, arriving at a chilling conclusion.

Lin Xun, who had only just stepped into the Immeasurable Realm, already possessed the strength to threaten giants! In the entire Fate Lotus World, there were no more than a dozen beings who wielded such power, such as Su Wanjun, Du Feng of the Buddhist Epoch, and Weng Xinghai of the Shamanic Epoch.

"If Lin Xun isn't killed..." someone murmured softly, "...then all those who treat Fangchun Mountain as an enemy will likely meet with disaster in the future..."

.....

Boom!

Before the Five Elements Heavenly Pass, on the battlefield of victory or defeat, yet another old monster was defeated and committed suicide to seek defeat. This marked the seventeenth opponent Lin Xun had defeated!

Never before in history had such a shocking war of attrition unfolded. One powerful old monster after another fell in succession...

Furthermore, the one who defeated them all was a young man who had only just attained the Immeasurable Realm! This spectacle dealt a devastating blow to Jiang Mingshui and Ying Tiansheng.

Just then, Huanglong Zhenjun stepped forward and spoke calmly, “This boy is far too arrogant. Let me put him in his place.”

Clad in a green robe, an ancient sword with pine-patterned engravings strapped across his back, Huanglong Zhenjun radiated an otherworldly and imposing bearing.

“Then we’ll have to trouble Fellow Daoist,” Jiang Mingshui said with a sigh of relief. The other old monsters also visibly relaxed.

Huanglong Zhenjun, an existence of terrifying might, had traversed nine epochs in the Sea of Fate. Whether in seniority or foundation, he surpassed figures like Jiang Mingshui and Ying Tiansheng. Moreover, both Jiang Mingshui and Ying Tiansheng had already deduced that after seventeen consecutive battles, Lin Xun’s strength must have been severely depleted.

Even if Lin Xun was not yet completely exhausted, once a giant of Huanglong Zhenjun’s level took the field, he would undoubtedly gain an overwhelming advantage! After all, one stood at his peak...while the other had already fought battle after battle and was no longer capable of unleashing his peak power.

Upon seeing this, the expressions of Xing Jianxia and the others changed slightly.

“Allow me,” Xun Daoyan was the first to speak. “Young Friend Lin Xun, take this opportunity to rest properly.”

“I can do the same,” Divine Lord Linglong added calmly.

Among them, Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli possessed strength comparable to Demon Lord Huyong, but they were still a step below Huanglong Zhenjun. Xun Daoyan and Divine Lord Linglong were different. Their strength rivaled that of Ying Tiansheng and Jiang Mingshui, and though they were slightly inferior to Huanglong Zhenjun, the gap between them was not huge

Moreover, this was merely a battle of victory or defeat, which meant losing did not mean death.

“If you dare to make a move, Xun Daoyan, we will surely annihilate you one day!” Ying Tiansheng warned coldly.

“Don’t forget,” Jiang Mingshui sneered, “You and Divine Lord Linglong are both lone cultivators. If you insist on following that brat Lin Xun down this dark path, only death awaits you in the end!”

Zhu Tianjun echoed their threats. No one wanted Huanglong Zhenjun’s opponent to be anyone else.

Xun Daoyan sneered. “If I were afraid of threats, why would I have gotten involved in this storm in the first place?”

“They’re behaving this way because they’re worried that if we step in, Young Friend Lin Xun will have time to recover,” Divine Lord Linglong said coldly.

“Lin Xun, do you dare face me?” Huanglong Zhenjun turned his gaze directly toward Lin Xun, openly provoking him.

This was the simplest form of provocation.

From everyone else’s perspective, Lin Xun would never take the bait.

Yet Lin Xun smiled and nodded. “Alright, I’ve been waiting for you...the real big fish.”

The entire crowd froze, completely caught off guard.

Even Huanglong Zhenjun himself was taken aback. This kid...agreed that easily?

“Young Friend Lin Xun, do not be reckless,” Xun Daoyan said solemnly. “Even if this is only a battle of victory or defeat, if you are seriously wounded, the Five Elements Heavenly Pass will inevitably fall!”

Others quickly joined in to dissuade him.

Lin Xun sent a calm transmission, “Seniors, rest assured. Those before were merely appetizers. Now that the real prize has finally appeared, how could I let him slip away?”

Xing Jianxia and the others were stunned. It was as if Lin Xun had been waiting for this moment all along.

“Are you certain?” Huanglong Zhenjun asked, suspicion flickering in his eyes.

“If I didn’t give you this advantage, old man, you probably wouldn’t make a move at all,” Lin Xun replied seriously. “Since that’s the case, why should I change my mind?”

Then he added flatly, “For me, dealing with antiques like you is the most interesting thing. As for the ones before...they were simply not worthy.”

His words were arrogant to the extreme and utterly domineering, thoroughly humiliating every old monster who had suffered a crushing defeat at his hands.

