Prodigies 3181

Chapter 3181 I Am Not Alone, For I Have My Enemies

The world was quiet. Apart from the countless clusters of flames, there seemed to be the two of them: the Alpha Origin Master who was sitting cross-legged on the dao platform, and Lin Xun who had just arrived at this place.

Lin Xun was taken aback by Alpha Origin's words. "You've been waiting for me?"

"Yes. In fact, what you see in front of you is merely a force of my will."

Alpha Origin could not be described as handsome, but he had a clear aura that reminded one of green bamboo on a cliff before an ocean of clouds. His energy was also gentle and calm, to the point one could not feel any trace of pressure or hostility from him.

However, Lin Xun did not dare to underestimate the other party. Even if it was only a Will Dharma Form, the fact that the true form was Alpha Origin put it in an entire other category of a threat.

"What's the reason?" asked Lin Xun.

Alpha Origin smiled. "You realized that there might be a problem with your innate talent, so you came here to trace its origin, am I right?"

"That's right." Lin Xun did not deny it.

Alpha Origin curiously said, "Doing so will cause unexpected changes in your past, and all sorts of unimaginable karmic consequences will arise and affect your current path. Do you know that?"

Hearing this, Lin Xun suddenly realized something. This Will Dharma Form of Alpha Origin seemed to assume that he had gotten here via the river of life in the Past Retracing Zone!

After some silence, Lin Xun decided to be frank, "You have it wrong. I came here by riding the Boat of Eternity. This will not have any impact on my past and naturally cannot affect my current dao."

Alpha Origin was stunned for a moment before he broke into a loud, bright laugh. “Why did you tell the truth instead of letting my misjudgment continue?”

Lin Xun said, “At this point in time, I no longer care to conceal anything. I also hope it's the same for you, or else I will be very disappointed.”

Alpha Origin was curious. “Disappointed about what?”

Lin Xun said flatly, “Disappointed that a character like you would go about playing little tricks, in which case, I would lose one respectable enemy.”

Alpha Origin sank into a moment of silence and then suddenly said as if lamenting, “You remind me of what a swordsman once said: the hardest thing to find is an honorable and respectable enemy. It's a pity though, he forsook his entire dao, which deeply saddened me, and it took me quite a while to recover.

“But fortunately, I still have Chen Xi, I still have Old Bodhi who put in his life's work to have a game of chess with me, and I still have the golden cicada whose path is in opposition to mine.”

After a pause, he smiled slightly and looked at Lin Xun. “Now, I have you. I am not alone, for my path has worthy enemies. There cannot be a greater joy than this.”

On his face was a pure effulgence and delight.

“I suppose I should feel honored?” said Lin Xun.

Alpha Origin’s smile was unconstrained as he said, “No need. What I'm admiring right now is your mental fortitude. As for your current dao, it's not yet sufficient to be my opponent.”

His tone was calm like he was stating a fact.

Lin Xun was not offended in the slightest. He seriously corrected, “Wrong, I may not be a match for your true form right now, but this will force of yours is no match for me either.”

After a pause, he added, “Besides, when I arrive at the Realm of All Mysteries, who's to say for sure that I would be weaker than you at that time?”

Alpha Origin clapped in laughter. “Well said! This world has too many idiots, those who can utter such a declaration and make it happen are few and far between. I'm looking forward more and more to see how you will get out of here.”

Lin Xun also smiled. “Whether you are truly looking forward to it or not, I can definitely leave this place as I have entered it.”

Since the moment they had met until now, they had been chatting and laughing like a pair of friends. There had not been a hint of hostility in the air. However, the mentality and attitude revealed through their conversation had been staging an invisible competition. They clashed underneath all the facade!

Alpha Origin once again fell silent for a while. The smile on his lips faded, and he said, “Do you know where this is?”

Lin Xun said, “Enlighten me.”

Alpha Origin said, “This is a corner of the Forbidden Land of Life.”

Lin Xun was surprised. “The Forbidden Land of Life?” ”

“Yes. Anything born with vitality is called a life. In the eyes of us cultivators, all the worlds and their multitudes of beings, whether they are trees, spirits, birds, beasts, fiends, demons, or the countless races, they are all life.” Alpha Origin said, “But even for one as powerful as an Immeasurable Eternal, it is impossible to create life. Where do you think life came from?”

In the past, Lin Xun would have answered that life was initially conceived by chaos: Chaos split into heaven and earth, so everything came to have a spirit, which developed intelligence thanks to the

almighty dao. Then, through reproduction and metamorphosis, they turned into all manners of communities of life.

Now, however, Lin Xun was stunned. If chaos bred life, then in what way, what method? What Alpha Origin sought for an answer was clearly the very origin of life, the exact kind of chaos dao that had created it.

“In the cognition of those like us, fate and karma are already supreme daos, while in regard to the nature and origin of life, almost no one has been able to touch it.” Alpha Origin frankly admitted, “Including me. I understood next to nothing and was utterly unable to peek into its mysteries. However, after coming to this Forbidden Zone of Life, I’ve finally gained some insights related to the origin of life.”

Saying that, Alpha Origin pointed to the countless flame clusters in the nearby space. “You see those? They are all innate talents birthed by this place. Every day, every moment, there are new talents being born while some die out. It’s truly marvelous.”

Lin Xun looked over at the billions of star-like flames. All of a sudden, they became different in his eyes.

Innate talent, a kind of power endowed from birth! It could be awakened from one's bloodline, condensed from within one's spirit, or born from any part of one's body.

For example, some races were born with two wings, allowing them to fly on their own, while some were born with only one vertical eye but possessed strange magical abilities as a result. Furthermore, the likes of the Celestial Phoenix, Black Tortoise, White Tiger, and True Dragon were born with a variety of innate abilities.

The existence of innate talents diversified life, but tracing their origin, one would find that any talent was born alongside life!

Yet, what Lin Xun was looking at was raw talent powers floating between the sky and earth, as many of them as the amount of sand in a desert. Even an existence of his level could not count the exact number at a glance.

Moreover, during his observation alone, he saw many flame clusters disappearing and many new ones springing up. These births and deaths went on unceasingly.

“Innate talents are a power that a life is born with, but in this place, you can see countless of them born and die, for there is a power in this space that can create and nurture them. This power absolutely concerns the secret of life,” Alpha Origin said leisurely.

“Is that why you've determined that this is the Forbidden Land of Life?” asked Lin Xun.

“To be exact, this is only a corner of the Forbidden Zone of Life.” Alpha Origin's eyes gleamed strangely. “Little Friend, do you know where this is located?”

Lin Xun said, “Since you're asking me this, you must think that I should have heard of such a place before. So I guess...the Realm of Myriad Wonders?”

Alpha Origin laughed. “Not bad at all.”

Lin Xun, however, was so disturbed by this answer that he could not calm down inside.

The All-Wonder Dominion was divided into three areas: the Realm of All Spirits, the Realm of All Mysteries, and the Realm of Myriad Wonders. Among them, the last one was regarded as the most taboo place in the All-Wonder Dominion!

From everything he had learned, no one since the dawn of time had dared to venture into it, because in there lurked great danger that ensured the death of any intruder!

It was precisely due to being able to sense this great danger that supreme experts like Chen Xi, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, and the golden cicada had been lying low in the Realm of All Mysteries.

Therefore, Lin Xun’s answer to Alpha Origin's question was purely a wild speculation. Yet, Alpha Origin had confirmed that the world behind the Eternity Door was actually inside the Realm of Myriad Wonders! How could Lin Xun not be shocked?

“Surprised? That's because you haven't entered the Realm of All Mysteries and sensed the aura belonging to the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders.” Alpha Origin smiled, “You should definitely do that if you manage to leave this place.”

The implication: if you can't leave, then this is irrelevant talk.

Lin Xun said, “You're very confident that you can keep me here despite being a Will Dharma Form. If I guess correctly, this has something to do with my innate talent, doesn't it?”

“Correct.” Alpha Origin's eyes were clear and calm as he said frankly, “We both know you’re here to trace the origin of the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer in order to solve the hidden danger in it, and as it happens, I know just where the flaw lies.”

Lin Xun slightly squinted. “I am all ears.”

Alpha Origin thought for a moment and said, “It begins with the Boat of Eternity. A long time back, when I first got to the All-Wonder Dominion, I obtained quite a few incredible fortunes, and the most miraculous of them all was the Boat of Eternity.”

There was reminiscence in his eyes. “Back then, I wandered around the Realm of All Mysteries for a long time because I sensed the ferocity in the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders and knew I would be doomed to die if I went to investigate it. As such, I never ventured there, but at the same time, I was unwilling to stop in one place, so I decided to give it a try using my clones.

“In the span of one year, I condensed three thousand clones and sent them to the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders in different ways, but without exception, none returned. They probably...died in there, all of them.

“I still couldn't accept it, and so for the one hundred thousand years after that, I would deploy my clones every ten years to explore the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders.”

Speaking of this, Alpha Origin was full of emotions. “Every single attempt failed, and as those failures piled up, I was almost devastated.”

After a pause, he smiled again. “Fortunately, on the 100,000th year of my continuous attempts, things finally turned around.”

Chapter 3182 Eternal Night Divine Emperor's Background

One hundred thousand years of trying and failing, and finally a silver lining! The manner in which Alpha Origin narrated his story seemed casual, but it was only awe-inspiring when one tried to imagine it.

Just what kind of perseverance and persistence must one possess to hold fast to something for a hundred thousand years? Even the countless failures had failed to shake his will in the slightest. It was undoubtedly terrifying to go up against such a character.

Alpha Origin continued, “That day, as I was in the middle of deducing the great dao, I suddenly felt an inkling that told me to look up, so I did and looked in the direction of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders. What I saw was a bronze coffin flowing with the aura of chaos flying out—the Boat of Eternity, as you can guess. At that instant, although I had no idea what it was capable of, I was certain that it was a fortune from the Forbidden Zone of Life!

“There was no way I would let it slip away, so as soon as this treasure flew out, it was under my control. In the next moment, I explored the mysteries of the star atlas on it, conjured the Eternity Door, and arrived here.”

Alpha Origin's eyes swept the realm. “Like you at first, I knew nothing about this place, but my heart was filled with excitement and joy, believing that the mysteries buried here would very likely allow me to achieve the ultimate breakthrough on the Immeasurable path and leap onto one even higher.”

At this part, Alpha Origin let out a long sigh. “But later on, I found out that this was merely a corner of the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders. Here, the mysteries involving the origin and nature of life were extremely limited and, furthermore, could only be explored through the innate talent forces born between this piece of heaven and earth.”

Lin Xun raised a brow. “You discovered the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent here?”

“Take it slow, my young friend.” Alpha Origin smiled as he gazed at the billions of flames that burned bright like stars. “At the time, I spent over a thousand years more to perceive and study all those talents one by one. One reason was to seek the secret of life, and two, I was curious if I could find the most powerful talent here.

“Until one day, a variable suddenly appeared during the process.” Saying this, Alpha Origin's gaze went back to Lin Xun. “Do you want to take a look?”

Lin Xun nodded. Alpha Origin raised his hand, and a curtain of light emerged.

In the projection, a group of flames was being born as if emerging from nothingness. Enveloped in wisps of chaos energy, they had yet to truly take shape. Right at this juncture, something unusual occurred. One of the flames suddenly trembled and pulsated with a mysterious rhythm of life.

Following that, this flame burst out with an incredible devouring power and swallowed all the other talents in its vicinity! Alpha Origin's shocked cry rang out from the light curtain. Back then, he clearly had also noticed the abnormality. When he came closer to inspect, the billions of flames distributed throughout the realm suddenly acted as though they were being pulled, madly rushing toward him.

The spectacle was so loud and grand that it caught him off guard. At that same instant, the flame that pulsated with vitality turned into a flash of light and escaped from this world. The curtain of light dissipated.

Alpha Origin, still sitting cross-legged on the dao platform, asked, “Did you see that? A newborn innate talent somehow miraculously possessed life, how unbelievable is that?”

Lin Xun couldn't calm his heart either. He had a guess, but he didn't dare to be sure.

A hint of regret crossed Alpha Origin's eyes. “When I chased after that talent, it had already fled with the help of the Boat of Eternity, which was right outside the Eternity Door...”

Hearing this, Lin Xun could not hold back his question, “You're saying that the Eternal Night Divine Emperor was the manifestation of that talent?”

