Prodigies 3141

Chapter 3141 Unexpected Victory

Several minutes later, although Lin Xun and Divine Lord Baiya were both injured, their fighting spirit and power continued to rage like fire, making the battle increasingly intense. The expressions of Lin Xun's enemies changed indeterminately, while the expressions of Xing Jianxia and the others grew tense.

Those who bore no grudges against Lin Xun and Baiya were likewise focused on the battle, unable to calm their thudding hearts. On the other hand, the other two remaining participants, Du Feng and Fa Wuxiang, gradually relaxed.

After all, the more injured Lin Xun and Divine Lord Baiya became, the better it would be for them. At the very least, it would mean an advantage in the final match. Of course, that was naturally something only the victor between the two of them would enjoy.

A quarter of an hour later, suddenly, Divine Lord Baiya stopped fighting and turned to leave the battlefield. Everyone was taken aback by this development, and even Lin Xun was caught by surprise.

"Save some strength for the final match." With these words, Divine Lord Baiya sat down outside the arena, closed his eyes, and started to recuperate. His expression was the very picture of calm. The crowd soon returned to their senses and couldn't help but look at each other.

Chi Qianji couldn't help but ask, "Baiya, you said earlier that you wouldn't show any mercy. Why are you giving up?"

Divine Lord Baiya's eyes remained closed as he replied, "I will ultimately lose anyways. So why not end the battle earlier?"

Everyone was stunned. No one had expected him to give up because he realized that he would lose if he continued!

Yi Wuyin couldn't help but ask, "Is that really the case?"

Divine Lord Baiya suddenly let out a deep sigh. "I know that all of you have your own opinions. Some might think that I'm helping Lin Xun, but I can only say that you're overthinking things."

After which, he didn’t speak a single word more. The way everyone looked at Lin Xun changed subtly. With even a top-tier expert like Divine Lord Baiya voluntarily admitting defeat, it was easy to imagine how ridiculously strong Lin Xun was!

"Thanks for letting me win." Lin Xun bowed to Divine Lord Baiya. Then, he also left the battlefield, sat down, and focused on recovering.

Xing Jianxia and the others secretly breathed a sigh of relief. On the other hand, the moods of Lin Xun’s enemies grew heavier.

As someone who had only attained the Immeasurable Realm mere decades ago, he still had plenty of room for growth in the future. Despite this, he could already make a top-tier master like Divine Lord Baiya voluntarily concede. The thought of these facts alone would make anyone’s heart shiver.

Next was the showdown between Du Feng and Fa Wuxiang. This battle lasted for less than fifteen minutes. Du Feng conceded, allowing Fa Wuxiang to easily win the match.

Xing Jianxia and the others' faces fell upon seeing this. Du Feng may have seemed to sacrifice his qualification to compete in the final showdown, but in reality, he was planning to borrow a knife to kill another!

He had not only avoided a life-or-death battle with Lin Xun, but could also use Fa Wuxiang to deal with Lin Xun in the final round. It was a win-win situation. The only thing he had lost was an opportunity to compete for the Fate Lotus Dao Altar.

Chi Qianji sighed softly. "Du Feng, this is very dishonorable of you."

By this juncture, everyone could see through Du Feng’s intentions.

"The methods of our generation are always opportunistic and adaptable. I have my reasons, so what does it matter whether it is honorable or not?" Du Feng was unfazed. He ignored the stares from all around and continued, "Moreover, since Divine Lord Baiya can admit defeat, why can't I do so as well?"

These words were very targeted. The truth was, it was precisely because of Divine Lord Baiya that Du Feng had decided on this course of action. In fact, he was still somewhat dissatisfied with the former.

Divine Lord Baiya stopping the battle early had preserved far more of Lin Xun's strength than anticipated. Under these circumstances, if Du Feng continued fighting until the end, he would inevitably consume a lot of his energy. Even if he ultimately emerged victorious, he would definitely be at a disadvantage against Lin Xun.

Since that was the case, why not give up instead? In this way, Fa Wuxiang could also preserve more strength to deal with Lin Xun. Like the saying went, sometimes you had to retreat in order to advance.

"Heh, all you people are so good at scheming." Nearby, Tian Xingzi smiled mockingly.

Du Feng remained silent. The atmosphere grew strange and stifling. The competition today had been full of unexpected twists and turns due to Lin Xun's presence. The most unfortunate of them all was Jiang Mingshui, who was killed on the spot after encountering Lin Xun in a match.

Meanwhile, Weng Xinghai and Du Feng had opted to avoid Lin Xun. While it seemed disgraceful, everyone knew that they did so because they were afraid! It was because of the changing situation that they made a decision that was most beneficial to themselves.

As for who would ultimately seize the Fate Lotus Dao Altar, that was no longer any theirof Weng Xinghai's or Du Feng's concern. Truthfully, as old monsters who had lived through many epochs, they had experienced far too many competitions in the Fate Lotus World. Hence, they had plenty of opportunities to head to the All-Wonder Dominion if they had wanted to.

Therefore, it wasn't much of a loss for them to give up on this one. Lin Xun could naturally see that Du Feng was avoiding a fight, but didn't see it as an issue. After all, even if he did win in the end, he wasn't planning on leaving. Hence, there was still time to deal with each of his enemies!

Chi Qianji announced, "The final showdown is next. Lin Xun, Fa Wuxiang, you may start."

Lin Xun rose to his feet. However,But before he could enter the arena, Fa Wuxiang spoke up from nearby, "No need to fight, I withdraw from the final match."

Dressed in a purple robe, with a smooth forehead and extraordinary handsome features, his declarationwords immediately stumped everyone.

This was yet another variable! No one had expected that Fa Wuxiang, who was clearly still in good shape, would give up the opportunity to compete for the Fate Lotus Dao Altar.

"You people can scheme all you want, but I refuse to be a borrowed knife."

Fa Wuxiang didn’t hold back as he looked straight at Du Feng in the distance. "Old monk, your earlier actions were indeed disgraceful!"

A hint of iciness flowed from his final few words. Du Feng might want to borrow a knife to kill someone, but he had to first ask if Fa Wuxiang himself was willing!

A sliver of gloominess appeared on Du Feng's solemn face. After a while, he said, "Dao Brother, you misunderstand me."

"It matters not if it’s a misunderstanding. At the very least, such a competition makes me uncomfortable." Fa Wuxiang frostily said, "I just hope that the next competition won't be anything like today, where people are scheming at every turn. It's disgusting."

The blunt words made Du Feng’s expression change again. The surrounding crowd couldn’t remain composed either. Today's competition had far too many variables. It was neither spectacular nor thrilling, lacking any hint of its original flavor.

"Alright, alright, today's competition has come to an end. Congratulations, Young Friend Lin."

Chi Qianji smilingly cupped his hands together at Lin Xun. Many of the other old monsters such as Tian Xingzi, Yi Wuyin, Divine Lord Baiya, and so on also gave their congratulations. Of course, those hostile towards Lin Xun wore stormy expressions.

"Thank you, everyone."

Lin Xun cupped his hands together. He himself hadn’t expected victory to come so suddenly, and was surprised to find that he was now the final winner. As he gazed at everyone again, a certain revelation dawned upon him. Today's easy victory wasn’t due to his own strength, nor was it because his opponents were lacking.

At the end of the day, it was due to the top dogs such as Chi Qianji, Tian Xingzi, and Divine Lord Baiya. Their actions and decisions had created numerous variables, which ultimately allowed him to obtain a huge advantage.

It was at this moment that Lin Xun recalled Divine Lord Baiya actions and began seeing them in a different light. After all, the variables had started to appear after Divine Lord Baiya conceded! He couldn't help but feel that Divine Lord Baiya had helped him obtain this easy victory...

Lin Xun thought to himself, "I should have a talk with Divine Lord Baiya in the future."

"Elders, please go to the Fate Lotus Dao Altar."

Next, Lin Xun arrived in front of Mo Baize, Mu Changyun, and Xiao He with a smile. He had already agreed with Xing Jianxia and the others that if they managed to seize the Fate Lotus Dao Altar, they would send Mo Baize and the other two to the All-Wonder Dominion.

Mo Baize and the others appeared dazed as if reality had yet to set in. It was quite some time later before the trio finally stopped onto the altar under the urging of Xing Jianxia, Daoist Shanfeng, and the others.

It would be a lie to say the other old monsters didn’t feel envious at this sight. At the same time, Lin Xun’s enemies also felt increasingly stifled upon realizing that he wasn’t leaving...

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Spirit Martial World.

Atop the Dao Seeking Sacred Mountain, Ren Futian and the others suddenly looked up at the Sea of FateDestiny in unison as if they had all sensed something. The quietly floating Great Dao Fate Lotus suddenly began to buzz as divine light circulated around it. Almost immediately after, numerous figures flew out from within.

"The competition has ended!"

Feeling invigorated, Ren Futian and the others walked out of the cave dwelling to gather at the peak, where they silently waited. Soon after, they saw the returning figures of Lin Xun, Xing Jianxia and the others.

That same day, the events that occurred in the Fate Lotus World became known to everyone on the Dao Seeking Sacred Mountain, resulting in quite a commotion.

A grand banquet was held on the Dao Seeking Sacred Mountain that evening. The disciples of Fangchun Mountain, and cultivators from the Origin Sect and Spirit Sect all participated, making merry and enjoying themselves through the night.

After that day, Lin Xun entered secluded cultivation. Years passed one after another.

Ten years later, Lin Xun suddenly opened his eyes.

Omm~

A furnace made of Nirvana emerged out of thin air, with an illusory figure floating within it. The figure gave off an unrivaled and unyielding sensation. A powerful aura spread from him as if seeking to fight and dominate the nine heavens!

It was none other than the First Disciple of Fangchun Mountain, Combat Emperor.

"EldestFirst Senior Brother..."

Lin Xun's heart stirred with joy. Since entering the Immeasurable Realm and integrating all of his dao principles into the profound essence of Nirvana, his mastery of the Nirvana essence had soared to an unbelievable level.

After years of rebuilding, the remnant vitality of his first senior brother had undergone an earth-shaking transformation. Now, only a single step remained before he could be reborn!

Chapter 3142 Three Hundred Years Later

"Eldest Senior Brother, the rest is up to you."

It took quite some time before Lin Xun was finally able to regain his calm. He had done everything he could. Now, his eldest senior brother had to rely on himself to achieve a true rebirth. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, or a butterfly breaking free of its cocoon, Eldest Senior Brother needed to undergo the rebirth alone!

That day, Lin Xun paid a visit to his second senior brother, Zhong Qiu, his third senior sister, Ruo Su, and the others. When he shared the good news, all his senior brothers and sisters became emotional, nearly losing their composure.

After all, Eldest Senior Brother was undoubtedly a main pillar of Fangchun Mountain and was the most respected person in everyone's hearts after their master. Hence, all of the Fangchun disciples had been plagued by immense sorrow when his body and primordial spirit were shattered by Xinhu years ago.

Who among them wouldn’t be happy hearing that their youngest junior brother had succeeded in giving him a chance at rebirth?

"Thank you, Youngest Junior Brother." Zhong Qiu solemnly cupped his hands together.

"Thank you, Youngest Junior Brother."

The other senior brothers and sisters also cupped their hands in unison. Everyone was overwhelmed with emotion, unable to steady their churning hearts.

Meanwhile, at a certain tall and steep mountain in the All-Wonder Dominion...

Amidst a chess game, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain was suddenly taken aback. Soon after, he laughed heartily. "How wonderful! The opportunity for my first disciple's transformation has finally arrived. From now onwards, he will leap out from the confines of fate, and become free from all constraints!"

Opposite him was the handsome, simply-dressed and barefooted golden cicada. He pointed at the chessboard with a faint smile. "Dao Brother, you've lost."

The Lord of Fangchun looked down at the chessboard in surprise and said, "The essence of the game lies in the state of one's heart. Since my heart state has been affected, you managed to seize the initiative. However, I am more than happy to lose this game, hahaha..."

The golden cicada said, "It is certainly a cause for celebration that your first disciple will no longer be bound by fate. However, his transformation also shows that your youngest disciple has already grasped the secrets of Nirvana. If nothing unexpected happens, he should arrive at the All-Wonder Dominion in a few years."

The Lord of Fangchun nodded and said, "What's meant to come will come."