However, Huanglong Zhenjun instead relaxed and said calmly, “With that kind of courage, I’ll make you admit defeat wholeheartedly when we duel later!”

Lin Xun sneered. “Just make sure you don’t commit suicide to seek defeat.”

These words made even Huanglong Zhenjun laugh in fury. “I am not the sort to rely on tricks, nor would I ever resort to such shameful methods!” His words rang out, loud and resolute.

The faces of those old monsters who had previously ‘committed suicide to seek defeat’ all darkened. What did he mean by tricks? Who exactly was he calling shameful? Huanglong Zhenjun...who were you insulting?

Chapter 3128 Reversal!

Words spoken without intent can still wound those who take them to heart. Huanglong Zhenjun, however, paid no heed to the thoughts of others. He strode forward and struck the Great Dao Ring Monument engraved with the words ‘victory or defeat’ from afar.

Then, he raised his head, fixed his gaze on Lin Xun, and said calmly, “I hope you won’t disappoint me!”

Buzz!

Radiant light intertwined as surging laws descended, and the battlefield of victory or defeat reappeared once more. Lin Xun and Huanglong Zhenjun appeared on the battlefield, standing far apart, facing one another across the void.

The crowd instantly erupted into uproar.

“Lin Xun has already fought seventeen battles, and he still dares to face Huanglong Zhenjun? Has he lost his mind?”

Many were utterly incredulous. No sane person would ever make such a choice. Why insist on fighting personally when he could have let someone else take his place?

“Lin Xun is no fool. Have you ever seen a fool who could slay Demon Lord Huyong while only at the Creation Realm? What’s more, he has already defeated seventeen old monsters in succession!”

“Since he dares to do this, he must have something to rely on!”

Some cultivators’ eyes burned with excitement, anticipation blazing within them.

“Huanglong Zhenjun is no ordinary Greater Boundless Realm giant. His foundation is unfathomably deep. There are few in the Fate Lotus World who can compare to him. Lin Xun’s chances of victory are slim.”

“So what if he loses? This is only a battle of victory or defeat, and not a life or death duel.”

Discussions rippled endlessly among the spectators in the distance, all of them captivated by the impending clash. Huanglong Zhenjun’s might had long been renowned throughout these epochs. How could his appearance not command attention?

Of note, Lin Xun was no ordinary figure either!

Jiang Mingshui, Ying Tiansheng, and the others watched closely, anticipation heavy in their eyes. This battle was pivotal. It would decide the direction of everything that followed!

“Young Friend Lin Xun... does he truly have confidence in victory?”

Xun Daoyan and Divine Lord Linglong both felt a sense of unease.

“As far as I know, he never does anything he isn’t not certain of,” Xing Jiangxia said softly

On the battlefield, seeing that Lin Xun had indeed arrived as promised, Huanglong Zhenjun finally relaxed. A faint smile curved his lips. “Young man,” he said, “remember what I told you. In this battle, I will make you admit defeat wholeheartedly!”

Lin Xun laughed lightly. “Then remember this: attempting suicide to seek defeat is a shameful thing.”

Their gazes locked. The atmosphere on the battlefield instantly grew taut, like a bowstring drawn to its limit. As the suppressive law power faded away, Huanglong Zhenjun swiftly formed seals with his hands and uttered a thunderous command, “Rise!”

Clang!

The ancient sword etched with pine patterns leapt from his back and shot into the heavens, clear and limpid like a pool of autumn water. Its vast sword intent roared outward, stirring the laws of the nine heavens into rippling waves.

“Slash!”

The sword cleaved downward. In that instant, all the spectators felt a sharp sting in their eyes, their breathing growing heavy and suffocating. The pine-patterned ancient sword seemed to transform into the sharpest and brightest beam of light in existence. It was so powerful it defied imagination, so terrifying it chilled the heart.

A true expert could tell the quality of a strike at a single glance. The moment Huanglong Zhenjun unleashed his sword, he revealed the might of a terrifying giant. His strength far surpassed that of any of the old monsters who had previously fought Lin Xun, leaving the spectators awestruck and trembling.

So strong! Terrifyingly strong!

Even Ying Tiansheng, Jiang Mingshui, and the others felt their hearts shake. What magnificent swordsmanship!

Despite that, Lin Xun’s expression remained calm and unruffled. Only in his deep, abyss-like eyes was the incoming sword reflected, and in that instant, his fighting spirit erupted. The previous seventeen battles had been like layers of accumulation for him, each victory tempering and refining his fighting intent.

They had also forged within him an unshakable belief of invincibility. Now, Huanglong Zhenjun’s sword had completely ignited the power that had been building within Lin Xun’s heart!

“Rise!”

From within the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, the dao sword roared forth, cleaving through the void.

Clang!

The two swords collided, as though two supreme sword daos were crashing together in the heavens. Terrifying sword intent surged and clashed, giving rise to a raging dao torrent that swept across heaven and earth.

