Prodigies 3151

Chapter 3151 The Nine Departments of Alpha Origin

The middle-aged scholar's expression kept changing. It took him a long time to snap back to reality from the series of deaths just now. When he looked at Lin Xun and Xia Zhi again, the fear in his eyes was irrepressible.

Lin Xun smiled. “You said that you would give me answers as long as I lived.”

The middle-aged scholar let out a long sigh. “We were blind and overestimated ourselves... I'll tell you everything. We are all subordinates of the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Kun Department. We waited here because we were given orders to...”

Through his explanation, Lin Xun quickly grasped the full picture. In the All-Wonder Dominion, the Alpha Origin Master and the nine departments under their command were deservedly the number one force.

The so-called nine departments were the Qian, the Kun, the Li, the Zhen, the Gen, the Kan, the Dui, the Xun, and the Central Departments. Each of them was led by a Dao Lord of supreme capabilities.

The lower-ranked members in these departments were called Heavenly Mandate Apostles. The Dao Lords of the nine departments and their respective Heavenly Mandate Apostles all served the Alpha Origin Master.

However, ever since the Alpha Origin Master had gotten trapped in the Realm of All Mysteries a long time ago, their nine departments had been following orders from a woman who called herself ‘Black Crow.’

Black Crow was the number one dao servant of Alpha Origin and their most trusted confidante. Her cultivation depth was also unfathomable, said to have reached the peak Immeasurable Realm long ago. In the entire All-Wonder Dominion, she was a terrifying existence who could strike fear in any cultivators.

Some time ago, the middle-aged scholar and his fellow members had received an order from their direct superior, Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord Qing Yangzi. All of them, as Heavenly Mandate Apostles scattered

around the Mortal Transformation Zone, had been asked to stake out the natural dao veins of the forty-nine kingdoms.

The target was Lin Xun!

Listening to this point, Lin Xun finally understood. The one who had taken action against him was the Alpha Origin Master, also known as the mastermind behind the epochal calamity!

Lin Xun asked, “How many Heavenly Mandate Apostles like you are there in the Mortal Transformation Zone?”

The middle-aged scholar replied, “Of the nine departments, only the Kun Department’s Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord is in charge of the matters in this zone. Here, there are around eight hundred Heavenly Mandate Apostles who truly serve in the Kun Department.”

At this part, he revealed a bitter look. “We Heavenly Mandate Apostles in the Mortal Transformation Zone seem to be numerous, but in fact, we're the most marginalized members in all nine departments.”

This piqued Lin Xun's interest. “Wanna explain?”

The middle-aged scholar said, “Since forever, almost everyone who has crossed Sea of Fate to get to this Mortal Transformation Zone would receive an invitation from the members of the Kun Department here. The deal is that by joining, they will receive protection from the Alpha Origin Master, and that all the available forces under the Alpha Origin Master will come to their aid should they encounter perils.

“As you already know, this All-Wonder Dominion is treacherous. We compete to get here to avoid the Great Silence Unlife Calamity and also to seek a Chaos Dao Fruit. If we act alone, we are easy prey and vulnerable to misfortune.”

Lin Xun said, “So, many of the fellow cultivators who entered the Mortal Transformation Zone chose to join the Alpha Origin Master?”

“That’s right.” The middle-aged scholar said, “But, since the Dao Competition tests the height of one's dao achievements, most Heavenly Mandate Apostles affiliated with the Kun Department like us barely have the chance to enter the heavenly gate and leave this Mortal Transformation Zone. That's why we have become the least valued group among the Alpha Origin Nine Departments.”

Lin Xun understood. There were nine sky zones in the Realm of All Spirits. Each zone had a gate, and behind each gate was an opportunity. The Mortal Transformation Zone was the first sky zone of the Realm of All Spirits. Not being able to enter its heavenly gate meant being stuck in the lowest level.

Unable to pass even the first level, it was only natural that the middle-aged scholar and the other Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Kun Department were not held in high regard. This also meant that, in spite of their numbers, they were not much different from a plate of loose sand.

Lin Xun commented, “It's not a bad thing to act in a group, but if you choose the wrong camp, it will only come back to bite you.”

The middle-aged scholar said with a bleak face, “We cultivate for millennia, experience all the ups and downs, and undergo the honing of life and death. Only after all that do we manage to come to the All-Wonder Dominion, and not without a struggle. Who would have thought that this place is not the paradise we expected? But we only have our inadequate cultivation power to blame; this world has no place for us unless we band up with others.”

In his voice, there was nothing but despondency and sorrow. Not going to the All-Wonder Dominion meant having to live under the threat of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity, and whether it could still be called ‘living’ then would be a question.

However, the other option would be equally treacherous. If they had foreknowledge of this, then many of those in this Mortal Transformation Zone probably wouldn't have been so eager to compete for the All-Wonder Dominion back then.

“You are free to go.” Lin Xun waved his hand.

The middle-aged scholar was stunned. He had already prepared himself for death, but Lin Xun actually looked like he intended to show mercy and let him off this time.

After a long silence, the middle-aged man took a deep breath and cupped his fist. “Thank you very much.”

Only then did he turn and walk away, but his mind was still in a trance. In the last several centuries, he had heard many stories of Lin Xun's deeds, and all of those stories described him as cruel and bloodthirsty. His previous impression of Lin Xun was a ruthless demon god, but to think that...the demon god let him live!

“Why not kill him?” Even Xia Zhi was a little surprised.

“What’s the point of reaping such an unfortunate soul?” Lin Xun murmured.

Strictly speaking, a character like the middle-aged scholar couldn't be considered an enemy. He was at best an unappreciated pawn of the Alpha Origin Master.

Lin Xun had let him go not because he was merciful, but because he wanted him to spread word of today's events. If the Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Kun Department here still insisted on dealing with him, then this would compel them to reconsider whether they could handle the consequences.

However, from what Lin Xun knew about this unappreciated group who lacked unity and cohesion, most of them probably would no longer be willing to risk their lives for the Alpha Origin Master like before. This was what he wanted to see.

“Strange, we've just killed so many opponents, which is sort of a dao competition, but why hasn't there been much change in the Jade Book of Merits?” Xia Zhi frowned as her attention had shifted to her Jade Book of Merits.

A stunned Lin Xun also checked his own jade book and found no significant change either. He mused, “It seems that there is some kind of bar to this competition. It is no good when the opponent is too weak, maybe?”

To pass the heavenly gate of the first sky zone, one needed to attract a Chaos Dao Fruit, and to attract a Chaos Dao Fruit, one needed to get their dao merits included in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws. In the

final analysis, the first step was to fight in the Dao Competition. Only through this did one have the chance to put their dao merits in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws.

The powerful experts in the Mortal Transformation Zone alone, as shown in the Jade Book of Merits, amounted to ten thousand. If an ordinary fight between cultivators could get into the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws, then the middle-aged scholar as well as all these cultivators wouldn't have been stuck here to this day.

In the end, a strong cultivation prowess and also a strong enough opponent were needed to conduct a dao competition. Fortunately, there were two ways about it, and fighting other powerful cultivators was only one of them.

The other way was to compete with the dao merits, in the forms of dao manifestations, of those who had already ascended and left through the heavenly gate.

This also meant that, even if there was no other opponent left in this world, one could still compete with the dao manifestations. In short, there was always a chance no matter what.

In the capital of the Qing Kingdom, there were three dao manifestations: an imperial seal stored in a secret place of the palace, a bronze furnace in front of a Taoist temple, and an ancient tree right outside the eastern gate of the city.

“Let's go and take a look at the imperial seal in the Qing Palace.”

Lin Xun had an idea and decided to do it right away. Together with Xia Zhi, he teleported to a deep part of the palace.

For ordinary mortals, a royal palace was a most taboo place. It was the territory of the chosen dragon’s son from where he ruled the kingdom and dominated the eight wastelands. The royal power was their sky.

In the eyes of Lin Xun, however, it was worth next to nothing. Emperor or not, they ultimately did not escape the plight of old age, sickness, and death!

In a luxurious building deep in the palace grounds, Lin Xun saw the imperial seal that was a manifestation of dao merits.

Situated on a desk, this jade seal was square, the size of a fist, and entirely purple. Its surfaces were engraved with terrains on earth and the sun, moon, and stars in the sky. There was a thick, vast, and majestic aura about it. He instantly recognized that this aura and the aura covering the imperial city were of the same origin!

“Looks like that this dao manifestation was left by an unfathomable expert.” Lin Xun pondered.

Xia Zhi suddenly said, “Lin Xun, I have a feeling that once I defeat this seal, my dao merits will become a part of the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws, and I will attract a Chaos Dao Fruit and ascend to the heavenly gate.”

Lin Xun was stunned and hastily said, “Then don't act just yet.”

“Why not?” Xia Zhi was puzzled.

“What am I to do if you leave so suddenly?” Lin Xun was angry at how ‘heartless’ this girl was.

“Oh.” Xia Zhi instantly got it and frowned. “How can we leave together then?”

Lin Xun mused. “I'm afraid that’s not possible, but while we're here, we can discuss beforehand what to do after we get up there.”

The second sky zone of the Realm of All Spirits, after leaving the Mortal Transformation Zone, was the Calamitous Zone. They currently had no information on the situation of the Calamitous Zone, so they naturally needed to do some digging and make preparations first.

“What do you say we do next?” Xia Zhi asked.

“Let’s gather more information.” Lin Xun contemplated. “Given that those Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Kun Department were able to receive orders from their leader Qing Yangzi, news from the other zones very likely can reach the Mortal Transformation Zone. Word of my appearance here should have spread by now, so I believe that in the following time, quite a few people will be coming to our door.”

Lin Xun couldn't help but think of the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, the golden cicada, Chen Linkong, as well as Xing Jianxia, Fu Nanli, and the other old relics who had arrived at the All-Wonder Dominion many years earlier. How could they be indifferent once they heard that he had gotten to the Mortal Transformation Zone?

Chapter 3152 Strong Wind Rises in the Imperial Capital of Qing

Realm of All Mysteries, Black Profound Domain.

Ten round, scarlet moons hung in the sky, shedding bright red rays of light that resembled vicious liquid. The whole world was a deep red, and on the very top of an old, black tree, a black-clothed young girl sat. Her slender and fair legs dangled in the air, and her feet glistened with a faint halo.

She wore her snow-white hair down. Her face presented a beauty that was purely devilish, and her two, ruby-like eyes were clear and chilling. The light dropping from the ten scarlet moons surged towards the black-clothed maiden as if under a pulling force, adding an intimidating and mysterious air to her delicate silhouette.

Suddenly, a cold wind blew in the desolate, blood-red region. Then, an old ape as tall as a mountain with a pair of swords on his back appeared out of nowhere and bowed to her as he spoke.

“Young Miss, Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Kun Department, Qing Yangzi, has just sent word that the young man named Lin Xun has shown up in the Qing Kingdom of the Mortal Transformation Zone.”

Above the black tree, the black-clothed maiden's eyes lit up. “He’s finally here. Did Qing Yangzi make any move, Ape Ancestor?”

The old ape with the twin swords remained in his bowing posture. “Qing Yangzi has ordered all his Heavenly Mandate Apostles in the Mortal Transformation Zone to take action. Should there be any new development, he will report it to you immediately.”

After a pause, the old ape added, “Also, Qing Yangzi has asked if Young Miss has any other instructions for him.”

The black-clothed maiden was about to say something, but then fell silent. Finally, she said, “I’m merely one who relay orders from the master to them. How they will do about it is their business. Going forward, tell the nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords that they don't need my opinion on anything.”

The old ape said, “Yes.”

The black-clothed maiden waved her hand. “Go now.”

A cold wind blew, and the old ape vanished.

“So be it, time to see the Lord again.” The black-robed maiden decided after some thinking. With a flicker, she swiftly transformed into a crow with pitch-black feathers, flapping her wings and taking off into the air.

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In that vast, primal world of chaotic nothingness, the black crow perched on a tree branch, feeling stressed and apprehensive inside.

She had reported about Lin Xun's appearance in the Qing Kingdom but so far hadn't gotten any hint of a response.

It wasn't until the black crow started to feel scared when a voice rang directly in her head, “From today onwards, you will stay here. You will not take one step out, and you shall not have any more contact with the others.”

The voice was calm and flat, but Black Crow stiffened. Her scarlet eyes widened as she wanted to ask why, but the indescribable fear filling her stopped her.

After what felt like half a day, the voice of the Alpha Origin Master resounded once again, “As I have said, I want to see how many hurdles the sole variable can overcome and how many changes he can make happen, not you presumptuously trying to deal with him.”

Black Crow whispered, “My Lord, I did not instruct the others to deal with Lin Xun.”

“Heh, little crow, how many epochs has Ape Ancestor served you? How could he not know what you really think? Don't act like he won't go ahead and do it even if you don't say it.” The voice of the Alpha Origin Master was icy, “When all sides are sitting tight, whoever jumps out first will fall into a disadvantage.”

Black Crow bowed her head like a child who had done something wrong. She could not read the Alpha Origin Master’s mind, she just wanted to do something. Clearly, though, the Alpha Origin Master deemed what she had done a mistake!