The golden cicada thought for a moment and asked, "Dao Brother, may I ask why you chose him back then?"

The Lord of Fangchun pondered for a moment and answered, "It was unintentional."

The golden cicada's eyes lit up as he exclaimed in admiration, "A truly wonderful unintentional act! Allowing the one to escape must naturally be unintentional. If one were to plan in advance, it would instead lead to a disadvantage."

The Lord of Fangchun revealed a bitter smile. "I'll be frank, rather than saying I chose Lin Xun, it's more accurate to say that his path is the opportunity I've been waiting for. Everyone in the world knows I am waiting for that particular lotus flower, so why wait instead of seeking it?"

The golden cicada chuckled and said, "Agreed, it is a path which cannot be forced."

The Lord of Fangchun smilingly nodded. "Because of that, I have never interfered in that child's cultivation journey. His current achievements are entirely his own, not because of me, his master."

The golden cicada thought for a moment and softly said, "Fate can never be explained by mere words."

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The Sea of Fate, Spirit Martial World.

Lin Xun entered secluded cultivation again. Just earlier, he had entrusted his eldest senior brother's reconstructed body to his second senior brother, Zhong Qiu, for safekeeping. As for when his eldest senior brother would wake up, that would depend entirely on him.

Thirteen more years passed. The seventh Great Dao Fate Lotus appeared. Lin Xun, Xing Jianxia, and Fu Nanli set off for the Fate Lotus World once more. Twenty-one days later, the dao competition came to an end.

Over this period, Lin Xun traveled alone across the Fate Lotus World and successively eliminated eight of his enemies, causing yet another commotion. However, he was somewhat unlucky in the final competition for the Fate Lotus Altar and was matched against one of the top competitors, Daoist Shuixun, in the first round.

Although he ultimately achieved victory, he was severely injured and had to give up the subsequent competition. The final winner of this dao competition was Divine Lord Baiya, allowing three old monsters from his faction to ascend the Fate Lotus Altar and head to the All-Wonder Dominion.

It was also worth mentioning that Lin Xun and Xia Zhi managed to absorb and refine more and more fate principle power in the Fate Lotus World. From then on, Lin Xun and Xing Jianxia would participate whenever the Great Dao Fate Lotus appeared every once in a while.

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As flowers bloomed and fell, three hundred years passed in the blink of an eye.

The twenty-fourth appearance of the Fate Lotus World...

Lin Xun, Xia Zhi, Xing Jianxia, and Fu Nanli were seated atop the Two Polarities Heavenly Pass.

"I wonder how those old fellows are doing in the All-Wonder Dominion."

Xing Jianxia took a sip of wine as he reminisced about Daoist Shanfeng, Xun Daoyan, and Divine Master Linglong who had left for the All-Wonder Dominion long ago.

"After we seize this round's Fate Lotus Dao Altar, you and Senior Fu can go visit them to see how they're doing." Lin Xun chuckled.

In the past three hundred years, they had participated in more than a dozen competitions in the Fate Lotus World. Some were failures, but others were successes.

Over this period, Daoist Shanfeng, Xun Daoyan, and Divine Master Linglong had used the Fate Lotus Dao Altar to travel to the All-Wonder Dominion.

Xing Jianxia asked, "What about you? Are you planning to keep killing your enemies in the Fate Lotus World?"

For the past three hundred years, Lin Xun had been seeking revenge on his enemies whenever he entered the Fate Lotus World. By now, his enemies' factions had long fallen into disarray.

In fact, the remaining enemies in Jiang Mingshui's, Ying Tiansheng's, Zhu Tianjun's, and Huanglong Zhenjun's factions had not dared to set foot in the Fate Lotus World in the last hundred years!

"There's still plenty of time, and I'm in no hurry to leave." Lin Xun chuckled. "Moreover, although Du Feng's and Weng Xinghai's factions have suffered many casualties, they have not truly been defeated. Perhaps I will consider going to the All-Wonder Dominion after dealing with Du Feng and Weng Xinghai."

At present, there was only a little over three hundred years left until the arrival of the epochal catastrophe. However, this was more than enough for Lin Xun.

Fu Nanli remarked, "Du Feng and Weng Xinghai have clearly grown extremely wary of you. If they are determined to avoid you, it will be very difficult for you to find an opportunity to deal with them."

Over the years, Lin Xun's cultivation had progressed by leaps and bounds. In a one-on-one battle, even powerhouses like Chi Qianji and Tian Xingzi were no longer his match! It was no exaggeration to say that apart from Su Wanjun, who had never partook in the dao competitions, Lin Xun was the strongest in the current Fate Lotus World!

This was something that even Chi Qianji and Tian Xingzi acknowledged. After all, they had already experienced repeated defeats at Lin Xun's hands. For this reason, Du Feng and Weng Xinghai never confronted Lin Xun directly. Whenever there was a possibility of a showdown with him, they would intentionally give up in advance.

He had also tried to directly challenge the Heavenly Gate they guarded. Unfortunately, whenever that happened, Du Feng and Weng Xinghai would retreat before Lin Xun could arrive. As a result, he had been unable to find any opportunity to kill them until now.

Lin Xun softly muttered, "That doesn't matter, I will catch them sooner or later."

He didn't inform Xing Jianxia of the new discovery he had come upon while comprehending the fate principle power of the Fate Lotus World over the past three hundred years. The principle power covering the Sea of Fate was no longer capable of suppressing him!

In fact, even without using the power of the Dao Fate Orb, Lin Xun could step into the Sea of Fate without being suppressed or harmed. He knew that if he could one day freely traverse the Sea of Fate, he might be able to break through the barriers and enter other epochal worlds!

When that time came, he would no longer need to enter the Fate Lotus World, because he could directly attack the epochal worlds of his enemies!

"Lin Xun, I also want to participate in the dao competition this time."

Suddenly, Xia Zhi's melodious voice rang out like the sounds of nature.

"Sure!" Lin Xun agreed with a grin.

Xia Zhi had completely assimilated the sealed power left by the Eternal Night Divine Emperor, making her current cultivation equal to the Eternal Night Divine Emperor at her peak. The most frightening part was that she had also mastered the powers of fate, karma, and time.

When taking all these into account, Lin Xun would have to bring out his full strength in order to gain a slight advantage over her.

A few days later, the opportunity to seize the Fate Lotus Dao Altar emerged, so Lin Xun and the others returned to the area in front of the Fate Lotus Dao Altar. However, there were noticeably fewer old monsters participating compared to before.

Top dogs like Divine Lord Baiya and Fa Wuxiang had already left for the All-Wonder Dominion. As such, only four factions were left to participate in this round's dao competition. These were the factions of Chi Qianji, Tian Xingzi, Lin Xun, and Daoist Shuixun.

"Where's Du Feng and Weng Xinghai?" Lin Xun was taken aback.

Chi Qianji sighed and said, "Unless you go to the All-Wonder Dominion, they probably won't come to the Fate Lotus World again."

Tian Xingzi added, "It isn’t just them, many other old fellows from various factions won't come either."

The factions that harbored animosity towards Lin Xun were only a fraction of the total. There were numerous other factions, only they weren’t powerful enough to be considered significant.

Originally, these factions also had the chance to participate in the dao competition. However, Lin Xun's presence had extinguished their interest. As a result, the number of participating factions had gradually decreased...

"Are the two elders implying that I am the problem?" Lin Xun forced a smile.

Chi Qianji laughed heartily. "Hahaha, I won't lie, the other old fellows from various epochs in the Sea of Fate are only concerned about one thing at the moment, which is when you will be leaving for the All-Wonder Dominion. Once you’re gone, the situation will inevitably return to its previous state."

Tian Xingzi teasingly said, "Although Dao Friend Wanjun’s combat prowess is unmatched, everyone knows she won't participate in the competition. However, you, Lin Xun, are different. As long as you’re around, aside from a few of us oldies, the others won't foolishly come looking for trouble."

Lin Xun pondered briefly and said, "If there’s an opportunity to send off Elders Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli, I won't participate in the competitions for the Fate Lotus Dao Altar in the future."

He added, "Of course, if Du Feng and Weng Xinghai dare to participate, I won't just sit by and watch either."

Upon hearing this, Chi Qianji and Tian Xingzi exchanged a look, feeling a sense of relief. For the past three hundred years, Lin Xun had effectively dominated every competition. If he continued to participate, the competition would become increasingly meaningless for Chi Qianji and Tian Xingzi.

After all, who would enjoy being defeated by him time and time again? Definitely not them since they were not masochists.

Chapter 3143 Begin with One, End with One

The competition soon began. Xia Zhi, Lin Xun, Tian Xingzi, Chi Qianji, and Daoist Shuixun took turns battling each other using the five elements method. It was also in this competition that the old trio of Tian Xingzi, Chi Qianji, and Daoist Shuixun experienced Xia Zhi's terrifying combat power for the very first time.

In fact, Tian Xingzi and Daoist Shuixun were successively defeated by Xia Zhi in their matches! At the end of the competition, Xia Zhi, who had won two battles, became the undisputed final winner.

"I know who she is."

Chi Qianji's expression was a mix of shock and realization.

"With fate as a crown and karma as her staff, she walks through the eternal nights of all worlds... It is impossible for a second person with such power to exist."

Tian Xingzi let out an emotional sigh. He had previously had still been somewhat unconvinced by his loss, but he now seemed to feel at ease upon realizing her true identity.

"Is she really that legendary person..."

"It's said that she's from the All-Wonder Dominion."

"Inconceivable..."

Many of the old monsters present seemed to recall some rumors from long ago, causing them to look at Xia Zhi in a completely different light.

Even Lin Xun was surprised. Only now did it properly sink in how famous her past life had been. He couldn't help but transmit, "Xia Zhi, is the Eternal Night Divine Emperor really from the All-Wonder Dominion?"

"Yeah." Xia Zhi nodded. "She did leave behind some memories of the All-Wonder Dominion, but most of them are very vague and blurry, as if she had erased them."

Lin Xun's pupils shrank. All cultivators yearned to go to the All-Wonder Dominion. Who could have imagined that someone like the Eternal Night Divine Emperor had come from the All-Wonder Dominion instead? That was simply incomprehensible!

Su Wanjun, who had been watching everything like a bystander, seemed to also become certain of Xia Zhi's identity and inwardly murmured, "No wonder she can wield the power of fate so naturally. To think that Miss Xia Zhi is actually the Eternal Night Divine Emperor he spoke of..."

That day, the Great Dao Fate Lotus carried Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli to the All-Wonder Dominion.

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Spirit Martial World.

On Dao Seeking Sacred Mountain, Lin Xun and his senior brothers and sisters were merrily drinking. Amidst the conversation, he offhandedly asked, "Has Eldest Senior Brother still not woken up?"

Zhong Qiu smiled and replied, "Eldest Senior Brother is probably in the process of comprehending the dao. Although he hasn't awakened, his aura is growing increasingly powerful. It's likely that when it finally happens, he will undergo a transformation like a butterfly emerging from a cocoon."

Lin Xun nodded with a smile.

Ruo Su gently asked, "Youngest Junior Brother, in the current Spirit Martial World, the only ones capable of going to the All-Wonder Dominion are you and Miss Xia Zhi. When do you plan on leaving?"

Lin Xun grinned and answered, "There's no rush. I plan to enter seclusion once more. When my preparations are done, I will set off for the All-Wonder Dominion."

After the banquet ended, he entered secluded cultivation again like he had said. Over the past three hundred years, he had made multiple advancements in his cultivation. Each time was comparable to an increase of a lesser cultivation realm, greatly enhancing his combat power.

In recent years, however, Lin Xun had hit a bottleneck, and was unable to make further progress. Despite this, he felt that it was something to celebrate. Because once he broke through this bottleneck, he would probably achieve a true breakthrough in his cultivation!

Previously, my progress had been limited to the confines of the initial Immeasurable Realm, but if I manage to get past this bottleneck, it would likely be equivalent to being sent straight to the mid stage...

In his cave dwelling, Lin Xun cultivated while pondering about various things. Immeasurable also meant boundless. This realm was akin to a long and endless path, where every old monster tried their best to advance, hoping to reach the end of the realm.

However, throughout the numerous epochs from ancient times to the present, only a small handful had reached the pinnacle such as the Alpha Origin Master, Chen Xi, and that mysterious swordsman.