Many people gasped sharply. That single exchange had shaken them to their core.

“With ten thousand thunderbolts as its guide, the sword devours the heavens!”

With a flick of his sleeve, Huanglong Zhenjun unleashed terrifying lightning from his pine-patterned ancient sword, blasting Lin Xun’s dao sword violently backward. Then Huanglong Zhenjun stepped into the void, his bearing as radiant as an eternal sun, his presence surging forth and piercing through the entire battlefield.

The aura was overwhelmingly oppressive. Even Ying Tiansheng and Jiang Mingshui felt their hearts tighten, strange light flashing in their eyes. This old monster is even stronger than rumored!

If not for Lin Xun, no one could have forced him to reveal his full strength!

“All streams return to the sea, my path returns to the sword!”

With a thunderous roar, Huanglong Zhenjun slashed down once more. The ancient sword swept forth like a boundless ocean engulfing the heavens.

Clang!

Lin Xun raised his dao sword to block. He had just managed to withstand that vast and boundless strike when Huanglong Zhenjun was already attacking again.

“My path is boundless, my sword is flawless!”

Buzz!

The pine-patterned ancient sword traced a perfect circle through the void, forming a flawless and peerless arc, within which surged indescribable law power.

Rumble—

As the sword descended, Lin Xun’s figure was violently shaken. He staggered back several steps, blood and qi roiling chaotically within his body. The spectators erupted into an uproar. Everyone knew Huanglong Zhenjun was powerful, but only after witnessing him in battle did they realize just how terrifying his strength truly was!

On the Five Elements Heavenly Pass, Xun Daoyan and Divine Lord Linglong both turned pale. Only Xing Jianxia and the others still appeared outwardly composed, yet in truth their hearts were already stretched taut with tension.

After all, this was the first time in over a dozen battles that Lin Xun had been forced back in a head-on clash.

“Wind and rain surge from all directions, boundless might from the ten realms!”

On the battlefield of victory or defeat, Huanglong Zhenjun stood like an unrivaled sovereign, his sword sweeping through the void as he roared across the heavens. That overwhelming bearing and majestic presence stunned the entire audience.

Shua!

A terrifying surge of sword qi swept forth, like a howling storm rising from all directions, roaring as it ravaged the battlefield of victory and defeat. Everyone could see that Lin Xun had nowhere to run or hide.

However, he had no intention of dodging at all. His dark eyes flashed like lightning as he charged straight forward, dao sword in hand, meeting the attack head-on. His fighting spirit was unleashed like never before, erupting in full.

Rumble!

A fierce battle erupted between the two, and the entire battlefield was drowned in violently surging sword qi. Terrifying scenes unfolded one after another, sending chills through countless old monsters. Frankly speaking, if they were in Lin Xun's place, most of them doubted they could have withstood Huanglong Zhenjun's tyrannical and overwhelming assault.

Looking at Lin Xun now, although he could still withstand those attacks crashing upon him like raging rivers, he was repeatedly forced back, his figure swaying unsteadily. Without a doubt, Huanglong Zhenjun had seized the absolute upper hand!

This instantly made Ying Tiansheng, Jiang Mingshui, and the others light up with joy, and the gloom that had weighed on their hearts earlier finally swept away.

"Boy, how does it feel?"

On the battlefield, Huanglong Zhenjun burst into loud laughter, his demeanor bold and unrestrained, as though he was a god surveying the world.

"Nothing special," Lin Xun replied casually.

"Haha! You won't shed tears until they see the coffin!" Huanglong Zhenjun laughed again, and his offensive only grew more ferocious. His ancient sword swept freely through the void, scattering peerless sword qi in all directions.

“If heaven and earth are flawed, my sword will mend them! Yin and Yang divide the clear from the turbid, black from white! The great dao is vast and boundless, I govern my own rise and fall!”

...One terrifying sword art after another was unleashed, each giving rise to astonishing and unbelievable phenomena.

Some of the old monsters were so dazzled that their minds were completely captivated. Even Ying Tiansheng and Jiang Mingshui had to admit that Huanglong Zhenjun’s combat power surpassed their own!

Under such relentless suppression, Lin Xun’s situation seemed increasingly dire, as though he were completely overpowered and on the verge of collapse.

Some people couldn’t help but sigh, “Why did you have to be so stubborn earlier?”

Zhu Tianjun chuckled and transmitted his voice, “Everyone, once Lin Xun is defeated, we’ll take turns dealing with those old fogies like Xing Jianxia. We must end this quickly. Once we win five consecutive matches, the Five Elements Heavenly Pass will fall into our hands!”

At that very moment, on the battlefield, Lin Xun suddenly burst into loud laughter. “Old man, so this is your full strength? I’m afraid it’s still not enough to make me admit defeat wholeheartedly.”