“Maintaining vigilance from beginning to end is how you avoid failures... I've been caged for epochs, but have I ever been in a hurry?” the Alpha Origin Master murmured. “When it comes the time to decide the final victor, there won't be more than a handful in the entire All-Wonder Dominion who are our match anyway.”

Black Crow said, “My Lord, I only have one question.”

“Ask.”

“What if Lin Xun passes all the ninefold gates, crosses the Immortal Slaying Path, and arrives in this Realm of All Mysteries?”

“As far as I'm concerned, that is a blessing.”

“I...don't understand.”

“Just wait and watch from here.”

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In the Hidden Domain, the golden cicada softly asked, “Dao Brother, that little disciple of yours is here. Do you want to go and meet him?”

Just a moment ago, Lone Man had come and reported about Lin Xun's appearance in the Mortal Transformation Zone.

“No rush, the time is not yet ripe.” The Lord of Fangchun Mountain shook his head.

The golden cicada mused, “But those subordinates of Alpha Origin cannot wait anymore.”

“As long as Alpha Origin is still waiting, we cannot move,” replied the Lord of Fangchun Mountain as he sighed. “You pull one hair and the whole body starts moving... It's a murky storm ahead of us.”

The golden cicada chuckled. “Then we'll wait a little longer, but I'm afraid that Lone Man and the others won't be waiting with us.”

“No harm in that.” The Lord of Fangchun Mountain said, “Only when a great change occurs can the grand finale be ushered in.”

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Several days flew by. Lin Xun and Xia Zhi had been waiting for the enemies to find them while also waiting for their friends to find them. At the moment, they were sitting in a rather large teahouse in the capital of Qing, listening in leisure to an animated storyteller at work.

Outside the imperial city...

In recent days, a significant number of mighty figures had been pouring in, some coming from other cities of the Qing Kingdom, some from other kingdoms in the Mortal Transformation Zone. By now, several hundred cultivators had gathered here!

However, no matter who they were, everyone chose to stay outside the imperial city, with no intention of entering it. In short, these old fellows were here to have fun as an audience.

When news came out a few days ago that Fangchun Mountain's Lin Xun had killed a group of Heavenly Mandate Apostles in the capital of Qing, all the cultivators scattered across the Mortal Transformation Zone had been shaken.

Lin Xun! Who did not know of this name?

Over the past centuries, his staggering deeds in the Sea of Fate had long spread throughout the Mortal Transformation Zone, causing one sensation after another. Now that this legendary young man had crossed over and appeared in the imperial city of the Qing Kingdom, it was hard not to garner attention.

An old man sitting upright in the clouds couldn't help but check his Jade Book of Merits again. In the jade book, points of light represented the experts scattered throughout the Mortal Transformation Zone. If one looked closely, they would see that many of these dots were heading towards the Qing Kingdom.

It was foreseeable that the number of cultivators coming to the imperial city of Qing would only increase! The old man saw this and was shaken... Being targeted by the Alpha Origin Master's faction, this man called Lin Xun is in huge trouble!

"I've heard long ago that Lin Xun is an unpredictable variable. I fear his arrival is the start of a great storm in this All-Wonder Dominion," whispered someone in the nearby area.

"Whether it will start a storm or not, I don't know. What I'm curious about now is whether he can survive this Mortal Transformation Zone..."

Outside the imperial city, there were sounds of discussions everywhere. These Immeasurable Eternals were either in small groups of three to five or alone. They were all rivals, but at a time like this, they all chose to stay put.

Suddenly, someone exclaimed, "Isn't that Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli?"

Not far away, two figures appeared out of thin air and wasted no time flying straight into the imperial city.

“It's indeed them, the respective disciples of Origin Sect Founder Yuan Chu and Spirit Sect Founder Xu Yin.”

“I’ve heard they have a good relationship with Lin Xun. Since they looked like they came in a hurry, it's probably to help him.”

In the midst of the discussion, a deep and thick voice suddenly resounded, “Help? More like they have a death wish! Take a look at your Jade Book of Merits and you'll agree with me. Last I checked, nearly two hundred Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Kun Department have gathered and already reached the borderlands of Qing. In less than a day, this terrifying force will storm this place!”

As soon as these words rang out, the crowd all checked their Jade Books of Merits. What ensued was a collective gasp. Sure enough, that army, now having gathered over three hundred auras, couldn't be more conspicuous at the border of the Qing Kingdom!

Someone couldn't help but wonder aloud, “Anyone else would have fled long ago in this kind of situation, but why isn't Lin Xun leaving the city?”

The crowd looked at one another in confusion. That's right, why isn't Lin Xun fleeing?

Meanwhile, inside the imperial capital...

In that large teahouse, Lin Xun suddenly had an inkling of something. He got up and walked out of the teahouse to see Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli approaching from a distance.

“Seniors, it's great to see you again,” Lin Xun walked up and greeted them with a smile.

Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli both smiled as well.

“After we heard that you were here in the imperial city of the Qing Kingdom, we immediately rushed here. Good to know we weren't late,” said Xing Jianxia.

Fu Nanli retracted his smile and said with a somber look, “The capital of Qing has attracted the whole world's attention and become a dangerous place to linger around. Let us leave right away.”

“Yes, the Heavenly Mandate Apostles in the Mortal Transformation Zone are all headed here. We need to leave as soon as possible.” Xing Jianxia also revealed a serious expression.

Lin Xun laughed. “I have noticed the same thing from the Jade Book of Merits. However, I've been waiting not only for you guys but also for them to find me as well, so I sure don't want to just up and leave now.”

Fu Nanli was startled. “You plan to fight them?”

Lin Xun thought for a moment before he explained, “There are eight hundred Heavenly Mandate Apostles in the Mortal Transformation Zone, yet only three hundred or so are coming today. They may look numerous, but in reality they are just a motley crew and not much of a threat.”

After a brief pause, he continued, “Besides, they can always find me through the Jade Book of Merits. Instead of constantly running away from their hunt, I'd rather crush them right here in this city once and for all.”

“Well...” Both Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli were shocked by Lin Xun's decision. After carefully considering it, however, they realized he had a point. He could defeat top-tier bigwigs like Chi Qianji and Tian Xingzi, so ordinary opponents were no different from moths charging into a flame if they came at him.

To be exact, it was now very difficult to threaten Lin Xun with mere numbers. Even if he couldn't defeat these three hundred or so Heavenly Mandate Apostles, he could always escape and absolutely no one would be able to stop him.

Before Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli could return to their senses, Lin Xun put a stop to this topic. Smilingly retrieving a jug of aged wine, he invited, “Seniors, you've come at the perfect time. I'm new here and have quite a few things I'd like advice on, so why don't we have a chat as we enjoy this wine?”

Chapter 3153 Drawing a Line of Blood

In the teahouse, the storyteller was speaking eloquently. Xia Zhi listened with great interest. On another side, Lin Xun, Xing Jianxia, and Fu Nanli were talking about the various matters of the Mortal Transformation Zone over wine.

Many old friends were also mentioned, such as Daoist Shanfeng, Xiao He, Mo Baize, and Mu Changyun who were currently cultivating in a kingdom called Sangharama.

After all, the Mortal Transformation Zone was a part of the All-Wonder Dominion. The ten thousand Immeasurable experts it housed, despite the majority of them being stuck here unhappily, could continue practicing cultivation without the threat of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity. For many, remaining in this zone for a long time was not necessarily a bad thing.

From Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli, Lin Xun learned another thing. Top experts like Yi Wuyin, Chi Qianji, Tian Xingzi, and Guan Qianqiu had all won a Chaos Dao Fruit and ascended to the heavenly gate shortly after their arrival at the Mortal Transformation Zone.

This was perfectly reasonable, so Lin Xun was not surprised. Before their time in this dominion, those figures had already long gotten various chances to come here. They had only delayed for so many years simply because they had given up those opportunities to the other cultivators in their camps.

It was similar to Lin Xun’s case. He was the last one in his camp to come to the All-Wonder Dominion.

“Lin Xun, on the way here, I received a decree from my master,” Xing Jianxia suddenly said. “Can you guess what is written in there?”

Xing Jianxia's master was the founder of the Origin Sect, Yuan Chu!

“It concerns me, I presume.” Lin Xun smiled.

Xing Jianxia laughed. “Correct. My master said that your master, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, has also learned of your arrival.”

With that, he proceeded to explain some important situations in the All-Wonder Dominion. For example, the matter of the Alpha Origin Master getting trapped by a sword seal, the power of the nine departments under their command, as well as the states of the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, the golden cicada, and the others.

After listening to everything, Lin Xun realized that his arrival was a ‘variable’!

However, the reactions of both the Alpha Origin Master and the Lord of Fangchun Mountain were to hold their troops. It seemed that everyone intended to watch how much of a storm this variable would stir up first.

On another note, Lin Xun also learned that in these endless years, only a handful of cultivators had been able to pass all ninefold gates and cross the Immortal Slaying Path to reach the Realm of All Mysteries!

All of these experts were either close to the peak of the Immeasurable Realm or had already stepped onto that peak.

Those who were close to the peak of the Immeasurable Realm were called Immeasurable Dao Lords. Those who had reached the peak were called Immeasurable Sovereigns.

Yuan Chu, Xu Yin, Tian Wu, and Shi, the respective founders of the Four Great Ancestral Courts, as well as the nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords under Alpha Origin were Immeasurable Dao Lords.

The golden cicada, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, as well as Black Crow and Ape Ancestor who were servants of Alpha Origin were all Immeasurable Sovereigns!

This information reminded Lin Xun that something was off.

Back in the Sea of Fate, Fu Nanli had said there had been only three individuals who had reached the peak of the Immeasurable Realm since the beginning of cultivation who were the mysterious swordsman, Chen Xi, and the Alpha Origin Master.

The disparity was clear, and Lin Xun voiced his doubt out loud. Xing Jianxia's answer was: Outside of those three, other peak Immeasurable Eternals had only reached this peak after they had arrived in the All-Wonder Dominion.

The reason was that this dominion offered Immeasurable Dao Lords the opportunity to grow into Immeasurable Sovereigns! Furthermore, this opportunity was often related to the Chaos Dao Fruits.

It then dawned on Lin Xun why the All-Wonder Dominion was rumored to be a land of opportunities where Immeasurable Eternals could make breakthroughs. Before here, he hadn't heard of this because none of his past information sources had come from someone who had once been to the All-Wonder Dominion!

In a nutshell, the handful of people who had been able to enter the Realm of All Mysteries over these endless eons were either Immeasurable Dao Lords or Immeasurable Sovereigns. The vast majority of other Immeasurable Eternals had been trapped in the nine sky zones of the Realm of All Spirits all along.

From this, Lin Xun figured that even powerful giants like Chi Qianji and Yi Wuyin probably wouldn't be able to enter the Realm of All Mysteries anytime soon.

Xing Jianxia said, “Master wanted to inform you that the core force of the Alpha Origin Nine Departments is based in the ninth sky zone—the Xuanhuang Zone. What you'll face there will most likely be a fatal ordeal, so if you get there one day, you should contact Lone Man first.”

That Lone Man was in the ninth sky zone astonished Lin Xun. It had been too long since he had last seen this elder who used to lie low in the Rotating Stars Hibernating Moon House.

Next, Lin Xun asked about the second sky zone. Since Xing Jianxia had investigated the Calamitous Zone before, he told him everything he knew.

The so-called Calamitous Zone was a realm of tribulations. All who entered this realm would face three tribulations called the Test of Past Life, Test of Dao Building, and Test of Heart Knocking. Only after passing all three tests did one attract a Chaos Dao Fruit and step through the heavenly gate of the second sky zone.

Throughout the eons, this realm had seen many mighty experts entering the Calamitous Zone. However, some got trapped in the Test of Past Life, some in the Test of Dao Building, and some in the final Test of Heart Knocking.

Lin Xun was inwardly relieved and glanced at Xia Zhi not far away. This makes it simple. If Xia Zhi enters the Calamitous Zone ahead of me, she can just wait for me in front of the Test of Past Life.

“The enemy is already near the imperial city.”

Suddenly, Fu Nanli spoke up with a grave look. Having been paying attention to his Jade Book of Merits, he found that the auras of the Heavenly Mandate Apostle army, like a dark cloud, were approaching the south gate of the capital of Qing.

Xing Jianxia's pupils constricted. He looked at Lin Xun. “You really want to fight?”

Lin Xun drained his jug and laughed. “Seniors, please sit back and enjoy the show.”

Saying that, he stood up and walked out of the teahouse. Xia Zhi, who had been listening to the storyteller, appeared by his side at almost the same time.

Watching this pair of young men and women from behind, Fu Nanli couldn't help but transmit, “I don't know about that. Old Xing, can you actually sit back?”

“Why not?” With a look of anticipation on his face, Xing Jianxia leisurely said, “Back in the Sea of Fate, who didn't know what a menace our young friend is? Although the enemy is numerous this time, they are just as he said: a motley crew.”

A light bloomed in his eyes as he continued, “I'm looking forward to this battle very much. It shall open the eyes of those old fogeys in the Mortal Transformation Zone and let them know who they cannot afford to mess with!”

