Prodigies 3201

Chapter 3201 Derive Dao

Yuan Zhong cast Tian Ruojing another measured glance. “Then what do you suggest we do to find Lin Xun?”

Tian Ruojing pondered briefly before answering, “He departed with the entire Tianwu Sect two days ago. To track him down now...the chances are slim.”

After a pause, she continued, “However, I have heard that a Dao Deriver cannot depart this world without leaving behind a complete great dao upon the Dao Divine Stele of the four great dao lineages. If we truly fail to find him, then we need only wait by that stele.”

Yuan Zhong nodded slowly. He had not expected a flawless strategy from her, yet her reasoning did not disappoint him. Turning to the Immortal beside him, he said, “Elder Lu, relay today’s intelligence to Supreme Elder Zhu Cheng. With his discernment, he will know how to proceed.”

“Understood.” The Immortal bowed and departed at once.

.....

Immortal Pavilion.

As one of the four great dao lineages, the Immortal Pavilion was hidden within a secret realm suspended beneath the heavens of the Dao Derivation Zone.

“Lin Xun...hiding within a second tier sect in the eastern territories...” Zhu Cheng murmured to himself.

As the number one Immortal figure of the Immortal Pavilion and the leader of the seven Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Gen Department, he stood as a sovereign-like presence within the Dao Derivation Zone.

When he first received the news, a flicker of excitement stirred within him. For over a year, they had searched relentlessly, but they had not uncovered even the faintest trace of Lin Xun. At last, there was a lead. However,But as he finished reading the full report, his brows slowly knit together.

Lin Xun had already fled. Searching for him now would be no different from seeking a needle in the sea!

“We must find him before he attains immortality,” Zhu Cheng said slowly. “Otherwise, once he steps onto the Immortal Path, eliminating him will become far more difficult.”

After a long silence, he made his decision. “Issue my command, mobilize every force of the four great dao lineages. Summon the power of all major factions across the Dao Derivation Zone. Hunt Lin Xun down with everything we have!”

.....

That very day, the four great dao lineages, Immortal Pavilion, Divine Court, Demonic Gate, and Yao Sect, sprang into action. The Immortal figures of each sect poured forth, nearly emptying their ancestral halls.

On the same day, the twelve first tier powers and countless second and third tier factions scattered throughout the Dao Derivation Zone also received orders. None dared to show the slightest hesitation. One after another, they dispatched their forces to coordinate with the four great dao lineages. Centered on the eastern territories where the Tianwu Sect had once stood, a vast, net-like manhunt spread outward, sealing the region on all sides.

Such a massive mobilization sent shockwaves throughout the world, stirring up a storm that shook the Dao Derivation Zone to its core. In no time, news of Lin Xun spread like wildfire throughout the world, becoming the most discussed topic among cultivators everywhere.

Even in the desolate wilderness of the eastern territories where few dared tread, groups of cultivators could now be seen roaming in search of him. The magnitude of the operation was unprecedented!

Half a month passed in the blink of an eye.

Ning’an City.

Inside a teahouse, Lin Xun and Qing Heng sat facing one another, faint wisps of steam curling up from their cups.

“Fellow Daoist,” Qing heng said in a lowered voice, his expression grave, “the situation is growing increasingly dire.”

For the past several days, they had remained in Ning’an City, quietly observing the shifting tides of the world. Even here, in this seemingly tranquil city, the name Lin Xun could be heard in nearly every corner.

“A minor recluse hides in the forest, a great recluse hides in the marketplace. Most of the people in Ning’an City are ordinary mortals, and even the cultivators here are largely of a low cultivation level. If we conceal ourselves in a place like this, no one will suspect a thing.” Lin Xun calmly took a sip of tea and smiled. “Besides, I rather like the name of this city.”

Qing Heng’s face was clouded with concern. “If an Immortal were to enter this city to conduct a search, the consequences would be dire.”

Lin Xun handed him a jade slip. “This contains a subtle technique for concealing one’s aura. It can mask your presence and even Immortals would struggle to see through it.”

Qing Heng accepted the jade slip, visibly relieved. After a brief pause, he could not help but ask, “Fellow Daoist, but if we continue hiding here, will it not delay your cultivation?”

Ning’an City was nothing more than an ordinary small town. It possessed neither secluded cave dwellings nor spirit veins. It was incapable of supporting the cultivation of a supreme Emperor Ancestor. Most importantly, when a supreme Emperor Ancestor cultivatesd, it inevitably triggereds dramatic fluctuations in the spiritual qi of heaven and earth. Such disturbances would undoubtedly attract attention.

Over the past half month, Qing Heng had not once seen Lin Xun cultivate. It was clear that he also understood that the moment cultivation began, it would inevitably draw attention. Even concealing it beneath layers of restriction arrays would not suffice.

Ning'an City possessed no spirit veins. When a cultivator began absorbing and refining the power of heaven and earth, it would inevitably disturb the celestial phenomena of the surrounding region.

Furthermore,And if the one cultivating were a supreme Emperor Ancestor, the resulting commotion would be even greater! In the eyes of Immortals, even the slightest fluctuation in spiritual energy was enough to reveal a wealth of information.