Huanglong Zhenjun raised his brows, about to retort, when suddenly something completely unexpected happened. Lin Xun’s figure blurred, and five dao bodies emerged out of thin air!

Boom!

A dazzling surge of divine light erupted across the battlefield, forcing Huanglong Zhenjun to stagger backward under the shockwave. Each of those five dao bodies possessed strength no weaker than Lin Xun’s true self. Acting together, they instantly reversed the perilous situation.

“This...”

The spectators in the distance were completely stunned.

“It’s his five dao bodies! I knew it!” an old monster cried out.

During the previous Fate Lotus World, there had been countless rumors about Lin Xun’s five dao bodies. However, after he attained the Immeasurable Realm, most people had almost forgotten about them.

Only at this moment did it strike everyone all at once. According to the rumors, each of Lin Xun’s five dao bodies possessed power no weaker than his true self. Didn’t this mean that there were now six Lin Xuns fighting side by side on the battlefield?

This realization made countless people inhale sharply.

“As expected...” Ying Tiansheng clenched his teeth, his expression darkening.

Before this, he had never seen Lin Xun summon those dao bodies and had assumed they had yet to be fully tempered after his breakthrough. Now it was clear that Lin Xun had been deliberately hiding them as trump cards, choosing to reveal them only at this critical moment.

Zhu Tianjun felt as though he had just been slapped hard across the face. The burning sting made his expression turn ugly. Just moments ago, he had confidently spoken about what to do after Lin Xun was defeated.

In the very next instant, Lin Xun used his five dao bodies to turn the tide completely! How was this any different from being publicly slapped in the face?

“So he finally brought them out...”

Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli both let out long breaths of relief. The reason they had remained so calm earlier was precisely because they knew very well that Lin Xun still hadn’t brought out his five dao bodies!

“Damn it!”

On the battlefield, Huanglong Zhenjun’s face darkened. This sudden reversal had caught him completely off guard. However, before he could think any further, Lin Xun and his dao bodies charged forward together.

Rumble!

In the blink of an eye, Huanglong Zhenjun was besieged from all directions, his figure instantly engulfed by a storm of attacks. In that instant, the situation on the battlefield was completely reversed!

Chapter 3129 How Do We Fight?

Earlier, Huanglong Zhenjun had stood majestic and heroic, like a god ruling over the sword dao, radiating an air of supreme dominance that inspired awe in all who beheld him.

However, from that moment on, he was plunged into a tight encirclement, unable to break free! The reversal came so suddenly that it left everyone stunned.

Lin Xun’s strength once again shook the crowd to the core. His true body alone was already terrifyingly powerful, and now, with five dao bodies fighting at his side...within the Fate Lotus World, they could already be said to stand at the very pinnacle!

Rumble!

In the battlefield of victory or defeat, Huanglong Zhenjun was driven into desperate straits. He could barely fight back, let alone protect himself. In a short time, his body was riddled with wounds, bones shattered, blood spraying everywhere.

He roared again and again, trying to break through the encirclement, yet all his efforts were in vain. Even watching this scene was enough to make one’s scalp go numb and one’s heart race in fear. A monstrous figure like Huanglong Zhenjun was being beaten to such a miserable state. Who would have believed that just moments ago he had been so arrogant and carefree?

“Admit defeat?” Lin Xun asked coldly.

“Not even if I die!” Huanglong Zhenjun roared, eyes bloodshot, hair disheveled, his entire appearance ferocious and grotesque.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Dense barrages of fist force, sword qi, palm seals, and finger power surged in from every direction like a raging torrent, blasting his body apart again and again. Blood splattered across the battlefield.

The sight sent chills through Ying Tiansheng and Jiang Mingshui. They had hoped that Huanglong Zhenjun’s appearance would turn the tide. Now it seemed that even Huanglong Zhenjun was no match!

Even after seventeen battles, even when no longer at peak condition, Lin Xun was still far stronger than what Huanglong Zhenjun could contend with.

“Admit defeat?” Lin Xun asked once more. At this moment, he and the five dao bodies struck again together. It was no different from pinning Huanglong Zhenjun to the ground and beating him mercilessly.

“Never!” Huanglong Zhenjun roared wildly.

“Brother Xing, does Young Friend Lin Xun intend to beat Huanglong Zhenjun until he admits defeat?” Xun Daoyan couldn’t help but ask.

“Didn’t Old Man Huanglong say earlier that he would make Young Friend Lin Xun admit defeat wholeheartedly?” Xing Jianxia chuckled. “Young Friend Lin Xun is simply returning the favor, using his own words against him.”

Xun Daoyan and Divine Lord Linglong exchanged glances, their expressions turning strange. They had not expected Lin Xun to be so ruthless and so vindictive.

“It’s over for Huanglong Zhenjun...”