Fu Nanli had already risen from his seat, but those words stunned him for a good while. In the end, he sat back down and smiled. “Then today we will sit back and enjoy the battle.”

Xing Jianxia remarked in a self-deprecating tone, “Just like what we did with every battle in the Sea of Fate as long as Young Friend Lin Xun was fighting.”

Fu Nanli laughed out loud. “Alas, that hurt my self-esteem a little at first, but I've come to terms with it now.”

As the two seniors chatted, Lin Xun and Xia Zhi had already risen up in the air. Standing under the clouds, they gazed at the south. Outside the imperial city, a thunderstorm seemed to be brewing. Black clouds rolled in without end, and a murderous energy disturbed the atmosphere!

Looking closely, it was a gathering of hundreds of terrifying auras in that horizon, marching like gods across the dome of heavens.

“When the battle starts, I'll go first,” said Lin Xun softly. He had his hands on his back, looking otherworldly as his moon-white robe fluttered.

Xia Zhi gave it some thought before she reluctantly agreed, “Fine, just this once.”

Lin Xun was dumbfounded. What was there to even fight about this?

Meanwhile, outside the imperial city, the scattered cultivators were alarmed to see the monstrous army of over three hundred Heavenly Mandate Apostles. Every single one retreated far away with a reeling heart.

What an overwhelming lineup! No one in the entire Mortal Transformation Zone should be able to stop this kind of army. It's too scary!

“How can Lin Xun possibly stop this?”

This same question occurred to many spectators at once.

Rumble!

The over three hundred Heavenly Mandate Apostles marched through the turbulence they created without a slightest pause. Directly and aggressively, they headed into the imperial city. The spectators outside the capital all flew into the air and watched from afar. To their disbelief, Lin Xun not only did not flee, but he also even stood by the void like he had been waiting.

Even the army of Heavenly Mandate Apostles was surprised to see this. Then, killing intent erupted from them, sweeping through the nine heavens and ten earths, and they charged up.

RUMBLEE! RUMBLEEE!

The sky seemed to abruptly fall apart and into disarray. The eye-piercing divine light of Dao Laws illuminated the terrains. More than three hundred Heavenly Mandate Apostles, each an Immeasurable Eternal, were attacking together! Their dao might combined into a world-shattering spectacle that could make any same-realm expert collapse in despair!

“KILL!”

The heavens split and the earth cracked. Murderous intent filled the region. The supreme abilities gushed like a flood of great dao currents, packing the space alongside a flying forest of Eternal weapons.

Just looking from afar caused the audience to break out in a cold sweat, their hearts and minds quivering.

Right at this moment, the metallic chant of a sword suddenly resounded. At first low and inaudible, it grew flamboyantly exciting and passionate until the whole world seemed to resonate with it. The loud, clear chant rattled those who heard to the point their blood churned and their minds trembled.

What followed was a bloody scene that the experts outside the city would never be able to forget. Lin Xun transformed into a qi sword and shot out, tearing through the oncoming flood of attacks and Eternal weapons in the blink of an eye like a sharp blade splitting a bamboo tree.

Bam bam bam!

Countless supreme divine skills burst like bubbles. Numerous Eternal artifacts were blasted flying. The noises of collision and explosion echoed densely and endlessly.

Meanwhile, the qi sword that was Lin Xun kept charging forward in an unstoppable fashion, breaking and cleaving through every means of attack from the opposite side. Finally, like a diamond tip, he chiseled the enemy's army.

What ensued was bloodshed all the way! Those mighty Immeasurable Eternals suddenly looked like paper sheets, crushed by that radiant and domineering qi sword into flying blood and flesh. From afar, the qi sword resembled a brush stroke, dancing through the air as it drew a line of blood in the enemy army!

Chapter 3154 The Heavenly Gate Appears

The line of blood cut through the army of over three hundred Heavenly Mandate Apostles, taking the lives of close to thirty Immeasurable Eternals. Their physical shells and primordial spirits were squashed to ashes.

That strike was plain terrifying! A dead silence took over the peripheral area of the imperial city. Lin Xun moved like an invulnerable and unstoppable sword. When he came to a halt, the enemy army was already a mess.

The spectators' jaws were on the ground as they shuddered. Even a long time later, they still couldn't snap back to reality from that gory scene of death. With one strike, he wrecked the enemies and blew a scarlet path through them!

Those who had fallen were all experts of the Immeasurable Realm, each possessing a powerful dao base, but under Lin Xun's attack, they had been as helpless as paper! Who dared to believe this?

Everyone had been pondering how Lin Xun would survive this calamity, and then this scene had unfolded. Their shock could be imagined!

In the teahouse, Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli had been struck dumb. It suddenly hit them that Lin Xun was currently far more powerful and terrifying than when they had last seen him. Faced with a big group of same-realm experts, he was able to sweep through them in an invincible manner!

The two seniors had no idea that even back in the Sea of Fate, Lin Xun had already reached the intermediate level of the Immeasurable Realm and achieved all daos become one, all arts become one, and all living things become one. His cultivation prowess had long since undergone a monumental transformation.

He appeared to be bare-handed, but he had fully integrated the power of his five dao bodies and the might of the Limitless Abyss Sword Cauldron into his very being. Therefore, every strike he unleashed now far surpassed the limit of what an ordinary same-realm cultivator could endure.

Under the firmament, the atmosphere was so oppressive that one could hardly breathe. Under the fear that the previous attack had struck into them, the expressions of those Heavenly Mandate Apostles kept morphing and their hearts were in turmoil.

Before coming here, they had learned of Lin Xun killing more than a dozen Heavenly Mandate Apostles in the capital of Qing, which had given them immense pressure. As such, they had grouped up, thinking over three hundred of them together was enough against him.

Judging by the current situation, however, it seemed they had still underestimated his terror! Such an opponent was not something that could be fought with quantity!

Lin Xun gazed at these opponents and asked, “Do you still want to keep going?”

The simple question rattled their hearts again. They exchanged looks among themselves, no one spoke.

Seeing this, Lin Xun casually said, “If any of you are still here after three breaths of time, I will see you as enemies that must be exterminated.”

Whoosh~

Those Heavenly Mandate Apostles scattered like frightened birds as soon as they heard that declaration, each one running faster than the last.

In less than three breaths, there were no more opponents on the field.

As expected, they are really just a motley crew. Lin Xun thought. Destroy their fighting spirit with a single blow, and they will dismantle themselves!

Outside the imperial capital, the spectators had been shocked speechless by what they had seen. A single sword had cut through the sky, opened a path of blood, and scared off an army! Such dashing elegance was unsurpassed in this cultivation realm and earned a crown of its own!

“My fellow cultivators, there's nothing left for your viewing pleasure here. It is time you leave.” Lin Xun's indifferent voice resounded outside the imperial capital.

Very quickly, the experts who had come here from all corners of this world left one after another with their hearts tumbling in complicated emotions. On the same day, the story of Lin Xun deterring hundreds of enemies with a single sword strike spread. It rapidly reached and shook the whole Mortal Transformation Zone, triggering a huge uproar.

It became clear to everyone that from this day on, no one in the Mortal Transformation Zone would dare to offend Lin Xun again, let alone fight him in the Dao Competition.

.....

In that teahouse in the capital of Qing, looking at Lin Xun who had returned in a relaxed demeanor, Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli became sentimental. Even though they were Immeasurable Eternals like him, they were now very aware, through the battle just now, that they and Lin Xun were no longer in the same world. The gap in strength was too big!

After staying for a few more days, Xing Jianxia and Fu Nanli left the imperial city. Being in the Mortal Transformation Zone, they needed to devise their own plan for the Dao Competition as well.

As for Lin Xun and Xia Zhi, they once again arrived at a certain building deep in the palace grounds.

“After you enter the Calamitous Zone, remember to wait for me in front of the Test of Past Life,” Lin Xun repeated what he had already said over and over again.

“Lin Xun, I'm not a child anymore, you know,” Xia Zhi complained for once.

Lin Xun was stumped. In the end, he laughed at himself and joked, “My bad, I forgot that you're no weaker than the Eternal Night Divine Emperor now. Alright, I'll pay attention from now on and try not to treat you like a child.”

Xia Zhi, however, shook her head. Her fair, soft hand grabbed Lin Xun's hand as her pleasant voice tinkled, “No need to change, I like how it makes me feel.”

Xia Zhi's fingers were soft and warm. Lin Xun couldn't help but tighten his hold on them, and feeling the warmth of her palm, his voice softened, “After the whole business in the All-Wonder Dominion is resolved, I'll take you back to the Fortune Dominion and give you the grand wedding you deserve.”

“You promised.” A bright smile bloomed on Xia Zhi's stunning face. Her clear, beautiful eyes curved up like two crescent moons. She never concealed her joy in front of Lin Xun.

Lin Xun couldn't stop himself from dropping a soft kiss on her forehead. Finally, he took a deep breath and said, “Go.”

“Mhm.” Xia Zhi turned toward the imperial seal. The jade seal was square, fist-sized but heavy with a majestic air. With mountains and rivers, the sun, moon, and stars engraved on the surfaces, its aura was extremely powerful.

When Xia Zhi's power swept at it, the imperial seal suddenly glowed, reflecting a figure. He tread on the planets and stood among the galaxy, fully covered in dark silver armor that revealed only his cold, handsome face.

In his hand was a golden halberd. It emitted a force field that took merely one breath to tug at the countless stars and run a tremor through them, elevating its wielder into a supreme god of war in legend. When this person appeared, Lin Xun's Jade Book of Merits trembled, and information about this person emerged.

Yan Jiuhe!

Known as War God Kunxu, he had attracted a Chaos Dao Fruit three hundred and ninety thousand years ago to step through the first heavenly gate. His dao merits was ranked 204th in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws. This was already an incredible achievement, considering there were only 1614 cultivators who had been able to put their dao merits in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws.

Clang!

The second Yan Jiuhe appeared, he swung the golden halberd and chopped it at Xia Zhi. At that instant, the billions of stars in the void around him were as if pulled along and joined the attack. The phenomenon was petrifying. While this Yan Jiuhe was only a manifestation of his dao merits, its power was nothing ordinary, being a Heavenly Cycle Dao Law itself.

Almost simultaneously, Xia Zhi made her move. The white bone spear in her delicate hand stabbed out, sending a river of fate gushing out.

A fierce battle erupted. Lin Xun stood and watched from a distance. After a while, he loosened up. Yan Jiuhe, who was titled War God Kunxu, was no doubt extremely powerful. He was slightly stronger than even Chi Qianji and Tian Xingzi who were all top-notch existences.

However, compared to Xia Zhi, he was not good enough, not in terms of cultivation base but in terms of the Dao Laws they had respectively mastered. After all, whether it was fate, karma, or time, they were all taboo-level laws with power beyond imagination.

In less than ten minutes, BOOM! The bone spear in Xia Zhi's hand suddenly flew up and then slashed down, blasting Yan Jiuhe's dao manifestation into smithereens. He became an explosion of light shooting everywhere.

Under Lin Xun's astonished eyes, an abstruse and inexplicable law power surged forth, bathing Xia Zhi's delicate figure in a dazzling and splendid halo.

“This is the power of a Chaos Dao Fruit!” Lin Xun was shaken.

Chaos Dao Fruits were a kind of natural chaos law born in the All-Wonder Dominion, which was unimaginably powerful. Rumor had it that the more chaos laws one mastered, the more metamorphoses one could achieve in the Immeasurable Realm, and the more hopes one had to transcend this realm in its truest sense.

Lin Xun finally understood: those Immeasurable Dao Lords and Immeasurable Sovereigns had probably absorbed many Chaos Dao Fruits in the All-Wonder Dominion to achieve their current heights! Without a question, Xia Zhi was obtaining a supreme fortune by defeating Yan Jiuhe's dao merits and attracting a Chaos Dao Fruit!

Under Lin Xun’s intent gaze, her aura underwent a miraculous change, soaring like a stream after rain. Just a few breaths later, the great dao power in her had grown a great deal stronger! Even Lin Xun was tempted.

Buzz~

The void suddenly revealed a mysterious portal. It seemed to stand at the infinite heights of the heavens, giving the impression of being impossible to reach. The heavenly gate had appeared!

Xia Zhi's delicate figure swiftly turned into a ray of light and shot straight into this heavenly gate. It had happened so fast that Lin Xun didn't have time to say a word to her.

On that day, in the sky above the imperial capital of the Qing Kingdom, the Heavenly Cycle Dao Law of Yan Jiuhe’s dao merits disappeared, and a new law power emerged.

Starting out as a water steam, this new Dao Law quickly grew to a torrent of fate power that stirred the nine heavens and ten earths. It circled above the imperial capital for a while before spreading to the rest of the Qing Kingdom like it was going on a conquest!

Such a scene astonished cultivators all over the Mortal Transformation Zone. In their respective Jade Book of Merits, a mysterious and powerful Heavenly Cycle Dao Law was added. At the same time, a dao manifestation also emerged in that building deep in the palace grounds. It was a mass of light and shadow, within which was an ocean of fate that was vast and obscure with infinite wonders.

It was the power of dao merits left by Xia Zhi!

.....

The southwestern part of the capital of Qing.