However, if Lin Xun continued to refrain from cultivating and remained hidden in Ning'an City, they might evade detection for a time. However,But in the long run, who could guarantee that no unforeseen calamity would arise? This was the source of Qing Heng's unease.

Noticing the worry etched across his face, Lin Xun let out a faint chuckle. "Fellow Daoist, you may not know, but I have been cultivating all along."

"You've been cultivating?" Qing Heng blinked in surprise.

"That's right." Lin Xun nodded, offering no further explanation.

Qing Heng stared at him for a moment, then shook his head with a helpless smile. "Very well. Then I need not worry."

He lowered his head and resumed drinking his tea. Lin Xun said nothing more. He sat leisurely amid the bustle of the teahouse, listening to the endless discussions drifting through the air. His demeanor remained unhurried and composed.

For a Dao Deriver like him, breaking through into the Immortal Stage was never the true challenge. The real difficulty lay elsewhere. To ascend, he had to derive a complete heaven-reaching great dao.

This dao was not his own original path. It had to be derived through comprehending the heavenly dao laws of this Dao Derivation Zone itself. Moreover, though Lin Xun was a Dao Deriver, the body, spirit, and memories he wielded belonged to Qing Feng. Thus, when forging this new path, he was inevitably constrained by Qing Feng's innate talent and foundation.

In simple terms, Qing Feng did not possess the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent, and his natural aptitude was ordinary at best. Moreover, the heavenly dao laws of the Cyclic Derivation Zone differed fundamentally from those of the worlds Lin Xun had once traversed. Under such limitations, Lin Xun had to forge an entirely new path, to derive a heaven-reaching great dao suited to this body and this world.

This was what it meant to derive the dao. Even for those at the Immeasurable Stage, deriving and forging a brand new heaven-reaching great dao was no simple feat.

The seven Heavenly Mandate Apostles, including Zhu Cheng, had been stranded in this world for countless years. Though they stood at the pinnacle of the Immortal Stage, they remained unable to derive a dao path that led to Eternity. Only by deriving a path toward the Eternal Stage could a Dao Deriver leave the Dao Derivation Zone.

However, for Lin Xun, these so-called difficulties were hardly worth mentioning. The reason was simple. Back in the Mortal Transformation Zone, as he defeated each dao manifestation within the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws, he had simultaneously derived from them great daos that led directly toward Eternity!

Compared to that, deriving from the heavenly dao laws of the Dao Derivation Zone a heaven-reaching great dao that was suited to Qing Feng was hardly a challenge at all. In fact, during the six months before his five dao bodies returned, he had already completed the derivation of a dao path that was perfectly aligned with Qing Feng's body and aptitude.

Thus, during the half-month he appeared to be idling away in Ning'an City, his five dao bodies had in truth been cultivating without pause.

In the end, Qing Heng did not understand that for Dao Derivers, cultivation did not lie in painstakingly tempering one's own realm. Its essence lay in comprehending the heavenly dao laws, and from them, deriving the dao itself.

.....

One day passed after another. In the blink of an eye, half a year had slipped by.

Throughout it all, Lin Xun remained in Ning'an City. During that time, several Immortal figures had descended upon the city to conduct searches. Of course,But none uncovered the true identities of Lin Xun and Qing Heng.

Only then did Qing Heng finally breathe easy. More than that, over the past six months, Lin Xun had completely healed the damage to Qing Heng's dao foundation, rekindling his hope for the road of cultivation ahead.

Then, one day Lin Xun was idly drinking wine in a restaurant when he suddenly paused. He set down his cup and murmured to himself, "It's about time I left."

Across from him, Qing Heng stiffened and asked, "Leave? Go where?"

A faint smile touched Lin Xun's lips. "First, I will gather the strength needed to consolidate my dao path. Then I will make a trip to the four great dao lineages. Once the enemies are dealt with...I shall depart this place."

Qing Heng frowned slightly. "Fellow Daoist, you are still at the Ssupreme Emperor Ancestor Stage. If you act now, would that not expose your identity?"

Lin Xun let out a soft laugh. "You misunderstand. My dao path has already advanced beyond the Immortal Path. What I lack right now...is the power to match it."

The more Qing Heng listened, the more perplexed he became. If Lin Xun's dao path had already surpassed immortality, why did his cultivation remain at the Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage? And what did he mean by lacking power?

Just as Lin Xun seemed about to elaborate, he suddenly rose to his feet and strode toward the door of the restaurant. "From this moment on," he said calmly, "we shall take Ning'an City as our starting point and make our way to the Immortal Pavilion. The strength I gather along the journey should be sufficient to fulfil what my dao path requires."

Though Qing Heng could not fully comprehend his meaning, seeing Lin Xun move so decisively, he quickly followed.

Swoosh!

Qing Heng abruptly realized that the secret technique concealing Lin Xun's aura had vanished. The full might of his Supreme Emperor Ancestor cultivation was laid bare in that instant. Even his presence was no longer restrained. It surged upward without inhibition, shooting straight into the heavens like a blazing pillar of light.

"Fellow Daoist, what are you..." Qing Heng's face was drained of color.

"This," Lin Xun replied lightly, hands clasped behind his back as he strode beyond the city gates, "is how one gathers power. Simply follow behind me."