Lin Xun had been making steady progress on this path over the years, and his cultivation had undergone multiple transformations and improvements. Although he had grown strong enough to defeat top-tier Immeasurable Realm cultivators like Chi Qianji and Tian Xingzi, strictly speaking, his current cultivation was still only at the initial stage of the Immeasurable Realm.

If Lin Xun managed to break past his current bottleneck, he would ascend to the mid-stage of the Immeasurable Realm!

All daos return to one, all techniques return to one, all things return to one... In the path of cultivation, the Immeasurable Realm is the apex of the eternal path. It is the final step of one’s entire cultivation journey, and deduced according to the number of the great dao. At the end of the day, everything becomes one.

It begins from one, and ends at one. The heavens derive forty-nine, while one escapes. Since that is so, the beginning and the end will be consistent.

As he pondered, Lin Xun fell deeper and deeper into thought.

Thirty years later...Rumble!

In the cave dwelling, five dao bodies appeared around Lin Xun's true body. With a thought, the Green Wood Dao Body suddenly transformed into soft, pure green dao light, and merged into his cultivation. Almost immediately after, the Red Flame, White Metal, Yellow Earth, and Black Water Dao bodies also transformed into red, white, yellow, and black source dao powers, which merged with his cultivation.

His aura began to climb, radiating boundless divine brilliance. At this point, all the techniques he had mastered also fused into one, becoming a part of his own technique. This was all techniques returning to one!

From this very moment, the power of Lin Xun's true body was equivalent to the combined strength of his five dao bodies working together.

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Fifty years later.

"Doh!” Lin Xun suddenly opened his eyes as a loud noise burst from his tongue.

Rumble!

The Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron, which had been hovering in front of him, melted into dazzling light and surged into him.

From this moment, the sword cauldron and I are no longer separate. Only so can it be considered all things returning to one.

From this moment, all daos will be at my disposal, all techniques will be wielded by me, and all external objects will be in my grasp!

Every fiber of his being seemed suffused with flowing dao light as various magnificent and incredible phenomena manifested around him. In this moment, his cultivation bottleneck was smashed through like a paper window.

Sixty years later.

A Great Dao Fate Lotus emerged from the Sea of Fate, causing a tremendous upheaval. It was also at this moment that Lin Xun, who had been in seclusion all this time, rose to his feet.

He didn't exude any aura, resembling an ordinary and unremarkable person. However, obscure dao light shimmered when light rippled across his eyes.

"Xia Zhi, shall have a look around the Lotus Fate World?"

"Sure!"

Soon after, Lin Xun and Xia Zhi rose into the air together and flew into the Lotus of Fate world. Although he was returning to a familiar place, his heart state was now completely different.

"Dao Friend, please stop for a moment."

Along the way, Lin Xun chanced upon a group of cultivators and immediately approached. The other side was clearly from the same factions, and all of them possessed Immeasurable Realm cultivation. Upon seeing him, they immediately came to a halt and revealed wary expressions.

"May I ask if any of you have seen Chi Qianji?"

Lin Xun smiled and cupped his hands together in greeting. Seeing that he didn't show any hostility, the old monsters breathed a sigh of relief.

A man in a gray robe said, "Chi Qianji left in the previous dao competition."

"Left?" Lin Xun was taken aback. "What about Tian Xingzi?"

The gray-robed man replied, "He has also gone to the All-Wonder Dominion."

Lin Xun felt a sense of disappointment.

In the Sea of Fate, he only had a few friends such as Chi Qianji and Tian Xingzi. However, it was now clear that he would never see them again if he stayed in the Sea of Fate.

Lin Xun asked another question, "Have cultivators from Du Feng's or Weng Xinghai's factions come here?"

"Nope they haven't." As the gray-robed man said this, his expression became somewhat complicated.

The Fate Lotus World had appeared twice in the past sixty years. Although Lin Xun hadn't participated, his influence was still present. As such, how could Du Feng and Weng Xinghai possibly dare to come?

Lin Xun cupped his hands again. "Many thanks."

Just as he was about to leave, the gray-robed man couldn't help but ask, "Dao Friend Lin, may I ask if you have come to participate in the dao competition this time?"

The other old monsters present perked up their ears. Sixty years ago, Lin Xun had stated that he would not participate in the dao competition until he had eliminated Du Feng and Weng Xinghai. This was naturally great news for other cultivators in the Fate Lotus World! However, if Lin Xun were to participate this time, the situation would be completely different.

"I'm not." Lin Xun smiled and shook his head.

The gray-robed man and others immediately felt relieved. Lin Xun and Xia Zhi then turned and left.

"Did you guys notice that Lin Xun no longer has any aura? That makes it impossible to sense his power as if he were just another ordinary person."

When the duo finally disappeared from sight, one of the old monsters asked out of bewilderment, "Does this mean that he has achieved some kind of incredible breakthrough in the past sixty years?"

"When the glamor fades, everything returns to its true state, where every move and action flows more naturally than ever. Such a change...is indeed astonishing..."

"I just wonder when he will go to the All-Wonder Dominion."

.....

While these old monsters discussed Lin Xun, they couldn't help but sigh deeply as they flew away into the distance. At some unknown juncture, he had become the most untouchable and terrifying existence in the Sea of Fate. As long as he didn't leave, no one would dare to ignore his presence!

On the way, Xia Zhi asked, "Where are we going next?"

Lin Xun casually replied, "All my friends and acquaintances have departed, so there's nothing left for me in the Fate Lotus World. I plan to visit other epoch worlds."

"Are you no longer afraid of being suppressed by the power of the Sea of Fate?"

"Yes, when we arrived earlier, I could already feel that I can now freely traverse the Sea of Fate."

"Take me with you."

"Of course!"

At this point of their conversation, Lin Xun suddenly looked up and gazed into the distance. A beautiful fiery-red figure appeared. With the charm and radiance of a girl at the peak of her youth, it was naturally Su Wanjun.

"Greetings, Senior." Lin Xun cupped his hands together in greeting.

Su Wanjun said, "We finally meet. I've come to bid farewell."

Taken aback, Lin Xun asked in surprise, "Senior, have you decided to go to the All-Wonder Dominion?"

"That's right." Su Wanjun nodded, "I've come to understand that the power of fate is beyond my comprehension, so I have decided to leave. But before I go, I would like to have a chat with you, my young friend."

Chapter 3144 Sword and Sheath

Su Wanjun was a demoness who had sought the power of fate for thirteen epochs in the Sea of Fate. She was also a terrifying existence feared by all the old monsters.

Her appearance was that of a radiant young lady, but she always moved about alone. Now, however, she had chosen to leave and head to the All-Wonder Dominion. Even Lin Xun didn't know whether she had given up or had transcended her 'obsession.'

"Do you have a pair of sword whetstones?" Su Wanjun fixed her beautiful eyes on Lin Xun.

"Yes." Lin Xun said in surprise, "How did you know, Senior?"

Su Wanjun extended her right hand and a sword sheath made of tanned rattan appeared in her palm. The plain gray sheath exuded a timeless aura.

"It told me." A hint of tenderness rose in Su Wanjun's eyes. "Like the whetstones in your possession, it once belonged to the same master. I sensed them when I first saw you, but I was never able to find an opportunity to talk to you about them. Since I'm about to leave, I want to discuss some matters about their master with you."

Lin Xun's heart trembled. Sure enough, the 'swordsman' mentioned by Su Wanjun was also the mysterious and unfathomable master of the whetstones!

He was the one who had left behind the two whetstones inscribed with 'nurture the heart like jade' and 'hone the heart like a blade.' He was also the one who once sought the dao through the sword, crossed reincarnation and walked through the changing epochs.

In addition, He had once lamented that the world was too lonely without a rival. He had also entered the All-Wonder Dominion, chose to enter reincarnation, and started anew to seek out a different path! However, what was the relationship between the master of these whetstones and Su Wanjun?

Su Wanjun looked at the rattan sheath in her hand and said, "In this world, every sword, whether forged from ordinary iron or refined from celestial metal, has a sheath.

"Some nurture their swords with their bodies, making themselves the sheath, while others use sword cases or boxes, which can also be considered sheaths. Do you know why swords need a 'sheath' in this world?"

Lin Xun was taken aback. It was an extremely ordinary question, but seemed to have a much deeper significance upon some thought. After briefly pondering, he answered, "In my view, the sword and sheath complement each other; one is for killing, while the other is for concealment, like movement and stillness or tension and relaxation."

Su Wanjun nodded. "Your insights are within my expectations."

She paused for a moment as a look of reminiscence appeared in her eyes. "When the sword is drawn, it kills, when the sword is sheathed, it is hidden. Most sword cultivators focus solely on sharpening the sword's edge, but they do not understand that the essence of the sword path lies in 'concealment' instead."

"Concealment?" Lin Xun’s eyes narrowed slightly.

"Concealment means to accumulate one's breath, nurture one's energies, and temper a clear sword heart." Su Wanjun continued, "If one cannot achieve this, it will be difficult to attain great accomplishments in the path of the sword."

Lin Xun thoughtfully asked, "What if one can achieve it?"

"Across the heavens and seas, everything becomes the dao of the sword. One would rise above the ten thousand daos, making all great and small daos become sword daos." Su Wanjun replied without hesitation, "At that time, the mountains and rivers, the vicissitudes of life, the myriad phenomena of the mortal world, and all living beings...will reflect the sword heart and may enter this path.

"It is the true sword of freedom. It is the sword which is also the dao heart. It is the ultimate peak of the Immeasurable Realm."

Lin Xun's heart shuddered violently as he dazedly stood there for a long time. Then, as if awakening from a dream, he cupped his hands together and said, "Thank you for your guidance, Senior."

In that moment, he had suddenly gained an indescribable realization. Various profound insights swirled in his mind, so wonderful that they could never be properly put in words.

The sword kills when drawn and hides when sheathed. The sword heart is the dao heart.

At the end of the day, the ultimate pinnacle of the Immeasurable Realm lay in the two words: heart state!

"You don't need to thank me. I've merely relayed what the master of the whetstones told me before going to the All-Wonder Dominion." At this point, Su Wanjun revealed an expression of self-mockery. "It's laughable that I've been stuck in my search for thirteen epochs, only to realize that it was a cage that trapped me. Only today did I understand that he had already given me the answer."

Lin Xun was finally certain that Su Wanjun's decision to go to the All-Wonder Dominion wasn't because she had given up on her search, but rather that she had broken free from a cage of her own creation!

Su Wanjun softly said, "Nurture the heart like jade, hone the heart like a blade. The whetstone does not sharpen the sword, but the heart."

Lin Xun's heart trembled slightly as he fell into deep thought. The whetstone sharpened not the sword but the heart; accumulating one’s breath, nurturing one’s energies, and tempering a clear dao heart. By doing so one could attain true freedom...

After a long time, Lin Xun deeply exhaled and said, "Senior’s words deeply resonate with my heart."

Where was the end of the Immeasurable Realm? He had been unable to see it before, but he could now catch a faint sliver of it!

"Since you possess the whetstones, you are naturally tied to him by destiny." Su Wanjun put away the rattan sheath and said, "Who knows, you might even meet him when you go to the All-Wonder Dominion."

Lin Xun was taken aback. In the end, he couldn't help but ask, "Elder, is the master of the whetstones also the one who calls himself 'swordsman'?"

Su Wanjun nodded.

"So it really is him..." Lin Xun inwardly sighed as he recalled what Fu Nanli had once said.

"That person is a rare genius in the way of the sword, and is an individual of unyielding pride and unmatched brilliance. A man who is ethereal, carefree, and extremely mysterious.

"No one knows his origins, but it is said that he once suppressed the heavens with a single sword. His sword dao transcends many epochs, and he has yet to be surpassed by anyone. Yet, after reaching the supreme path, he calls himself 'swordsman.'"

"Farewell, Young Friend." Su Wanjun turned and left, her red robe fluttering as she vanished into the boundlessness of the world.

Lin Xun withdrew his gaze and said, "Xia Zhi, let's also get going."

.....

The Great Dao Fate Lotus quietly floated on the vast and mighty Sea of Fate. At this moment, someone flew out from the lotus, revealing himself to be Lin Xun. With his clothes billowing around him, he stood above the surging tides of fate and looked down with eyes akin to the deep abyss.