Here stood a flourishing Taoist temple. Frequented by a great number of practitioners who came to offer incense and worship, it was incredibly lively. Lin Xun was currently standing before this Taoist temple, his eyes fixed on a copper furnace.

This furnace was ancient and majestic. Standing on three legs, inside it burned a raging dao fire. On its wall were pictures of mysterious flame patterns. This was also a dao manifestation left by a mighty expert who had left the Mortal Transformation Zone. It represented a force in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws.

After some observation, Lin Xun clearly perceived that its aura was far inferior to that of the imperial seal left by Yan Jiuhe.

I wonder if defeating this one will let me attract a Chaos Dao Fruit...

Lin Xun contemplated a little and decided to give it a try.

Chapter 3155 Living is Cultivating

The bronze furnace roared, transforming into a burly, bearded man who was a thousand feet tall. His skin resembled divine metal, burning with fierce and terrifying crimson divine flames. Upon his appearance, he looked like a god who had descended to incinerate all of creation!

This was Heng Qiu. Known as the God of World-Burning Fire, he had left the Mortal Transformation Zone 260,000 years ago and his dao manifestation was ranked 519th in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws. This information about him had appeared in Lin Xun's Jade Book of Merits.

Sure enough, this guy is far less powerful than Yan Jiuhe, but within the ranking of the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws, he could be considered a mid-level figure.

"Take this!" The burly Heng Qiu roared and punched towards Lin Xun.

Feeling the power of this punch, Lin Xun realized again that Heng Qiu's cultivation was only slightly stronger than Huanglong Zhenjun's, meaning he was not as powerful as top experts like Chi Qianji and Tian Xingzi. Further deduction suggested that both Chi Qianji's and Tian Xingzi's dao manifestations should be ranked below the top 200, but within the top 500.

While thinking about this, Lin Xun didn't slow down. He stomped his foot, and a circle of sword-shaped ripples emerged like ethereal moonlight.

Boom!

Heng Qiu's world-destroying punch was easily shattered, turning into a shower of colorful light. Before Heng Qiu could react, the sword-shaped ripples spread, destroying his thousand-foot-tall figure, as if a sword had sliced through a thousand-foot mountain.

The rain of light dissipated. As Lin Xun expected, after this surprisingly easy battle between competing daos, a Chaos Dao Fruit did not appear. However, the number of dao manifestations that were listed in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws had decreased by one, and the total was now at 1,613.

Instead of being disappointed, Lin Xun now became somewhat intrigued.

Throughout history, all powerful beings who had exited the Mortal Transformation Zone had left their dao manifestation in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws. Yet, after countless years, there were only a little over 1600 of them. Of course, there were certainly people like Xia Zhi who had defeated a dao manifestation and taken their place in the past.

However, compared to the tens of thousands of powerful experts distributed throughout the Mortal Transformation Zone, the total number of these Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws was still far too small! This showcased the cruelty of the struggle for the great dao.

Of course, Lin Xun wasn't interested in this, but rather in a question that had suddenly occurred to him. Those terrifying beings who had already entered the Realm of All Mysteries, such as his master, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, the golden cicada, Chen Linkong, and the Alpha Origin Master, how could they not have left behind their own dao manifestations in this Mortal Transformation Zone?

So, where were their dao manifestations, and what were their rankings in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws?

If I can find their dao manifestations and fight against them one by one, perhaps I can find out how powerful they were when they were in the Mortal Transformation Zone...

Thinking of this, a strong impulse suddenly surged in Lin Xun's heart. That was what he would do! They, in the past, and he, in the present, were all in the same situation. Dueling with their dao manifestations would undoubtedly be another form of the struggle for the great dao!

At this point, he was no longer in a hurry to leave the Mortal Transformation Zone. A moment later, Lin Xun arrived outside the east gate of the imperial capital. A towering ancient tree was rooted there. Its bark was crisscrossed with cracks, making it resemble old dragon scales that were as hard as divine iron. Its branches resembled knives and swords, emanating a chilling and murderous aura. This was also a dao manifestation.

While gazing at this ancient tree, Lin Xun recalled what he had seen in the various cities of the Qing Kingdom over the past few days.

There are too many Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws covering this world. If one law could govern all other laws, then the hundreds of millions of living beings distributed across the forty-nine kingdoms could all follow

the same teachings. Perhaps then, there would no longer be those chaotic and complex bloody conflicts...

There were more than a thousand Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws that were distributed across the forty-nine kingdoms, and they affected the hundreds of millions of living beings in countless cities. Of course, because of this, it also created many contradictions and conflicts among the people of the world.

It was just like the clash between different civilizations. However, if one dao could be the primary one, with the other daos serving as secondary ones, then no matter how many more daos appeared in this Mortal Transformation Zone in the future, they would all be governed and constrained.

In this way, although it wouldn't be a world of complete harmony, it would be a world of great diversity! This was what was meant by embracing all things and all paths leading to the same destination!

Thinking of this, Lin Xun's expression became somewhat strange. If I can truly achieve this, then while the powerful experts of this world are enlightening all living beings, I would be the one who is enlightening them instead... Is it possible? Perhaps. Let's take it one step at a time.

The next moment, Lin Xun dismissed his distracting thoughts and turned his gaze back to the towering ancient tree.

Whoosh!

The ancient tree swayed, quietly transforming into a black figure. She held a bronze mace in each hand as her long gray hair flowed around her. Her aura was cold and mysterious.

Nian Dongyue! She was known as the Divine Emperor of Transformation, and she had left the Mortal Transformation Zone 330,000 years ago. Her dao manifestation was ranked 417th among the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws.

Boom!

The battle erupted. Nian Dongyue wielded her twin maces, striking down. Immediately, endless black lightning rolled down, covering the sky and the earth, with an astonishing destructive aura. Lin Xun raised his hand and slashed, sword qi bursting forth. It spanned eight thousand feet, tearing through the sky and also ripping apart the boundless black lightning.

Bang!

Nian Dongyue's figure also seemed to be torn apart, splitting into two, and then dissipating. From then on, the Mortal Transformation Zone had one less Heavenly Cycle Dao Law.

"My path of contention begins in this Qing Kingdom."

Lin Xun took out his Jade Book of Merits, which showed the locations of more than a thousand dao manifestations. They were now all targets for him to fight.

For the next period of time, he traveled alone, crossing cities and mountains, only pausing briefly at places where dao manifestations existed, to engage in battle and contention. Then, he would leave.

His footprints were like a long, spreading line, constantly extending to other parts of the Mortal Transformation Zone. Occasionally, he would pause, meditate, observe the mountains and rivers, contemplate the myriad beings, and understand nature.

More often, he spent his time traveling and engaging in fierce competition. What was cultivation? It was everywhere! The sensations of the body, the experiences of the mind, the myriad phenomena one witnessed, and the worldly affairs one experienced—all were accumulations, all were insights, and all were part of cultivation.

For Lin Xun now, time was no longer a constraint, and worldly affairs were no longer an obstacle. He could roam freely in heaven and earth, and gallop freely on the search for the dao, seeking only a state of freedom and ease in his cultivation.

The so-called, "mind soaring to the eight extremes, spirit roaming the ten thousand realms," was roughly like this.

Naturally, Lin Xun was completely unaware that during his continuous journey, countless storms and commotions were being stirred up in the Mortal Transformation Zone.

...

A month later...

Realm of All Mysteries, Feiyun Domain. This was the territory of the Nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords who served Alpha Origin.

In a huge palace standing high beneath the sky, a low, solemn voice sounded, "Gentlemen, I have just received news from the Mortal Transformation Zone. In the past month, Lin Xun has traveled through nineteen kingdoms in the Mortal Transformation Zone, including the Qing, Yun, Wei, and Rong Kingdoms. He has now defeated 533 dao manifestations!"

The speaker was a man with a feathered robe and a daoist crown, with the appearance of a young man. His body was surrounded by sparks of purple light, and his Dharma Form was astonishing.

Qing Yangzi! He was the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Kun Department whose cultivation was almost at the peak Immeasurable Dao Lord level.

There were eight other people sitting in the other parts of the hall. There were men and women, old and young, but each had an incredibly terrifying aura, resembling supreme deities. These eight people were the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords of the other eight departments, so each possessed immense power and held great authority.

"Is this young man really that powerful?"

"Does this mean his cultivation is not far from that of us Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords?"

The other eight Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords present were all surprised and stirred up.

“I don't know how powerful his cultivation truly is, but all I know is that among the 533 dao manifestations he defeated, the most powerful one was ranked ninety-third in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws.” As Qing Yangzi said this, his gaze shifted to a golden-robed old man among the group. "Brother Kuhe, that should be the dao manifestation you left behind back then, right?"

Everyone's hearts trembled. The golden-robed old man, named Kuhe, was the Heavenly Mandate Dao Master of the Xun Department, and his power was unfathomable.

"That is indeed dao manifestation I left behind in the Mortal Transformation Zone, but its ranking is somewhat low. I was still far from the Immeasurable Dao Lord level at that time. Even if Lin Xun has defeated the dao manifestation I left behind, it doesn't prove anything,” Kuhe said indifferently.

"Among us, the one with the highest ranking in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws of the Mortal Transformation Zone back then ia Brother Peitu, the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Qian Department. His is ranked twenty-first, whereas the lowest ranked is Brother Kuhe, at ninety-third."

Qing Yangzi said, "Now, this young man has swept through 533 dao manifestations in just one month, and even Brother Kuhe's dao manifestation was no match for him. This is enough to prove the terrifying power of this young man."

He paused, then continued, "Moreover, in the past, have any of you ever seen someone so powerful that they could challenge over 500 dao manifestations without attracting a Chaos Dao Fruit?"

Everyone's eyes flickered, their expressions uncertain. Someone finally asked, "Qing Yangzi, by saying all this, what exactly do you want us to do?"

Qing Yangzi glanced at everyone and said, "I hope we can all petition the young lady together, inform her about all that Lin Xun has done, and let her decide the next course of action."

Everyone hesitated. Was a single Lin Xun worth such a big fuss?

Someone mused, "No matter how powerful this young man is, he's still stuck in the Mortal Transformation Zone. Our power is all concentrated in the ninth sky zone’s Xuanhuang Zone, so we can't

reach him. Why not wait and see? If this young man truly has the ability to reach the Xuanhuang Zone in the future, we can then mobilize all our forces to deal with him."

Qing Yangzi frowned and couldn't help but remind them, "Fellow Daoists, setting aside everything else, if this young man, Lin Xun, truly has the opportunity to reach the Xuanhuang Zone, he will, at the very least, obtain eight Chaos Dao Fruits! After refining these Chaos Dao Fruits, his cultivation will undoubtedly be far stronger than it is now. Wouldn't it be too late to deal with him then?"

Saying this, Qing Yangzi sighed, "Never mind, I'll go and see the young lady and let her make the decision."

Just then, an old ape carrying two swords suddenly appeared outside the main hall. Its towering figure blocked the doorway, giving off immense pressure.

The Ape Ancestor! Immediately, the nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords all rose to their feet, showing reverence.

"The young lady is currently at the master’s side. How to proceed from now on is for you to decide," said the Ape Ancestor in an aged voice. He didn't enter the hall, nor did he intend to stay long. After saying this, he turned and left.

Chapter 3156 Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws Ranking

The Ape Ancestor had come quickly and left even faster. The nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords in the main hall all had different expressions. Was the young lady truly at the master's side? Could it be that the master already had a glimpse of hope of escaping from being suppressed by that sword?

Someone said softly, "Qing Yangzi, you heard it too. The young lady can no longer give us any instructions. In my opinion, you should remain calm. Haste makes waste."

"But I can't wait any longer!" Qing Yangzi sighed and turned to leave.

An old man in a golden robe, Kuhe, said in a deep voice, "In my opinion, Qing Yangzi's concerns should not be swept under the rug. Lin Xun is considered an unprecedented variable. If we can control him as soon as possible, it would undoubtedly be the safest approach."

Someone suggested, "Kuhe, your Xun Department's forces are distributed in the third sky zone, the Dark Zone. If Lin Xun truly has the ability to enter there, you can assassinate him!"

The Dark Zone was the third sky zone of the Realm of All Spirits. It was a turbulent world that was impossible to perceive, shrouded in mist and malevolent energy. Even those in the Immeasurable Realm couldn't use their divine sense to investigate or perceive it. It was extremely strange and dangerous.

"That also depends on whether Lin Xun can even reach the Dark Zone alive," Kuhe pointed out softly.

Currently, Lin Xun was still traveling in the Mortal Transformation Zone. Even if he left the Mortal Transformation Zone, he would still have to fight his way out of the second sky zone, the Calamitous Zone. Who knew how long it would take him to accomplish this?

...

Time passed, and two months flew by.

In the Mortal Transformation Zone, on a vast and turbulent river, Lin Xun steered a small boat, drinking wine and looking at the Jade Book of Merits in his hand.

By now, he had been traveling and fighting in the Mortal Transformation Zone for three months. In these three months, he had almost covered all forty-nine countries of the Mortal Transformation Zone. Most of the dao manifestations he had encountered were swept away and defeated.