At this point, even the spectators in the distance could see clearly that Huanglong Zhenjun had no chance of turning the situation around. Their hearts trembled as their understanding of Lin Xun changed once again.

Boom!

Suddenly, a deafening explosion erupted from the battlefield. Under the gazes of everyone present, Huanglong Zhenjun’s battered body was blasted apart, blood spraying like rain.

In that instant, the same thought surfaced in countless minds: Was Huanglong Zhenjun about to end this battle by committing suicide to seek defeat? It was no wonder such a thought arose.

Before this battle, Huanglong Zhenjun had loudly declared that ‘suicide to seek defeat’ was nothing but a despicable trick and that he would never stoop to such a shameful act.

Now, he was already in mortal peril. If he did not do so, his primordial spirit would inevitably suffer devastating damage, perhaps even to the point where his very dao foundation would be irreparably destroyed.

The next instant, just as Huanglong Zhenjun’s body was shattered, Lin Xun reached out and seized his primordial spirit, imprisoning it in his grasp. He did not strike again. He merely confined him.

This meant that even if Huanglong Zhenjun wished to suicide to seek defeat now, it was already impossible. Unless Lin Xun personally chose to obliterate his primordial spirit.

“Old man,” Lin Xun asked calmly, “do you admit defeat now?”

At that moment, the entire region fell into dead silence. The spectators in the distance were stunned into speechlessness. Ying Tiansheng, Jiang Mingshui, and the others stood rigid and numb, their hearts sinking straight to the abyss.

The defeat of seventeen old monsters had already dealt them a devastating blow. Now, with even Huanglong Zhenjun defeated, their fighting spirit wavered completely. For the first time, they truly began to question whether continuing these challenges made any sense at all...

On the Five Elements Heavenly Pass, Xing Jianxia and the others exchanged glances and finally relaxed completely.

“I already said it! Never!” Huanglong Zhenjun’s imprisoned primordial spirit roared, filled with rage and resentment.

“But just now, you clearly intended to end this battle by committing suicide to seek defeat.” Lin Xun said with a faint smile. “Fortunately, I reacted quickly and sealed your primordial spirit first.”

Those words left everyone utterly dumbfounded. So it was true...Huanglong Zhenjun really had intended to commit suicide to seek defeat? The irony was unbearable! It was nothing less than him slapping his own face in public!

When they thought of Huanglong Zhenjun’s earlier righteous and thunderous declaration, many spectators could no longer hold back and burst into laughter.

“Lin Xun,” Huanglong Zhenjun snarled, his eyes burning with venom, “if you think humiliating me like this will make me submit, then you are sorely mistaken! As long as one is alive, no matter how great the humiliation or hatred, there is always a chance to take revenge!” His voice grew colder and more vicious. “You may one day reach the All-Wonder Dominion, but your family and friends will eventually come to this Sea of Fate as well. When that happens, all the enemies you’ve made will surely exact their revenge on them!”

The entire area fell into a dead silence. He spoke without any regard for face or decorum, his words brutally direct.

“Do you know why so many old monsters you’ve never even met targeted you the moment you entered the Fate Lotus World? It’s because your master, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, offended far too many people here back then. They couldn’t get revenge on him, so they chose to vent their hatred on you instead, a successor of Fangchun Mountain!” Huanglong Zhenjun’s expression twisted into something ferocious and sinister.

The silence grew heavier, because everyone knew he was not wrong. Zhu Tianjun, Sage Emperor Kong Yu and the others...which of them weren't enemies of the Lord of Fangchun Mountain back then? Was that not exactly why, the moment Lin Xun appeared, they all took him as their target for revenge?

Lin Xun, however, remained calm and unperturbed, as if none of this concerned him in the slightest. He said casually, "Since I've personally tasted this so-called revenge, I naturally won't allow such things to happen again in the future."

He paused, then continued in an even colder voice, "Back then, my master didn't wipe you all out. Perhaps it was mercy, perhaps there were other reasons, or perhaps he simply never took you old vermin seriously at all." His gaze shifted toward the distant enemies. "But I'm different. I have never shown mercy to my enemies!"

"Unless you hide in your own epoch worlds and never come out again, otherwise, as long as you remain in this Fate Lotus World, I will kill you, one by one!"

In an instant, countless old monsters shuddered. It was as if an icy wind from the abyss had swept through their hearts, and their expressions changed drastically.

In the past, a threat from a young man would never have been taken seriously. Now, no one dared to ignore it.

The spectators in the distance all felt a chill run through them. Lin Xun's words were clearly not meant for Huanglong Zhenjun alone. They were aimed at everyone present. Anyone who made an enemy of Lin Xun would be treated as someone to be eliminated at all costs.

"Hah! If you're really capable of that, then why are you hiding on this Five Elements Heavenly Pass?" Huanglong Zhenjun sneered coldly.

Lin Xun chuckled. "With your status, don't you think that's a stupid question?"