Qing Heng's expression shifted again and again. In the end, he gritted his teeth and followed. They had only just stepped beyond the city outskirts when a sharp tearing sound split the air in the distance.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Moments later, figures ripped through the void one after another. A group of cultivators, each radiating the imposing aura of the Emperor Stage, traversed space itself. In only a few breaths, they had already descended upon the outskirts of the city.

They had clearly been drawn by the unrestrained aura of a supreme Emperor Ancestor emanating from Lin Xun.

"It's him! Qing Feng! The sSupreme eElder of the Tianwu Sect!"

One of the Emperors trembled, his face lighting up with wild elation. To find Qing Feng was to find the Dao Deriver Lin Xun! Wild joys lit up their faces. For a moment, they could hardly believe it.

They had searched for so long, but now, the target just appeared openly before them, without the slightest attempt at concealment! How could they not be stunned?

Lin Xun merely smiled and said leisurely, “I’ll give you a chance. Spread the word and inform the others.” His gaze swept calmly across them. “Otherwise, it will be too late to call for reinforcements.”

Chapter 3202 A Snap of the Fingers

The Emperor-level experts’ expressions shifted repeatedly. Without another word, they turned and fled. They would certainly pass on the message, but their survival came first! Without life, nothing else mattered

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Their figures tore through the void. They had arrived swiftly, but they fled even faster. Furthermore, since they had kept their distance from the start, their escape should have been easier.

“Do you truly think you can escape?” Lin Xun raised his right hand and snapped his fingers.

Buzz!

In an instant, invisible dao shackles manifested out of thin air. Vast and formless, they descended upon the fleeing Emperors, sealing the surrounding void and suppressing them completely. One after another, they froze in midair, like insects caught in a web, unable even to struggle.

“This...”

“Damn it!”

Their faces drained of color as terror surged through them. Qing Heng stood frozen. A mere snap of the fingers and a group of Emperor experts had been utterly suppressed. What kind of supreme technique was that?

“There is no need to panic,” Lin Xun said calmly as he stepped forward. “I am not some bloodthirsty tyrant, nor do I intend to make things difficult for minor figures merely following orders.”

As he spoke, he flicked his sleeve lightly. Swoosh!

Streams of radiant light burst forth from the trapped Emperors. In the blink of an eye, every treasure they carried, even those hidden deep within their bodies, had been stripped away.

The Emperors' faces turned ashen. Of course, compared to death, this outcome almost felt like mercy. Treasures could be regained. Life could not.

Lin Xun then asked, "Next, I will examine your spirits for information. Do not resist. If your spirit is damaged, you will have only yourselves to blame."

Before they could react, a terrifying spirit sense surged into their mind-seas like a tidal wave. Pain exploded within them. Their expressions instantly went vacant and dazed. Moments later, Lin Xun withdrew his spirit sense and turned to Qing Heng. "Let's go, we'll head first to the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect."

From the fragments of their memories, Lin Xun had already learned everything he needed. Under the orders of the four great dao lineages, thirty-six Immortals from the twelve first tier forces of the Dao Derivation Zone had long been stationed at the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect. They were led by Yuan Zhong, Supreme Elder of the Immortal Pavilion and one of the seven Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Gen Department.

Each Immortal was responsible for mobilizing groups of Emperor-level cultivators from various factions, patrolling vast stretches of territory in search of his whereabouts.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Lin Xun and Qing Heng departed without another word. Only after they disappeared into the distance did the invisible suppression binding the Emperors dissipate. Freed at last, they stood there in silence, each feeling as though they had just escaped from the jaws of death.

"He...let us go..." someone murmured, still unable to believe it.

“Before this, I thought Dao Deriver Lin Xun was some ruthless fiend...but he is nothing like the rumors,” another said in a low voice.

“Should we...still spread the news?” someone asked hesitantly.

Silence fell. After a long pause, one of them exhaled heavily. “Didn’t you hear him? He’s heading to the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect. Even if we say nothing, the world will soon know!”

Many felt a chill run down their spines.

“That’s right. He revealed himself openly outside Ning’an City. He didn’t even bother concealing his aura. He has no intention of hiding anymore.”

“Is he really going to gamble his life?”

“He’s only at the Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage. How could he possibly contend with so many Immortals?”

“Just wait. Before long, the entire world will know whether Lin Xun lives or dies!”

.....

Amid the boundless mountains and rivers, Lin Xun strode forward at an unhurried pace. He made no attempt to conceal his supreme Emperor Ancestor aura.

From afar, he appeared no different from a celestial being descended to the mortal world, his radiance piercing through the eternal clouds!

“Fellow Daoist...do you really intend to storm the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect just like this?” Qing Heng asked, unable to suppress his concern.

Lin Xun's actions were simply too bold. He did not conceal himself at all. It was as though he was eager to draw the enemy's attention, inviting them to come. More importantly, the direction he was walking in was precisely that of the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect!

"I require power," Lin Xun said lightly. "And the fastest way to obtain it is naturally to take it from the enemies."

He glanced toward the horizon. "In other words...I hope they arrive as quickly as possible."