Suddenly, images of magnificent worlds appeared in his mind, resembling countless brightly shining stars scattered beneath the waters of fate. These were the countless epoch worlds.

He softly murmured, "It’s time to put an end to it all..."

Then, he strolled into the Sea of Fate and swiftly disappeared like a ray of ethereal light.

Four hours later.

The Demonic Epoch World.

The old monsters of the Demonic Epoch, including Ying Tiansheng, were currently residing on a towering sacred mountain. Suddenly, an indifferent voice rang out across heaven and the earth. "Where is Ying Tiansheng?"

A split second later, more than a dozen terrifying figures rushed out from the sacred mountain, unsurprisingly led by Ying Tiansheng.

“Lin Xun! How did you enter this world?"

When they saw Lin Xun standing in the distance, everyone’s expressions changed, unable to believe their eyes. Numerous civilizations of various epochs were scattered throughout the Sea of Fate. However, due to the constraints of the Sea of Fate's power, no one could enter the worlds of other epochs.

Despite that, Lin Xun was somehow here! This made Ying Tiansheng and the others feel a sense of foreboding.

Lin Xun indifferently said, "If I didn’t come, our grievances cannot be properly resolved."

He extended his hand as he spoke and a sword materialized out of thin air and landed in his grasp. With that, he swung. The world abruptly darkened as a boundless sword intent filled the skies!

A single sword strike made Ying Tiansheng and the others despair. Compared to three hundred years ago, the power Lin Xun displayed was incomparably stronger than before. Even Immeasurable Realm experts like them felt as if it was impossible to escape the imminent disaster.

"Kill him!” Ying Tiansheng's eyes turned red as his roar shook the heavens. No one would sit idly by and wait for death. Thus, despite facing extreme danger, everyone unleashed their strongest trump cards in defiance.

However, when the sword strike fell—Bang! Bang! Bang!

Figure after figure burst apart under the boundless sword intent and turned to ashes. As experts at the Lesser Boundless Immeasurable Realm, they were unable to withstand the crushing pressure of the sword intent, and disintegrated like fragile paper.

By the time the sword strike dissipated, only four Greater Boundless Immeasurable Realm experts remained, including Ying Tiansheng. However, they were clearly in bad shape. That single sword strike had been terrifying beyond imagination.

Upon looking back at Ying Tiansheng and the others, one would find that their expressions were now flooded with fear. No one could have imagined that Lin Xun's power would grow to such an incredible level in just a few hundred years!

"Will you give us a chance to live if we bow our heads?" Ying Tiansheng’s voice was filled with unspeakable bitterness.

Lin Xun retorted, "If it was I the one bowing my head today, will any of you show mercy?"

Ying Tiansheng and the others fell silent. Then, the fear between their brows turned into resolute determination, and they attacked together.

Although they knew they would die, they still chose to fight to the death. Heaven and earth distorted and rumbled, flooded by interweaving sword intent. Moments later, Ying Tiansheng and the others were killed.

Shiing!

As Lin Xun turned to leave, the sword in his hand transformed into a beam of light and disappeared.

.....

The Buddhist Epoch World.

"To your master, you’re a variable that overturns the past and future. To us, you’re a calamity that brings destruction..."

Du Feng displayed a desolate expression. As he clasped his hands together, he turned into ashes which scattered in the wind. On that day, all enemies in the Buddhist Epoch were completely eradicated.

.....

The Shamanic Epoch World.

"The All-Wonder Dominion will be your burial ground!!"

An unresigned roar echoed throughout heaven and the earth. Hatred and resentment overflowed from Weng Xinghai's lips as he cracked and disintegrated inch by inch.

Lin Xun shook his head and turned to leave.

.....

Lin Xun continued to appear in various epoch worlds. When he was finally done, the enemies scattered across these worlds were completely annihilated. At this juncture, there was no longer anything tying him down, allowing his heart and mind to feel clear and refreshed. This was how the path of revenge often was: there was no relenting until one side was dead.

A year later, Lin Xun returned to the Spirit Martial World.

"When the next Fate Lotus World descends, I will go to the All-Wonder Dominion."

Lin Xun went to his senior brothers and sisters and expressed his decision. Zhong Qiu and Ruo Su weren’t surprised, having anticipated this outcome. However, they still felt somewhat sad and reluctant to officially hear it from his mouth.

Twenty years later.

A Great Dao Fate Lotus appeared on the Sea of Fate once more. While everyone on Dao Seeking Sacred Mountain bid them farewell, Lin Xun and Xia Zhi disappeared into the Fate Lotus World.

Chapter 3145 The Sword Sealed Founder

Fate Lotus World.

Lin Xun’s return to the Fate Lotus World soon spread to the cultivators scattered throughout the realm.

"Lin Xun has stated he wishes to leave the Sea of Fate? That’s fantastic news!"

"The rumor is that the miss called Xia Zhi will also be accompanying him."

"Hahaha, he's finally leaving! I feel that there's no need to compete in the Fate Lotus World this time. We should all just send Lin Xun off together!"

After hearing the news, all the old monsters were delighted regardless of which epoch they belonged to. For them, Lin Xun's presence was like a heavy stone pressing on their hearts, making them constantly fearful of him. Now that he was about to set off for the All-Wonder Dominion, it felt...like finally saying goodbye to a scourge...

Nine days later.

The opportunity to compete for the Fate Lotus Dao Altar finally arrived. The cultivators stationed at the Nine Great Heavenly Passes moved the moment this happened.

Upon arriving at the altar, everyone's gazes swiveled to the same spot. There stood two figures belonging to a man and woman. The man gave off an imposing and untouchable aura, while the woman was as beautiful as a painting. It was naturally Lin Xun and Xia Zhi.

Silence hung in the air. By now, it had been roughly five hundred years since Lin Xun had first set foot in the Sea of Fate; it was a time period dominated by him alone.

Additionally, countless terrifying enemies had perished at his hands. So much so that now, everyone in the Sea of Fate was deeply wary of his might.

At the sight of Lin Xun appearing before the Fate Lotus Dao Altar once more, many of the old monsters present couldn't help but recall several past memories, causing their expressions to turn complicated.

Lin Xun looked around and broke the silence, "Will we be following the old rules for this competition?"

Everyone involuntarily shuddered, and a purple-robed elder hurriedly said, "We have no intentions of competing, and have only come to send off Dao Friend Lin."

Lin Xun was taken aback for a moment before he turned to the others.

The other old monsters present also spoke up, "That’s right. We all know that Dao Friend Lin’s cultivation has already surpassed everyone’s. Even if we were to compete, no one would be able to match you, so we have all decided to forgo the competition."

This surprised Lin Xun. After a moment, he cupped his hands together and said, "Then I truly must thank you all."

Next, he looked at Xia Zhi and said, "Let's go."

"En." Under the crowd’s gazes, Lin Xun and Xia Zhi stepped onto the Fate Lotus Dao Altar. As he circulated his cultivation, the altar beneath his feet began to emanate waves of principle power.

Someone cupped their hands together. "Safe travels, Dao Friend Lin."

Almost simultaneously, everyone present also cupped their hands together. Whether it was out of fear or respect, they had to admit that Lin Xun had long surpassed them in the Immeasurable Realm!

As they watched him leave, everyone not only felt a sense of relief, but also a surge of indescribable emotions. It was as if they were watching a rising peerless legend about to depart from their world. That subtle feeling was difficult to put in words.

"Everyone, thank you for seeing me off." On the altar, Lin Xun smiled as he returned the gesture. In the next moment, he and Xia Zhi swiftly disappeared amidst a peculiar undulation.

On this day, the competition in the Fate Lotus World came to an end. It was also on this day that the cultivators from various epochs learned of Lin Xun's departure for the All-Wonder Dominion. For a time, there were those who rejoiced while others sighed emotionally.

Spirit Martial World, Dao Seeking Sacred Mountain.

While watching the Great Dao Fate Lotus scatter brilliant light as it zipped over the Sea of Fate, the Fangchun Mountain disciples couldn't help but bow their heads and cup their hands together.

"Youngest Junior Brother, take care!"

Meanwhile, a loud rumble suddenly sounded from one of the cave dwellings. Immediately after, a figure soared into the sky, exuding an untamable and prideful aura that caused the Sea of Fate to churn.

His presence wasn’t restrained in the slightest. He was akin to a master of battle dominating the skies and shaking the earth, as the ten thousand daos wailed and trembled beneath his feet.

He cupped his hands together and said in a booming voice filled with heartfelt gratitude, "Youngest Junior Brother, thank you!"

"Eldest Senior Brother...has awakened!"

"Eldest Senior Brother is sending off Youngest Junior Brother."

Zhong Qiu, Ruo Su, and the others were stunned as their faces rapidly filled with immense joy.

.....

The All-Wonder Dominion.

In a chaotic and dusky world, calamity dust drifted amidst the flashing lightning.

Crash~

Suddenly, the metallic sound of chains violently clashing rang out as a figure burst out from deep under the ground. Dressed in a black robe with a neat and tidy appearance, his clear eyes appeared impossibly deep.

He looked young, but also gave off the sensation of someone who had stood above the river of time and experienced countless changes through the ages. A thick black chain was wrapped around him, clattering and shaking noisily amidst bursts of dazzling and terrifying divine principle light. At closer inspection, the thick black chain seemed to be made of sword qi!

"Heh heh, why wouldn't the variable you guys spoke also be a variable in my eyes. It is time to determine the winner..." The black-robed man laughed, appearing exceedingly cheerful and happy.

Pah!

The black chain binding him seemed to have a life of its own. It emitted a blast of terrifying sword intent to ruthlessly suppress the black-robed man. The black-robed man groaned as he staggered, and was nearly pulled back down to the ground by the black chain.

"Dao Friend, you've already reincarnated and re-cultivated. Why must you still transform your entire cultivation into this 'sword seal' to bind me?"

As he looked down at the black chain, a hint of helplessness appeared on the black-robed man's face. "Bah, when that variable arrives, we will fight again to see whose path is superior."

Crash~

In the next moment, his figure returned deep underground and disappeared from sight, leaving only the echoing sounds of a clashing chain.

The dusky world gradually fell silent. A fist-sized crow with ink-black wings noiselessly flew over and landed on a bare branch. Its crimson eyes gazed at the place where the black-robed man had vanished.

"Founder, we've recently captured quite a few people who crossed over from the Sea of Fate. Through them, we've learned that the old Bodhi's long-awaited lotus will soon arrive. "Should we...take action?"

The crow's shrill voice cut apart the silence.

“No.” The black-robed man’s voice sounded from deep underground. His tone was light and cheerful as he said, "Let him come. Mysterious beyond mysterious are the doors of all-wonder. I wish to see how many doors he can pass through."

The crow was clearly taken aback and said, "Master, with the power we’ve accumulated over countless years, it will be no issue eliminating that child when he arrives. Why..."

The black-robed man interrupted, "Are you the founder?"

The crow trembled all over and lowered its head. "Your servant understands."

"You do not understand."

The black-robed man’s tone grew cold and indifferent. "Little Crow, you’ve cultivated with me since young. Others might view you as an ominous spirit, but I do not believe such things. I have helped you change your fate three times, and used the dao power of nine epochs to reconstruct your soul, allowing you to attain the perfect Immeasurable Realm in one go. But ever since I have been trapped here, your thoughts have grown numerous. Do you think I can no longer escape?"

On the branch, the crow shivered all over as it replied, "Founder, I...I merely want to help you eliminate hidden dangers. I would never dare to have any other thoughts!"

Time passed, but the black-robed man didn’t speak again. However, the longer this continued, the colder the crow's heart became, growing increasingly anxious and uneasy.

Just when the crow could no longer bear the stifling pressure, the black-robed man suddenly sighed deeply and said, "Little Crow, you have accompanied me since young and witnessed almost every step of my cultivation journey. Countless years have passed, and many friends have left me, making me almost believe that even if I unravel the ultimate mystery of the All-Wonder Dominion...I would still be all alone in the end."

His desolate voice was tinged with a hint of loneliness.

The crow's emotions surged as it resolutely declared, "Founder, I will always serve by your side!"

"I hope so." The black-robed man's voice became calm again. "Back then, that swordsman debated the dao with me, viewing me as an enemy. Despite this, I can't help but admire him. Although he abandoned his entire cultivation to create a sword seal and trap me here before his reincarnation, I do not hate him in the slightest. After all, it's just a clash of the dao, how can that ever concern someone like me? But this time is different."