Only a handful more manifestations were left now. The reason he hadn't competed with these dao manifestations was because their auras far surpassed those of others, feeling incredibly powerful. They were almost all left behind by terrifying experts who were ranked among the top twenty in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws.

For example, the one left by Lin Xun's master, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, was a dao monument, with a crescent moon and three stars depicted on it. It was ranked first in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws!

When Lin Xun learned of this, he was astounded. However, later, after some inquiries, he learned that neither the Alpha Origin Master, nor the mysterious swordsman, nor Chen Xi, had left behind any dao manifestations. It was as if it was because their great dao had no name!

Because of this, Lin Xun felt somewhat dejected. His master appearing in first place of the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws seemed extremely dazzling and remarkable. However, when compared to the Alpha Origin Master, Chen Xi, and that swordsman, he seemed to be a step behind...

Later, Lin Xun saw the dao manifestation left by the golden cicada, which resembled a lifelike golden cicada that was perched on an auspicious cloud, looking up at the sky. Then, he learned that the golden cicada's dao manifestation was also ranked first in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws of the Mortal Transformation Zone!

Following that, he successively came across the dao manifestations of Black Crow, the Ape Ancestor, and Chen Linkong. They were also ranked first. In other words, the dao of the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, the golden cicada, Chen Linkong, Black Crow, and the Ape Ancestor were all tied for first place and were equally powerful!

Lin Xun felt an incredible sense of disbelief when he learned about that. Under what circumstances could five supreme beings appear to be equally matched in the competition of the great dao, with no one superior to the other? He really couldn't wrap his mind around that.

After that, he encountered the dao manifestations of the ancestors of the Four Great Ancestral Courts: Origin Sect, Spirit Sect, Shaman Sect, and Zen Sect. All of them were ranked in the top ten.

In addition, there were some unfamiliar names, such as Nine-Leaf Demon Ancestor, Di Qing, Duan Tianliu, and so on. All of theirs were ranked among the top twenty.

However, Lin Xun discovered some shocking things. That was, from the eleventh-ranked Nine-Leaf Demon Ancestor to the twentieth-ranked Duan Tianliu, the dao manifestations they left behind all exuded an aura of death!

This meant that these ten terrifying beings, who were ranked from eleventh to twentieth, from the Nine-Leaf Demon Ancestor to Duan Tianliu, had all long since perished! How did they die? During his

travels, Lin Xun had inquired about this matter with many powerful experts. Unfortunately, the answers he received were mostly rumors.

Some said that the Nine-Leaf Demon Ancestor and the others had perished on the path of cultivation. Some said that they were killed by the Alpha Origin Master in a fit of anger because they refused to serve him.

There were even rumors that the Nine-Leaf Demon Ancestor and others died after encountering unforeseen calamities while exploring some forbidden secrets of the All-Wonder Dominion. In short, there were many conflicting accounts regarding this mystery.

The only thing that was certain was that these terrifying beings, including the Nine-Leaf Demon Ancestor, had perished a long time ago. It was so far in the past that even some of the older generations couldn't recall the exact time when it had happened.

Lin Xun didn’t end up competing with those dao manifestations after coming across them, but it wasn’t out of fear of their extremely high ranking. Instead, he had planned on fighting them last.

After all, if a battle were to attract a Chaos Dao Fruit, he would have to leave this Mortal Transformation Zone prematurely. Then he wouldn't be able to compete against the other dao manifestations.

The river Lin Xun was currently traveling on in his small boat was called the Tonggu River, which flowed through the territory of the Song Kingdom. In the upper reaches of the Tonggu River, there was an extremely powerful dao manifestation.

It was a chain that stretched across the entire river. This chain had been left behind by Pei Tu, the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Qian Department, which was one of the Nine Departments under Alpha Origin.

According to the information Lin Xun had gathered, Pei Tu's dao manifestation was ranked twenty-first in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws! Among the nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords of the nine departments of the Alpha Origin Master, Pei Tu's ranking was also the highest. The dao manifestations of the other eight Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords had already been defeated by Lin Xun.

After this battle with Pei Tu, if I still can't attract a Chaos Dao Fruit, then I'll go and challenge the dao manifestations left behind by the founding ancestors of the Four Great Ancestral Courts.

Lin Xun didn't intend to challenge the dao manifestations left behind by the powerful cultivators who had long since perished, such as the Nine-Leaf Demon Ancestor and Duan Tianliu. After all, these dao manifestations were the only things they had left behind in the world, and it would be a pity if they were to disappear.

However, although Lin Xun had swept through and defeated numerous dao manifestations, he didn't dare to become arrogant. After all, these dao manifestations had been left behind a long time ago and only represented the cultivation level of those powerful experts when they were in the Mortal Transformation Zone.

Now, countless years have passed, and those powerful beings who have passed through the ninefold gates and the Dao Severing Path have undoubtedly obtained many Chaos Dao Fruits. Their current cultivation level was certainly far beyond what it was back then.

Furthermore, the ranking of the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws of the Mortal Transformation Zone didn’t affect the future achievements of those powerful cultivators. Those with lower rankings may not necessarily have weaker cultivation bases now.

Is that Pei Tu's dao manifestation?

On the small boat, Lin Xun saw a chain stretching across the river. It was as thick as a water bucket, dark and dull, with a cyan-colored light flickering on it. From a distance, he could see that the iron chain stretched across the great river, resembling a natural barrier that could block everything in heaven and earth. It exuded an extremely heavy and profound aura.

On both banks of the Tonggu River, many powerful experts had already gathered. They seemed to have been waiting there for a long time. When they saw the small boat carrying Lin Xun, their eyes lit up.

A decent amount of time had actually passed since they had started camping out there!

In the past three months, Lin Xun had fought across the zone, sweeping through everything in his path without suffering a single setback. This had already caused a huge sensation in the Mortal Transformation Zone and attracted countless people's attention.

Without even thinking, they knew that Lin Xun would definitely come to the Tonggu River sooner or later. Sure enough, he had arrived today.

Someone sighed, "Having fought his way through countless battles, Lin Xun has already defeated eight hundred dao manifestations. Those that are ranked outside the top hundred are no longer even worth his attention..."

Too much had happened in these three months, and it was enough to make anyone remember this for a lifetime.

Another person sighed, "We are all at the Immeasurable Realm, but if it were me, defeating even one of those dao manifestations would probably be enough to attract a Chaos Dao Fruit and ascend to the heavenly gate. Yet Lin Xun hasn't attracted a Chaos Dao Fruit yet. When one compares oneself to him...it truly makes one lower their head in shame and admit their inferiority."

There were tens of thousands of powerful cultivators at the Immeasurable Realm in this Mortal Transformation Zone, but very few of them had been able to shake those dao manifestations. Despite that, Lin Xun had swept through eight hundred of them in just three months. Compared to him, who wouldn't feel disheartened?

Someone softly comforted their companions, "Don't be discouraged, everyone. Individuals like Lin Xun are extremely rare throughout countless ages. He is destined to be different from us."

For all the powerful cultivators in the world, Lin Xun was a legend they could only look up to. They couldn't even feel jealousy because the gap was too great; let alone catching up, they couldn't even get close.

The discussions and the gazes of the powerful cultivators on both sides of the river were all focused on Lin Xun's movements. Everyone knew that another epic battle was about to unfold!

At the same time, Lin Xun also noticed the powerful experts on both sides of the river, but he had long been accustomed to having an audience. In the past few days, wherever he appeared, there were always spectators waiting on the sidelines.

He put away his wine flask, dusted off his clothes, and when he looked at the iron chain again, his entire aura had subtly changed.

Whoosh~

Suddenly, the dark, thick iron chain rolled and shook, emitting a heavy and majestic dao light, and then transformed into a tall, slender man wearing a dark blue robe. He stood upon a massive black sun with a black divine chain formed from the power of rules floating before him that coiled and writhed like a black python-dragon. His imposing presence shook the heavens and the earth.

Pei Tu!

He was the Heavenly Mandate Dao Master of the Qian Department, who had left the Mortal Transformation Zone 290,000 years ago. At that time, his dao manifestation was ranked 21st in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws.

Everyone fell silent, and the attention of all the powerful experts was drawn to him. A battle was about to erupt. Feeling the imposing aura emanating from Pei Tu, Lin Xun raised his eyebrows.

This guy is very strong!

He was even stronger than Chi Qianji and Tian Xingzi, so he was the strongest opponent Lin Xun had faced in the past three months.

Chapter 3157 All Kinds of Daos, I Shall Derive Them Myself

Although Pei Tu was powerful, the pressure he exerted on Lin Xun was not unbearably overwhelming.

"A full-force attack should be enough to determine the winner, but it's better to see what this guy is capable of. That way, it will be useful if we meet again in the future," Lin Xun muttered to himself.

Whoosh!

In Pei Tu's hand, the black chain whirled wildly, stirring up a dark storm that struck towards Lin Xun. Lin Xun casually unleashed a wave of sword qi to engage in battle.

Boom!

The two fought fiercely above the Tonggu River, attracting the attention of all the powerful experts present.

Ten moves. A hundred moves. Three hundred moves.

As time passed, the battle became increasingly intense, eliciting gasps of surprise from the onlookers. However, some of the powerful experts remained calm. They had all witnessed Lin Xun fight many times before and could roughly judge that he was not using his full strength at this moment. Instead, he was sparring with Pei Tu's dao manifestation.

His purpose was simple: to explore the strength of Pei Tu's dao power! Sure enough, when the battle reached eight hundred rounds, a sword qi suddenly shot out from Lin Xun, slashing through the void.

Puff!

Pei Tu's figure shattered and dispersed into nothingness.

"He won again..." People were stunned, their emotions complex and subtle.

"The Chaos Dao Fruit hasn't appeared yet..." Some also noticed that even after defeating the terrifying dao manifestation of Pei Tu, Lin Xun still hadn't attracted a Chaos Dao Fruit. This inevitably shocked them.

Lin Xun had no time to pay attention to these things; defeating Pei Tu's dao manifestation was within his expectations. He was planning on leaving, resting for a while, and then competing with those ranked in the top ten!

Seeing that Lin Xun was about to leave, someone mustered the courage to ask, "Fellow Daoist Lin, may I ask which powerful figure's dao manifestation you plan to challenge next?"

"Tian Wu." Lin Xun dropped a name and then strode away.

Tian Wu! Everyone present was shocked, gasping in disbelief. Pei Tu's dao manifestation was ranked twenty-first in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws, whereas Tian Wu's was ranked ninth! The difference in ranking alone revealed just how terrifying the dao manifestation left behind by Tian Wu was, and it was certainly not something Pei Tu could compare to.

All the powerful experts present knew that Tian Wu was now a true Immeasurable Dao Lord, having entered the Realm of All Mysteries a long time ago. Although Pei Tu was also an Immeasurable Dao Lord, compared to Tian Wu, he ultimately lacked a bit in terms of foundation and experience.

"Let's go to Thousand Birds Mountain in Zhou Kingdom; Tian Wu’s dao manifestation is on that mountain."

Immediately, some people hurried away. Also on that day, the news that Lin Xun was going to compete with Tian Wu’s dao manifestation spread throughout the Mortal Transformation Zone.

...

Deep within a mountain Lin Xun sat cross-legged, calmly sensing his own vital energy. In the past three months, he had engaged in more than eight hundred fights. Each opponent was a powerful expert who had embarked on an Eternal dao path. Their paths of cultivation were all different, yet they each possessed their own profound mysteries.

Winning or losing wasn’t that important. Instead, what he found valuable was that he was able to witness and experience many incredible and supreme dao paths. This also gave him many insights. Subsequently, many cultivation realizations arose in his heart.

Now, he was sorting through the insights and experience he had accumulated during this period. As time passed, a supreme dao gradually emerged from Lin Xun. It was majestic, violent, domineering, and arrogant, manifesting endless profound mysteries.

This was precisely the dao pursued by Heng Qiu, the master of the bronze furnace in front of the Taoist temple in the capital of Qing Kingdom! If anyone else could see this, they would surely be terrified.

After all, the dao pursued by an Immeasurable Eternal was incredibly difficult and mysterious; other than the person in question, no one else could truly comprehend its mysteries. Now, the dao belonging to Heng Qiu was being deduced and revealed by Lin Xun bit by bit...

Not long after, Lin Xun's aura suddenly changed, and a new supreme dao emerged, replacing Heng Qiu's dao. This one was full of vibrant and surging vitality, like evergreen trees, embracing yin and yang, containing the endless and ever-flowing mysteries of life. This was the dao of Nian Dongyue, the owner of the ancient tree in front of the east gate of the Qing Kingdom's imperial palace!

Subsequently, in the following time, one supreme dao after another emerged from Lin Xun, and the mysteries contained within them were being used and revealed by his own aura. Such a sight was incredibly unbelievable; if word got out, it would surely shock the world and cause a sensation, even frightening those of the same realm.

After all, Lin Xun had only engaged in a battle with those dao manifestations, yet he seemed to have grasped the core essence of their daos, mastering and using them one by one! How terrifying was this?

This was the profound essence of the Nirvana principle after it had evolved to this level—it could transform the mysteries of all paths into one's heart, and derive the principles of all heavens into one's dao!