There was even a trace of anticipation in his voice. Qing Heng drew in a sharp breath, utterly stunned by Lin Xun's plan. In all his years of cultivation, this was the first time he had witnessed someone so astonishing, so utterly beyond reason.

Before long, the sharp whistle of tearing air echoed from the distance. A formation of Emperor-level cultivators swept across the sky like divine generals patrolling the mountains. At their heads stood two supreme Emperor Ancestors.

This group was clearly far stronger than the last. Even in the entire Dao Derivation Zone, such a lineup would command the awe of the vast majority of cultivators.

"There!"

"It's Qing Feng of Tianwu Sect! And Qing Heng with him!"

"Hahaha! We've searched everywhere without success, and now they've delivered themselves to our doorstep! Everyone, seize them with me! Once this is done, we'll be richly rewarded!"

The cultivators' faces flushed with excitement, their eyes gleaming. It was as though they were about to capture prey they had long coveted.

Rumble!

They surged forward from afar, aggressive and unstoppable. At the sight, Qing Heng could not help but reveal a trace of reluctant pity. Then, the familiar scene unfolded once again.

Lin Xun snapped his fingers. In the very next instant, the charging cultivators froze midair, their bodies rigid, like geese seized by the throat.

Before their bewildered, horrified gazes, Lin Xun stepped forward unhurriedly. With a casual sweep of his sleeve, streaks of radiant light shot forth, and in the blink of an eye, every treasure they carried was stripped away in an instant. Their disbelief deepened, and their expressions became a spectacle of shock and confusion.

Watching this unfold, Qing Heng could not help but feel a trace of sympathy. Anyone subjected to such a crushing blow would likely be just as dazed and perhaps even left questioning the very meaning of their existence. Before long, Lin Xun and Qing Heng turned and departed once more.

Amidst the mountains and rivers, the cultivators regained their freedom, but each of them stood pale as death, faces ashen and eyes vacant, as though their souls had been torn from them. Even now, they could not fathom how they had been imprisoned in an instant.

Furthermore, that alone was enough to tell them that if Lin Xun truly wished to kill them, it would have been no more difficult than crushing a swarm of ants!

.....

Along the way, wave after wave of cultivators descended upon him, drawn by the aura Lin Xun deliberately radiated. These cultivators came from various forces, some in groups of five or six, and some more than a dozen. Among them were even supreme Emperor Ancestors.

It was no exaggeration to say that had Qing Heng faced them alone, he would have long since collapsed in despair. After all, each of them stood proudly upon the Emperor Path in the Dao Derivation Zone. Which among them was not a terrifying figure whose reputations shook entire regions?

Now in Qing Heng's eyes at this moment, these cultivators who came seeking them were no different from prey walking willingly into a trap. They arrived swiftly, only to be stripped of their treasures even more swiftly.

Each time Qing Heng witnessed the transformations in their expressions, confidence giving way to shock, then shock dissolving into despair, he could not help but sigh. “Why seek out such suffering...”

All of it made him realize that, although Lin Xun’s cultivation still appeared to be at the Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage, his true strength had long since surpassed that level. It was now enough to sweep aside all who stood within the same cultivation stage!

.....

News of Lin Xun’s appearance spread like wildfire, reaching the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect in the shortest possible time. The Immortals stationed instantly lit up with excitement.

“The beast has finally shown himself. The time to eliminate him has come!” one declared, brimming with confidence.

“Hah! I knew beneath our net he would have nowhere left to hide or flee,” another said with a smug smile.

The Immortals from the various top-tier forces were all restless, eager to make their move.

Seeing this, Yuan Zhong, a supreme elder of the Immortal Pavilion, frowned slightly and spoke in a cold voice, “Do you really believe Lin Xun is so easy to deal with?”

That single sentence was enough to make the Immortals stiffen.

“Do not take offense,” Yuan Zhong said coldly, “but in the eyes of we Dao Derivers, you are nothing more than frogs at the bottom of a well. You have no understanding whatsoever of what it means to be a Dao Deriver!”

His expression was icy. The Immortals' expressions shifted uneasily, but none dared to refute him.

Yuan Zhong continued, "Lin Xun's appearance is indeed good news. But precisely because of that, we must not grow complacent. On the contrary, we must be even more vigilant and even more cautious."

One Immortal hesitated before speaking in a lowered voice, "Lord Yuan, the reports state that Lin Xun remains at the Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage and has yet to step onto the Immortal Path. If that is the case...why should we fear him?"

Several others clearly shared the same confusion.

Yuan Zhong replied coldly, "Have you not noticed the report also states that he revealed himself openly and is advancing in the direction of the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect?"

"That..." A flicker passed through their eyes.

"In my humble opinion," Tian Ruojing said suddenly from Yuan Zhong's side, "all of this suggests that Lin Xun may already possess the strength to contend with Immortals. Otherwise, why would he dare come to us so boldly? Under such circumstances, a bit of caution would not be a bad thing."

In the past, none of those Immortals would have spared a second glance at a mere supreme Emperor Ancestor like Tian Ruojing. However, things were different now. They all knew that Yuan Zhong held her in high regard and had kept her by his side throughout this time.

"What do you propose?" Yuan Zhong asked.