At this point, he changed the subject. "My opponents are waiting for a variable, which I also need. Do you understand now?"

The crow asked, "Founder, what should I do?"

The black-robed man unhurriedly replied, "Tell the others, they will naturally understand what to do."

The crow was taken aback. "But what if all of them choose to take action?"

"Then let them." The black-robed man answered without hesitation. "However, you must not interfere. If I find out that you tried anything, I will strip you of your cultivation and sever our relationship!"

The crow trembled all over as it reluctantly nodded.

"Go." With these final words, silence fell once more.

After a long time, the crow flapped its wings and flew away, a hint of confusion still lingering in its crimson eyes.

Why did the founder give such instructions? Why can't we just directly eliminate that variable?

The crow couldn't understand.

Half a day later.

The crow flew out of this gray and dusky chaos world. Its heart state was now relaxed as if it had shed the heavy shackles on its heart. The crow murmured to itself, "Although the founder is trapped, that power...is becoming more and more terrifying..."

In a flash, it transformed into a black-clothed young lady with long, snow-white hair, and clear eyes resembling red glazed glass.

"Tell the nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords to gather and meet me in the Black Profound Domain."

She extended a slender finger and gently waved it. A wisp of black divine flame appeared and transformed into a flash of light, before vanishing from sight.

Then, she slowly stretched and murmured to herself, "Founder, I will listen to you. I won't interfere in this matter, nor will I dissuade anyone. All I will do is act as a dutiful messenger. But don't you already know that they will definitely take action once they receive the news? You must, right?"

Chapter 3146 The Storm Rages, yet the Rooster Will Still Crow

In the All-Wonder Dominion, the Hidden Domain.

“Centuries have passed in the blink of an eye, and the situation is turbulent and unpredictable, with undercurrents surging, in this All-Wonder Dominion,” sighed the golden cicada softly.

For years, he had been playing a game of chess with the Lord of Fangchun Mountain.

“While the storm rages and darkens the sky, there will always be a time for the dawn to break. All it takes is the crow of a rooster, and the world will become bright,” responded the Lord of Fangchun Mountain casually.

The storm rages, yet the rooster will still crow. With a single crow of the rooster, the world will turn bright!

The golden cicada naturally understood the meaning behind the Lord of Fangchun Mountain’s statement and couldn't help but chuckle, “Fellow Daoist, you're treating your disciple as the rooster who heralds the dawn.”

The Lord of Fangchun Mountain also smiled, and after a moment of contemplation, he said, “For us, my little disciple is a variable. For Alpha Origin, who is suppressed beneath that sword, isn't he also a variable? I'm actually a little worried now.”

The golden cicada picked up a chess piece but didn't place it as he said, “Is it like me, hesitating to make a move?”

The Lord of Fangchun Mountain nodded. “Since my little disciple has transcended the river of time, he has become a fellow kindred spirit like you and me. I cannot foresee his future, and he is not my pawn, so it's not a matter of hesitation, but rather...there are no pieces to move.”

The golden cicada chuckled. “In the outside world, we are all considered players in a game of chess, but in the All-Wonder Dominion, we are the living participants. We are vying for the highest dao, seeking ultimate transcendence. The dangers involved are beyond our prediction, and I imagine even Alpha Origin feels the same. Since that's the case, we should simply adapt to the circumstances.”

The Lord of Fangchun Mountain muttered to himself, “Adapt to the circumstances...”

At this moment, a dry, withered voice sounded, “Gentlemen, there is news.”

A withered old man, thin as a bamboo stick, stepped forward and appeared out of thin air. His hair and beard were disheveled. If Lin Xun were here, he would certainly recognize that this person was none other than Lone Man.[1]

"Previously, Black Crow, Alpha Origin’s right hand, conveyed a message, summoning the nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords to gather in the Black Profound Domain. It seems a major event is about to unfold." The old man continued, his eyes shining brightly, "I have a feeling that Lin Xun is about to arrive."

The Lord of Fangchun Mountain and the golden cicada exchanged glances and both nodded.

“Aren't the two of you planning to make a move?” Lone Man raised his eyebrows, “I can only stay in the Hidden Domain for the time it takes for an incense stick to burn. After that, I have to return to the Realm of All Spirits.”

“Fellow Daoist, just observe the situation. Only when a true variable appears will we have an opportunity.” The golden cicada smiled warmly. “If Lin Xun comes, he will surely arrive at the Realm of All Spirits. If we act prematurely before he even stirs up any trouble, we will be constrained everywhere. It's better to wait and see how much Lin Xun can accomplish first.”

Lone Man looked at the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, “Does Fellow Daoist also think so?”

The Lord of Fangchun Mountain said, “The situation is currently unclear, so there's no need to rush.”

Lone Man sighed softly, “Our enemies have already begun to plan their actions, yet we are just sitting here doing nothing?”

“Fellow Daoist, this All-Wonder Dominion is vast. It has the outer area, the Realm of All Spirits, the middle area, the Realm of All Mysteries, and the inner area, Realm of Myriad Wonders.”

The Lord of Fangchun Mountain explained slowly and calmly, “Since ancient times, most of those who entered the All-Wonder Dominion have been trapped in the Realm of All Spirits, and only a small number have been able to enter the Realm of All Mysteries.

“Only a dozen or so people have the qualifications to enter the most mysterious area, the Realm of Myriad Wonders, yet no one has dared to enter it. And why? Because of the immense karmic ties and concentrated killing intent there!”

At this point, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain paused for a moment and said, “Not only are we waiting, but our opponents are also waiting. Although my little disciple is a variable, no one can be certain that his arrival will overturn the structure of this All-Wonder Dominion and give us a chance to enter the Realm of Myriad Wonders. Therefore, what's the harm in waiting a little longer?”

Lone Man's eyes flickered. After a long moment, he finally nodded. “Then we will wait.”

The All-Wonder Dominion was divided into three major realms: the Realm of All Spirits, the Realm of All Mysteries, and the Realm of Myriad Wonders.

Among them, the Realm of All Spirits was located in the outermost area, encompassing nine different zones. Each had a gate, and each gate contained a profound mystery. The Realm of All Mysteries was located in the middle region of the All-Wonder Dominion. This realm was home to countless dimensions, each with a different landscape, and to this day, none have been truly explored.

At the very heart of the All-Wonder Dominion lay the Realm of Myriad Wonders. This realm was also called the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders. Only by relying on one's own cultivation could one sense the existence of this mysterious forbidden land. However, throughout history, only a dozen or so people had been able to do that.

Furthermore, these dozen or so people, after sensing the Realm of Myriad Wonders, all chose to stop. None of them dared to venture rashly. Because in their perception, that place was a deadly place with great opportunities and great calamities!

If the time was not right, entering would inevitably lead to death! Therefore, even now, experts like the Lord of Fangchun Mountain and the golden cicada had been waiting in the Hidden Domain of the Realm of All Mysteries.

However, Lone Man was limited by his own cultivation. Even though he could appear in the Realm of All Mysteries at this moment, he needed to return to the Realm of All Spirits within the time it took for an incense stick to burn. Otherwise, he would be annihilated by the laws of the Realm of All Mysteries!

On the other hand, people like the Lord of Fangchun Mountain and the golden cicada, whose cultivation has long allowed them to be completely free and unrestrained in the Realm of All Mysteries, could reside there for a long time.

"When do you two Fellow Daoists think is the right time to strike?" Lone Man asked.

The Lord of Fangchun Mountain said, "It should be when they pass through the ninefold gates and are on the Dao Slaying Path."

"It might also be when they arrive at the Realm of All Mysteries," pondered the golden cicada.

Upon hearing this, Lone Man couldn't help but shake his head. "In my opinion, those subordinates of the Alpha Origin Master won't wait until then."

The nine zones of the Realm of All Spirits had one gate per zone, and each gate held a mystery. The calamities they contained varied from person to person.

The so-called passing through the ninefold gates was equivalent to overcoming the trials of the nine great zones. Throughout history, there have been those who have accomplished this feat, but almost all of them were ancient beings who had reached the advanced Immeasurable Realm and had lived for countless epochs.

Furthermore, after passing through the ninefold gates there was still a Dao Slaying Path. This path connected the Realm of All Spirits and the Realm of All Mysteries. Those who could successfully traverse it could reach the Realm of All Mysteries, while those who failed would have their entire cultivation base wiped out.

Compared to the trials of the nine great zones, this Dao Slaying Path was undoubtedly more terrifying. People like the golden cicada and the Lord of Fangchun Mountain had also gone through these trials before reaching the Realm of All Mysteries.

As for Lone Man, the reason he could appear here was due to the power of the Lord of Fangchun Mountain and the golden cicada, using a secret technique similar to the Sky Stealing Sun Changing Art. This allowed him to stay here for the duration of an incense stick.

Furthermore, in Lone Man's opinion, putting aside these trials, the nine zones of the Realm of All Spirits were currently populated with many subordinates of the Alpha Origin Master! These were the most unpredictable and dangerous elements.

"A variable is a variable; it's all about change. If Lin Xun can reach the All-Wonder Dominion, then how could his cultivation be weak?" The golden cicada glanced at Lone Man. "Fellow Daoist, he is no longer the young man you once knew."

Lone Man was startled at first, then he slapped his forehead and burst into laughter. "Worry makes one confused, worry makes one confused."

Chapter 3147 The Mortal Transformation Zone and the Battle for the Heavenly Gate

All-Wonder Dominion, Hongling Domain.

A heavy, chaotic aura permeated the heavens and earth, and the mountains and rivers were vast, desolate, empty and silent. In the center of this domain stood a mountain. The mountain was steep and towering, reaching straight into the clouds.

"Grandfather is still in seclusion..." Chen Linkong stood halfway up the mountain, looking at a simple and clean thatched hut that was not far away. A feeling of helplessness was rising in his heart. How much longer would he have to wait?

Just as Chen Linkong had this thought, a voice echoed in his mind: Soon.

This simple answer made Chen Linkong tremble, his eyes brightening. "Grandfather, you've awakened?"

"A variable has arrived; who can remain indifferent?" This time, the voice came from the thatched hut, calm and peaceful, resonating like the spiritual essence of the great dao. "Don't be anxious. Just wait for the opportune moment to come, and then observe carefully and comprehend with your heart."

Chen Linkong was also a formidable powerful expert, but at this moment he was extremely humble as he said, "Grandfather, are you also planning to wait until the variable arrives before taking action to deal with the mastermind?"

The tightly closed door of the thatched hut opened, and a tall, slender figure emerged. At this moment, the originally vast and gloomy world suddenly became bright and colorful, and everything seemed to burst with boundless vitality.

"Linkong, don't be impatient. An unsettled mind leads to a scattered spirit, and a scattered spirit breeds distracting thoughts. If some powerful experts notice this, they can easily trap you," said the tall figure as he stepped forward, soared into the air, reaching above the clouds.

In his eyes, the entire Realm of All Mysteries seemed to be within his sight. The countless worlds scattered throughout this realm were like brilliant pearls. The tall figure's gaze penetrated these countless brilliant worlds, looking further into the distance, where there was an obscure and dark path called the Dao Slaying Path.

At the other end of the Dao Slaying Path was the Realm of All Spirits. His calm voice drifted down from the heavens, “In the nine sky zones of the Realm of All Spirits, each sky zone has a gate, and each gate holds a profound mystery. Linkong, let me ask you, when you entered the first sky zone, the Mortal Transformation Zone, how did you pass through that heavenly gate?”

Chen Linkong replied without hesitation, “At that time, I used my own grand dao and encountered thirty-nine Dao Competitions in the Mortal Transformation Zone. In the first thirty battles, I used many sword techniques and expended much effort and thought. In the last nine battles, I was too lazy to say another word, and simply broke through them all with a single sword strike. Thus, I obtained a Chaos Dao Fruit and soared through the heavenly gate.”

When talking about these things, Chen Linkong couldn't help but feel a surge of emotion. The Mortal Transformation Zone was a place for educating ordinary mortals.

Among the powerful experts who entered this zone, there were Dao Competitions. Whoever won could use their own dao to influence the world's situation, and their power would become the ironclad laws and regulations for educating all beings in this zone, making them accept their principles of the dao and regard them as the ultimate truth.