He swept his gaze across the crowd. "You mobilized nearly fifty experts from different factions just to deal with me, and yet you still ask why I'm staying here. That's not stupidity...it's malice."

Before Huanglong Zhenjun could say another word, Lin Xun directly sealed him away. At this moment, the battle was still not over. Although Huanglong Zhenjun was left with only his primordial spirit, he was not in immediate danger of death. As a result, the laws of the battlefield did not intervene.

Then, under the astonished gazes of everyone, Lin Xun calmly sat down cross-legged, took out a bottle of divine elixirs, and began swallowing and refining them. He began recovering his strength right there on the battlefield!

The spectators in the distance were completely stunned. This...could actually be done?

Ying Tiansheng, Jiang Mingshui, and the others were dumbfounded, their lips twitching, a suffocating pressure building in their chests as if they were about to explode with anger. They had planned everything so meticulously, but they had never imagined that Lin Xun would recover his depleted power in such a way!

This was just like 'suicide to seek defeat'! Both methods took advantage of the laws of the battlefield of victory or defeat.

Even Xing Jianxia and the others were stunned; they had never thought this was possible either. According to the rules of the victory or defeat battle, a single battle could last up to six hours. If neither side was defeated within that time, it would end in a draw.

Of course, six hours was more than enough for Lin Xun to recover a portion of his strength! The atmosphere instantly became strange and oppressive. After Lin Xun entered meditation, he became completely absorbed, as if the entire world had ceased to exist around him.

As time passed, Ying Tiansheng and Jiang Mingshui gradually lost all hope. Eighteen consecutive battles...starting with Lu Zhongyan and ending with Huanglong Zhenjun, Lin Xun had won every single one. How were they supposed to continue?

Lin Xun could still let others fight in his place, and he could also take advantage of the rules of the battlefield to recover. All of this meant one thing: Even if the various factions continued sending challengers, it would be almost impossible to seize the Five Elements Heavenly Pass!

The only option left was to retreat. Unfortunately, retreating would be a public humiliation, a complete and utter loss of face. However, what weighed even heavier on them was the fact that they had failed to kill Lin Xun. Which meant that in the future...they would inevitably face his retaliation!

After all, they came from different factions. Their alliance today was only temporary. Once the opportunity to seize the Fate Lotus Dao Altar appeared, they would turn against each other without the slightest hesitation. This was what one truly called trouble without end!

Time slowly slipped by. The spectators gradually calmed down, and many of them felt secretly inspired. They made a silent note to themselves: If they ever seized a heavenly pass in the future and were challenged, they could imitate Lin Xun by sitting on the battlefield and simply waiting out the six hours.

That way, even if an opponent wanted to wage a war of attrition, they would be forced to wait six hours between every single round! Of course, the prerequisite was being strong enough to win like Lin Xun. Otherwise, it would all just be empty talk.

For everyone present, the six hours felt unbearably long, like an endless torment. Just as the time limit was about to be reached, Lin Xun, who had been sitting in meditation all this while, suddenly opened his eyes. He rose to his feet and turned his gaze toward the sealed primordial spirit of Huanglong Zhenjun.

Huanglong Zhenjun had been silent and gloomy, yet outwardly calm. However, the moment he sensed Lin Xun’s gaze, a deep sense of foreboding surged within him.

Chapter 3130 Waves Arise

A sharp pain ripped through his primordial spirit, and Huanglong Zhenjun could not help letting out a muffled groan of agony. Just as he was on the verge of collapse, the laws of the battlefield surged, forcibly pulling him back from the brink of death.

Buzz—

Spiritual light swirled. Huanglong Zhenjun’s primordial spirit was expelled from the battlefield and appeared outside, where several powerful figures immediately rushed forward to stabilize him.

“How is this possible?!” he roared in fury. “My dao foundation has been almost completely destroyed!”

The cultivators nearby felt their hearts tremble. Even if there were any hope of repairing such catastrophic damage to one's dao foundation, it would require countless years and unimaginable effort.

Meanwhile, Lin Xun had already returned to the Five Elements Heavenly Pass. Seeing Huanglong Zhenjun's twisted, agonized expression from afar, he could not help but chuckle. "You said you'd make me admit defeat wholeheartedly. But now you're the one in pain, with your dao foundation crippled."

"Sooner or later, I swear I will eradicate you!" Huanglong Zhenjun hissed, his eyes burning crimson with hatred. To him, this blow was nothing short of devastating. With his dao foundation shattered, he had effectively lost any chance of competing for the opportunity to enter the All-Wonder Dominion.

"Why wait for another day?" Lin Xun smiled faintly. "You can challenge me to a life or death battle right now. It's no big deal fighting another round."

Huanglong Zhenjun was nearly driven mad with rage. He was about to speak when the figures around him hurriedly stopped him. At a time like this, what was the point of saying anything more?