Tian Ruojing pondered for a moment before replying, "We should wait here and let him come to us. Only then can we concentrate all our strength and eliminate him in a single stroke. Of course, I doubt he truly dares to come. After all, so many esteemed seniors are stationed here. Anyone in their right mind would never do something so self-destructive."

Yuan Zhong nodded slowly. “Waiting for the rabbit at the stump...that was my thought as well. But in the end, you still do not understand what a Dao Deriver truly is, nor do you grasp the danger Lin Xun represents.”

He let out a faint breath, almost as if in quiet reflection. “If he were an ordinary Dao Deriver, how could he have made the seven of us Heavenly Mandate Apostles take him so seriously? Would we have mobilized the powers of the entire Dao Derivation Zone to hunt him down?”

As he finished speaking, his gaze swept slowly across the crowd. “To speak bluntly...before he steps onto the Immortal Path, you may still have a chance to kill him. But once he does...even all of you combined will not be enough.”

Everyone’s expression changed at once.

Chapter 3203 What's Wrong?

Yuan Zhong was a supreme elder of the Immortal Pavilion and was also a Dao Deriver himself. His words subtly shifted the opinions of the other Immortals towards Lin Xun. Their expressions became slightly more solemn.

Tian Ruojing couldn't help but ask, "Does Your Excellency mean that Lin Xun might actually come to the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect?"

Yuan Zhong pondered, "It's hard to say, but being prepared is never a bad thing."

Everyone nodded subconsciously.

"Lie Yong." Yuan Zhong turned his gaze to a white-robed man. "From now on, you will be responsible for commanding all forces here. If Lin Xun comes, do everything in your power to subdue him."

The white-robed man was named Lie Yong, a supreme elder of the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect. He was an expert who had stepped onto the path of immortality, having already reached the Nirvana Spirit Stage.

"Yes." Lie Yong solemnly accepted the order.

That very day, Yuan Zhong took Tian Ruojing and left the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect, returning to the Immortal Pavilion.

On the way, Tian Ruojing couldn't help but ask, "My lord, what are we going to do now that we're returning to the Immortal Pavilion?"

"A son of a wealthy family shouldn't sit under a dangerous roof. This Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect has become a place of trouble; fortune and misfortune are now unpredictable. To be on the safe side, we should withdraw." Yuan Zhong's eyes flashed, and he casually said, "If Lin Xun comes, then it's a good opportunity to use Immortals like Lie Yong to test his current abilities."

Tian Ruojing's expression changed slightly, a chill running down her spine. She never expected that Yuan Zhong would use the lives of other Immortals to test Lin Xun! If Lie Yong and the others won, that would be fine. Unfortunately, if they lost, there would be no chance of survival!

Yuan Zhong glanced at Tian Ruojing and said, "Do you think I'm too cold-blooded?"

Tian Ruojing shivered and whispered, "Your Excellency has your own reasons; how could I dare to question them?"

Yuan Zhong smiled slightly and said, "I might as well tell you, if it weren't for the fact that we were in this Dao Derivation Zone, those Immortals wouldn't even be qualified to be our pawns."

His voice was full of disdain and arrogance. Think about it, which Dao Dervier wasn’t a terrifying existence who had stepped into the Greater Boundless Realm? In their eyes, Immortals...were indeed quite insignificant! However, it was clear that Tian Ruojing couldn't understand the intricacies of this; she was merely a supreme Emperor Ancestor.

Of note, she was clever; she never wildly speculated about things she didn't understand. It was precisely because of this side of her that Yuan Zhong had treated her differently and brought her to his side.

"I only hope that Lie Yong and the others can succeed, otherwise...things will really get complicated..."

Yuan Zhong seemed to be talking to himself, his eyes flickering with uncertainty. He didn't tell Tian Ruojing that the reason he left the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect was because he had considered a possibility—Lin Xun had now developed a complete path to immortality.

If this guess was true, then Lin Xun, who was currently a supreme Emperor Ancestor, could, with sufficient power, rapidly advance and break through the stages, stepping above immortality! Furthermore, this was precisely what prompted Yuan Zhong to leave the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect. He needed to return to the Immortal Pavilion to discuss countermeasures with Zhu Cheng and the other Heavenly Mandate Apostles.

Ultimately, it's because I couldn't eliminate you while you were still weak that things have turned out this way... Yuan Zhong sighed inwardly.

...

Following that, the atmosphere in the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect became extremely tense. Thirty-six Immortals, led by Lie Yong, a supreme elder of the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect, were conserving their strength and making thorough preparations. However, as time passed and more and more news arrived like snowflakes, a heavy, oppressive shadow fell over the charged atmosphere.

"So far, fifty-seven forces have been defeated by Lin Xun, and fifty-four supreme Emperor Ancestors have fallen to him!"

In a grand hall of the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect, an Immortal reported gravely, "The most terrifying thing is that none of the opponents targeted by Lin Xun have survived a single move from him..."

The other Immortals' expressions were also uncertain now. These past few days, although many messages had arrived, their contents were strikingly similar. Lin Xun was heading towards the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect, and all the cultivators who tried to intercept him along the way had been defeated one by one!

Who wouldn't be wary?