Furthermore, upon achieving this, one could obtain the profound mystery of this realm—the Chaos Dao Fruit! It was a kind of innate principle born from primordial chaos. With this, one could successfully pass through the first heavenly gate.

From above the clouds, the tall figure asked with interest, “What did the dao you established in the Mortal Transformation Zone transform into?”

Chen Linkong said, "A sword stele. Although it is only three feet tall, it possesses a power that can reach the heavens. At that time, it was added to the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws of the Mortal Transformation Zone."

He then couldn't help but ask, "Grandfather, why are you asking about this?"

"Throughout countless ages, countless powerful figures from various epochs have arrived at the All-Wonder Dominion, and this first trial appears in the Mortal Transformation Zone. If I'm not mistaken, to this day, one thousand six hundred and fourteen people have passed this first heavenly trial. But do you know how many powerful figures are currently trapped in the Mortal Transformation Zone?"

The tall figure then answered his own question, "At least tens of thousands! The fact that tens of thousands of people have reached the Immeasurable Realm means that there are tens of thousands of supreme dao paths. Everyone wants to stand out in the competition of dao, making their own dao occupy a place in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws of the Mortal Transformation Zone. The intensity of such a competition is unimaginable."

At this point, the tall figure asked, "Linkong, how long did it take you to pass through the heavenly gate of the Mortal Transformation Zone?"

"Thirty-three years," Chen Linkong answered without hesitation.

The tall figure asked again, "Then, how long do you think the little disciple of the Lord of Fangchun Mountain will take to pass through the Mortal Transformation Zone?"

"This..." Chen Linkong contemplated this question. When he had left the Fortune Dominion, Lin Xun was only a cultivator on the path of immortality. If he had the ability to successfully cross the Sea of Fate and arrive at the All-Wonder Dominion, his cultivation had to be at the Immeasurable Realm.

Combining his understanding of Lin Xun's foundation and talent, Chen Linkong said, "A character like him, once he enters the Immeasurable Realm, would have combat power that is far beyond that of others in the same realm. If he wants to pass through the heavenly gate of the Mortal Transformation Zone, he should be no less capable than me."

The tall figure couldn't help but let out a hearty laugh. "The amount of time it takes cannot measure the level of one's dao. If I'm not mistaken, this Lin Xun will definitely be different from all the previous competitors."

Chen Linkong fell into thought.

...

Boom! Dark clouds hung heavy, lightning flashed, and above the wild, primitive mountains and rivers, dark clouds rolled and thunder roared, shaking the mountains and terrifying all living creatures. Before long, large raindrops poured down, shrouding the world in a misty rain. In the distance, the roars of birds and beasts could be heard.

Lin Xun and Xia Zhi stood beneath a rock face at the foot of a mountain. The rock face had a ten-foot-wide indentation, providing shelter from the rain.

He glanced around, but he was momentarily lost in thought. Previously, he and Xia Zhi had stepped onto the Fate Lotus Dao Altar and then felt a dizzying shift of space and time. This had all occurred in less than fifteen minutes.

Then, they suddenly appeared in this place, witnessing this scene of wild mountains and rivers, and a torrential rain.

"Is this the All-Wonder Dominion?"

Lin Xun wasn't entirely sure. He spread his divine consciousness, sensing the surrounding world. Instantly, a series of wondrous and incredible insights flooded his mind.

The Mortal Transformation Zone is the first sky zone of the Realm of All Spirits, and it has a boundless and vast territory, containing forty-nine kingdoms built by ordinary mortals that are scattered throughout this realm. Each kingdom has hundreds of millions of inhabitants...

The struggle for the great dao is a competition of influence, using one's own dao to influence the world, and transforming one's own principles into laws that educate all living beings. Those whose dao is included in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws of this zone can obtain a Chaos Dao Fruit and ascend to the heavenly gate...

Upon receiving these insights, Lin Xun finally confirmed that he and Xia Zhi had indeed arrived at the All-Wonder Dominion! However, the existence of this Mortal Transformation Zone seemed incredibly strange.

The struggle for the great dao was a competition of superiority, a competition of the influence of their respective dao. Only in this way could their own dao be included in the Heavenly Dao Principles of the Mortal Transformation Zone, becoming the ironclad laws and rules that governed all living beings here.

"Interesting." Lin Xun told Xia Zhi what he had learned.

Xia Zhi thought for a moment, then said in a clear voice, "It's nothing more than fighting, a competition to see whose dao is more powerful."

Lin Xun smiled. "That's true."

In his mind, however, he couldn't help but think of many people, such as his master, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, the golden cicada, Chen Linkong, and some others. He also recalled the friends he had made in the Sea of Fate, such as Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli.

"I wonder if I'll be able to meet them in this Mortal Transformation Zone..." Lin Xun mused.

Suddenly, a loud clap of thunder echoed in the distance, and amidst the deep, dark, and violent rain, the sound of fighting faintly reached his ears. Lin Xun was not surprised, but instead was rather pleased. He said, "Let's go and take a look."

Having just arrived, it would be best to meet some fellow cultivators to learn about the situation in the Mortal Transformation Zone. This would save him the time of exploring everything himself.

Immediately, Lin Xun and Xia Zhi teleported through the void, and after flying south for a short while, they saw an old, dilapidated temple standing in a deep mountain shrouded in torrential rain. The sound of fighting was coming from the temple.

Lin Xun was surprised, and as his divine sense spread out, what he saw instantly changed. The inconspicuous temple had transformed into a magnificent temple of golden light, looking sacred and resplendent, as if it were the dwelling place of gods.

Upon closer inspection, a statue was enshrined in the temple, with a flowing beard and hair, and a majestic appearance, as if a deity had descended to the world. At this moment, the statue was emitting a brilliant light, revealing a dazzling and imposing figure engaged in battle.

His opponent was a man in a gray robe, wielding a green battle saber. His body radiated layers of purple divine light, and his power was extremely terrifying. He was clearly a Greater Boundless Eternal.

When Lin Xun saw this, his eyebrows twitched. He clearly saw that the magnificent temple of golden light and the illusory image of the statue within were all formed by the power of principles, not real people. In other words, the gray-robed man was fighting against the power of this temple!

In the middle of nowhere, there stands an extraordinary and mysterious temple, and a Greater Boundless Immeasurable has come here to fight against it on this rainy night. Just what is he doing?

Lin Xun became even more curious. Just then—Swish!

Suddenly, the gray-robed man seemed to sense something, and he retreated from the temple. Instantly, the temple radiating dazzling golden light and the illusory figure within it fell silent. Looking again, the temple stood amidst the mountains, ancient and weathered, without any trace of energy fluctuations.

“Which fellow daoist has arrived here? Please show yourself.” The man in the gray robe spoke in a deep voice, his voice echoing in the night, even suppressing the sound of thunder in the sky. He held a green battle saber in his hand, his figure tall and imposing. The power of principles around him transformed into a hazy purple mist, and his aura was incredibly powerful.

“I have come uninvited. If I have caused any disturbance, I hope my fellow daoist will forgive me.” Lin Xun walked leisurely from a distance, cupping his hands in greeting towards the gray-robed man. Behind him, Xia Zhi followed closely.

The gray-robed man glanced at Lin Xun and Xia Zhi, then frowned, saying, “Does Fellow Daoist not know that in this Mortal Transformation Zone, during a Dao Competition, it is most taboo for others to pry?”

A Dao Competition?

Lin Xun was startled, then cupped his hands again, saying frankly, “Please don’t be angry, Fellow Daoist. I have just arrived in this zone and haven’t yet understood the affairs of this world.”

The gray-robed man’s eyes revealed a look of understanding, saying, “So you have just crossed the Sea of Fate to arrive here. That’s understandable.”

He was visibly relieved and put away his green battle saber while cupping his hands in greeting, saying, “Our meeting was ordained by fate. My name is Nie Ting. Before the imminent destruction of the Immortal Martial Epoch, I crossed over to this Mortal Transformation Zone. May I ask for your name, Fellow Daoist?”

Lin Xun also cupped his hands, saying, “My name is Lin Xun, and I’m from the Spirit Martial Epoch.”

“So it’s Fellow Daoist Lin Xun... Hmm? Wait, you are that Lin Xun?!” The gray-robed man, who called himself Nie Ting, suddenly seemed to realize something, his eyes widening abruptly.

Chapter 3148 Self to Dao, Dao to Heaven

Heavy rain was pouring down from rolling black clouds. Occasionally, a bolt of lightning cut through the darkness, illuminating the terrains and casting a dubious show of light and shadows on Nie Ting's expression.

Lin Xun hadn’t expected that the other party would actually know of him. “How did you hear about my name?”

Nie Ting calmed his mind and answered, “In the recent centuries, many contenders who came to the Mortal Transformation Zone would, without fail, mention you and the stories about you. Currently, a great number of our kind scattered all over this zone already know about your deeds in the Sea of Fate, Fellow Daoist Lin.”

Speaking of this, there was a faint but noticeable odd look on his face. He clearly hadn't expected to meet Lin Xun, a young man who had ‘killed his way to notoriety’ here.

“I see.” Lin Xun took out an old jug of wine and pointed to a distant shelter. “Want to accompany me for a drink as you tell me more about this Mortal Transformation Zone?”

Nie Ting hesitated slightly, but he eventually nodded. “I guess, yes.”

Soon, the two of them got down on the floor and began talking over wine. Xia Zhi stayed next to Lin Xun as she stared blankly into the dark rainy night.

Four hours later, Nie Ting got up and excused himself. Lin Xun didn't keep him as he had already learned many things about the Mortal Transformation Zone from the latter.

“Xia Zhi, let’s head to the Qing Kingdom when this rain stops,” said Lin Xun.

There were forty-nine kingdoms in the Mortal Transformation Zone, and the Kingdom of Qing was one of them. They could get there in less than three days setting out from this primitive wilderness.

It was a mortal country with an emperor, ministers, and nobles. Home to billions of people, it had an extremely vast territory.

“Sounds good.” Xia Zhi nodded.

Lin Xun smiled. Staring into the rain, he fell into deep thought.

According to Nie Ting, all the forty-nine kingdoms possessed natural dao veins. These veins were invisible to mortals, but cultivators could use them to spy into the power of the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws.

The so-called Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws were the law powers that maintained the order of the mortal world.

Since time immemorial, the laws mastered by cultivators who had successfully passed the heavenly gate would become included in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws. When the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws operated in the Mortal Transformation Zone, these cultivators' laws would reach the countless mortals in the forty-nine kingdoms, thus having the effect of 'educating the living beings.'

The more beings who followed a dao law, the greater the influence of that dao law. To make an analogy, they were like believers of religions where some followed Buddhism, some followed Confucianism, and some followed Taoism.

It was an established way of living for the mortals here. The difference was that they only recognized a certain principle as an iron law and acted in accordance with it, rather than being actual devout believers.

From ancient times to the present day, all experts who had arrived at the Mortal Transformation Zone naturally wished for their own dao to be included in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws.

In this way, they would be able to influence the living beings and thus obtain the mysterious fortune unique to here called the Chaos Dao Fruit. It would be the ticket to the heavenly gate through which one could enter the second zone of the Realm of All Spirits.

In order to realize all of that, one must first engage in a great dao contest, also known as Dao Competition.

Naturally, this was not something Lin Xun was afraid of. The reason why he decided to go to the Kingdom of Qing was due to its natural dao vein, for only through it could he condense his own Jade Book of Merits.

The so-called Jade Book of Merits was an item similar to a proof, and it was made from the power of the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws in a natural dao vein.

Possessing this item was the only way one gained the qualifications to partake in the Dao Competition. First of all, one would be able to sense the locations of other competitors in the Mortal Transformation Zone.

Furthermore, if one's dao merits got included in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws during the competition, then by virtue of this jade book, one would be able to attract a Chaos Dao Fruit!

There were two types of Dao Competitions: One was to compete with the other great experts in this world, and the other was to compete with the dao merits already included in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws.

The temple in the mountain not far away, for instance, was created from a principle listed in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws. It represented the dao merits of a powerful expert who had stepped through the heavenly gate.