Alpha Origin said, “Yes, and in the years afterward, I sent quite a number of forces to investigate the Boat of Eternity. From what was reported back, that talent embarked on the path of cultivation, called itself Eternal Night Divine Emperor, and was actually seeking its own self-breakthroughs... Simply astonishing when you think about it.

“Unfortunately, those useless subordinates of mine were never able to capture her. I later learned that she was born being able to control the power of fate and karma, which she probably gained in this place. A character with such innate abilities...is truly far too difficult to deal with.

“I once used the power of the Alpha Origin Bell to send a sudden calamity her way, thinking I could finally capture her. Who would have thought that she still got away?”

Hearing this, Lin Xun recalled the Great Silence Unlife Calamity that the Eternal Night Divine Emperor had encountered on her way to Fortune Divine City. At the time, the Alpha Origin Bell had descended from nowhere and wounded her so severely that in the end, she had to hide in the Flowing Light Forbidden Realm and ultimately chose to restart through reincarnation!

Obviously, Alpha Origin was referring to this matter. Lin Xun could not stay composed. He finally understood why, as Xia Zhi had told him, matters concerning the Eternity Door’s origin were a blank segment in the Eternal Night Divine Emperor's memories, as if they had been erased.

Since the Eternal Night Divine Emperor had run from this realm moments after her birth, how could she have retained any impression of it? Of course, what Lin Xun found the most shocking here was the fact that the Eternal Night Divine Emperor was an innate talent. He could never have dreamt of this possibility.

Extrapolating from this, Xia Zhi, as the reincarnation of the Eternal Night Divine Emperor, originated from this piece of heaven and earth! Since it was located in the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders in the All-Wonder Dominion, it was tantamount to saying that Xia Zhi’s birthplace was the All-Wonder Dominion!

On the dao platform, Alpha Origin asked gently, “I can feel the waves in your state of mind. You probably have never expected that the truth would be so bizarre, right?”

Meeting the other party's clear and calm eyes, Lin Xun’s heart shuddered. He quickly regained his cool and said, “I indeed didn't think that an innate talent birthed in this realm was able to possess life, and especially the fact that my innate talent has such a tight connection with it.”

While he had been born with the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent, its origin was not his mother Luo Qingxun nor his great-grandfather Luo Tongtian, but instead the Eternal Night Divine Emperor who had owned the Boat of Eternity.

On top of that, the Eternal Night Divine Emperor was an innate talent born in this realm!

“This is karma.” Alpha Origin smiled. “The Eternal Night Divine Emperor slipped from my grasp and even took the Boat of Eternity with her, but when I looked back on it later, it was a favorable outcome for me.”

“And why is that?” Lin Xun frowned.

Alpha Origin said, “As an innate talent that possesses life, it opened my eyes to a new thought: this place holds a mystery that's capable of creating life. After the Eternal Night Divine Emperor escaped, I began diving into this possibility.

“I proceeded to spend roughly eight hundred years and finally discovered some things. I also found the origin power that gave birth to the Eternal Night Divine Emperor.”

Alpha Origin's eyes took on a subtle gleam as he looked at Lin Xun. “This origin power is the root of the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent.”

He was telling it straight to Lin Xun that he had gained insight into the very nature of the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer's principles, making him a huge threat to him! After all, the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer innate talent had been influencing the trajectory of Lin Xun's fate since his birth and throughout his life.

After some silence, Lin Xun asked, “You can't have left your Will Dharma Form here to wait all this time just so that you can one day inform me this?”

“Of course not.” Alpha Origin smiled. “In fact, the one I was waiting here for was the Eternal Night Divine Emperor, not you. To my surprise, though, the sole lotus that Old Bodhi was waiting for turned out to be you, a young cultivator with the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent.

“In less than a thousand years, you rose to prominence from a remote corner like the Ziyao Empire, went all the way from the Ancient Nebula Road to the Eternal True Realm, and through the countless trials and tribulations of the Return Dominion, the Fortune Dominion, and the Kunlun Dominion, you've finally arrived here, at the All-Wonder Dominion...

“Do you know, in the path you have taken, I have seen endless turmoil, bloodshed, variables, and calamities...enough to kill an ordinary cultivator hundreds of times over. But you have repeatedly managed to safely overcome them, even achieving unimaginable miracles and feats in the process. Even I have to admit that you are indeed an unprecedented variable!”

Alpha Origin's voice was filled with emotion. He had seen more than many amazing and extraordinary geniuses, but only in Lin Xun had he seen a completely different kind of variable.

Lin Xun looked calm. It was not a surprise that Alpha Origin knew his past.

“After saying all that, what exactly is your goal?” Lin Xun asked.

“I simply want some things from you, my young friend, such as the Boat of Eternity, the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent, the Nirvana Principle, and the girl named Xia Zhi,” answered Alpha Origin honestly.

Lin Xun's eyes glinted coldly. “You sure want a lot.”

Alpha Origin smiled nonchalantly. “I know that you won't agree to give them to me, but as you initially said, concealing anything from each other at this point is unbecoming for us. I have stated what I wish to obtain from you, nothing more, nothing less. Should you accept, I promise that I will no longer see you as my enemy.”

“Do you think I will accept?” Lin Xun asked.

“No.” Alpha Origin was ever smiling.

Lin Xun's mind, demeanor, and eyes became frighteningly calm. “Then why even ask?”

Sitting cross-legged on the dao platform, Alpha Origin appeared relaxed, and his tone was leisurely, “I just wanted to see if you would make the same choice as Luo Tongtian back then. Now, I can see that you two are indeed family.”

These words struck Lin Xun like a clap of thunder. His heart trembled. “You captured my great-grandfather?”

Alpha Origin nodded. “Correct.”

Frost rose in Lin Xun's eyes. “You killed him?”

Alpha Origin nodded again. “Correct.”

He patiently added, “I wanted to first take a look at the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer in his body before seizing the Boat of Eternity, but he astonished me by choosing death instead, just like you now.”

He had always been calm and nonchalant, even when talking about killing Luo Tongtian. However, his nonchalance was the ultimate form of indifference and ruthlessness. He was like a supreme lord who held the power to dictate everyone's fate. He viewed all beings as ants who he could take whatever he wanted from without a care!

Chapter 3183 Spirit Empowerment Origin

Initially, Lin Xun had still had some respect for Alpha Origin. While the other party was an enemy on his cultivation path, his poise barely had a match among everyone Lin Xun had ever seen. However, learning that Luo Tongtian had died at the hands of Alpha Origin, he could not help but feel intense hatred and disgust.

There was no doubt that Alpha Origin was an extremely ruthless opponent. In addition, there was no denying he was so powerful that he no longer cared to cover up anything he did or said, just like how he was acting at this moment.

“It seems that we are destined to be enemies and nothing else.” Lin Xun took a deep breath and said calmly, “No more words are needed. Show me what you got.”

Alpha Origin was a little reluctant. “You're throwing away your chance to go to the Realm of All Mysteries, I'm afraid. It saddens me that my true form will never get to compete with you.”

Lin Xun only looked at him quietly, refusing to say another word. However, his qi had long been operating at maximum capacity.

Seeing this, Alpha Origin smiled and rose to his feet. “As you said, I'm but a Will Dharma Form, so if I were to fight you, I must strike where it hurts most.”

Saying that, he glowed. His tall, lean figure seemingly became colossal all of a sudden as an unimaginably terrifying aura spread from it.

BOOM!

The billions of flames in the nearby space shook in unison, as if swearing allegiance. The law power covering this piece of heaven and earth seemed to have been drained at once, converging on Alpha Origin's right palm.

An indescribable throbbing sensation ran through every fiber of Lin Xun's being. The talent power located in his heart meridian grew agitated like an animal who was sensing approaching danger.

“I have long gained control of the primal chaos origin of this realm that gave birth to the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer. With only a thought, I can suppress and command any talent that was born here.” In a leisurely and monotone voice, Alpha Origin's right hand grasped at the air. “This naturally includes your Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer, Young Friend!”

Boom!

Even though Lin Xun had been fully prepared to fight back, he still felt a pressure so heavy that it was almost substantial when the power of the grab blanketed him. Without hesitation, he waved his sleeve. Endless dao light surged forth to block this grasping force. Upon their collision, the whole region quaked and the void collapsed in all directions.

In the rolling energy waves, Lin Xun's parry was a success. However, he felt a sharp pain in his heart meridian as if an invisible hand was clutching the innate talent in there and was violently yanking it out. It was the kind of pain inflicted when cutting one open and ripping out their internal organs.

Lin Xun's face twisted slightly. It was no doubt an attempt at his innate talent. The particularly fatal part was that even though he was running his entire cultivation base, he was unable to suppress it. Not only was the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer not resisting, but it also seemed desperate to leave his body!

“My young friend, you have no way to resist it. The power I am wielding to your Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer is like its mother and its home. No matter what you try, there is only one outcome: it will leave you.”

In the distance, Alpha Origin had a calm smile on his face, looking nothing but relaxed. “Your great-grandfather, Luo Tongtian, once lost his innate talent here. Now, it's your turn.”

Lin Xun's face was pale. Chills ran up and down his back. He was doing his best to control the innate talent in his heart meridian, but the more time passed, the more it edged closer to spinning out of control. If he allowed it to be stripped away, it would definitely deal a fatal blow to his whole cultivation base.

After all, his dao had long been integrated into the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer principle, all of which was now a part of his cultivation road. Take it away, and this road was bound to be severely damaged. In that scenario, even if he somehow managed to leave this space alive, there would still be no hope to rebuild what he had lost!

“Such is karma, you pull one hair and the whole body jerks, not to mention that the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer has accompanied you since your birth. It is the root of your inceptive dao. When the root is gone, what dao is there to speak of?” Alpha Origin murmured. This was not complacency, but instead a casual talk one would have with a friend, but it only went to show how terrifyingly extraordinary Alpha Origin's mentality was.

“Your master Old Bodhi probably has never imagined that the sole variable he waited ages for would be ruined on the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent. If I tell him...it should smother his desire to continue this game of chess with me, don't you think?” Alpha Origin kept mumbling.

He didn't take advantage of this moment to attack. At the end of the day, he was just a Will Dharma Form. He would never give Lin Xun a hint of a chance to defeat him before he was done taking away the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent.

“Pfft!” Lin Xun suddenly coughed out a mouthful of blood, his face turning white as a sheet. His qi tumbled and shrieked, bursting with a boundless power that astonished even Alpha Origin in a visible way.

“To think that you've already surpassed the level of Immeasurable Dao Lord, and you even vaguely show the might of an Immeasurable Sovereign...” Alpha Origin commented.

He indeed had not expected that Lin Xun's dao had already been tempered to such an extent despite him having just arrived at the fourth sky zone of the Realm of All Spirits. However, this surprise quickly turned into a smile. Although Lin Xun's aura was incredibly powerful, he was clearly on the verge of losing his grip on the innate talent in his body!

“Whether it's your master, or Chen Xi, or the golden cicada, they are waiting for you, the variable. They also know that my true self, who is imprisoned under the sword seal, is waiting for your arrival as well. They probably never imagined the possibility of you falling prematurely before even reaching the Realm of All Mysteries.”

Alpha Origin talked like he was chatting with an old friend. “But be at ease. I'm only taking those things I have listed before. I will not harm your life. After all, there have been far too few I can take seriously during these countless moons.

“Your character and courage are worthy of admiration, beyond a doubt. Who knows, perhaps my true form can bring you along to the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders one day, that way my path won't be too lonely.”

Just as he said this, Lin Xun suddenly looked up at him with a touch of mockery surfacing on his pale cheeks. “You think you've won?”

Alpha Origin was startled. “You’re saying you still have a chance to wiggle out of this?”

“Wiggle?” Lin Xun laughed and strode up into the void towards Alpha Origin. At the same time, his raging qi underwent an amazing change. He was like a phoenix reborn in the fire, like a butterfly breaking out of its cocoon.

In the vision of Alpha Origin's spirit sense, the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer in Lin Xun that he was seizing also metamorphosed into something completely new. As Alpha Origin tried to inspect the phenomenon in depth, his sense was suddenly cut off from the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer! The event took him by surprise but before he could react, Lin Xun had charged in.

Kapow!

Lin Xun punched out. It was a straight and casual punch yet filled with unfathomable supreme power. Alpha Origin's sleeves danced as he countered it.

Bang!

The next second, Alpha Origin was blasted away. His aura churned chaotically, showing signs of collapsing.