"Let's go." Ying Tiansheng took a deep breath and finally spoke, leading everyone away. They had already decided to retreat. The only reason they had waited until now was because they feared that if Huanglong Zhenjun were left alone, Lin Xun might seize the opportunity to kill him outright.

Soon after, Jiang Mingshui, Zhu Tianjun, and Sage Emperor Kong Yu also departed. From beginning to end, these old monsters remained silent, their faces dark and gloomy. When their figures finally vanished, the area before the Five Elements Heavenly Pass suddenly became completely deserted.

The spectators in the distance wisely chose not to approach. After witnessing that battle, how could they not understand that with Lin Xun stationed here, this heavenly pass would be virtually unassailable?!

"Let's go...otherwise there's no chance at all."

Some of the old monsters even shook their heads and chose to leave.

“Today’s events will surely shake the entire Fate Lotus World again...” someone murmured.

Today, the five great factions led by Ying Tiansheng, Jiang Mingshui, Zhu Tianjun, Huanglong Zhenjun, and Sage Emperor Kongyu had joined forces, assembling nearly fifty terrifying old monsters to lay down an unparalleled killing trap for Lin Xun before the Five Elements Heavenly Pass. However, the moment Lin Xun appeared, the entire situation was completely overturned!

First, he unleashed three thousand clones, breaking through layer after layer of deadly formations to rescue Daoist Shanfeng and his group. Then, he seized the momentum and took control of the Five Elements Heavenly Pass!

After that came eighteen consecutive battles of victory or defeat. One powerful old monster after another stepped onto the battlefield, including Lu Zhongyan and Domain Lord Chengtu, only to be utterly crushed by Lin Xun!

In the end, even Huanglong Zhenjun was defeated, his dao foundation shattered, and his fighting spirit completely crushed. The five great camps were forced to retreat in fury and humiliation.

As for Lin Xun, his eighteen consecutive victories had forged a bloody and dazzling miracle before the Five Elements Heavenly Pass today! Throughout the ages, none had ever attained the Immeasurable Realm in the Sea of Fate. However, Lin Xun had done it.

In all of history, no one had ever won eighteen consecutive battles of victory and defeat. However, Lin Xun had achieved it too!

Never before had any newly ascended Immeasurable Realm cultivator possessed such heaven-defying combat power! One could easily imagine the earth-shaking waves this news would stir once it spread throughout the Fate Lotus World.

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Sure enough, it happened that very day. What happened before the Five Elements Heavenly Pass spread like a raging storm, sweeping across the Fate Lotus World and plunging it into unprecedented turmoil!

Upon hearing the news, Du Feng, the leader of the Buddhist Epoch, could not help but let out a long sigh. “This brat’s momentum is already established. Killing him now...will be difficult.”

Whether in the previous Fate Lotus World or this one, his faction had never taken direct action against Lin Xun. It wasn’t that he didn’t want to. Rather, he knew all too well that in this Fate Lotus World, there were countless old monsters who wished Lin Xun dead. Even without lifting a finger himself, someone else would surely take action.

However, Du Feng had never imagined that even after five major camps joined forces, Ying Tiansheng and the others would still suffer a crushing defeat before the Five Elements Heavenly Pass! This news was nothing short of a catastrophic blow to Du Feng and his group.

“If I had known it would come to this, I should have joined forces with Ying Tiansheng and the others from the very beginning.” An old monster from the Buddhist Epoch said with a deep frown.

He knew very well that it was already too late for regrets now. Still, he couldn’t shake the bitterness in his heart.

“Although that brat is heaven-defying, he is not truly invincible yet. We must not let this throw us into disarray,” Du Feng said softly.

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“Even Huanglong Zhenjun was defeated by him. Could it be that his current strength already surpasses the giants of this realm...perhaps even rivalling Demoness Su Wanjun?”

The atmosphere within the Shamanic Epoch camp was equally heavy.

“He may not be her equal yet, but he is certainly among the strongest in the Sea of Fate.”

“Who could have imagined that someone who has only just entered the Immeasurable Realm would already be so terrifying?”

“It seems Leisong and the other members of the Shaman Sect were all killed by that brat...”

Amid the discussion, Weng Xinghai, the leader of the Shamanic Epoch, remained silent. From the moment he received the news, he had not spoken a single word. His wrinkled face carried a complex, inscrutable expression.

Only after a long while did he finally speak in a low, hoarse voice, “That brat will come for us sooner or later. If not this time...then the next. We...must all be prepared.”

His words sent a chill through the crowd.

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The news continued to spread. On this day, the Fate Lotus World was destined to be thrown into chaos. Of course, at the Five Elements Heavenly Pass, it was a completely different scene.

“Come, drink!”

Xing Jianxia and the others sat cross-legged atop the pass, wine jars set beside them as they drank boldly and freely, laughter ringing through the air. Their expressions were relaxed, carefree, and brimming with joy.