This expert was known as King Qiyu and had left the Mortal Transformation Zone a long time ago. By defeating the achievement that he had left in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws, one would take his place. Of course, it would not have any effect on King Qiyu. This expert had departed so long ago after all.

However, this type of challenge was not without risk, for it was extremely easy to be battered or even die when fighting a Heavenly Cycle Dao Law.

From Nie Ting, Lin Xun had learned that this guy had spent several ten thousand years in this vast region and had challenged the dao of King Qiyu several hundred times. Sadly, he had not succeeded even once.

It was worth noting that Nie Ting was an old monster who had crossed six Great Silence Unlife Calamities and arrived at this Mortal Transformation Zone from the competition of the last epoch. Despite that, he hadn't managed to obtain a Chaos Dao Fruit after these countless years!

The difficulty of this competition could be imagined.

Late into the night, the dark clouds finally dispersed, and the downpour became pattering until it completely stopped.

Lin Xun got up and flew toward the vast lands with Xia Zhi. A long time after they disappeared, Nie Ting returned and arrived before that small temple in the depths of the mountain.

“Even though the Alpha Origin Master is trapped in the Realm of All Mysteries, his subordinates are known as the number one force in this All-Wonder Dominion as a gathering of uncountable monsters with unimaginable abilities. Just those nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords each have a group of Heavenly Mandate Apostles under their command.”

He gazed into the distant sky, murmuring, “They also said a long time ago that when the sole lotus appears, it shall all be destroyed.”

.....

Three days later.

From afar, Lin Xun finally saw a huge city shrouded in the churning aura of red dust, with the breaths of various living beings entangled within.

Yunzhou City was a huge border city in the Qing Kingdom. As a cultivator, Lin Xun not only saw the red dust aura rising up in the sky but also sensed the seven kinds of law power covering different areas of the city.

One law power was light and clear, one was strict, one was as thick and heavy as a mountain... Each had its own characteristics and wonders.

“Those invisible forces are probably the power of the dao merits in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws. Their distribution in this city should mean the citizens there are influenced by their teachings.” Lin Xun observed in contemplation.

Although he had learned many things, he still had some questions left. This was the All-Wonder Dominion, but the Mortal Transformation Zone had forty-nine mortal kingdoms with billions and billions of beings without cultivation power.

However, any cultivators who came here, in order to obtain a Chaos Dao Fruit and step into the heavenly gate, first needed to enlighten the living beings with their dao. Why was it so? Could there be more to this?

The whole thing was just odd, like there was something fishy but one couldn't put their finger on it. Very quickly, though, Lin Xun shook his head and stopped thinking about it. He flew into Yunzhou City with Xia Zhi.

The city streets and alleys crisscrossed with heavy traffic. The pedestrians were all ordinary people with zero cultivation base. When Lin Xun and Xia Zhi entered, no one detected them.

The two weren't concealing themselves at all, but due to a strange law power, the mortals in this world were completely isolated from cultivators like them. While both sides seemed to be in the same city, Lin Xun and Xia Zhi could see the citizens but the latter were not aware of their presence.

Lin Xun conducted a test. When a carriage came his way, he did not move, but the carriage passed right through him—completely unhindered! When he tried touching the lantern hanging in front of a store, his hand went right through while the lantern showed no signs of being touched. It was as if his hand was air or something nonexistent.

“Oh, could it be that everything about this city is false?” Xia Zhi revealed a curious look.

“No, all of it is real.” Lin Xun chuckled. “I see. In this mortal kingdom, we cultivators are the dao. Since the dao is originally nameless, formless, and colorless, they naturally cannot see or touch it.”

After a pause, he contained, “Likewise, we cannot interfere with everything in this mundane world. The only way to influence them is through the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws.”

Lin Xun gazed at a place not far away, where the sounds of studying rang out. It was a study center, a school of sorts, where many children were reciting books. In the air above the study center, a law power was manifesting.

“To teach all beings, reading is undoubtedly a superior way.” Lin Xun mused.

Next, he and Xia Zhi walked through the city. The affairs of mortal life were displayed in full, but it was different from what he had seen in the past.

Everyone seemed to be going through their own lives, but their every move was shrouded by invisible law power. As such, their thoughts, values, mentality, and conducts were all under the influence of the dao.

However, this influence was not manipulation, but instead a silent and natural integration. Seeing this, a ripple of emotion ran through Lin Xun's heart. If this was the reality of the living beings in this world, then could it be the same for the mortals of the Ziyao Empire?

What about the Ancient Wasteland Domain, the Ancient Nebula Road, the Great Thousand Worlds, and the Eternal True Realm? Were the countless beings in those infinite worlds in the infinite cosmos also affected by the power of different laws?

The more Lin Xun thought about it, the more indescribably peculiar he felt. The living beings, born and raised in this world, were imperceptibly affected by various powers. Where did those forces come from?

They came from the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws! Which was to say, the Heavenly Principles in the eyes of cultivators.

At this moment, in Yunzhou City, it suddenly dawned upon Lin Xun: dao competitors like him were fighting for the power to replace the Heavenly Principles! It was not about acting in the place of Heaven. It was about transforming oneself into the dao, and then transforming the dao into Heaven!

That's right, only cultivators perceive the great dao and embark on the path of cultivation, thus having the ability to control the laws and override them. Immortal laws or Eternal laws, in the end, they are all a part of the almighty dao...

As Lin Xun pondered, he vaguely understood the wonders of the Mortal Transformation Zone. Cultivators could sense the great dao and walk along it. Mortals, too, lived under the laws of the heavenly dao.

The Dao Competition that Immeasurable Eternals like him participated in was the process of competing to replace the Heavenly Principles!

Chapter 3149 Jade Book of Merits

Yunzhou City was extremely vast, so Lin Xun and Xia Zhi only had a brief walk before they teleported away.

The natural dao vein of the Qing Dynasty was located in its imperial capital. To get there from Yunzhou City, one would have to endure a long journey across one hundred and thirty-six cities. Even if Lin Xun and Xia Zhi did nothing but teleport the whole way, it would still take them a full day.

However, Lin Xun was in no rush. Each city in the Qing Kingdom was covered with a different Heavenly Cycle Dao Law. Therefore, they each had a very different lifestyle. As Lin Xun and Xia Zhi flew past, what they saw and felt about in different cities were all different.

Due to the differences in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws, the way the citizens reacted to life, old age, sickness, death, love, hate, resentment, and fear were also very different. As such, there were huge disparities between what they deemed good or bad, black or white, and right or wrong.

Along the way, Lin Xun's brows furrowed a little. Every difference in the Dao Laws led to different impacts on the living beings. He sighted cases where a city was covered by over a dozen Dao Laws. Due to the differences in the rules and ways of conduct the citizens followed, there were a great deal of conflicts, disputes, and even bloodshed that resulted in gruesome deaths.

It gave the impression of different civilizations and ethnic groups clashing and slaughtering each other, and it got him thinking.

A big number of Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws isn't necessarily a good thing... If there is only one type of Heavenly Cycle Dao Law that sustains the entire Mortal Transformation Zone, then there shouldn't be so much violence and conflict among the billions of beings in the forty-nine kingdoms, right?

Furthermore, such a Heavenly Cycle Dao Law can merge the various civilizations here into one where everybody honors the same teachings and follows the same rules. In this way, the world would be unified!

But, since I can think of this, how could the many great predecessors not think of it? In that case, perhaps this is the exact reason why those like us have been fighting in the Dao Competitions of this Mortal Transformation Zone!

Lin Xun began to understand something.

For countless moons, all the great experts who had arrived at the Mortal Transformation Zone had aimed to crown their dao merits as the sole parameter of this heaven and earth, thus becoming the sole educator of all living beings.

In order to achieve it, they had to first prove to be better than the rest on the cultivation path, and this might be the fundamental reason for the emergence of the Dao Competition.

One day later, at the imperial capital of Qing...

When Lin Xun saw this city from afar, his eyes couldn't help but narrow. In the sky above the imperial capital, there was only one Heavenly Cycle Dao Law that resembled the auspicious violet qi from the east. It was thick, infinite, and magnificent, truly something divine.

He had passed a whole hundred and thirty-six cities and witnessed many different kinds of Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws, but none of those laws was as powerful as the violet law shrouding the imperial capital. Their difference was that between a small stream and an ocean!

Only an almighty expert can have this kind of merit power.

As Lin Xun was thinking this, he noticed something noteworthy. From the various citizens of all shapes and sizes, there was not only the rolling energy of red dust but also some terrifying auras mixed in it—the power belonging to Immeasurable Eternals!

“No wonder we've only seen a handful of fellow cultivators along the way. It turns out they're all hiding in this imperial city.”

Lin Xun had a feeling that an unpredictable storm was awaiting once he set foot into the imperial city.

“Xia Zhi.”

“Hm?”

“This imperial city is nothing less than a dragon lair. I'm afraid we must be ready to fight.”

Upon hearing this, Xia Zhi's eyes lit up like the feeling of boredom had left her. In her clear and crisp voice, she asked, “Is the Dao Competition going to start?”

Lin Xun nodded. “It has already started.”

The duo entered the imperial city as they chatted. Like usual, the mortal citizens were utterly unaware of their presence. Lin Xun, on the other hand, could clearly see and feel the abundant energy rising from the center of the imperial capital. It was right before the Qing royal palace, the aura of a Heavenly Cycle Dao Law!

Without a question, that was where the natural dao vein belonging to the Qing Kingdom was located.

In front of the palace was a huge square. Further from there were streets that ran in all directions, with various business buildings on both sides such as restaurants, teahouses, etc. The area was busy and prosperous.

On the way over, Lin Xun and Xia Zhi spotted many Immeasurable Eternals. There was a young man sitting cross-legged in the air above a teahouse, his robe the color of snow and his sword placed across his knees.

There was an old man with unkempt hair, squatting in front of a restaurant with a huge red gourd of wine in hand. As he drank from the gourd, his eyes were kept on the bustling affairs of the varied mortals.

There was a man clad in divine armor. He stood proudly in the clouds with his hands on his back like a war god on a patrol.

There was a youthful woman in a rainbow-colored dress. She mingled in the crowd of a wine bar, listening with great interest to the storyteller telling legendary tales of chivalrous heroes.

There were over a dozen of those terrifying existences scattered around the palace, each doing their own thing without interfering with one another. When Lin Xun and Xia Zhi came into view, many of their gazes landed on them.

“Oh? We finally have some new friends.”

“Do any of you recognize those two fellow daoists, the man and woman over there?”

“Not at all, they’re both unfamiliar faces.”

Bursts of conversations exchanged through intent resounded between those terrifying existences. Although Lin Xun and Xia Zhi couldn't hear them, they could feel the gazes on them.

Xia Zhi's delicate brows slightly furrowed. Lin Xun smiled. “Just ignore them.”

The two kept walking on their determined course, but as they were about to enter the huge square in front of the palace, a voice as mellow as a spring breeze suddenly rang out, “If I have to guess, Fellow Daoists, the two of you have only recently come to this zone from the Sea of Fate?”

The speaker was a scholarly, middle-aged man with a long, fluttering beard. Wearing a wide-sleeved robe fastened with a wide belt and holding a green bamboo slip, he exuded a noble spirit.

“Indeed.” Lin Xun stopped walking and looked over. “Anything you would like to enlighten me on?”

The middle-aged scholar smiled and clasped his fist. “I wouldn’t say enlighten, it's just that, since you're new here, I reckon there are still things you don't know about the Qing palace. If you'd like, I can explain to you what I know.”

After a stunned second, Lin Xun clasped his fist back. “I would appreciate that, yes.”

The middle-aged scholar swept his gaze at the Immeasurable Eternals scattered all around and said, “The fellow daoists present, a total of seventeen of us, are here to wait for no more than two things: One is the one who must be killed, and two, a worthy competitor.”

Lin Xun couldn't help but ask, “What is the one who must be killed?”

The middle-aged scholar laughed. “You’ll know after you condense your respective Jade Book of Merits later.”

He stopped speaking entirely after that. Looking around at the others, they likewise had no intention of opening their mouths.

Lin Xun decided not to delve into it and stepped into the huge square with Xia Zhi. At that instant, they intimately felt the power of the natural dao vein surging from deep underground like molten lava. When he operated his cultivation base and extended his right hand, immediately, countless rays of light appeared. Like being pulled, they converged on his right palm and gradually formed a strange, illusory jade book.