“Go!” Alpha Origin pointed a finger at the air. The billions of flames in the nearby space immediately shot up, forming an endless sea of fire that dropped down on Lin Xun.

Boom!

Lin Xun spread his arms. Like ten thousand streams returning to their source, the flame ocean was swallowed into his figure to the last trickle. They were all innate talents birthed in this realm, but he had inhaled them clean like a whale, and it made Alpha Origin's pupils shrink.

“Now, do you still think that all my master's efforts are in vain?” Lin Xun asked flatly.

Alpha Origin sighed, “You’re truly an unprecedented variable. If my guess is correct, then the fact that you were able to detain the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer and even cause it to metamorphose has to do with the Nirvana Principle?”

“That’s right.” Lin Xun once again charged at Alpha Origin.

However, the latter waved his hand. “No need to fight, I will simply disappear.”

Lin Xun did not stop. He deployed another punch, blasting it through the air. Alpha Origin was so surprised that he froze a little.

Bang!

The punch sent him flying again. Disheveled and cutting a sorry figure, the Will Dharma Form looked like it was close to starting to disperse, which signified a rapid loss of power.

“Weren't you so smug just now? It's only fair that I get my turn too,” Lin Xun leisurely said.

The corners of Alpha Origin's lips twitched slightly. He shook his head and sighed. “I’m but a Will Dharma Form. Why do you have to be so petty?”

Boom!

The next instant, he was blasted flying once more. His figure became illusory and disintegrated.

“Can't call this petty after how disgusted you've made me feel. I need to vent it,” Lin Xun nonchalantly said.

“Hahaha, interesting.” Alpha Origin actually threw his head back and laughed loudly. “Perhaps you are the variable that my true form is waiting for. When you arrive at the Realm of All Mysteries, my young friend, I may have to find you and have my payback for this.”

His voice was still echoing when his figure crumbled into nothingness. Lin Xun lowered his ready fist in dissatisfaction. This fellow's Will Dharma Form was strong, but it couldn't take a beating!

“Phew~~” Lin Xun exhaled a long breath and looked around. The infinite flames had been devoured by him, but in the void, many more were currently being born.

Lin Xun looked inside himself to see that the flames he had swallowed had turned into various innate abilities, packing him to the brim. He operated his cultivation base and refined them one by one. Turning into wisps of pure primal chaos origin power, they were integrated into his dao.

All of a sudden, an indescribably marvelous realization arose in his mind. A long time later, he muttered, “Alpha Origin didn't lie to me, the primal chaos origin here is indeed capable of creating and nurturing innate talents like a living womb. Alpha Origin used this very power to rob my talent, and he almost succeeded...”

This kind of primal chaos origin was called ‘Spirit Empowerment.’ It was precisely the emergence of the Spirit Empowerment Origin that had diversified life and allowed the various beings in the universe to possess different talents!

It was at this moment that Lin Xun finally understood why Alpha Origin thought this piece of heaven and earth was a corner of the Forbidden Zone of Life. This Spirit Empowerment Origin was indeed related to some of the profound principles of life!

Chapter 3184 Nirvana and Variable

As Lin Xun contemplated on his new realization, he absentmindedly walked to the dao platform that Alpha Origin had sat on. After eons of being infused with Alpha Origin's dao divinity, this platform had become an extraordinary artifact. Let alone ordinary cultivators, even Immeasurable Eternals could perceive and learn from its unique dao marks when they entered meditation on it.

“Alpha Origin has come and comprehended innumerable innate talents here since so long ago, so he should have already gained a degree of knowledge on the origin of life. How powerful is he now, I wonder...”

After some thought, Lin Xun waved his hand. In front of him, the dao platform left behind by Alpha Origin instantly scattered into ashes.

He then turned and walked away. Having the Boat of Eternity was equal to having access to the Eternity Door at all times, so there was no need to linger around.

.....

In that world made of chaos in the Realm of All Mysteries, somewhere deep underground, a burst of laughter suddenly rang out. Starting out low and almost inaudible, it grew louder and louder until it shook the world and caused the chaos qi to tumble.

The black crow perched on a withered tree shuddered. What's gotten into His Lordship again?

Since her master had learned of Lin Xun's arrival at the All-Wonder Dominion, Black Crow had seen him display this abnormal manner more than once.

This time, however, was a bit more drastic than all the previous, because his laughter was so loud that it rattled Black Crow to the point where she had to run her entire cultivation base to not get injured.

“Little Crow, Lin Xun really doesn't let me down. Just wait and see, the day he arrives at the Realm of All Mysteries is the day when I'll be free from this sword seal, hahahaha!” The Alpha Origin Master’s voice reverberated straight to the sky. His laughter shook the region to the point everything turned into a blurry gray.

After being dumbstruck for a moment at what she had just heard, Black Crow grew excited.

.....

The Realm of All Spirits, Past Retracing Zone. In that quiet courtyard in Nanke City...

Upon seeing Lin Xun walk out from within the Eternity Door safe and sound, Su Wanjun secretly heaved a sigh of relief and smiled. “How did it go?”

Xia Zhi also looked over at him.

“It went well, I'd say.” After Lin Xun stepped out, the Eternity Door vanished.

“Have a seat and tell us about it.” Su Wanjun pointed to the rattan chairs in the courtyard and sat in one of them herself. Then, she retrieved a gourd of wine and threw it to Lin Xun.

Lin Xun reclined back in a rattan chair and took a sip from the gourd before he recounted his experience inside the Eternity Door without leaving out any details. He called that space within the Eternity Door the ‘Spirit Empowerment World.’

Upon learning that Xia Zhi's previous life, the Eternal Night Divine Emperor, was the human form of an innate talent that had been born in the Spirit Empowerment World, Su Wanjun couldn't help but glance at the girl who was sitting next to Lin Xun.

Even she was shaken, unable to imagine that innate talents could have ‘life.’ However, Xia Zhi's beautiful face was unperturbed, as if she was listening to something that didn't concern her. As a matter of fact, she had long since separated herself from the Eternal Night Divine Emperor and remained uninfluenced by the latter, so naturally, she had little to no feelings about this.

“Alpha Origin’s setup failed, and you no longer have to worry about your innate talent affecting you in the future again. This is excellent,” said Su Wanjun. “But his true form is still alive, and I fear he has already known about what happened in the Spirit Empowerment World.”

Lin Xun nodded. “He definitely has.”

Although what he had come into contact with was only a Will Dharma Form of Alpha Origin, the other party's utter indifference and calmness had left an extremely deep impression.

Lin Xun said softly, “Senior, if there is a higher path than the Eternal path, then from what I've learned, it lies in exploring the nature of life, or rather, we can call it the dao of life.

“And if Alpha Origin wasn't lying about his opinion that the Realm of Myriad Wonders is the Forbidden Zone of Life, then what's hidden in there should be related to the origin of life. As he also said, the Spirit Empowerment World is somewhere in the Realm of Myriad Wonders.”

“The dao of life...” Su Wanjun sank into deep thought. A long while later, she murmured, “If that is the case, did he choose to reincarnate and start over in order to explore this dao as well?”

“Should be.” Lin Xun mused, “Reincarnation is originally a taboo kind of rebirth path that involves the changes and cycle of life. Since Senior Swordsman was able to go into reincarnation and start over at will, it means he has gained insights in the mysteries of the dao of life.”

After a pause, he added, “What's more, his sword seal has imprisoned Alpha Origin, who we know has decent knowledge of the dao of life, to this day. This is proof that his understanding of it should not be inferior to Alpha Origin's.”

“Mhmm...” Su Wanjun suddenly realized something and said, “Taking from what you just said, Young Friend, the Nirvana law in your mastery should be equally not simple... Wait, never mind. This dao of life is too hazy a concept for me. I won't expend effort on it.”

It wasn't that she wasn't interested, but that she knew better than to discuss this topic as it was a core secret of Lin Xun's dao.

However, the man himself clearly did not care as he smiled and said, “I finally understand why my master, the golden cicada, Senior Chen Xi, and the others see me as a variable. Just as you said, it's because of the Nirvana law.”

There was a strange emotion in his gaze. “Nirvana is a power that can rebuild a life and let it metamorphose. Possessing this power is like mastering the methods to get reborn from one's embers like a phoenix, and to break through in the way a pupa breaks out of its cocoon to become a butterfly. What is achieved here is the transformation of life. As such, to those who strive to seek the dao of life, the Nirvana law is extremely miraculous...

“In the end, the core nature of Nirvana lies in the word ‘change,’ for it can reform one’s dao and let one's life metamorphose. And I, who possess this power, naturally become a variable.”

Yes, Lin Xun had completely comprehended the significance of the Nirvana power at this moment and also understood why he was considered the variable. Of the fifty grand daos, only forty-nine were derived from the heavens while one escaped.

A long time ago, when he became the 50th disciple of Fangchun Mountain, his senior brothers and sisters had referred to him as the ‘one’ that had escaped.

When he had mastered the Nirvana mysteries in the Nirvana of Transcendence, this ‘one’ became a variable, a sole variable that shattered every past predecessor and overturned the world's perceptions.

Before this, Lin Xun had never known that the Nirvana principle was related to the dao of life, so he had never understood why he had become a variable. Now that he did, he also recalled many things from the past.

For instance, he remembered how he had used the Nirvana principle to rebuild his disciple Tang Jiang's physical form, bringing her back to life. He had also resurrected his eldest senior brother at the Sea of Fate.

Even the supreme daos of fate, time, of the Five Principles of the Return Dominion, and of fortune could all be fused into the Nirvana dao!

He had never delved into them before, but now that he looked back, he understood that such an incredible power to achieve those miracles was only possible because the Nirvana principle was connected to the dao of life!

Hearing his analysis, Su Wanjun went silent for a while. Finally, she asked, “What’s your thought on the fact that you are the sole variable?”

Lin Xun took a sip of wine and replied, “To tell you the truth, until now, I have always believed that I became this variable by virtue of my own power, and not that being a variable is why I’ve grown so powerful. You ask me what I think about being the sole variable? My answer is actually quite simple: I have never really cared.”

“You don't care?”

“That’s right, I don't.” Lin Xun nodded.

Su Wanjun was a little surprised. She had thought Lin Xun would either feel great pressure or rejoice to be a never-before-existed variable. To think that he had never taken this issue seriously!

“Whether it's the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer or the Nirvana power, to me, they are all part of my path, but they're not what decides its direction.” Lin Xun whispered, “The same goes for my life, I am the master of it. To put it boldly, if the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer and the Nirvana power ever become a liability to my path, I will not hesitate to abandon them.”

Su Wanjun's heart trembled as she commented, “It's truly rare that someone is able to scrutinize their own dao path like you’re doing.”

Lin Xun stretched his limbs and stood up from the rattan chair. “Senior, I'm going to do some meditation.”

Su Wanjun laughed. “Go now.”

.....

In his room, Lin Xun sat down cross-legged.

During his confrontation with Alpha Origin in the Spirit Empowerment World, he had used the Nirvana principle to reform the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer entirely. As a result, the innate talent had metamorphosed and he had escaped the dangerous situation.

At the moment, as Lin Xun calmly perceived the changes within himself, he found that the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer had departed from its usual place in his heart meridian and fused with his dao like snow melting into a big body of water.

This meant that from now on, this innate talent was no longer an isolated lane from his path but instead had joined the single unity where his strength, spirit, state of mind, and dao mastery were!

This was the reason why Alpha Origin's Will Dharma Form, despite being in control of the Spirit Empowerment Origin, had suddenly lost influence over the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent in Lin Xun.

“In the past, I achieved ‘all daos become one, all arts become one, and all living things become one’ but my innate talent was never truly integrated into my path. But this experience made it happen. Sure, it was treacherous, but this is what you call a blessing in disguise...”

After the integration of his innate talent, Lin Xun could clearly feel the improvement in his cultivation base!

“I'm almost there, only one step away from reaching the very peak of the Immeasurable Realm. And when I get there, my Eternal path will have reached the ultimate completion...”

At this moment, Lin Xun had a strong premonition. His dao was like a teacup about to be filled. He could already see and feel it—the indication that his aura was approaching perfection!

Chapter 3185 The Source of Evil

During his meditation session, Lin Xun witnessed a series of incredible phenomena.

The most striking of these were the four great dao manifestations related to the four great dao dominions, which manifested as the Return Dominion, the Kunlun Dominion, the Fortune Dominion, and the All-Wonder Dominion.