Someone murmured, "He may be powerful, but these reports all say his cultivation is still only at the Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage."

"Don't forget, Lord Yuan Zhong once said that Dao Derivers cannot be measured by ordinary standards! Lin Xun has already defeated so many people, how could he not know we're here? Yet he still rushes towards the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect. Perhaps he truly possesses the power to contend with Immortals..." Someone was worried.

"What's there to fear? We are a group of thirty-six Immortals, can't we withstand one of him?" Others were unconvinced.

"No need to argue." Amidst the discussions, Lie Yong spoke in a deep voice, "Lord Yuan Zhong said a few days ago when he left that we should be on high alert. If he dares to attack, we should annihilate him!"

His voice was filled with undisguised killing intent. This was the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect, and he was a supreme elder here. Faced with this situation, the only thing he could do was to guard this place.

...

These past few days, Qing Heng had become completely numb. Along the way, he had witnessed too many cultivators charging in with overwhelming force, only to become easy prey, plundered one by one by Lin Xun.

Among those cultivators were many powerful experts with formidable reputations, who in the past would have been influential figures in the Dao Derivation Zone. Some were even ruthless individuals that Qing Heng was extremely wary of.

However, before Lin Xun, their fates were all the same, like moths drawn to a flame, beasts walking into a trap; no one could escape his plunder.

In addition, not a single one could escape. Having witnessed so many such scenes, Qing Heng's initial abject fear had turned into numbness. Whenever he saw cultivators charging in again, he felt no emotion whatsoever.

"Is that the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect ahead?" Suddenly, Lin Xun's voice rang in Qing Heng's ears. The latter was startled at first, then he abruptly snapped out of his daze.

In the distance, a range of mountains appeared on the land, peaks upon peaks, shrouded in mist and clouds, with countless divine rays of light hanging from the sky, magnificent and boundless.

Wind Cliff Mountain!

"That's right, that's Wind Cliff Mountain, the stronghold of the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect."

Qing Heng's expression turned solemn, and a long-lost tension and unease began to spread through him. He already knew that the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect was now home to thirty-six Immortals, each a terrifying expert worthy of his awe! Now, Lin Xun had fought his way here, about to engage in battle with these terrifying giants. How could Qing Heng not be nervous?

"Fellow Daoist, have you gathered enough power?" Qing Heng couldn't help but ask.

Lin Xun shook his head. "Still far from enough. However, if we capture these Immortals here, it should be barely enough."

"Still far from enough..." Qing Heng was stunned, both worried and speechless. If that was the case, then how could they possibly fight those Immortals?

"You stay here and don't move. I'll be right back." Lin Xun glanced at Qing Heng and then dashed off into the distance. Qing Heng was about to give chase when he found himself bound in place by an invisible force, unable to take another step forward.

"Fellow Daoist, you must be careful!" Qing Heng anxiously reminded him.

"The ones who should be careful are the enemy." Lin Xun replied without turning his head.

Qing Heng's lips twitched. He was truly puzzled. How could Lin Xun be so confident at a time like this? Shouldn't he be more cautious with formidable foes at hand?

Seeing Lin Xun's solitary figure stepping through the void, gradually approaching the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect, Qing Heng felt for the first time that his previous understanding of the cultivation world had been greatly shaken.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

A desolate horn sound echoed from Wind Cliff Mountain, instantly filling the world with a chilling and oppressive atmosphere. Clearly, the powerful experts entrenched within the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect had sensed Lin Xun's arrival and reacted immediately.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

One terrifying aura after another surged from Wind Cliff Mountain, resembling divine rainbows streaking across the sky, shaking the heavens and earth. They were none other than Lie Yong and the other thirty-five Immortal experts.

With their appearance, the world lost its color, mountains and rivers darkened, and an invisible, terrifying pressure spread like a tide. This caused Qing Heng, who was far away, to gasp for breath, his face blanching with horror. Such a lineup made even a supreme Emperor Ancestor like him feel his composure crumble.

“Lin Xun, you actually dare to come?” A surprised voice rang out. The speaker was a white-haired youth in purple robes, carrying a massive golden sword on his back. His Immortal Halo shone brightly like the sun, radiating boundless light.

“If I hadn’t come, wouldn’t all of you have waited in vain for so many days?” Lin Xun smiled, calm and collected. He stood alone, seemingly floating in mid-air, possessing pretty much no extraordinary power. However, his composed and confident demeanor caused even the Immortals present to take notice.

“We are acting under orders. As long as you choose to surrender, we will not make things difficult for you,” Lie Yong said in a deep voice.

Lin Xun was too calm. Even though he only exuded the aura of a supreme Emperor Ancestor, he still gave Lie Yong an unfathomable feeling.

"I know you are acting under orders, and I don't wish to make things difficult for you. How about this: if you hand over your treasures, I will leave immediately. What do you say?" Lin Xun said with a smile.

The Immortal experts present were all stunned. This was the first time they had been threatened like this, and their expressions turned somewhat ugly.

This guy...does he really think we, actual Immortal experts, are just for show?

The purple-robed, white-haired youth declared coldly, "We can hand over our treasures, but you must defeat us first!"