Lin Xun had only unearthed this forbidden power of the Nirvana principle in the Mortal Transformation Zone. It allowed him to discern the daos of his opponents one by one and integrate them into his own, using them accordingly. Of course, the prerequisite was to defeat the opponent first.

A full month later, his aura shifted again, becoming the dao belonging to Pei Tu, the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Qian Department. Finally, with a roar, his aura gradually subsided and became quiet. At

this point, the profound mysteries of more than eight hundred Eternal daos had all been integrated into his own.

By taking the essence and discarding the dross, he was finally achieving complete integration. It was at this moment that Lin Xun felt his cultivation had advanced significantly, and his strength was no longer comparable to where it was at when he had first entered the Mortal Transformation Zone. After calculating carefully, he realized it had only been a little over four months since he had arrived here.

“Although I didn't manage to obtain a Chaos Dao Fruit, being able to acquire so many profound secrets of the great dao during this competition is, for me, no less than a great fortune...” Lin Xun murmured to himself.

A moment later, he rose to his feet, his hands clasped behind his back, and leisurely flew towards the distance. It was time to contend with the dao manifestation of the founding ancestor of the Shaman Sect.

...

Two days later.

Zhou Kingdom, Thousand Birds Mountain.

This mountain, named after its resemblance to a thousand birds soaring in the sky, was one of the most famous scenic spots and historical sites in the Zhou Kingdom. At the summit, there was a white bone altar that was nine feet high. It was carved with ancient divine and demonic totems, emitting a terrifying aura of savagery, chaos, and destruction.

This was the dao manifestation of Tian Wu, the founder ancestor of the Shaman Sect! When Lin Xun appeared out of thin air, he saw that countless powerful experts had already gathered in the area around Thousand Birds Mountain. Clearly, they had been waiting here for a long time.

At this moment, all eyes were focused on him, as if they were witnessing a legendary figure arriving. Lin Xun ignored them. His attention fell upon the white bone altar.

Boom!

The white bone altar suddenly roared, revealing a tall and imposing figure. Clad in a beast-skin robe, his hair and beard resembled spears, and his skin was covered with obscure and rough totem patterns. Standing there casually, he seemed like a supreme god or demon suppressing all before him.

Tian Wu!

He was the founding ancestor of the Shaman Sect, whose dao manifestation was ranked ninth in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws. Even in the All-Wonder Dominion, he was a top-tier existence known throughout the universe.

Although what appeared now was only the merit forces he had left in this world, the aura that was being emitted still caused the surrounding powerful experts to hold their breath and tremble in their hearts.

"Go!"

As soon as Tian Wu appeared, he waved his hand like a fan in the void.

Boom! The world seemed to revert to a primordial era, a time of chaos and upheaval. Divine beings and demons roamed freely, roaring across the starry sky, shattering the sun and moon. Ferocious birds descended upon the world, their wings spanning eighty thousand miles, causing mountains and rivers to crumble.

Scene after scene of turmoil unfolded, each radiating an aura of destruction! This was the dao of Tian Wu, rising amidst turmoil, achieving enlightenment amidst chaos, and attaining eternity amidst destruction!

At this moment, a chaotic primordial world emerged, like a supreme manifestation of the heavenly dao pressing down, terrifying beyond imagination. However, Lin Xun, with a flick of his sleeves, soared into that primordial world. In that instant, it was as if a supreme ruler had taken his place; the chaotic primordial world calmed down, mountains and rivers became clear, auspicious light flowed, and all things flourished.

Divine beings and demons roared and attacked from the starry sky, but before Lin Xun, their violent aura dissipated, and they bowed in reverence. Ferocious birds descended from the sky, but transformed into gentle little birds, fluttering and dancing around him, chirping happily...

The vast primordial realm suddenly presented a scene of peace and tranquility. Then, with a wave of Lin Xun's sleeve, with a thunderous roar, the entire primordial world transformed into a beam of light, dissipating between his fingers.

Those watching from afar were all dumbfounded, utterly shocked. How terrifying were the dao rules manifested in Tian Wu's attack? The destructive aura was world-shattering, enough to easily suppress most experts in the Immeasurable Realm. Despite that, this very attack was casually resolved by Lin Xun, dissipating between his fingers!

"This is a clash of the highest dao, like a collision between the laws of the universe. The power in every movement is already like the power of the Heavenly Dao, indescribable!" Someone exclaimed in awe, trembling with excitement.

"Rise!"

Beneath the vast sky, the towering figure of Tian Wu raised his hands, and a surge of destructive power erupted. Immediately, fierce winds raged, lightning struck, and apocalyptic calamities rained down like a storm. Faintly, visions of gods weeping blood appeared, and countless living beings were reduced to a sea of skulls and blood in the midst of destruction...

The mighty experts in the surrounding area were all horrified and retreated, fleeing far away. Lin Xun raised his eyebrows and reached out a hand.

Swish!

A beam of light flashed like a sword. Then, all the strange phenomena created by that destructive power were easily torn apart, like a ripped canvas, and scattered like rain.

Boom!

Tian Wu attacked through the air, using the full power of his cultivation base. Lin Xun no longer held back, confronting him head-on with his own dao.

In the heavens and earth, Tian Wu was like a god of destruction, his every movement reflecting visions of the heavens collapsing, the earth shattering, and all things turning to dust. That power was so terrifying that even those watching from afar were deeply shaken.

However, all of this was completely neutralized by Lin Xun. His movements were simple and clean, whether it was a sword strike, a finger thrust, a palm strike, or a punch. Of note, each blow contained endless mysteries, subtly displaying a divine aura that seemed to suppress the past, present, and future.

Utterly simple, utterly invincible!

Chapter 3158 If You Can't Overcome Me, You'll Turn to Dust in the Blink of an Eye

The greatest truth was the simplest. During the battle, Lin Xun's mind was clear and serene. Every movement, every action, encompassed countless principles and techniques, yet all were seamlessly integrated into a single, effortless punch or palm strike. It was like the fading of all worldly splendor, revealing the natural essence of the dao.

Tian Wu’s path is based on destruction, yet he can forge a path to eternity through destruction. He is truly a genius of unparalleled talent, rarely seen throughout history...

During the battle, Lin Xun could clearly perceive Tian Wu's power of the great dao. Defeating him actually wouldn't require much effort, but he didn't immediately go to that. He was calmly experiencing this struggle between two daos.

This battle lasted for a long time. After a full day and night, Tian Wu's figure dissipated like a wisp of smoke. He hadn’t been suppressed or defeated, but rather his power of the great dao had been completely exhausted, causing him to vanish.

Once the battle ended, everyone present was stunned, their expressions a mixture of shock and bewilderment. They were shocked that even the powerful dao of Tian Wu was no match for Lin Xun. They were bewildered that after this battle, Lin Xun still hadn't attracted a Chaos Dao Fruit!

This was undoubtedly unbelievable, even incomprehensible. Why was this happening?

On the peak of Thousand Birds Mountain, beneath the sky, Lin Xun stood with his hands behind his back, his posture serene, silent and still. Within him, many wondrous and incredible insights surged like a flowing stream, immersing his mind in a profound state of enlightenment.

After a long time, he collected his thoughts, let out a light sigh, and thought to himself. Although Tian Wu's dao is incredibly strong, his path is only on par with that of Pei Tu, the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Qian Department...

"Congratulations, Fellow Daoist Lin, on another great victory on your journey!"

Suddenly, a deep, resonant voice rang out, filled with genuine admiration. “Congratulations, Fellow Daoist Lin!”

“Congratulations, Fellow Daoist Lin!”

A chorus of congratulations rang out in the surrounding area, echoing through the heavens and earth, lingering for a long time.

Those powerful experts had been in the Mortal Transformation Zone for countless years, so they themselves were old monsters on the boundless path of cultivation. Now, facing Lin Xun, they all felt a sense of profound respect and admiration. In the pursuit of the dao, there was no seniority; the accomplished ones were the teachers!

Lin Xun had only been fighting for a little over four months, yet he had won more than eight hundred battles. This was an unprecedented miracle! Compared to him, who among the heroes of the world could not bow down in admiration?

Lin Xun smiled and cupped his hands, “On the road of the great dao, we are all fellow travelers. I also wish you all further progress in the future.”

With that, he turned and left.

Suddenly, a gray-robed man said, “Everyone, in my opinion, when the previous battle ended, Lin Xun was clearly greatly exhausted. If someone had attacked him then...”

However, before he could finish, the faces of the powerful experts standing near the gray-robed man changed slightly, and they moved away, clearly distancing themselves from him.

The gray-robed man immediately shut up, his face changing, looking very wronged, and said, “Everyone, I was just pointing out something, why are you so nervous?”

Of course, no one paid attention to him, instead moving even further away. This made the gray-robed man feel uneasy. After a long time, he muttered bitterly, “Has Lin Xun’s prestige really become this formidable?”

...

Seven days later, Long Kingdom, Feixia Lake.

A Dao Competition was underway. On one side was the dao manifestation of the dao left by the Zen Sect’s founder, Shi, which was ranked seventh among the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws. The other was Lin Xun.

The fight had been going on for four hours.

Under the sky, a vast Buddhist kingdom stretched out, boundless and magnificent, with brilliant lotus flowers floating everywhere. The sound of chanting scriptures resounded like a tide. Vaguely, countless illusory images of Buddhist realms appeared, with Buddhas discussing the dao and Bodhisattvas expounding teachings. It presented a magnificent scene of boundless light and boundless bliss.

This was the dao of Shi, the founder of the Zen Sect. It was based on the Zen heart and was infinitely profound and mysterious.

Competing against him was Lin Xun, who was sitting alone in the void. His figure was ethereal, calm, and detached from the mundane world. There were neither grand manifestations of the great dao nor earth-shattering power; he looked utterly unremarkable.

However, the debating Buddhas could not shake his state of mind in the slightest, and the expounding Bodhisattvas could not harm a single hair on him. Even the eternally flourishing and boundless Buddhist realms could not intrude upon the place where Lin Xun sat.

He was like a rock, unmoving, simply watching, feeling, and experiencing, possessing an air of composure and transcendence. After a long time, the Buddhas sighed and vanished, the Bodhisattvas shook their heads and disappeared, and the countless Buddhist realms all vanished into thin air. Even the ethereal Sanskrit chants disappeared with them.

At this moment, the figure of Shi also faded away. Lin Xun rose to his feet, stretched his limbs, took out a wine flask and took a long drink, laughing, "Whether it's a Buddha or demon, if you can't overcome me, you'll turn to dust in the blink of an eye!"

...

Ten days later, Star Bridge Kingdom, Dragon Sparrow Ridge.

"Senior, I apologize for the offense earlier." Lin Xun bowed in greeting.

A great battle had allowed him to defeat the dao legacy left by Xu Yin, the founder of the Spirit Sect, and this dao manifestation, which was ranked eighth, also disappeared.

...

Half a month later, on Fengya Mountain, eight hundred miles outside the Rong Kingdom. A sword swept across the sky, overshadowing the galaxy of nine heavens! Countless stars fell, like fireworks fading away, and then disappeared.

That galaxy of nine heavens was the dao legacy and dao manifestation of Yuan Chu, the founder of the Origin Sect. It was a supreme dao ranked sixth among the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws.

"Senior, if we meet again someday, I will surely invite you to drink wine."

Lin Xun bowed. At this point, the merit forces and dao manifestations left behind by the founding ancestors of the Four Great Ancestral Courts had all been defeated by him! The news spread, and the vast Mortal Transformation Zone was shaken into silence.

"Could it be that Lin Xun will be able to challenge the entire world, just like Chen Linkong did back then, and rise to the top?" Some old experts couldn't remain calm, their hearts trembling.

Many years ago, Chen Linkong had arrived in the Mortal Transformation Zone, traveling the world like a carefree wanderer, neither competing nor fighting, simply observing the world and its inhabitants. It wasn't until thirty-three years later that he wielded his sword, defeating the Grand Scholar Immortal, who had been ranked first in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws. His dao manifestation had then taken first place!

This event caused a great sensation in the Mortal Transformation Zone. Everyone believed that Chen Linkong at that time possessed a cultivation level that was close to the perfect Immeasurable Realm, which was why he was able to reach the top and stand alongside the other four supreme beings.

"Lin Xun's Chaos Dao Fruit hasn't appeared yet. This means that he might only have a chance to attract a Chaos Dao Fruit and ascend to the heavenly gate if he defeats any one of the five dao manifestations that are ranked first in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws."

"But what if he fails?"

"Then he will be trapped here, just like us!"

"Could someone as powerful as him also be trapped in the Mortal Transformation Zone?"

Discussions were rampant throughout the world. Nearly half a year had passed since Lin Xun had entered the Mortal Transformation Zone, and he had not suffered a single defeat in his battles.

However, the situation was different now. The only opponents left before him were the five dao manifestations that were all ranked first. They were the legacies left by the five supreme beings: the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, the golden cicada, Black Crow, Chen Linkong, and the Ape Ancestor.

Each of them possessed an unfathomable power!

Although Lin Xun had never been defeated in his previous battles and he had actually defeated the dao manifestations of the founders of the Four Great Ancestral Courts, now that his opponents were reduced to these five supreme beings, no one dared to be certain that he would win. This was simply because these five experts were too powerful!