Among these, the All-Wonder Dominion was the most indistinct, far less clear and solid than the other three. However, Lin Xun could sense that as he comprehended and mastered some of the mysteries found in the Spirit Empowerment Origin, the aura of the All-Wonder Dominion had become significantly more solid!

"The Five Principle Laws of the Return Dominion, the Fortune Principles of the Fortune Dominion, the Principles of Fate of the Kunlun Dominion... Could the origin of the All-Wonder Dominion be related to the Principles of Life?"

Lin Xun meditated and deduced, completely unaware of the passage of time.

A full half-month later, he awoke from his meditation, his entire aura exuding a sense of simple and natural, devoid of any sharpness. He was as ethereal as a drifting cloud on the horizon, and as insignificant as dust in the world. His body had merged with the dao, and the dao followed its natural course.

With the freedom to transform, nothing was impossible. In other words, Lin Xun could transform into the heavens and earth, the sun and moon, or into dust and ants; all phenomena of the world, the dao of ancient and modern times, could be embodied within him. This was an ineffable divine charm of the great dao.

Ordinary people, upon seeing Lin Xun, would find him plain and unremarkable, like one of the masses, utterly devoid of any special qualities. However, if it were a supreme being who stood shoulder to shoulder with Lin Xun on the path of dao, they would certainly sense this wondrous charm emanating from him.

"Body and mind merge into the dao, and the dao transforms into nature—this can be called great freedom!"

Lin Xun finally understood why the Immeasurable Realm was also called the ‘realm of great freedom.’ After carefully contemplating his own cultivation for a while, he then rose and walked out of the room.

...

In the courtyard, Su Wanjun, dressed in red, was preparing tea. Xia Zhi sat in a wicker chair to the side, sipping her own tea. The atmosphere was tranquil, and the image was serene and beautiful.

Lin Xun's arrival did not break this perfect atmosphere at all; he naturally blended into this world. Only when he reached Su Wanjun's side did her fine hand, holding the teacup, tremble slightly. She had suddenly realized that Lin Xun had somehow arrived without her noticing.

She paused, looked up at Lin Xun, and said, "Young friend, your cultivation is becoming increasingly unfathomable."

Lin Xun smiled. "Half a month of secluded cultivation has yielded some insights, but I cannot say it is a lot of progress."

"Lin Xun, when will we leave this zone?" Xia Zhi asked from the side.

"We can leave now," Lin Xun replied casually.

He and Xia Zhi had already comprehended the Pillow of Golden Millet within the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws of this zone, which basically meant they could leave whenever they wanted.

"However, before leaving, we still have some things to do," Lin Xun said.

"What is it?" This time, it was Su Wanjun's turn to be surprised.

Lin Xun smiled and said, "Go and deal with those Heavenly Mandate Apostles scattered throughout this zone. That way, they won't disturb your peaceful cultivation after Xia Zhi and I leave."

Su Wanjun felt a warmth bloom within her heart; she hadn't been cared for like this by a friend in a long time.

That very day, Lin Xun and Xia Zhi set to work. In less than seven days, the remaining dozen or so Heavenly Mandate Apostles belonging to the Zhen Department had been thoroughly wiped out by them. The news caused a sensation throughout the entire Past Retracing Zone.

Lin Xun and Xia Zhi had already set off, leaving the Past Retracing Zone through the heavenly gate. Before parting, Su Wanjun gave Lin Xun a jar of Humble Heart, which had been brewed by that swordsman. Lin Xun had originally wanted to leave Lingyuan and the Three-Inch Wooden Sword to Su Wanjun.

However, after realizing that they might affect her dao heart, he ultimately decided against it. In the end, Su Wanjun's obsession was too heavy. She herself probably realized this problem, which was why she chose to remain in this Past Retracing Zone, silently waiting for the swordsman who had been reincarnated and cultivated anew in the cycle of reincarnation.

...

The fifth sky zone of the Realm of All Spirits was called the Source of Evil Zone.

This sky zone was extremely mysterious. If human cultivators entered, they would encounter countless evils targeting humanity. If beings of other races entered, they would encounter countless evils targeting them. There was only one way to leave: destroy the Root of All Evil.

Before entering this zone, Lin Xun and Xia Zhi had discussed that whoever left the Source of Evil Zone first would wait to meet again in the sixth zone, the Thousand Tribulations Zone.

Of note, Lin Xun was human, whereas Xia Zhi's origins were ultimately related to the Spirit Empowerment Realm, making her an extremely special life form. Therefore, when the two entered the Source of Evil Zone, they would be completely separated. Consequently, the evils they would encounter there would also differ.

The Source of Evil Zone.

Buzz~

Ripples appeared in the void, and Lin Xun materialized out of thin air. The sky and earth were gloomy, demonic energy surged through the mountains and rivers, and white, withered bones were scattered everywhere on the ground. Even the void was filled with a pungent, fishy stench.

Lin Xun frowned slightly and said, "This zone is indeed as bloody as the rumors claim."

Before coming here, he had learned that when human cultivators entered the Source of Evil Zone, they would see a world where humans were the objects of plunder and enslavement. In this world, demons and monsters reigned supreme, and the mountains and rivers were filled with terrifying beings who dominated the great dao.

The history and civilization of this realm were written by demons and monsters, and all laws and rules of the world were established by them. As for the humans who inhabited this realm, they were treated like prey and livestock.

Some demons saw humans as slaves, subjecting them to their whims and enslavement. Some saw humans as food, devouring their flesh and blood, sucking their marrow and bones, treating them like mere meat to eat.

Some saw humans as potent medicine and used them to refine and enhance their own cultivation. The more powerful the cultivator, the more these demons seemed to favor them, regarding them as ‘human elixirs.’

Some...

In short, humans were the most lowly beings in this zone. In the eyes of the demons and monsters of this world, they were nothing more than livestock, slaves, and potent medicines.

Lin Xun naturally knew that this was a trial imposed on humanity by the Source of Evil Zone. Cultivators from other races who entered the zone would also suffer the same trials imposed on their own race.

Knowing this was one thing, yet upon arriving in this realm and smelling the stench of blood and decay, Lin Xun still felt a surge of disgust. This was a vast, desolate land, yet the void itself was filled with an incredible stench of blood. He could only imagine the sheer amount of slaughter that had taken place in this world.

In this realm, the human race had undoubtedly suffered from the most deaths.

"The most urgent task is to find the Root of All Evil as soon as possible." Lin Xun pondered. To leave this realm, he needed to destroy the Root of All Evil, thus attracting the Chaos Dao Fruit to enter the heavenly gate.

Whoosh!

The next moment, Lin Xun had already taken a step forward. Every cultivator who entered the Source of Evil Zone encountered something different. Even among humans; the dangers they faced varied. Therefore, in this sky zone, there was no need to worry about being attacked by other cultivators.

Hmm?

After traveling for a short while, Lin Xun suddenly stopped in mid-air. In his spirit sense, he saw a distant mountain range emanating a malevolent aura that soared into the sky, dyeing the clouds a deep black. A thick, pungent stench of blood, like a volcanic eruption, emanated from the mountains, transforming into crimson streams. Lin Xun hesitated for a moment, then stepped closer.

There he saw skulls piled high like mountains and forests made entirely of bones. Human hair had been matted into felt. Human flesh was rotting into dust. Human tendons clung to trees, dry and gleaming like silver. It was truly a mountain of corpses and a sea of blood, and the stench was unbearable.

Hordes of lesser demons were butchering living people; one horrid creature after another was boiling and cooking human flesh. Deep within the mountains, there were cages, imprisoning thousands upon thousands of humans. There were men, women, young and old, and all of them had numb expressions and empty eyes, resembling livestock in a pen.

Atop one of the great mountains stood a magnificent palace, where beautiful female cultivators, transformed into servants, served prepared food and wine. The food consisted of human blood and flesh. Within the palace, a group of demon leaders were feasting and laughing.

Seeing these scenes of demons ruling and killing and eating humans at will, Lin Xun couldn't suppress the surge of anger within him.

Equality for all beings?

For Lin Xun, that was utter nonsense. First and foremost, he was a member of the human race! How could he remain unmoved by these scenes of others treating humans like livestock, allowing them to be slaughtered at will?

"The Source of Evil Zone... truly lives up to its name..." Lin Xun murmured to himself.

From his perspective, everything in this world was utterly sinful. There was no need to discuss why humans were allowed to eat livestock, but livestock were not allowed to eat humans.

Tracing the history of humanity, it was easy to see that in every era and every world, humanity was the weakest race in the primordial beginnings. It was through the countless sacrifices and sacrifices of humanity's ancestors, through relentless effort, that humanity was finally able to stand shoulder to shoulder with all other races, forging a glorious chapter in human history.

Unfortunately, in this sky zone, humanity had been reduced to livestock and medicinal elixirs. Under such circumstances, for a human to still consider morality and the concept of equality for all beings was no different from being the biggest hypocrite in the world.

"Hmm?"

Suddenly, Lin Xun's eyes narrowed. Deep within the mountains, a small demon had grabbed a wailing little boy, pinned him to a chopping board, and slashed down repeatedly with a bone knife.

The once exquisitely handsome little boy was instantly chopped into pieces by the little monster. As the blood flowed, the monster stretched out its scarlet head and sucked it into its mouth, a look of blissful satisfaction on its face. It exclaimed, "It wasn't for nothing that I raised this little guy for five years! The flesh and blood of this kind of little creature are the most delicious delicacies!"

As it spoke, it deftly sifted through the pieces of human flesh on the chopping board, muttering, "The internal organs can be used to make soup, the arms can be roasted, and this little head can be made into a fine dish..."

In a nearby cage, a young human couple lay paralyzed on the ground, weeping hysterically. The chopped-up pieces of flesh had belonged to their child. The others in the cage remained numb, indifferent to the scene.

Like livestock raised for years, they had long since become accustomed to this reality of being slaughtered at will. Unfortunately, fate had decreed them to become humans who were born into misfortune!

Chapter 3186 Igniting the Flame of Humanity

A subtle coldness surfaced in Lin Xun's eyes. He took a step, instantly appearing above the mountain range, his gaze sweeping down.

In that instant, the tens of thousands of lesser demons scattered throughout the mountains, who were either devouring meat and wine or cooking human flesh, all silently turned to ashes. These remnants subsequently scattered across the ground. The lingering stench of blood in the void vanished instantly.

"Who?!"

A furious shout erupted from a palace atop a mountain peak, followed by the emergence of a colossal, thousand-foot-tall, blood-red demonic figure. It possessed nine enormous lion heads, each as large as a house, while its body was humanoid. It was covered in fiery red fur and cascaded with crimson light. Its aura was terrifyingly powerful.

This nine-headed lion demon was no weaker than a Greater Boundless Eternal!

"An Immeasurable Realm cultivator among the human race!" The nine-headed lion demon was stunned, seemingly incredulous.

Suddenly, a chilling voice rang out, tinged with surprise, "This is a rare and unparalleled elixir!"

A black cloud churned, and a massive azure serpent appeared out of thin air, its brown pupils gleaming with a cold, cruel light. The azure serpent's enormous body resembled a continuous mountain range, covered in a strange and unpredictable law power.

"To be able to cultivate to the Immeasurable Realm means that this human is probably no ordinary being. Brothers, be careful." A gigantic skeletal bird swooped in, its massive body easily ten thousand feet long. Its pupils burned with emerald flames.

The appearance of these three Greater Boundless demons caused the heavens and earth to tremble, and the wind and clouds to shift. Their ferocity was terrifying. Their gazes towards Lin Xun were filled with solemnity and fervent desire. It was as if a peerless elixir had come knocking on their door...they could hardly believe it!

Originally, Lin Xun had a bellyful of questions to ask. Now, suddenly, he didn't want to say anything. His anger was sky high; he needed to kill them!

Lin Xun raised his eyes, his gaze falling on the nine-headed lion demon that had appeared first. In that instant, the nine-headed lion demon felt a sudden, inexplicable panic, sensing a deadly threat approaching. It let out a deafening roar, attacking without hesitation. Its nine heads, each as large as a house, opened their maws, spewing forth countless streams of light that enveloped Lin Xun.

"Go!"

Lin Xun flicked his fingers, and a sword aura rose across the sky. In that instant, it was as if the most brilliant edge in the world had suddenly appeared, dimming the heavens and earth, eclipsing all things. It shattered the nine-headed lion demon's composure in an instant.

Pfft pfft pfft!