"Why not?" Lin Xun chuckled, then took a step forward.

Boom!

At that moment, his aura erupted like a long-dormant volcano. With each step he took, his cultivation surged, the heavens and earth trembled, and his invisible, terrifying power grew stronger.

When he had taken nine steps, the surrounding void, centered on him, suddenly collapsed, producing a sharp whistling sound. In the distance, the thirty-six Immortals felt an overwhelming pressure, causing their expressions to change drastically.

In the blink of an eye, Lin Xun, who had only reached the Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage, had actually acquired a power no less than that of an Immortal at the Nirvana Spirit Stage! This shattered their composure, leaving them in disbelief.

Chapter 3204 Entering the Immortal Pavilion

A profound unease surged through the hearts of Lie Yong and the other Immortals.

“Attack!” Without hesitation, they moved forth together.

Boom!

Various dazzling immortal dao lights erupted, weaving into a torrent of power that surged across the heavens and earth. Various Immortal weapons appeared in the sky—dao seals, whisks, swords, ancient cauldrons, scepters...their lights shone brightly, releasing unparalleled power.

This torrent of power all rushed towards Lin Xun alone. The heavens and earth seemed to mourn as all things dimmed. This sent chills down Qing Heng's spine.

In contrast, Lin Xun shook his head, seemingly disappointed. The reason was because he had experienced such a situation far too many times. Back when he was in the Heavenly Longevity Stage, he could annihilate these people with a flick of his wrist, let alone now.

“Rise!”

His sleeves fluttered, and instantly, bursts of sword cries resounded, and endless sword intent surged throughout the world.

A sword qi flashed, sweeping across the sky. The combined attack of thirty-six Immortals was easily torn open like a canvas, leaving a massive gash. Everything disintegrated as if a tidal wave had swept through them.

Boom!

Following this, a terrifying explosion resounded, the heavens and the earth swirled, the sun and moon reversed, and endless, boundless sword intent descended like a galaxy, blanketing the world. The sword intent was so intense that the world was shrouded in white!

A terrified cry rang out, "No—!"

Someone screamed in surrender, "Please, Fellow Daoist, show mercy! We concede!"

Before long, the dust settled, and the boundless sword intent that had blanketed the world had vanished. The world returned to its former tranquility, and visibility returned to normal.

Then, Qing Heng saw that the thirty-six Immortals were all ashen-faced, utterly bewildered, their expressions filled with terror and confusion. At each of their throats was a crystal-clear sword qi!

Qing Heng was completely dumbfounded. One strike had stopped thirty-six Immortals?! This completely overturned his understanding of the world, plunging him into an unprecedented shock.

Lin Xun’s robes were fluttering as he stood alone, as calm and composed as ever. Now, in everyone's eyes, he was like an unparalleled god, making them all feel inexplicably small and powerless. No one could imagine how someone who had previously only reached the Supreme Emperor Ancestor Stage could suddenly possess such terrifying power.

All of this seemed like a nightmare, so unreal. The atmosphere was oppressive, and the air felt as if it had been frozen solid.

"Now, are you all satisfied?" Lin Xun asked calmly, his voice echoing throughout the heavens and the earth, causing Immortals like Lie Yong to tremble, jolting them back to reality from their shock.

"We... admit defeat." Lie Yong uttered bitterly. The others also slumped down. Suppressed with a single strike, they deeply understood the true meaning of disparity, the vast difference in power.

Before, they had thought that even though Lin Xun was a Deriver of the Dao, he wasn't invincible. Now, they realized just how terrifying he truly was!

"Hand over your treasures, and I won't make things difficult for you," Lin Xun said.

With the sword qi still pressed against their throats, Lie Yong and the others dared not hesitate, and each handed over all their treasures. Lin Xun reached out and grabbed all the spoils, then asked, "Why is Elder Yuan Zhong of the Immortal Pavilion nowhere to be seen?"

"Lord Yuan Zhong left several days ago," someone said bitterly.

Lin Xun paused, then understood after a moment's thought. His voice was mocking. "That fellow is quite clever, withdrawing beforehand, leaving only the rest of you to test my strength."

Upon hearing this, Lie Yong and the others exchanged glances, their hearts jolting. It seemed they had finally realized that something was amiss. So, Yuan Zhong had already sensed that something was off several days ago?

Their faces then darkened. If so, they were undoubtedly just a group of pawns being used! Seeing that Lin Xun was about to leave, Lie Yong couldn't help but ask, "Fellow Daoist, although you have defeated many opponents these past few days, why haven't you killed a single one?"

The others also turned to look.

"My opponents are not you." After leaving that response, Lin Xun, along with Qing Heng who was still deeply shocked, drifted away.

As they watched them leave, Lie Yong and the others wore complex expressions, their hearts churning. The four great dao lineages they served viewed them as pawns, disposable at any time. Despite that, Lin Xun, their opponent, even with an overwhelming advantage, hadn't harmed a single one of them.

This contrast in treatment filled them with indescribable complex emotions, and it was a bittersweet feeling. That day, news of Lin Xun's overwhelming fight against thirty-six Immortals at Wind Cliff Mountain spread, causing a huge uproar in the Dao Derivation Zone. Powers and cultivators across all regions trembled, creating a sensation.