To be ranked first, without any distinction in superiority, was an incredible feat, and it also showed how extraordinary the legacies left behind by those five people truly were!

While the world was in an uproar, Lin Xun had already arrived at a place called Pine Smoke City in the Tao Kingdom. A sword monument stood in a pine forest. It was three feet tall, resembling a sword piercing the sky. This had been left behind by Chen Linkong.

After observing the sword monument for a moment, Lin Xun suddenly spoke, "In this battle, I do not wish for outsiders to witness it. Please, everyone, leave quickly."

His declaration surprised the many powerful experts scattered around Pine Smoke City. Although they were all bewildered, they wisely retreated. Of course, they couldn't truly leave.

Such a battle would inevitably disturb the heavens and earth, drawing upon the power of the dao in all directions. Even observing from afar would allow them to discern some clues. However, Lin Xun had anticipated this and didn't say anything more.

Clang!

The next moment, a clear sword cry resounded, shaking the skies above Pine Smoke City, causing the clouds in all directions to disperse. The world suddenly changed, as if falling into an endless, dazzling sharpness. It pierced the hearts and minds of those present, giving them the feeling that their divine consciousness was being severed.

Even the many powerful experts observing from a great distance were injured on the spot, their souls suffering from a terrifying impact as their faces blanched. It was at this moment that they realized that it wasn't that Lin Xun didn't want them to watch the battle, but instead that watching the battle with their level of cultivation would inevitably lead to backlash!

For a moment, these experts were all overwhelmed with emotion, their expressions filled with shock. This was a single confrontation, yet all of these Immeasurable Eternals had to pay a price just to observe it. How terrifying was that?

Clang!

Before they could react, another sword cry resounded, its momentum no less powerful than the previous one. Then, in Pine Smoke City, sword qi filled the universe, and sword intent moved the heavens.

Everyone knew that the battle had begun. Unfortunately, the details and mysteries of it were beyond their ability to perceive.

Time flowed slowly. Those mighty experts could only wait in agony, waiting for the moment when a winner was decided. No one had expected this battle to be so long, lasting from sunrise to sunset, from the hustle and bustle of daily life to the quiet of night...

Day after day passed, the clanging of swords sometimes sounded, sometimes fell silent. Just when people thought the battle was over, the sound of swords would suddenly resound again. The vast city of Pine Smoke was filled with sharp, radiant light that lingered for a long time.

Seven days later...

In the Hongling Domain in the Realm of All Mysteries, Chen Linkong sat casually near a thatched hut, holding a bamboo rod while fishing by a stream. His demeanor was quite relaxed. The stream was clear, but there were no fish.

Despite that, he was thoroughly enjoying himself. Suddenly, he raised his eyebrows, abruptly dropped the bamboo rod, and stood up. A look of undisguised surprise appeared in his eyes.

"This young man, has he already achieved such mastery on the Immeasurable dao path?" Chen Linkong stood there stunned as his heart stirred.

"Feeling uneasy about being surpassed?" A laugh echoed from the thatched hut.

"Grandfather, you knew about this too?" Chen Linkong turned around, his expression subtle. There was a mix of joy and a touch of melancholy on his face.

"The Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws are originally a manifestation of the origin of the All-Wonder Dominion. It can accommodate your sword dao, but it cannot accommodate his great dao.” The voice in the thatched hut then continued, "This is the variable."

Chen Linkong sighed softly, then smiled. "I don't mind being surpassed by him. After all, that's the dao legacy I left behind. If Lin Xun can't even surpass me, it would probably disappoint many people."

"No need to say anymore. Let's continue to wait and see." The voice in the thatched hut sounded leisurely, carrying a rare hint of anticipation.

Chapter 3159 Walking Into Death

Tao Kingdom. Pine Smoke City.

Within the mist-shrouded pine forest, Lin Xun stood alone. His qi was nearly exhausted, and gruesome sword wounds crisscrossed his body, blood seeping through torn robes.

The battle had lasted seven days and seven nights. Against Chen Linkong, Lin Xun had fought using nothing but the sword dao. Though he had emerged victorious in the end, his cultivation was now close to running dry. As for the injuries, he didn’t care much about them.

“If I’d known it would come to this, I shouldn’t have been so stubborn and insisted on competing purely in swordsmanship...” he muttered with a bitter smile, the corner of his lips twitching.

Suddenly, his gaze shifted toward the distance. One after another, mighty figures appeared in Pine Smoke City and rapidly approached the pine forest. Very soon, all of them spotted Lin Xun. Their hearts trembled

So badly injured! And his qi is almost completely depleted!

This was the first time anyone had seen Lin Xun in such a miserable state during the Great Dao Contest. To have fought a fierce battle for seven days straight, one could imagine just how terrifying the dao manifestation left behind by Chen Linkong must have been. Of course, Lin Xun had still won in the end. Even if it had been a narrow victory, it was enough to shake everyone present.

At the very least, this battle proved one thing beyond doubt: Lin Xun’s cultivation was already sufficient to rank first in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws of the Mortal Transformation Zone! However, there was one thing that baffled everyone. The Chaos Dao Fruit that should have belonged to him had still not appeared! This completely overturned the expectations of all the mighty beings present.

“Fellow Daoist Lin, I have some miraculous healing medicine...” someone said, taking out a jade bottle and sending it over. Seeing this, the others hurriedly followed suit, producing all kinds of divine pills and rare treasures, eager to help Lin Xun recover.

Lin Xun smiled and shook his head. “Thank you all for your kindness, but there’s no need. These injuries aren’t worth worrying about.”

Just then, a cold voice suddenly rang out, “Are they really just minor injuries? Then why do you look like you’re about to collapse at any moment?”

In an instant, a chilling killing intent surged through the forest and the atmosphere changed abruptly. A group of figures appeared out of thin air. At their head stood a handsome man in green robes. His eyes were locked onto Lin Xun, brimming with naked hatred and murderous intent, along with a trace of barely concealed excitement.

Behind him stood more than a dozen powerful cultivators, every one of them at the Immeasurable Realm. Their gazes toward Lin Xun were icy and merciless.

“Ji Tianqing, what are you trying to do?” one of the mighty figures nearby demanded, his expression darkening.

Ji Tianqing? A flicker of realization crossed Lin Xun’s eyes. So it’s him...

Back in the Sea of Fate, Xinhu, Leisong, and the others had once seized an opportunity to enter the All-Wonder Dominion, and in the end, that chance was given to Ji Tianqing, Ziche Chong, and Ye Wuhen. Thus, Lin Xun was not surprised that Ji Tianqing had suddenly appeared.

“Everyone, this matter has nothing to do with you. It would be best if you stay out of it. Otherwise, once you’re dragged into this grudge, you won’t be able to extricate yourselves even if you want to.” Ji Tiangqing swept his cold gaze over the surrounding mighty figures.

At those words, the expressions of many of the mighty figures present changed. Someone sneered, clearly unafraid of Ji Tianqing and the others. “You didn’t dare show your faces earlier, yet you appear only when Fellow Daoist Lin is in dire straits? How shameless.”

“Old Monster Ying, are you really planning to interfere?” Beside Ji Tianqing, an old man with flowing white beard spoke hoarsely, his gaze cold and unfathomable. The cultivator who just spoke fell silent, hesitation flickering across his face.

“Who is Ji Xi to you?” Suddenly, Lin Xun looked straight at Ji Tianqing and asked.

“Even at death’s door, you’re trying to curry favor with me?” Ji Tianqing sneered.

“No,” Lin Xun replied calmly. “I’m just asking so I decide how you’re going to die.”

He then chuckled lightly. “Alright, enough nonsense. Do you want to die together...or one by one?”

His qi was visibly weak, his aura thin and unstable, yet his expression remained calm and relaxed. He even spoke and laughed as though nothing were wrong. That kind of bearing quietly stirred admiration in many of the surrounding powerful figures.

Meanwhile, Ji Tianqing and the others felt both startled and uncertain. How could they not know how terrifying Lin Xun had become? Over the past six months, news of him had swept across the entire Mortal Transformation Zone. Every incident associated with his name had been sensational, each more shocking than the last.

It was to the point that even Ji Tianqing and his group had, more than once, considered abandoning their plans for revenge altogether. However, this time, when they heard that Lin Xun had been locked in a fierce battle with Chen Linkong's dao manifestation for several days without a clear victor, they finally realized that their chance had come!

Sure enough, when they arrived, they found Lin Xun gravely injured, his qi nearly on the verge of exhaustion, so weak it seemed that anyone could easily kill him with a single strike.

Now, faced with Lin Xun's challenge, they found themselves hesitating. Lin Xun's power had long shaken the world. His reputation alone was enough to make even giants uneasy. As the saying went, even a dead tiger still carries its might, and even a fallen dragon still inspires fear. Who could possibly not be wary of him?

"What? You're already come all this way, yet you don't even dare to make a move?" The mockery in Lin Xun's voice was unmistakable.

Ji Tianqing drew a deep breath and transmitted his voice, "Everyone, attack together. If anything goes wrong, retreat immediately."

"Understood!" Everyone agreed.

However, just as they were about to strike, Lin Xun's voice rang out again, echoing across heaven and earth,

“Esteemed Seniors, leave these idiots who’ve come seeking death to me.”

Ji Tianqing and the others were stunned for a moment, then their expressions changed drastically. Within their spirit senses, a group of figures appeared in the far distance. It was Xing Jianxia, Fu Nanli, Ren Futian, Daoist Shanfeng, Xiaohe, Mo Baize, Mu Changyun, and others.

At the same time, from another direction, Xun Daoyan and Divine Lord Linglong also emerged from the void. The situation shifted in an instant.

“Those wretches...they didn’t dare show their faces before, but this time they’ve finally exposed their tracks,” Xing Jianxia said with a faint smile.

No one knew that for the past three months, Xing Jianxia and the others had been secretly following Lin Xun through every single Great Dao Contest. Their purpose was simple: to prevent any enemies from taking advantage of the situation to strike.

“That’s what you call asking for death,” Xun Daoyan said coldly.

“Young Friend Lin, why not leave these people to us?” Divine Lord Linglong asked softly, her voice gentle as flowing water.

“Hahaha...are you worried that I no longer have the strength to fight?” Lin Xun threw his head back in laughter, his voice echoing in all directions.

“Retreat!” Ji Tianqing and the others felt their hearts sink. They no longer cared whether Lin Xun was bluffing or not. Without the slightest hesitation, they chose to withdraw at once.

But at that moment...Clang!

A streak of sword qi suddenly manifested. With a casual flick of Lin Xun’s sleeve, it shot straight into the sky. In the blink of an eye, the eleven Immeasurable Realm experts beside Ji Tianqing, who had just taken to the air to flee, were torn apart mid-flight. Their bodies exploded into fragments and blood sprayed in all directions.

It was like a burst of crimson fireworks blooming across the heavens. The horrifying sight almost made Ji Tianqing's soul jump out of his body. In the very next instant, he didn't dare move an inch. Because a streak of sword qi had already silently arrived at his throat. The law power suffusing that sword qi made him sense the breath of death!

Startled, the mighty figures nearby all whipped their heads around to look at Lin Xun. His blood-soaked figure now looked like a withered tree bursting into bloom in spring, an unmatched vitality surging and soaring from within him.

In just a few blinks of an eye, all the injuries around him faded away. Apart from the bloodstains on his clothes, not a single trace of damage remained. Even his depleted qi was recovering at a terrifying speed! Has Lin Xun been pretending all along?

Many of the mighty figures present stared in disbelief. When they looked again at Ji Tianqing, their gazes were tinged with pity. These fellows were truly stupid enough to come seeking their own deaths.

At this moment, Ji Tianqing's expression flickered between gloom and uncertainty. He said hoarsely, "Didn't you ask earlier about my relationship with Ji Xi? I'll tell you...she is my grandniece."

Everyone present wore strange expressions. Earlier, Ji Tianqing had thought Lin Xun was trying to curry favor. Now, with death looming over him, he suddenly revealed his relationship with Ji Xi. This was clearly a plea for mercy.

PU!

Before anyone could even react, the sword qi pressing against his throat flashed. Ji Tianqing's head was severed and sent flying. Even his primordial spirit was instantly ravaged and pulverized by the sword qi.

Everyone jolted in shock. Lin Xun shook his head lightly. He respected Ji Xi, but he had no respect for those who dared to regard him as an enemy.

"Esteemed seniors," Lin Xun said with a smile as he turned to Xing Jianxia and the others, "Shall we go have a drink?"

“Nothing could be better.” Xing Jianxia and the others burst into laughter.

On that day, news of Lin Xun defeating Chen Linkong’s dao manifestation spread like wildfire, once again shaking the entire Mortal Transformation Zone. Meanwhile, Ji Tianqing and his group’s foolish, self-destructive actions became a laughingstock throughout the Mortal Transformation Zone.

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Half a month later, Lin Xun appeared within a remote, nameless canyon in the Xue Kingdom. A scripture floated in midair, suffused with intertwining black and white light and shadow, weaving a wondrous scene where purity and turbidity merged, and the two polarities of yin and yang revolved.