When fortune smiled, one must drink to the fullest! They had never imagined that after today’s bloody calamity, they would not only survive, but also firmly occupy the Five Elements Heavenly Pass, with no external enemies daring to come and provoke them again.

“Haha! Speaking of which, we really ought to thank Young Friend Lin Xun. In this epoch’s Great Dao Contest, even Old Baize and I had already lost all hope. After all, even if all of us joined forces, we couldn’t have seized a single heavenly pass, let alone dream of competing for the Fate Lotus Dao Altar.” Daoist Shanfeng burst into hearty laughter. “But now, thanks to Young Friend Lin Xun, we get to drink our fill on this Five Elements Heavenly Pass. This is damn satisfying!”

Mo Baize, Mu Zhangyun, and the others couldn't help but laugh along. Even the usually taciturn Xiao He revealed a rare smile. Recalling everything that had happened that day, their hearts still surged with lingering excitement.

"We never expected that on our very first day in the Fate Lotus World, our enemies would be so eager to make their move. Fortunately, Young Friend Lin Xun was here to turn the tide and quell the murderous calamity!" Xing Jianxia said with a sigh.

Lin Xun could only smile helplessly. From the start of the banquet until now, these old fellows had been showering him with praise, leaving him no room to be modest at all.

"Young Friend Lin Xun, I salute you." Xun Daoyan, standing to one side, raised his wine jar, his voice booming with hearty laughter.

Divine Lord Linglong also lifted her cup with a gentle smile, her beautiful eyes resting on Lin Xun.

Lin Xun smiled in return and drained his drink. Throughout it all, Xia Zhi sat quietly beside Lin Xun, fully absorbed in eating and drinking.

Not long after the battle ended, Lin Xun released Xia Zhi from the Eternity Boat and introduced her to the Daoist Shanfeng and the other old monsters. Instinctively, they all regarded Xia Zhi as Lin Xun's close companion and treated her with great courtesy and enthusiasm.

However, Xia Zhi was far too aloof. She had eyes only for Lin Xun, which made the old monsters tactful enough not to disturb her. After the banquet ended, Lin Xun sat alone with Xia Zhi and said softly, "From today onward, you can focus on cultivating the power of Fate here."

Xia Zhi's current strength was roughly comparable to Lin Xun's at the peak of the Law Transcendence Realm. Within the Fate Lotus World, the most complete and pure power of the Fate Principles permeated everything, allowing Xia Zhi to sense and absorb it directly.

In such an environment, she would be able to refine the sealed power within her body in the shortest possible time. It should be noted that what lay sealed within Xia Zhi was the entire cultivation of the

Eternal Night Divine Emperor, an existence who had most likely survived nine Great Silence Unlife Calamities.

Once that sealed power was refined, Xia Zhi's strength would undoubtedly soar to unprecedented heights!

"Hm." Xia Zhi nodded lightly. "I'll begin cultivating now."

Lin Xun was rather surprised. This was the first time he had ever seen Xia Zhi take the initiative to cultivate. In the past, she had done little besides eating and sleeping, showing almost no interest in cultivation at all...

Xia Zhi glanced at Lin Xun, as if reading his thoughts, and explained calmly, "Here, I can sense a deeper and more complete aura of Fate Principles. It's making the power within my body restless. I've never felt this before."

A thoughtful look appeared on Lin Xun's face

Could it be that these nine heavenly passes were the very core source of the Fate Principles' origin power?

Before he could think any further, Xia Zhi had already sat down cross-legged. She extended her fair, jade-like hands into the void, her clear star-like eyes slowly closing.

Buzz—

Very soon, a crystalline, dreamlike strand descended from the heavens and drifted gently into her palms. Gradually, her hands were enveloped in radiant, ethereal light, as ripples of obscure and mysterious Fate power spread outward.

Incredibly pure!

As time passed, the Fate Principle power raining down from the heavens grew stronger and stronger, like a vast cascade of luminous white starlight, completely submerging Xia Zhi's graceful figure in a halo of holiness and transcendence.

Even though Lin Xun had witnessed such a scene before, his heart was still deeply shaken. The Principles of Fate! Even someone as powerful and terrifying as Su Wanjun, an existence who had spent thirteen epochs wandering the Sea of Fate in relentless pursuit, had only managed to grasp a superficial fragment of the Principles of Fate.

In contrast, Xia Zhi could directly sense and draw upon the very source of the Fate Principles themselves. How could such an ability not be heaven-defying?

In the distance, Xing Jianxia and the others appeared, clearly alarmed by the disturbance and hastening over to investigate. When they saw Xia Zhi refining the power of the Fate Principles, all of the old monsters were struck dumb, their hearts surging with indescribable shock.

Only then did they finally realize that they had gravely underestimated Lin Xun's peerlessly beautiful companion...