Its nine heads flew through the air, blood splattering like a waterfall. In the blink of an eye, its body and heads turned to ash, vanishing completely. One sword strike had slain the nine-headed lion demon! That terrifying fact horrified both the azure serpent and the giant skeletal bird. Without hesitation, they turned and fled.

Boom!

Each of them unleashed a gust of demonic wind, tearing through the void as they fled with all their might.

However, the azure serpent's mountain-like body began to crumble piece by piece, as if it had been chopped to pieces by a sharp blade. Its screams were cut short as soon as they began. Almost simultaneously, the giant skeletal bird was gripped tightly by a giant hand and instantly crushed with bone dust scattering everywhere.

Three Greater Boundless demons had been annihilated by Lin Xun in the blink of an eye, as if they were made of paper! Upon looking back at the mountains, he saw that the surviving demons were all frozen in place, clearly terrified.

Lin Xun showed no mercy. With a flick of his sleeve, endless dao light, like a rain of swords, densely covered the mountains, slaughtering the demons on the spot, leaving no survivors. Having done all this, he felt somewhat better. However, when his gaze fell upon the tens of thousands of humans imprisoned like livestock, he was stunned.

Those people, regardless of age or gender, showed no joy or excitement at being saved. Instead, they all trembled, filled with fear and unease. Not a single one of them even considered escaping from their prison...

This sent a chill down Lin Xun's spine. He suddenly realized that for the humans of this zone, they had probably accepted from birth the fact that they were destined to be slaves, food, and medicinal elixirs. They had been tamed and subjugated to the core, possessing only sentience and intelligence, but were no different from domesticated livestock.

Even if he could save these people now, once he left, they were destined to become prey for those demons and monsters, at their mercy again. Unless...he could wipe out all the demons and monsters in this world. But...was that possible?

Lin Xun looked up at the sky. This was the Source of Evil Zone, and the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws were already predetermined. Even if he could change them temporarily, he could never change the fate of humanity in this zone for generations to come!

Lin Xun murmured, “It seems the true Root of All Evil in this realm are these Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws...”

Taking a deep breath, he turned and left. He realized that when his own great dao could one day replace the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws of this Source of Evil Zone, it would be equivalent to eliminating the Root of All Evil.

To achieve this, he needed to further understand everything about this world, sense its Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws, and thus find its primal chaos origin. Only then could he truly replace it with his own dao.

For the next period, Lin Xun traversed countless treacherous mountains and rivers, witnessing scenes of humans suffering within hell incarnate. He also entered many cities and kingdoms, places that were inhabited by various demonic civilizations. Their rules, regulations, and laws were all established by demons.

Humans living in these cities were utterly despised, worse than slaves, no different from livestock. Despite that, Lin Xun saw little resistance.

Even those humans who had embarked on the path of cultivation, when faced with danger, mostly resigned themselves to their fate. Lin Xun never saw a single human attempt to change this situation. Having witnessed all this, he felt the urge to act many times, but ultimately restrained himself.

One month.

Two months.

Three months.

Half a year later.

Lin Xun appeared in a void.

"From this day forward, I, Lin Xun, shall define this zone."

With these murmured words, an incomparably powerful aura suddenly surged from his towering figure, soaring upwards and reaching the depths of the clouds.

Boom!

The Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws belonging to this realm were instantly subjected to a tremendous impact, generating extremely violent fluctuations, and then began to collapse and crumble. At this moment, countless beings scattered throughout the Source of Evil Zone were alarmed, filled with fear and

unease. In their vision, the heavens and earth trembled, the heavenly dao was being destroyed, as if the apocalypse was approaching, threatening to destroy the world.

Even the humans scattered throughout this realm were extremely panicked and terrified. Soon, a completely new set of Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws appeared, spreading out and enveloping the entire Source of Evil Zone in just a few breaths.

The creatures of the world, as if relieved, calmed down from their terror. It seemed as if everything had been a false alarm, and nothing had changed. However, the countless humans scattered throughout the world felt an unprecedented power, as if they had broken free of deeply ingrained shackles and the heavy marks of oppression.

A spark of inspiration ignited in everyone's heart. It was the seed of resistance, the will to fight, the desire to defy submission, the yearning to change their circumstances! The strong could thrive forever.

Sooner or later, humanity would rise above this world, resist the forces of heaven and earth, sweep away the demons and monsters that have ravaged it, and never again suffer from the humiliation of enslavement and the torment of being slaughtered! This was the great dao that Lin Xun had ordained.

If he so desired, he could use his own mastery of the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws and wipe out all the demons and monsters of this zone in one fell swoop. He could even unleash divine punishment, trampling all demons under the feet of humanity.

However, Lin Xun didn't do that. Even without demons, humanity would still face other perils. By crushing the demons now, there was a possibility of the resurgence of another evil sooner or later.

Ultimately, the ‘evil’ of the Source of Evil Zone didn’t lay in the power of the demons, nor in the weakness of humanity. It lay in whether humanity had the will to fight against the ‘evil’ born from this realm!

Admittedly, he could now establish his rule and turn the tide, changing everything in this zone. However, when he left, the primal chaos origin of this Source of Evil Zone was destined to once again dominate this world.

At that time, everything would return to the past. Only by truly awakening the fighting spirit within humanity, making humanity strong enough, could they forever escape enslavement!

In Lin Xun's view, what made humanity ‘human’ was its spirit of resistance and self-reliance when oppressed. Without this spirit and vitality, what was humanity?

What he was doing now was preserving the seeds of humanity. In the years to come, as humanity rose and morality flourished, generations of humans would be able to fearlessly confront the ‘evil’ of this Source of Evil Zone, thus ensuring their continued existence with dignity.

"The Source of Evil, the Root of All Evil. Only by knowing the existence of evil can one know the preciousness of good."

Lin Xun pondered this silently while in the sky. The evils encountered by cultivators of different races upon entering this Source of Evil Zone were different. Undoubtedly, this was influenced by the primal chaos origin of the Source of Evil Zone.

The so-called destroying the Root of All Evil was not about annihilating those who committed evil, but about instilling in all living beings the will and consciousness to fight against evil. This was the key to the continued existence of all living beings.

Furthermore, this was only within the Source of Evil Zone. In the external world, so-called ‘evil’ was as omnipresent as ‘good’ in people's hearts. Between cultivators and ordinary people, good and evil existed, making them difficult to distinguish.

A cultivator of demonic arts was not necessarily evil, nor was a cultivator of Buddhism necessarily good. As long as these sentient beings lived, they were destined to experience good and evil, right and wrong, black and white. All of this was a part of life. Even the most powerful being could not sweep away all the evil in the world, nor could they make all living beings inherently good.

In short, what was good and evil, right and wrong, black and white depended on the perceptions and concepts possessed by each lifeform. What made each life different lay in their different perceptions and concepts.

In the eyes of cultivators, the difference in perceptions and concepts was the difference in the dao they sought; some could be tolerated, while others were irreconcilable...

After pondering alone under the heavens for a long time, Lin Xun's understanding of good and evil, right and wrong, black and white deepened.

He realized that the fundamental principles of this zone were not inherently malevolent, but rather that this great power involved the Principles of Good and Evil, Right and Wrong. By comprehending its profound meaning, someone could use these principles to punish evil and promote good, enabling all living beings and different races to clearly distinguish right from wrong!

Chapter 3187 Heavenly Tribulation Platform

After a long while, Lin Xun snapped out of his reverie. He glanced at the surrounding void, and a thought struck him.

Boom!

A surge of primordial chaos origin power erupted, merging entirely into him. This was the primordial chaos origin of the Source of Evil Zone, now refined and integrated into Lin Xun's own cultivation.

In the blink of an eye, half a year has passed. It's time to leave...

Lin Xun took a step forward, vanishing instantly within a fleeting, ethereal heavenly gate.

The Realm of All Mysteries.

Inside a grand hall, Pei Tu, the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Qian Department, spoke in a low voice, "According to rumors, Lin Xun has already entered the fifth sky zone, the Source of Evil Zone. With his cultivation, he can easily pass through this zone. It's even likely that he has already entered the sixth sky zone, the Thousand Tribulations Zone."

The other eight Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords remained silent, their expressions shifting with uncertainty. By now, they were certain that Lin Xun had successively traversed through four sky zones: Mortal Transformation, Calamitous, Darkness, and Past Retracing.

During this process, the Heavenly Mandate Apostles under the Kun, Xun, and Zhen Departments all suffered heavy losses. As the bad news continued to arrive, the mood of the nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords of the Nine Departments of Alpha Origin grew heavy and oppressive.

"In my opinion, this boy's combat strength is no weaker than that of an Immeasurable Dao Lord's. Among our respective Heavenly Mandate Apostles, I'm afraid it will be difficult to find anyone who can contend with him," said Tian Shu, the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Zhen Department, softly.

How could the others not understand this?

"Are we... just going to give up like this?" Kuhe, the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Xun Department, frowned. He was unwilling to give up so easily.

"What else can we do but give up? Send our Heavenly Mandate Apostles to their deaths?" someone else said coldly.

"Everyone, there's no need to argue." Suddenly, Pei Tu, the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Qian Department, spoke, drawing everyone's attention.

"There is indeed an opportunity to deal with Lin Xun right now," he said in a deep voice. "For example, in the sixth sky zone, the Thousand Tribulations Zone, we can start near the Heavenly Tribulation Platform to deal with Lin Xun."

The Thousand Tribulations Zone was the sixth sky zone of the Realm of All Spirits. In this zone, there were various perilous and unpredictable tribulations scattered throughout. There were dao tribulations targeting cultivation levels, heart tribulations targeting the dao heart, and all sorts of strange and bizarre killing tribulations. For example, a careless thought could attract a Demonic Tribulation, whereas a casual action could trigger a Karmic Tribulation...

Each was different. Cultivators who entered must undergo various trials and tribulations. To leave, they must ascend the Heavenly Tribulation Platform, undergo nine great tribulations. Only then could they obtain the Chaos Dao Fruit and enter the heavenly gate.

All nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords had ventured into this zone before, so they naturally knew that there was indeed an opportunity to ambush Lin Xun near the Heavenly Tribulation Platform. However, this would also involve immense risk.

"Wei Yun, how many Heavenly Mandate Apostles from your Kan Division are currently deployed throughout the Thousand Tribulations Zone?"

Pei Tu's gaze fell upon a tall, well-proportioned man in white robes who was wearing a feathered crown and had sword-like eyebrows and starry eyes. He was Wei Yun, the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Kan Division.

"Nineteen." Wei Yun said, "Their leader is Dao Lord Wanjing. I will relay the message to him, but as to whether he will act with full force, I cannot guarantee."

"That's enough." Pei Tu nodded. "If we succeed, it will be a great achievement!"

...

Thousand Tribulations Zone.

Lin Xun and Xia Zhi walked side by side, heading towards the far east of this zone. The legendary Heavenly Tribulation Platform was located in that region.

"Legend has it that the primal chaos origin of this zone contains the secrets of 'calamity.' Rumors say that long ago, the Alpha Origin Master obtained a source of calamity in this zone, thus gaining the ability to control and utilize the Great Silence Unlife Calamity. I wonder if those stories are true or not..." Lin Xun spoke softly on the way.

The Thousand Tribulations Zone was like the origin of all tribulations in the world, and it was filled with countless calamitous powers. This made Lin Xun curious. If the rumors about the Alpha Origin Master were true, wouldn't it mean that he himself would have a chance to explore the secrets of controlling the Great Silence Unlife Calamity?

Boom!

Just then, a bolt of tribulation lightning suddenly descended from the sky. It was a dazzling bolt that carried a terrifying aura of calamity, falling with boundless terror. This kind of power could even threaten beings at the Immeasurable Realm! However, as if accustomed to this, Lin Xun flicked his sleeve, and all the tribulation lightning was swallowed up with not a single drop remaining.

He then flipped his hand, refining the tribulation lightning into a wisp of hazy, grayish-brown tribulation origin power. Though as thin as a hair, it was filled with a terrifying destructive force. However, in Lin Xun's eyes, besides the destructive power, this tribulation origin power also contained a subtle, almost imperceptible, life force!

"A so-called 'tribulation' is the foundation for a cultivator to become stronger. Surviving a tribulation is like undergoing a rebirth, transforming one's cultivation and thus altering one's life, growing stronger step by step." Lin Xun murmured, and as he spoke, this wisp of tribulation origin power was completely refined.