In Lin Xun's mind, a series of unimaginable scenes started to play.

He saw hundreds and thousands of merit forces, originating from different areas of the boundless Mortal Transformation Zone, transform into Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws. They then permeated the sky of the zone and influenced the billions and billions of living beings in the forty-nine kingdoms.

One took the form of a lofty mountain range. One took the form of a sword monument that stood tall in a certain kingdom. There were also auspicious clouds, scrolls and books, weapons, grasses and trees... All were scattered in different places.

Although their forms differed, they were all manifestations of the dao merits of mighty ones who had obtained Chaos Dao Fruits and had crossed the heavenly gate of the Mortal Transformation Zone. Lin Xun even saw the temple located in the mountainous depth that was transformed from the dao merits of King Qiyu. He even saw Nie Ting dueling it.

He instantly came to a realization. What he was seeing were the dao merits scattered in the Mortal Transformation Zone, and it was these dao merits that had become the one thousand odd Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws.

The various things they took the forms of were called dao manifestations! In other words, the ‘temple’ transformed from the dao merits of King Qiyu was a dao manifestation.

Soon, the scene in Lin Xun's mind changed. Countless figures of all shapes and colors appeared, distributed like dots of light in the Mortal Transformation Zone. These were clearly the auras of the powerhouses in this realm! There were roughly ten thousand of them!

At this moment, the illusory jade book on Lin Xun’s palm solidified a little. Reading it with his spirit sense, he saw the locations of the one thousand odd dao manifestations and of the ten thousand mighty experts across the different territories of the Mortal Transformation Zone!

When he located the Kingdom of Qing in the jade book, he counted nineteen cultivators, including him and Xia Zhi, in the imperial capital! Moreover, there were also three dao manifestations in this city: an imperial seal hidden in a secret place of the royal palace, a bronze furnace in front of a Taoist temple, and an old tree rooted before the eastern gate of the city!

Lin Xun was inwardly shaken by what he learned. With this jade book, wouldn't it mean one could easily pinpoint all the competitors in this world? In a nutshell, this jade book was a live map. It reported the locations of the dao manifestations transformed from Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws, as well as that of the great experts in the Mortal Transformation Zone!

“So, one cannot run from a determined enemy here. There's nowhere to hide at all...” Lin Xun immediately found the problem with this jade book.

It allowed one to learn the location of one's rivals and likewise gave one's location to one's rivals! It was both a benefit and a drawback.

“So, this is the mystery of the Jade Book of Merits?”

Lin Xun recalled what Nie Ting had told him, that having a Jade Book of Merits was the only way to gain the qualifications to partake in the Dao Competition.

First of all, one would be able to locate other competitors in the Mortal Transformation Zone. Furthermore, if one's dao merits got included in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws during the competition, then one would be able to attract a Chaos Dao Fruit with the jade book's help!

Chapter 3150 The One Who Must Be Killed

Looks like getting rid of the Jade Book of Merits is a no-go.

Arriving at this conclusion, Lin Xun raised a thought, and the Jade Book of Merits vanished into his palm lines. Xia Zhi had put away her Jade Book of Merits as well.

"May I know your names, Fellow Daoists?" It was at this moment that the middle-aged scholar in the distance spoke up again.

The rest of the Immeasurable figures in the surroundings also looked at Lin Xun and Xia Zhi. A subtle tension rose in the atmosphere.

Lin Xun looked over and said with a meaningful smile, "You waited until we had condensed our Jade Book of Merits to ask our names. Don't you think that's a bit unseemly?"

The middle-aged scholar squinted, and then he chuckled. "Please don't take offense. It is a tacit agreement between those like us in the Mortal Transformation Zone that we're only on the same page once we have all condensed our Jade Book of Merits. This simplifies things for us."

"You're right, everyone with this item is a new rival. Whether it's used for revenge or purely for the Dao Competition, an opponent who escapes can still be closely monitored." Lin Xun agreed and then suddenly asked, "Can you tell me who it is that you preferred to as the one who must be killed?"

The middle-aged scholar was stunned. Before he could reply, the old man who carried a big red wine gourd suddenly said, "You are Lin Xun, aren't you?"

The question was asked casually, but everyone present including the middle-aged scholar stared intently at Lin Xun, their qi quietly operating.

Lin Xun remained silent for a while before he laughed. “Looks like it's just as I had thought; the one who must be killed is me.”

On that rainy night, Nie Ting had said that in the last few hundred years, many cultivators in the Mortal Transformation Zone had heard of Lin Xun’s name and what he had done in the Sea of Fate. Bearing that in mind, he already had a premonition upon hearing that the middle-aged scholar and the others had been waiting here for someone who must be killed.

The old man before the restaurant had confirmed his doubt by guessing his name. At this point, how could Lin Xun not understand that these old fellows had been waiting for him?

“This guy is really surnamed Lin!”

The middle-aged scholar narrowed his eyes, a hint of frost crossing his face. The proud man clad in divine armor, who resembled a war god, swiftly floated down from the clouds. The white-robed young man sitting cross-legged with the sword on his knees got up, casually holding the weapon in his hand. The woman in the rainbow-colored dress, who had been enjoying tales from the storyteller, turned and walked out of the teahouse...

Every cultivator in the surrounding area was on the move. Their aura spread like a tsunami, covering this heaven and earth, including the huge square before the palace with Lin Xun and Xia Zhi standing in it.

The miraculous part was that all this commotion did not affect the mortals at all. The restaurants and shops remained lively and noisy, and the streets and alleys were still bustling with traffic. They were in the same city but two different worlds!

Lin Xun did not flinch. With a puzzled face, he asked, “Can you tell me, what kind of enmity do we have that's worth you painstakingly waiting here all this time?”

The middle-aged scholar smiled faintly. “If you still live after this, I will tell you.”

Lin Xun looked around at the crowd and smiled as well. “I’ll hold you to it.”

Boom!

Lin Xun’s words still echoed when the man clad in divine armor made the first move. Radiant flames surged from him, illuminating the nine heavens and ten earths.

Clang!

As he waved his hand, the endless flames of law power formed a sabre and chopped out with infinite domineeringness.

“Leave them to me.” Xia Zhi jumped out ahead of Lin Xun.

She had been feeling very bored, so faced with this siege, she had zero hesitation, only a sense of anticipation. Her delicate figure leapt through the air. As she punched out, the fist qi gushed erupted like a star river, and its vast torrent was filled with nothing but the power of time.

Her overwhelming might easily blasted the sabre flying uncontrollably. The sky-blotting law power flames also dispersed. The armored man's pupils shrunk. As it was already too late to change his stance, he immediately crossed his arms before his chest to defend.

Kaboom!

The fist qi wrecked the armored man the second it hit. As if drowned in the flood of time, his dao energy was completely suppressed. He received a blow so heavy that his cultivation base collapsed by a big chunk!

Immeasurable Eternals had long ceased fearing the erosion of time. Despite this, Xia Zhi’s punch had suppressed the armored man's entire dao strength, resulting in a devastating and unparalleled impact. She also shocked the entire field with this one punch. The expressions of the middle-aged scholar and the others dropped as they rushed to the armored man's rescue.

Over a dozen mighty experts attacked together, their auras erupting like a volcano that had been storing up strength for a long time as they demonstrated their own unique Greater Boundless might.

Eternal weapons clanged loudly as they shuttled nimbly through the battlefield. Supreme divine abilities distorted the sky and sent quakes through the earth. Each one was the definition of horror. Under such a circumstance, Xia Zhi actually said, “Lin Xun, don't intervene.”

Her voice was pleasantly melodious, but the implication behind her request upset the opponents. They had never met a cultivator so arrogant despite being in the same cultivation realm as them.

To their surprise, Lin Xun really did not intervene. He stood a distance away, watching the battle in a leisurely manner like a passer-by. No one knew better than him how strong Xia Zhi was in combat. Just like during their time in the Sea of Fate, even top giants like Tian Xingzi and Chi Qianji had struggled to believe that a beautiful maiden like her would possess such heaven-defying power.

The battle was in full swing. Watching from afar, one would notice that every Greater Boundless Eternal displayed a unique and supreme aura, and the power they unleashed fully interpreted the laws they had mastered. Some looked like deities who manipulated wind and lightning, some like overbearing sword immortals.

The power of both sides constantly collided and clashed, staging scenes of endless turmoil and destruction between heaven and earth.

However, the aura belonging to Xia Zhi was especially exceptional and eye-catching. It was a combination of three energy strips that resembled three long rivers connecting the sky and the ground. One for fate, one for karma, and one for time, each of them could be called a supreme dao, and under Xia Zhi's control, they were interpreted into earth-shattering might.

Boom!

Soon, an aura dissipated into nothingness under the domination of the torrent of fate. It was the death of the man in divine armor. In the final head-on confrontation, Xia Zhi's spear had pierced him and his entire cultivation base, destroying both his shell and spirit.

At the same time, Lin Xun noticed the aura of an expert disappearing from the Jade Book of Merits.

“What a magical item.” He clicked his tongue.

His focus then shifted back to the distant battlefield. A total of sixteen mighty experts was surrounding Xia Zhi, but the situation was that she alone was suppressing them all!

The strongest among them are only those two who are on the level of Huanglong Zhenjun. The rest are still missing a little something...

Lin Xun had killed so many Greater Boundless Eternals during his five hundred years of conquest in the Sea of Fate that he had lost count. This allowed him to discern with ease the strength of those cultivators in the battlefield.

Truthfully, the other party could not pose much of a threat to either him or Xia Zhi despite their numbers. After all, there wasn't even a single character among them that could measure up to Chi Qianji and Tian Xingzi, so how could Lin Xun take them seriously?

It wasn't that the enemy wasn't strong, but that on the Immeasurable path, he and Xia Zhi had surpassed them by a long shot!

Back then, Lin Xun had traveled the various epochal worlds in the Sea of Fate on his own, slaughtering Du Feng, Weng Xinghai, and various other top-level enemies. Compared to that experience, the battle in front of him completely failed to work up any concerns.

It’s only fair, though. Being able to get into the All-Wonder Dominion doesn't necessarily mean one is very strong. Like Ji Tianqing, Ziche Chong, and Ye Wuhen, the only reason Lesser Boundless Eternals like them could get here is with the help of others.

Lin Xun deduced. And in this Mortal Transformation Zone, those like Ji Tianqing are definitely not in the minority. What's more, this is only the first zone out of the nine in the Realm of All Spirits. The very top-tier powerhouses have probably long left the Mortal Transformation Zone...

In conclusion, among the current batch in the Mortal Transformation Zone, there may be very formidable ones, but the majority are only so-so.

To clarify, formidable in Lin Xun's eyes were leading giants like Tian Xingzi, Chi Qianji, Du Feng, and Weng Xinghai. Those under that standard might be powerful to others, but not to him and Xia Zhi.

Having made his judgment, he became even more relaxed. He retrieved a pot of wine and enjoyed it as he watched the battle. The imperial capital was ever bustling with activity, the citizens going about their lives. However, this stretch of heaven and earth had long been in disarray and turbulence.

With time, three more opponents died tragically one after another. At this point, Xia Zhi was already at an absolute advantage whereas her opponents were all in a state of shock and anger. Confusion and apprehension were clear in their eyes, clearly having suffered from a huge blow to their mental state.

Noticing this, Lin Xun put away the wine pot and teleported over. He wasn't worried about Xia Zhi; he was worried that the enemies were reaching their breaking point.

Sure enough, the moment he made his move, the remaining opponents chose to withdraw—no discussions needed among themselves. Each one was faster and more decisive than the last as they fled.

However, Lin Xun had intercepted them in advance.

“I had expected exactly this.” He sneered and waved his sleeve.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

A sea of qi swords shot out, pouring into the sky and cutting up the void. At once, roars, explosions, screams, and collisions... All sorts of sounds rumbled like a raging ocean. The matchless qi swords swept through every inch of space, completely messing up this side of heaven and earth.

A mere few breaths later, all the opponents except for the middle-aged scholar had been slaughtered.

Some had died to Lin Xun, some had died to Xia Zhi. The duo had coordinated to perfection and cleared the opposing party effortlessly! When the battle ended and the region returned to calm, the middle-aged scholar, as the sole survivor, was already as pale as dirt, his liver and guts splitting.