Boom!

As Lin Xun’s aura spread outward, the scripture suddenly unfurled, revealing surging black and white currents that eventually transformed into an incomparably towering old ape. It bore two swords upon its back and wore a gray robe. When it opened its eyes, black and white light flowed within them, striking fear into the heart.

Ape Ancestor!

He was an ancient retainer of Alpha Origin Master. Since the day the Alpha Origin Master was sealed beneath the sword seal, Ape Ancestor had served under Black Crow, the number one dao servant. Its dao manifestation had long been ranked first.

Clang! Clang!

Behind Ape Ancestor, two dao swords, one black and one white, rose into the void. Their boundless sword intent transformed into clear and turbid qi. The clear qi ascended to form the heavens, the turbid qi descended to become the earth. They embodied the two polarities, followed the cycles of yin and yang, and were profound beyond fathoming.

In the blink of an eye, it was as though heaven and earth themselves had transformed into a colossal Taiji diagram with boundless sword intent surging within it. With a single thought from Ape Ancestor, all of that sword intent came crashing down upon Lin Xun.

“So...this is the perfect Taiji Two-Polarities Dao ...?” Lin Xun leaped into the air, rushing head-on to meet it.

Boom!

A fierce battle erupted at once. This battle was no less intense than his clash with Chen Linkong. The difference was that, in his duel with Chen Linkong, Lin Xun had fought solely through the sword dao.

Now, he no longer restricted himself to a single dao. He unleashed the entirety of his cultivation without any restraint.

One day later—Clang!

A thunderous explosion resounded through the canyon. Lin Xun’s fist, like a divine cauldron that suppressed all ages, crashed head-on into the black and white swords in Ape Ancestor’s hands. Then, the twin swords shattered piece by piece.

Boom!

The two polarities universe, which had taken the form of a Taiji diagram, collapsed like shredded paper and dispersed into the void. Amid this annihilation, Ape Ancestor’s towering figure dissipated into nothingness. As for Lin Xun, though riddled with wounds, his aura was like a sword blade spanning the heavens, unshakable across the ages.

Chapter 3160 The Disciple Surpasses the Master

Realm of All Mysteries, the Black Profound Domain.

Ape Ancestor sat cross-legged in silent meditation. Before him hovered two swords, one black and one white, radiating intertwined divine light. The white sword was called Serene Harmony. The black sword

was named Heaven's Lament. These names had been bestowed by the Alpha Origin Master and were said to originate from ancient tune names of the mortal world.

To Ape Ancestor, names meant nothing. What truly mattered was that this pair of dao swords had long become a part of his own dao path, accompanying him through countless epochs, through endless battles, loneliness and bitter cultivation. The swords were no different from his very life.

"I wonder why Master left her there." Ape Ancestor murmured softly. "Was it to shield her from calamity? Or was he afraid she might stir up trouble? Or...perhaps both?"

He gently stroked the twin dao swords, his gaze distant, lost in thought.

Master's mind is as deep as the sea, especially after arriving at the All-Wonder Dominion, it has become utterly unfathomable. Even when he was once suppressed beneath that swordsman's seal, he did not utter a single word of resentment. Instead, he only sighed wistfully, saying that to lose such an opponent in the world was truly a tragedy.

Ape Ancestor could never understand this. The sword seal had imprisoned him for countless epochs, yet he bore not the slightest hatred toward that swordsman. On the contrary, when that swordsman chose reincarnation to rebuild his cultivation, he instead felt a deep sense of desolation.

Huh?

Suddenly, Ape Ancestor's fingers froze mid-motion upon the twin swords. His eyes narrowed sharply. A trace of shock crossed his brows.

"That Lin Xun...actually defeated my dao manifestation?"

Clang! Clang!

The black and white swords trembled violently, releasing a low, restless sword cry that mirrored the turbulence within Ape Ancestor's heart. After a long silence, Ape Ancestor slowly rose to his feet. He

hesitated for a long while, then finally let out a sigh, abandoning the thought of going to pay respects to the Master and the young lady.

“Perhaps...this is precisely the variable that Master wished to see...?” Ape Ancestor murmured to himself.

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Mortal Transformation Zone.

After defeating Ape Ancestor’s dao manifestation, Lin Xun cultivated in seclusion for half a month before once again setting off.

The Qi Kingdom, Dafeng Mountain.

This mountain towered thousands of feet into the clouds. At its summit stood an ancient temple, enshrining a divine statute. In ages past, it had been ablaze with incense, a place of immense spiritual significance that drew countless devout men and women.

On this day, Lin Xun arrived. Like an ordinary traveler, he climbed the stone steps at an unhurried pace. Along the way, he watched families, young and old, making the arduous ascent for nothing more than a single prayer, and could not help but sigh softly.

For mortals, when they found themselves powerless to change their circumstances, they would often place their hopes for transformation in nothing more than burning incense and prayer. However, Lin Xun, as a cultivator, understood even more clearly that in this Mortal Transformation Zone, the prayers of all living beings were destined to be nothing but flowers in a mirror or the moon in the water. Seeking the gods was never as reliable as relying on oneself.

Soon, Lin Xun arrived at the summit of Dafeng Mountain. A magnificent temple stood there, its buildings arranged in orderly rows, incense burning thick and unceasing. Beside the temple lay a lotus pond. Blossoms floated on its surface, while fish glided lazily beneath the water. However, Lin Xun’s gaze was fixed on a black lotus seed resting at the bottom of the pond.

Boom!

In the next instant, the seed shimmered with dark radiance and transformed into the figure of a girl clad in black. Snow-white hair cascaded down to her slender waist, while her ruby-like eyes glowed with a bewitching, eerie light.

Black Crow, the first dao servant under the Alpha Origin Master!

It was said that Alpha Origin had once expended the origin power of nine epochs to forge an unparalleled dao foundation for Black Crow, allowing her to step into the perfect Immeasurable Realm in a single leap. With the Alpha Origin Master now confined, the Nine Departments of Alpha Origin were all placed under Black Crow's command.

Swoosh!

The moment the black-clothed girl appeared, a strand of black flame ignited between her slender, fair fingers. With a casual sweep of her hand, the flame streaked outward like a beam of light tearing through eternity, and the world seemed to change color in an instant. A dark, frigid, murderous aura flooded the air. Then, billions of flames surged forth like stars exploding across the heavens, filling the entire universe.

Each wisp of fire was like a vast world in itself, within which a set of profound and obscure dao laws was reflected. Those billions of flames were like billions of great daos, illuminating heaven and earth!

"All phenomena transform into the dao, the dao evolves without end, and all ultimately return to fire. Such attainment is truly extraordinary..." Lin Xun couldn't help but marvel.

The cultivation of Chen Linkong's dao manifestation was entirely fused into the dao of the sword. The cultivation of Ape Ancestor's dao manifestation was entirely fused into the Taiji Two-Polarities Dao. Whereas Black Crow's dao manifestation was entirely fused into the Dao of Fire.

Though simple, it was capable of evolving into infinite profound mysteries of the great dao! This was the 'all daos converge into one, and from one arise all daos.' Only by reaching an inconceivable height in the Immeasurable Realm could one forge such terrifying attainment.

Boom!

Billions of flames swayed and trembled, following an inscrutable trajectory as they surged toward Lin Xun with overwhelming force. He didn't dare to be careless. He drew a slow breath and his entire being entered a state of absolute focus as he prepared for the duel.

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The Realm of All Mysteries.

Within that primordial, chaos like gray world. On a branch, Black Crow suddenly let out a soft cry. With a dull boom, her form transformed into a young woman dressed in black with snow-white hair flowing down like a waterfall.

Her brows knit together as she folded her slender, pale hands into a mysterious seal, instantly unleashing a wisp of unfathomable Fate and Karma power. Gradually, a hazy, illusory light screen formed between her palms, projecting the fierce battle unfolding atop Dafeng Mountain in the Qi Kingdom of the Mortal Transformation Zone.

Unfortunately, before the image could stabilize, the light screen shattered and dispersed. The black-clothed girl let out a muffled groan as a trickle of blood slid from the corner of her lips. Her bewitching ruby eyes instantly turned cold and ruthless, and her entire aura surged violently.

"Heh, little crow, you really brought this upon yourself." A laugh echoed from the depths below. "In the All-Wonder Dominion, with such meager cultivation, you still dare to pry into the variables of destiny?"

The girl in black lowered her head slightly. "Master, I only wanted to see how capable Lin Xun has become...who could have expected this?"

"This is the All-Wonder Dominion. To act this way is to invite trouble. Not to mention you, even I cannot forcibly divine matters here. Otherwise, karma will be born, variables will descend, calamities will emerge. One ripple will stir the entirety of existence." His voice softened. "Just stay here in peace and

watch. Let us see what kind of changes that variable will ultimately bring. With me here, what is there for you to worry about?"

"But Ape Ancestor and the experts of the Nine Alpha Origin Departments are here as well...if they..."

Before she could finish, Alpha Origin cut her off, "On the path of the great dao, each walks their own road. Do you know why the Nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords have long been unable to perfect their realm?

"It is because they cannot sever the reliance in their hearts upon me. To them, I am their shackle. They have already reached their present level of cultivation, yet if they cannot even see through this, then in this lifetime, they will never take another step forward."

At this point, his voice softened once more. "As for Ape Ancestor, there is no need for concern. He has already reached the perfect state of this realm and is qualified to contend within the All-Wonder Dominion."

The girl in black nodded, but a question lingered in her heart that she dared not voice. Why was Ape Ancestor permitted to roam freely beyond this place, while I am kept here?

She did not ask.

Suddenly, Alpha Origin spoke again, "Little crow, tell me, how many of the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws ranked first do you think Lin Xun can defeat?"

"About that..." the girl in black hesitated, her voice trailing off.

Alpha Origin said softly, "Think it over. There is no hurry."

Time drifted by in silence. After a long while, the girl in black finally spoke, carefully choosing her words. "Master, speaking from my own selfish heart, I do not wish for Lin Xun to defeat even a single first-ranked dao manifestation. After all, the more victories he claims, the more it proves that this variable is far too dangerous."

“Dangerous?” Alpha Origin’s voice took on a subtle, inscrutable tone. “No, this is far from enough.”

The girl in black froze. At that moment, her heart trembled violently. Her expression changed, and she stammered, “He...he...”

“He defeated your dao manifestation?” Alpha Origin asked calmly.

The girl in black nodded bitterly. “Yes.”

“Back when you were in the Mortal Transformation Zone, you were already an Immeasurable Dao Lord, only one step away from reaching perfection. By that logic, Lin Xun’s current cultivation should likewise be within this same realm.”

Alpha Origin paused, his tone growing contemplative. “But this is still not enough. Since he is an unprecedented variable, he must possess something extraordinary...something unlike anything seen before. Let us wait and see.”

He let out a soft sigh. “Do not disappoint me.”

The girl in black was stunned. Why did Master sound as though he hoped Lin Xun would grow stronger and stronger?

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Lin Xun emerged victorious. It had not been an easy battle, but neither could it be called truly perilous. Unlike his battles against Chen Linkong and Ape Ancestor, defeating Black Crow did not take Lin Xun too long. From the very first exchange, the battle had escalated to its most intense state, leaving him no room whatsoever to hold back.

After nearly an hour of ferocious combat, Lin Xun, despite suffering grave injuries, finally crushed his opponent in one decisive strike.

As he recalled his battles with Chen Linkong, Ape Ancestor, and now Black Crow, a realization gradually dawned on him. The reason these three supreme beings all stood shoulder to shoulder at the top was not a coincidence.

Though their dao paths differed, the cultivation each of them possessed at that time had encountered the very same bottleneck. In addition, that bottleneck was precisely the key to stepping into the perfect Immeasurable Realm!

“It seems that their cultivation back then all lay within the scope of the Immeasurable Dao Lord,” Lin Xun murmured thoughtfully. “They were all only a single step away from true perfection...”

He even faintly sensed that his master, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, as well as the golden cicada, had likely been in a similar state when they first arrived in the Mortal Transformation Zone. Otherwise, it would have been impossible for five individuals to stand shoulder to shoulder at the very top.

However, Lin Xun knew all too well that he was different from them. At present, his cultivation could only be regarded as the perfect intermediate stage of the Immeasurable Realm. He had yet to step into the advanced stage, let alone reach the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Realm.

“Among the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws, the only dao manifestations absent are those of Alpha Origin, Chen Xi, and that mysterious swordsman.” A thought suddenly occurred to him. “Could it be that when they arrived, their cultivation had already reached the peak Immeasurable Realm so their own dao manifestations could no longer be reflected within the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws?

“Or perhaps...among them were figures like myself, who, even after defeating the first-ranked dao manifestations, still failed to draw forth Chaos Dao Fruit?”

The thought left Lin Xun with a tangle of emotions. Despite fighting battle after battle, the Chaos Dao Fruit had yet to manifest. That inevitably left him uneasy. After all, Xia Zhi was still waiting in the Calamitous Zone.

However, beneath that unease, there was also an indescribable, irrepressible anticipation. If he could defeat the dao manifestation his master had left behind back then...then perhaps that could truly be called ‘surpassing the master.’