Since entering the Thousand Tribulations Zone, he and Xia Zhi had encountered various tribulations along the way. There were tribulations targeting their own cultivation paths, tribulations targeting their mental states, and various unexpected killing tribulations, such as Cataclysmic and Demonic Tribulations.

Initially, Lin Xun was extremely vigilant. However, as he repeatedly defeated and refined these tribulations, his state of mind had become extremely calm and peaceful.

"However, if you fail to transcend a tribulation, your soul will be scattered," Xia Zhi said.

"To become stronger, one must pay a price. The way of the heavens is to take from the surplus and give to the deficient; all things in the world are maintained in a delicate balance and opposition. Whether it's transcending tribulations or seizing opportunities, one must bear the risk in order to gain something."

Lin Xun casually remarked, "Some believe that tribulations represent destruction and annihilation, but without tribulations, where would the path to strength come from?"

After a pause, he continued, "This is somewhat similar to the profound mysteries of Nirvana I've mastered. To transcend tribulations and survive is like undergoing Nirvana."

Xia Zhi glanced at Lin Xun, somewhat speechless, and said, "You're becoming more and more boring and long-winded these days."

Lin Xun remained silent. Xia Zhi clearly had no interest in these matters. He stopped discussing these esoteric topics and said, "Let's find a chance to have some barbecue."

Xia Zhi's eyes lit up, and she exclaimed, "We should have done so a long time ago!"

She realized that since entering the All-Wonder Dominion, she hadn't tasted Lin Xun's cooking. Lin Xun smiled too. Xia Zhi was always so simple, thinking only about what she cared about, and what made her happy was always inseparable from eating and sleeping.

As for the great dao or other ambitions, thoughts about them had never crossed her mind. Sometimes, Lin Xun even envied Xia Zhi. With such a simple and pure mind, she had no real worries or anxieties.

The two chatted as they traveled, constantly encountering these tribulations along the way. After a full six hours, the two finally saw the Heavenly Tribulation Platform. It was a thousand feet tall, pitch black, shrouded in a hazy, chaotic aura of calamity. Countless arcs of lightning rolled in its vicinity. From afar, it resembled the very source of all calamities in the world.

At this time, many people were already scattered in the vicinity of the Heavenly Tribulation Platform, all at the Greater Boundless Realm. Each had an aura more terrifying than the last. In Lin Xun's eyes, those figures were all at least as strong as, if not stronger than, top-tier experts like Chi Qianji and Yi Wuyin!

After all, the Thousand Tribulation Realm was already the sixth sky zone, so cultivators who could reach it were destined to be stronger than their counterparts in the previous ones.

As Lin Xun and Xia Zhi approached, they attracted the attention of many eyes near the Heavenly Tribulation Platform. One of them immediately laughed, saying, "Young Friend Lin Xun, Miss Xia Zhi, I didn't expect you to arrive so quickly!"

"Senior, we meet again."

Lin Xun also smiled; the person was none other than Chi Qianji.

Lin Xun! At this moment, the nearby Greater Boundless Eternals all revealed expressions of realization, as they had all heard of his identity. In recent centuries, news about him had spread widely. Although these old fellows had been trapped in this zone for countless years, they all knew about his deeds.

During their conversation, Lin Xun learned that Chi Qianji had been here for a hundred years but had never managed to pass the Heavenly Tribulation Platform. According to Chi Qianji, the tribulations on this platform varied from person to person; the stronger one's cultivation, the more terrifying the tribulation. Some of the old fellows scattered throughout this area had been trapped here for hundreds of thousands of years, still unable to pass.

Bang!

Just then, a figure suddenly fell from the Heavenly Tribulation Platform, battered and bruised, in a pitiful state. Upon landing, he couldn't help but bitterly exclaim, "Just one step away again!!"

Many cultivators nearby sighed in regret.

"This old fellow has tried countless times, but each time he fails under the ninth major tribulation," Chi Qianji sighed deeply.

Someone asked, "Is anyone else planning to try this platform today?"

Everyone nearby shook their heads. Lin Xun then turned his gaze to Xia Zhi, "Would you like to give it a try?"

"Alright." With that, Xia Zhi headed straight for the Heavenly Tribulation Platform.

"Young friend, you've only just arrived and don't yet understand the terror of this Heavenly Tribulation Platform. How can you rashly let Miss Xia Zhi try it?" Chi Qianji couldn't help but ask.

"Let her go. Even if she loses, nothing will happen to her," Lin Xun said with a smile.

At this moment, Xia Zhi's actions attracted the attention of everyone present.

Whoosh!

Her graceful and slender figure vanished instantly from the Heavenly Tribulation Platform that was covered by billions of arcs of lightning. From the outside, it was impossible to see what she experienced. Even releasing divine sense was impossible. Seeing this, the cultivators who had originally planned to leave chose to stay, intending to see the final outcome.

Taking this opportunity, Chi Qianji transmitted his voice and said, "Young friend, as far as I know, the Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Nine Departments of Alpha Origin all regard you as an enemy. In this Thousand Tribulations Zone, there are nineteen Heavenly Mandate Apostles belonging to the Kan Division. Their combat power is stronger than the last, especially their leader, Dao Lord Wanjing, whose combat power is unfathomable. You must be careful!"

Chapter 3188 Go Kill Yourself Now

Chi Qianji's cautious reminder was filled with concern and worry. He didn't know how Lin Xun had fought his way from the Mortal Transformation Zone to this place, nor did he realize that the Lin Xun of today was no longer the same as before.

However, Lin Xun only felt touched by this man’s unwarranted concern. Would anyone else, knowing that he was hated by the Nine Departments of Alpha Origin, dare to warn him like Chi Qianji did? No! They would probably have already severed ties with him!

After all, Alpha Origin’s influence had spread throughout the entire All-Wonder Dominion, making his camp arguably the most powerful force here. What other third party Immeasurable Eternal would dare to get involved in such a murky situation?

"Senior, rest assured, even if they don't come after me, I will go after them," Lin Xun whispered.

Chi Qianji was taken aback and couldn't help but say, "You can't be reckless. This is the All-Wonder Dominion, which is completely different from the Sea of Fate."

Lin Xun smiled. "Senior, do you think I'm the kind of person who is stupidly arrogant and acts recklessly?"

"Of course not." Chi Qianji answered without hesitation, then he seemed to understand something. He couldn't help but look at Lin Xun more closely. "Do you really have the confidence to go against them?"

Lin Xun nodded. The look in Chi Qianji's eyes became subtle, and he didn't try to persuade Lin Xun any further. Back in the Sea of Fate, he had learned about Lin Xun's actions and knew very well that when the younger man dared to show such an unyielding attitude, he must have true confidence in himself!

That's right, it's only been a few years since we last met, and he's already able to break into this Thousand Tribulations Zone. His cultivation must have undergone earth-shattering changes...

However, while he understood that fact, he still couldn't fathom just how powerful Lin Xun's cultivation had become. A short while later, a violent ripple suddenly appeared above the Heavenly Tribulation Platform, completely shrouded in the aura of chaotic tribulation. Immediately afterward, a heavenly gate appeared.

"This...this woman has survived the Ninefold Great Tribulations?!"

A clamor erupted in the arena, and the old monsters present all revealed expressions of astonishment. An unknown woman had already overcome Ninefold Great Tribulations after just arriving to this zone, successfully attracting a Chaos Dao Fruit and gaining the opportunity to leave! This was almost unbelievable to them.

Chi Qianji also gasped, muttering, "Truly worthy of being a being who grasps the Principles of Fate...Miss Xia Zhi is truly remarkable..."

"Lin Xun, I'll be waiting for you in the Creation Zone." Xia Zhi only managed to leave behind a fleeting message before she vanished within the heavenly gate.

Witnessing all this, Lin Xun remained calm as he asked. "Senior, have you ever heard of the Alpha Origin Master obtaining a primal chaos origin in this zone, thus gaining control over the Great Silence Unlife Calamity?"

"Of course I've heard of it," Chi Qianji said. "Rumors claim that this is very likely true. I've lingered in this zone for many years and discussed this matter with many fellow cultivators. Almost all of us agree that the primal chaos origin in this Thousand Tribulations Zone is related to the source of tribulations. Ultimately, the Great Silence Unlife Calamity is also a kind of tribulation. If one can comprehend the source of tribulations, it's naturally possible to control and wield the Great Silence Unlife Calamity."

"In that case, I'll have to go and try it myself." Lin Xun nodded and immediately stepped forward.

Chi Qianji was stunned, opened his mouth, then closed it again. Xia Zhi could overcome Ninefold Great Tribulations. Therefore, with Lin Xun's abilities, how could he possibly fail?

The gazes of the nearby cultivators were also immediately drawn to Lin Xun, their expressions strange. Previously, Xia Zhi had already given them a tremendous shock, and now Lin Xun actually intended to challenge the Heavenly Tribulation Platform as well. How could they not be astonished?

Whoosh!

Lin Xun's figure flashed, having already passed through the billions of arcs of lightning, and appeared on the Heavenly Tribulation Platform. Only when he was truly on it did he realize that although the platform was ten thousand feet high, it was divided into nine stone steps, each covered with an astonishingly dense aura of primal chaos origin.

Boom!

Before Lin Xun could continue to sense it, the first great tribulation descended. In that instant, he felt as if he had entered a strange, void world, with endless tribulation auras transforming into billions of stars, crashing towards him.

He felt as if he were a speck of dust. Compared to stars, dust was absolutely insignificant. Now, billions of stars formed from tribulation power were rushing towards him—a scene that was utterly despairing. Despite that, Lin Xun didn't retreat and stood there silently.

Boom!

A calamitous star hurtled towards him, only to be shattered by a single palm strike, scattering its light across the sky. It seemed casual, but immediately afterward, countless more calamitous stars bombarded him relentlessly, instantly engulfing him.

Boom~~~ Boom~~~

In this void-like world, the roaring continued, like rolling thunder reverberating. Where Lin Xun had stood, countless stars exploded, unleashing endless torrents of calamity light, only to be followed by countless more colliding with it. As a result, that entire world was filled with a vast expanse of tribulation light and deafening roars. An unknown amount of time passed.

Boom! Then, a vast abyss appeared, initially only a hundred feet in size before expanding to a ginormous size. During this process, countless calamitous stars were swallowed up as if they had been thrown into the sea.

Finally, it swallowed the entire world, and all the tribulation light and stars vanished! This first great tribulation had been swallowed up in one fell swoop! The abyss, devouring the heavens, shrank little by little amidst roaring sounds, finally transforming into Lin Xun's towering figure.

His skin shimmered with tribulation light, exuding an aura of destruction, resembling a god who was emerging from a calamity. His power was unfathomable. At this moment, a series of wondrous insights surged into Lin Xun's heart—the mysteries of the source of tribulations.

Unfortunately, before he could fully comprehend them, the second great tribulation descended. This was a mysterious and unpredictable trial of the heart, targeting the seven emotions and six desires; it was impossible to avoid, so he could only confront it head-on.

Even with Lin Xun's profound understanding and mastery of the dao, he still endured immense pressure. Thankfully, it wasn't too severe. In just a moment, Lin Xun broke through this heart tribulation in one fell swoop. Thus, as soon as he broke through one great tribulation, a new one would appear, each one terrifying and extremely dangerous.

However, his strategy was extremely simple: confront the tribulation head-on, defeat it, and then absorb its power. Although he faced many threats, he resolved and overcame them all.

...

Far away from the Heavenly Tribulation Platform, Chi Qianji and the other cultivators were observing and waiting. Suddenly, ripples appeared in the nearby void, followed by nineteen people arriving out of thin air. Leading them was a man with red hair and a python robe, and he was surrounded by dazzling divine chains. His aura was extremely terrifying.

Dao Lord Wanjing was a terrifying expert whose cultivation was only a hair's breadth away from reaching that of an Immeasurable Dao Lord’s. The other eighteen cultivators beside him were all Heavenly Mandate Apostles from the Kan Department.

Upon seeing them appear, Chi Qianji's expression changed drastically, and the other cultivators present stiffened, sensing that Dao Lord Wanjing and his group were clearly here for Lin Xun.

"Everyone, there's no need to delay any longer. Take advantage of his tribulation and eliminate him!" Dao Lord Wanjing waved his hand. The next moment, he and the other eighteen Heavenly Mandate Apostles simultaneously unleashed their secret treasures.

Boom!

These secret treasures all surged with the power of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity, and their auras were so intense that it sent chills down the spines of all the cultivators present. Under the urging of Dao Lord Wanjing and the others, these secret treasures shot towards the distant Heavenly Tribulation Platform.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

In that instant, the nineteen secret treasures glowed, unleashing a torrent of Great Silence Unlife Calamity power that surged towards the Heavenly Tribulation Platform like a tidal wave. Suddenly, the world became chaotic, with various tribulation lights and roars surging and churning, resembling an apocalyptic scene.

Witnessing all this, Chi Qianji's face turned deathly pale as he became utterly disoriented. Dao Lord Wanjing and his group had clearly come prepared, intending to strike while Lin Xun was undergoing his trials on the Heavenly Tribulation Platform and destroy him in one fell swoop!

Looking at the other cultivators present, they were all horrified and terrified. Dao Lord Wanjing and his group were too ruthless. They had attacked immediately upon arrival, and Lin Xun, who was undergoing his tribulation, would suffer from their interference. Forget just failing the tribulations; he would likely perish instead!

A moment later, the nineteen secret treasures dimmed. The Great Silence Unlife Calamity power accumulated within them had clearly neared exhaustion. Seeing this, Dao Lord Wanjing and the others all put away their secret treasures.

A Heavenly Mandate Apostle smiled and said, "With this, how could Lin Xun possibly survive?

"That boy was too hasty. He's only just arrived in this Thousand Tribulations Zone, yet he recklessly attempted to break into the Heavenly Tribulation Platform. He deserves this tribulation." Someone sneered.

Throughout their conversation, their gazes remained fixed on the distant Heavenly Tribulation Platform. As time passed, the area around the platform gradually returned to its usual calm. However, because it was shrouded in tribulation aura, it was impossible to see anything clearly.

Someone couldn't help but ask, "Is he dead?"

"He should have perished. The Chaos Dao Fruit didn't appear, nor did the heavenly gate. If he were still alive, even if he failed the tribulation, he should have already retreated from the Heavenly Tribulation Platform..." Someone's voice was low.

"Could he still be alive, still undergoing a tribulation?" Someone frowned.

“If he survives, then I’ll gladly slit my own throat!” Dao Lord Wanjing declared, his voice cold.

Long ago, they had used this method to interfere with another enemy's tribulation, causing their demise on the Heavenly Tribulation Platform. Now, they were using the same method, so how could Lin Xun possibly survive?

However, at that moment, a calm voice rang out from the Heavenly Tribulation Platform, shrouded in the aura of a chaotic tribulation, “Then go kill yourself now.”

The entire place fell silent; everyone could hardly believe their ears. Lin Xun was still alive?!

The distraught Chi Qianji suddenly became excited. He’s alive? He’s alive!

A tall, imposing figure emerged from the Heavenly Tribulation Platform, his moon-white robes spotless, his body completely unharmed. It was Lin Xun!

Dao Lord Wanjing's face was extremely grim and filled with disbelief. "This is impossible! How could you survive?"

The other Heavenly Mandate Apostles beside him also had fluctuating expressions. No one had expected that Lin Xun would survive such a sudden attack!

Chapter 3189 The Origin of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity

Silence fell. Not a single sound stirred the air. Lin Xun stepped down alive from the Heavenly Tribulation Platform. The sight stunned the crowd. Dao Lord Wanjing and the others stared in disbelief, as though the world itself had overturned.

“You said you would kill yourself if I survived,” Lin Xun said calmly, his gaze settling on Dao Lord Wanjing. “Why haven’t you done it yet?”

A strange tension rippled through the onlookers. Earlier, Dao Lord Wanjing had declared with absolute certainty that if Lin Xun did not perish, he would slit his own throat. Now Lin Xun was standing alive in front of them. Would he honor his words?

Countless eyes turned toward Dao Lord Wanjing. His face darkened to an ashen hue, and killing intent burned in his eyes. Of course, there was no sign whatsoever that he intended to take his own life. However, none dared mock him. Within the Thousand Tribulations Zone, Dao Lord Wanjing was unquestionably one of the most terrifying existences.

“Attack!” Unable to endure the humiliation, Dao Lord Wanjing waved his hand sharply.

Boom!

Eighteen Heavenly Mandate Apostles surged forward at once and treasures blazed into the sky. Supreme techniques were unleashed, and astonishing manifestations of the great dao unfolded, layer upon layer, each more breathtaking than the last.

Heaven and earth quaked, divine radiance swept across the world and dao sounds thundered through the firmament. A vast torrent of destruction roared toward Lin Xun.

Lin Xun stood with his hands clasped behind his back, unmoving as a mountain. When that overwhelming tide of power, enough to drive anyone present into despair, crashed toward him, it halted abruptly before him. It was as though it had struck an invisible heavenly chasm.

Then—Boom!

The torrent exploded and collapsed in a burst of light, vanishing without a trace. More than a dozen Eternal weapons were blasted backward, sent spinning through the air with shrill, anguished wails.

The spectacle left Chi Qianji and the others completely dumbfounded. Lin Xun had not even lifted a finger, yet he had shattered their combined killing strike with effortless ease. Dao Lord Wanjing and his companions stared wide-eyed, their scalps tingling with disbelief. How is this possible?!

“With such pitiful strength,” Lin Xun said lightly, almost bored, “you dare to scheme against me? You are courting death.”

Before his words had fully faded, a clear, resonant sword cry pierced the heavens. Streaks of sword qi erupted. Sword intent flooded the void.

Bang!

Dao Lord Wanjing was the first to fall. His body exploded under the crushing force of a single strand of sword intent and his soul scattered, utterly extinguished. Then, one after another, the remaining Heavenly Mandate Apostles ruptured where they stood. Overwhelming sword qi blotted out the sky, annihilating them on the spot.

Each of their bodies were shattered and their spirits perished. It all happened in the span of a single breath! That domineering, blood-soaked scene sent a shudder through every spectator, striking their minds like a violent shockwave.

Even Chi Qianji was shaken, his heart churning like a storm-tossed sea. Earlier, he had already anticipated that Lin Xun’s cultivation must have undergone earthshaking transformation. But he had never imagined that Lin Xun would become powerful to such a terrifying extent.

“No wonder...even while undergoing tribulation upon the Heavenly Tribulation Platform, he survived that sudden ambush...” Chi Qianji murmured.

Within moments, all nineteen Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Kan Department stationed within the Thousand Tribulations Zone perished!

Lin Xun turned without another word and descended once more into the Heavenly Tribulation Platform. Earlier, he was undergoing his seventh great tribulation when Dao Lord Wanjing and the others launched their calculated ambush, forcing him to suspend the process and deal with the sudden upheaval.

Now that every enemy had been wiped out, there was nothing left to hinder him. It was time to resume his tribulation. Only after Lin Xun's figure had completely vanished did the group of old monsters present finally breathe out in relief. However, their expressions were exceedingly complicated.

"Brother Chi," someone said, cupping his fist respectfully, "you understand Lin Xun better than any of us. Could you tell us more about him?"

The others likewise turned their gazes toward Chi Qianji.

"Why not?" Chi Qianji replied with a faint smile. "I only came to know Young Friend Lin at the Sea of Fate, so my understanding of him is limited. If you're interested, I can share what little I know."

.....

Time flowed on. On the Heavenly Tribulation Platform, Lin Xun endured one tribulation after another. When he shattered the ninth and final tribulation, he ascended to the very summit of the platform. There, a torrent of primal chaos origin power poured down from above, enveloping him completely.

In that instant, he touched the profound mystery of the origin of tribulations. A surge of enlightenment flooded his mind. Vast and unfathomable visions flickered before his consciousness.

He saw that within the transformations of heaven and earth, and the rise and fall of ages, there always lingered the aura of calamities and tribulations. It was precisely because of their existence that all things in the world revealed a balance between life and death, ruin and renewal.

Plants could endure wind, frost, rain, and snow, growing tenaciously and displaying their vitality. Of course, beneath those same winds and fists, they could also wither and perish. To plants, wind and winter were calamities. Some survived their trials and transformed. Others faded and died within them.

Such was the eternal balance between life and death, ruin and renewal. By extension, all phenomena beneath the heavens followed the same principle. All bore the presence of calamity and tribulation. The shifting of worldly affairs and the turning of the ages, along with the countless unfathomable variables that arose within them, were inseparable from the workings of myriad calamities.

When one sought fortune or opportunity, one had to assume the corresponding risks. That risk itself was a form of calamity. Those who overcame their calamities gained transformation and fortune. Those who were defeated by them gained nothing at all.

Likewise, for ordinary mortals, birth and death, aging and sickness, love and hatred, grudges and entanglements were all bound to their own allotment of tribulations. In addition, their outcomes could also turn toward fortune or misfortune.

For those on the path of cultivation, the number of calamities only multiplied. There were tribulations of the dao, tribulations of the heart, and tribulations of slaughter. Every hardship endured and every setback suffered could be counted as a calamity.

Whether in the myriad phenomena of the world or among mortals and cultivators, those who survived their calamities could undergo a transformation akin to Nirvana. Those who perished within them...there was nothing more to say.

Ultimately, the origin of tribulations lay in the union of two primordial forces: destruction and transformation. When cultivators broke through their cultivation realms by enduring tribulation lightning, that lightning was imbued with the most direct power of destruction and transformation.

As Lin Xun grasped more and more of the mysteries surrounding the origin of calamity, a deeper understanding gradually dawned on him.

The so-called ‘epochal change’ referred to a calamity that tested an epochal civilization. If such an epochal civilization was powerful enough, it could survive the upheaval and endure, returning once more to the Fortune Dominion. If not, it would vanish entirely from the world.

The same principles applied to the Five Dao Decays that tested ordinary cultivators, and to the Great Silence Unlife Calamity that befell those of the Immeasurable Realm. Those who survived would attain greater power of the great dao, allowing their cultivation to undergo a profound transformation. Those who failed would fall and perish.

However, among all calamities, the calamity of an epochal change could be called the most terrifying across time. Once it manifested, myriad calamities followed in its wake, giving rise to countless tribulations. Among them were the Five Dao Decays and the Great Silence Unlife Calamity.

At this moment, Lin Xun finally understood that the Great Silence Unlife Calamity that struck fear into the hearts of countless beings originated within the All-Wonder Dominion! More precisely, it arose from the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders!

The Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders was referred to by Alpha Origin as the Forbidden Zone of Life. It very likely concealed the profound truth of life's origin: the dao of life. The Great Silence Unlife Calamity, on the other hand, was a supreme tribulation that targeted the very lives of those at the Immeasurable Realm. Even the word 'life' within its name made this evident.

Thus, it was hardly surprising that the source of this calamity lay within the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders. Moreover, within the origin of tribulations of the Thousand Tribulation Zone, Lin Xun was able to perceive those mysterious auras. At last, he understood why Alpha Origin was able to borrow and command the power of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity.

Alpha Origin had once comprehended the mysteries of the origin of tribulations itself. Grasping the origin was equivalent to possessing the means to wield all calamities beneath heaven!

This was precisely the truth behind the so-called 'hidden mastermind' that Chen Xi, Chen Lingkong, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, and the golden cicada had sought so relentlessly!

"Like a hidden serpent's trail through ashes, its line stretches for thousands of miles... Who could have imagined that the All-Wonder Dominion, regarded by those at the Immeasurable Realm as a refuge from the Great Silence Unlife Calamity, was in fact the very birthplace of that calamity?"

At that moment, an indescribable emotion surged within Lin Xun's heart. The affairs of this world were often this unfathomable. Since entering the All-Wonder Dominion, Lin Xun had gradually unraveled many of the mysteries that had long weighed on his heart.

In the Mortal Transformation Zone, he came to realize that this world contained the power of the dao of creation, and he bore witness to the unparalleled brilliance of Chen Xi, Alpha Origin, and that swordsman.

In the Calamitous Zone, he discerned the hidden connection between the All-Wonder Dominion and the Fortune Dominion. From that point on, the interwoven relationship among the four dao dominions became clear to him one by one.

In the Dark Zone, he deduced that terrifying figures such as Alpha Origin and Chen Xi had remained within the Realm of All Mysteries for so long because they had encountered a bottleneck in their cultivation.

In other words, they had already reached the end of the Eternal Path and begun exploring a higher dao. The reason their cultivation could no longer advance was simple: they had yet to truly set foot upon that higher path.

In the Past Retracing Zone, Lin Xun learned of the origins of the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer and uncovered the background of the Eternal Night Divine Emperor. He also came to understand the existence of the dao of life. Only then did he fully grasp why he himself was regarded as a variable. It was because the mystery of Nirvana was intrinsically connected to the dao of life.

In the Source of Evil Zone, Lin Xun came to discern the Principles of Good and Evil, and the underlying Principles of Right and Wrong.

In the Thousand Tribulations Zone, he gained insight into the mysteries of the origin of tribulations and uncovered the source of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity!

It could be said that many doubts and riddles that had accumulated in his heart over the years were being unveiled one by one after entering the All-Wonder Dominion. How could he not be moved?

A long period of time passed before Lin Xun finally emerged from his contemplation.

“The reason the Great Silence Unlife Calamity could not harm me,” he reflected, “lies in the power of Nirvana. It can dissolve a great calamity that targets life itself... And now, like the Alpha Origin Master, I have grasped the mysteries of the origin of calamity. When I reach the Realm of All Mysteries, so long as I can sense the aura within the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders, I too will be able to wield the power of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity!”

Lin Xun murmured. “As for Master and Elder Chen Xi...with their cultivation and wisdom, they must have already understood all of this when they arrived in the All-Wonder Dominion...”

Shaking his head, his gaze pierced through the gray, hazy chaos tribulation aura and fell on Chi Qianji in the distance.

“Senior, I will take my leave.”

He cupped his hands from afar in salute, his voice carrying clearly across heaven and earth.

“Take care, little friend!” Chi Qianji returned the salute, but his heart remained unsettled.

Back at the Sea of Fate, although he had been surpassed by Lin Xun, the gap between them was not huge. Now, he suddenly realized that he would likely never again be able to keep pace with this young friend.

Chapter 3190 Defining and Deriving the Dao

Realm of All Mysteries.

Within a vast and solemn hall, Wei Yun, Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Kan Department, spoke in a somber voice. “Dao Lord Wanjing and the others...have failed.”

A shadow fell across the faces of the other Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords.

From the moment Lin Xun had entered the All-Wonder Dominion until now, less than a year and a half had passed. Yet in that short span, he had successively crossed the Mortal Transformation Zone, the Calamitous Zone, the Dark Zone, the Past Retracing Zone, the Source of Evil Zone, and the Thousand Tribulations Zone!

His speed in traversing the zones was nothing short of staggering. Each sky zone had countless cultivators trapped within, some even for hundreds of thousands of years. However, Lin Xun had carved his way through the Thousand Tribulations Zone and reached the seventh sky zone in barely a year and a half. It was beyond terrifying.

Back then, when these Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords themselves ventured through the nine sky zones of the Realm of All Spirits, it had taken them no less than a thousand years to pass them all! Compared to that, Lin Xun's progress was simply monstrous.

"He has already reached the seventh sky zone," Qing Yangzi, Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Kun Department, said with a heavy sigh. "At this rate, it will not be long before he enters the ninth sky zone, the Xuanhuang Zone. Although the core elite forces of our nine departments are stationed there, none of us knows how far his cultivation will have advanced by the time he arrives."

For the first time, even Qing Yangzi felt a trace of helplessness.

"I am certain," Kuhe, Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Xun Department, said gravely, "that Lin Xun's strength is no weaker than that of an Immeasurable Dao Lord...perhaps even greater. Under such circumstances, sending our Heavenly Mandate Apostles against him would be no different from sending them to die."

The atmosphere in the hall grew heavy. The nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords felt their hearts sink. No one had anticipated Lin Xun's terrifying speed. Who could have imagined that his cultivation in the Immeasurable Realm had already reached such a height?

What should they do? Their expressions flickered with uncertainty.

After a long silence, Pei Tu, Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Qian Department, finally let out a faint sigh. "At a time like this...if only Miss were here."

Black Crow had been kept at Alpha Origin's side, and there had been no word from her since. Without her presence, these Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords felt as though they had lost their anchor.

Just then, a towering figure appeared at the entrance of the grand hall. It was an old ape, two swords crossed upon his back. He wore coarse, ash-gray robes. His frame was so immense that by standing there, he exuded an overwhelming aura of oppression.

Ape Ancestor! The nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords rose in unison and bowed deeply in respect.

“Feng Juezi,” Ape Ancestor spoke, his weathered voice deep and resonant, “pass down the order: the apostles of the Li Department stationed in Dao Defining Zone are not to take action against Lin Xun.”

“Understood!” Feng Juezi stepped forward to receive the command. He was clad in crimson robes, his hair and beard were streaked with gray, yet his skin was as smooth as that of a newborn. He served as the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Li Department.

“Ape Ancestor,” Pei Tu could not help restrain himself from speaking, “would we not be bolstering the enemy’s morale while diminishing our own prestige by doing so?”

Ape Ancestor paid him no heed. Instead, he shifted his gaze to another. “Qin Fu, how many apostles of the Gen Department are stationed in the eighth sky zone, the Dao Derivation Zone?”

Qin Fu was the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Gen Department and the only woman among the nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords.

“Seven,” she answered promptly, without the slightest pause. She wore a flowing gown of deep ink-black. Against it, her skin appeared luminous and crystal-pale. Her features were exquisitely refined, and with every turn of her gaze, her eyes revealed a subtle, captivating charm.

“That’s enough.” Ape Ancestor said. “Pass down my command. Inform the seven to mobilize all their forces and investigate every Deriver of the Dao who appears in the Dao Derivation Zone in the coming period. Once discovered, do not inquire into their origins...kill them immediately.”

Qin Fu bowed solemnly. “Understood!”

Understanding seemed to dawn upon the other Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords, and they began speaking one after another.

“The best opportunity to kill Lin Xun indeed lies in the Dao Derivation Zone. By then, no matter which cultivator Lin Xun becomes in that world or no matter what identity he assumes, his cultivation will be limited to the lower five stages. The only difficulty lies in locating him.”

Pei Tu said, “For the seven Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Gen Department, this should pose no difficulty. They have long since ascended to the Immortal Path in the Dao Derivation Zone. Although their cultivation there cannot compare to the Immeasurable power they once possessed, they still stand at the very pinnacle of that world. Eliminating someone within the lower five stages would be effortless.”

The Dao Derivation Zone was unlike any other realm. Upon entering it, a cultivator would be reborn as if seizing a new body, becoming one of the native cultivators of that world and inheriting their name, cultivation, and identity.

For example, if Lin Xun were to enter that world, he would transform into one of their cultivators, assuming that person’s identity and cultivation. It was akin to possession or rebirth.

From that moment onward, he would become a Dao Deriver in that world. To leave the Dao Derivation Zone, he would have to cultivate anew and derive a heaven-reaching great dao befitting his new identity. Only when his cultivation broke through to the Eternal Realm would he be able to summon the Chaos Dao Fruit and ascend through the heavenly gate.

It was worth noting that, for the cultivators of the Dao Derivation Zone, the highest attainable path in that world was the Immortal Path.

“Indeed. The seven Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Gen Department wield overwhelming authority within the Dao Derivation Zone. Each controls one of the most powerful forces in that world, comparable to seven sovereign rulers. With a single command, it should be effortless for them to uncover Lin Xun’s new identity.”

Qing Yangzi’s eyes brightened as well. “Generally speaking, a Dao Deriver begins only at the lower five cultivation stages. If one wishes to leave, one must advance as quickly as possible. Such rapid progress inevitably brings about extraordinary changes in the body.

“This abnormal transformation cannot remain hidden. Those close to the Dao Deriver will inevitably notice them, and great disturbances will follow. When that time comes, we need only move the instant such disturbances appear. By tracing these anomalies to their source, we will surely uncover the Dao Deriver’s true identity and eliminate him.”

All of these Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords had once entered the Dao Derivation Zone themselves as Dao Derivers. They had walked that path of rebirth and reconstruction, akin to seizing a body and cultivating anew. Naturally, none were more familiar with it than them.

“You did not sound so confident earlier,” Ape Ancestor said coldly.

Pei Tu and the others fell silent, their expressions turning awkward. Earlier, they had been thoroughly shaken by Lin Xun’s astonishing speed through the sky zones. The weight of it had pressed heavily on their hearts, leaving them feeling helpless.

Unable to restrain himself, someone asked, “Ape Ancestor...what if Lin Xun manages to leave the Dao Derivation Zone alive? What should we do then?”

The hall fell silent. All eyes turned toward Ape Ancestor.

“Let him reach the Xuanhuang Zone alive. Then we shall speak of it.” With that, Ape Ancestor turned without another word and strode out of the hall.

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Lin Xun was unaware that a murderous scheme was already unfolding in the eighth sky zone. At that very moment, he and Xia Zhi had just stepped into the seventh sky zone.

The seventh sky zone was known as the Dao Defining Zone. Upon entering, a cultivator would find themselves standing before an unfamiliar world. All phenomena in this world existed in a state of namelessness. Every single thing was unlike anything ever recorded in the outside world.

What cultivators were required to do here was to define the dao for the mountains, rivers and myriad phenomena of this world. It was akin to creating a written language from nothing, assigning sounds, defining meanings, and establishing their underlying principles.

Every kind of thing in this world possessed its own inherent attributes. The name bestowed upon it had to embody its underlying principles, so that it aligned with the heavenly dao and harmonized with its intrinsic rhythm.

Just as the dao was originally nameless, it was given the name ‘dao.’ Even the name ‘dao’ itself arose through definition. From ancient times until now, mountains and rivers, plants and trees, the sun, the moon, and the stars had not originally possessed names.

In the Dao Defining Zone, what cultivators established was far more than a mere name. They were required to bestow names upon phenomena that contained traces of the dao, granting them attributes and deeper meaning, so that these things might resonate and align with the great dao, thereby forming a complete dao system.

It sounded simple, but in truth, it was immensely complex and vast. To define the dao required a deep understanding and precise mastery of the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws, so that when defining the dao, the inherent attributes and subtle mysteries of all things could truly resonate and align with those laws.

As they traveled, Lin Xun said quietly, “Xia Zhi, once we reach Dao Defining Mountain, we’ll likely have to part ways for a time.”

Upon arriving at Dao Defining Mountain, one could sense the primal chaos origin power of this world and enter the unknown world to define the dao. Once successful, they would ascend directly into the eighth sky zone, the Dao Derivation Zone.

Without hesitation, Xia Zhi replied, “Then we’ll meet again in the Dao Derivation Zone.”

“Dao Derivation Zone...” Lin Xun repeated thoughtfully.

Recalling the intelligence he had gathered about the Dao Derivation Zone, he added, “When we arrive there, we must not reveal our true identities. For now, it would be best if we do not meet.”

In the Dao Derivation Zone, one would be reborn as a cultivator native to that realm, assuming a completely new name and identity. Any unusual behavior or inconsistency would quickly arouse

suspicion from those closest to them. Once suspicion arose, it could spread like ripples in water, drawing unwanted attention.

Furthermore, if their enemies discovered them in such a vulnerable state, the consequences would be catastrophic. Lin Xun explained his reasoning carefully before concluding, “We can consider reuniting once we attain Immortal-level power.”

In the Dao Derivation Zone, the Immortal Path was the highest cultivation attainable. By then, even if enemies uncovered their identities, they would no longer fear open confrontation.

After a moment’s thought, Xia Zhi gave a quiet nod. As they spoke, they had already drawn close to Dao Defining Mountain. The steep mountain towered into the heavens, and from afar, it resembled an azure dragon coiling through the sky. Its massive form was shrouded in a dim, mist-laden aura of primal chaos origin power.

When Lin Xun and Xia Zhi arrived, only a dozen or so scattered figures could be seen near the mountain. Some sat cross-legged, others stood in silence, and all of them had clearly lingered there for a long, long time.

“Ah? After all these years, new fellow daoists have finally arrived,” someone exclaimed in surprised

Numerous gazes turned toward Lin Xun and Xia Zhi as they approached, curiosity flickering in their eyes.

“I am Lin Xun. I pay my respects to all seniors.” Lin Xun swept his gaze across the group before offering a slight bow in greeting.

“You’re Lin Xun?” someone blurted out in shock. A ripple of commotion swept through the crowd. Clearly, these old monsters had long heard of him.

Lin Xun thought to himself, Just as I expected. That makes things easier.

He asked without hesitation, “May I ask, seniors, how many Heavenly Mandate Apostles are currently stationed in the Dao Defining Zone?”

The moment the question left his lips, the atmosphere abruptly froze. Several expressions stiffened.