...

Immortal Pavilion, in a cave dwelling.

Zhu Cheng put down the jade slip containing the news he had just received, his brows already furrowed.

“Yuan Zhong is right, Lin Xun has already developed a complete Immortal path,” he stated in a gloomy tone.

Zhu Cheng, the number one Immortal cultivator in the Immortal Pavilion, was also the leader of the seven Heavenly Mandate Apostles left in this zone by the Gen Division. His cultivation was unfathomable.

Not far from Zhu Cheng sat the other six Heavenly Mandate Apostles, who were the supreme elders of the Divine Court, the Demonic Gate, and the Yao Sect respectively.

A few days ago, when Yuan Zhong had returned to the Immortal Pavilion with Tian Ruojing and told them about Lin Xun, Zhu Cheng immediately ordered that the Heavenly Mandate Apostles scattered across the other three great dao lineages be summoned.

“Only two years have passed, and this boy has comprehended the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws of this zone, developing a supreme path suitable for Qing Feng, whose body he took. This is simply too terrifying...”

Yuan Zhong’s expression was solemn.

“If not for that, our lord wouldn’t have issued the order for us to find Lin Xun as quickly as possible and kill him while he was still weak.” Zhu Cheng sighed. “But it’s too late for us to bemoan this now.”

“With our cultivation, we far surpass all other Immortals in this zone. Even if Lin Xun comes to kill us, we have nothing to fear.” A lean man in black robes spoke in a deep voice, his eyes cold.

A beautiful young woman in green said softly, “That’s right. If Lin Xun wants to leave this zone, he must leave his entire cultivation path on the Dao Divine Stele in the Immortal Pavilion. We only need to set up our trap here and wait for him to fall into it.”

Zhu Cheng glanced at the others and said in a deep voice, “Over the years, we have cultivated many Immortals in the four great dao lineages. It’s time to put them to use. For our next step, gather them all here to guard the Immortal Pavilion and wait for Lin Xun to walk into our trap!”

Also in the Immortal Pavilion...

Inside a building, Tian Ruojing was restless and lost in thought. Her intuition told her that Lin Xun would never let her off! Even though she had no grudge against Lin Xun himself, his connection with Qing Feng made things difficult.

Qing Feng, oh, Qing Feng, you good-for-nothing. You truly are lucky... Tian Ruojing gritted her teeth, her eyes filled with hatred. Who could have imagined that a terrifying Dao Deriver like Lin Xun would be paired with a useless person like Qing Feng?

Most importantly, Qing Feng was her heart's karmic obstruction that prevented her from achieving immortality! Clearly, if Lin Xun didn't die, it meant Qing Feng wouldn't suffer either, and all of this would leave her with almost no hope of reaching the path to immortality!

"f I had known this would happen, I should have used every means to eliminate you back then...

Tian Ruojing's beautiful face was filled with conflicting emotions. She had no regrets, even though Qing Feng had saved her life years ago, even though she had broken her vow and refused to become Qing Feng's wife. Over the years, she had never felt a single shred of remorse. Even now, she only regretted not killing Qing Feng back then!

...

Half a month later, in a landscape of mountains and rivers, Lin Xun opened his eyes from his meditation session.

The aura emanating from him already displayed the divine charm of the Transcendence Realm of the Immortal Stage!

"I wonder where Xia Zhi is now, and what level her cultivation has reached..."

Lin Xun thought of Xia Zhi. After musing on that for a bit, he shook his head and stood up. Qing Heng, who had been cultivating nearby, also woke up immediately and stood up. When he sensed the aura of the Transcendence Realm emanating from Lin Xun, he trembled again.

Taking a deep breath, Qing Heng said, "Senior, are you planning to go to the Immortal Pavilion?"

Even his way of addressing Lin Xun had changed. In fact, in the eyes of all the supreme Emperor Ancestors here, those who had reached the Immortal Stage were all seniors they could only look up to and respect.

Lin Xun glanced at him and said, "Just call me Fellow Daoist."

Qing Heng was somewhat embarrassed.

"If I'm not mistaken, the Immortal Pavilion is now a den of dragons and tigers, fraught with danger. However, for me, it's not particularly dangerous." Lin Xun pondered, "And after I've dealt with those opponents, I'm afraid it won't be long before I leave this zone..."

Speaking of this, he looked at Qing Heng, "How about this? Fellow Daoist, you come with me. Then, you can make arrangements for the entire Tianwu Sect to cultivate in the Immortal Pavilion. This can be considered my compensation and repayment to Qing Feng and you, Fellow Daoist."

Qing Heng was stunned. While he was still worrying about the dangers Lin Xun would encounter on his journey to the Immortal Pavilion, the other man had thought far ahead in the future, making arrangements to send the entire Tianwu Sect to cultivate there!

This gave him a feeling of unreality. Those seven Heavenly Mandate Apostles were terrifying beings, yet they couldn't even earn a hint of Lin Xun's attention?

"Let's go." Lin Xun had no idea what Qing Heng was thinking. He was simply doing what he had to do.

Three days later, beneath a vast sky, Lin Xun's figure drifted in. Qing Heng had already hidden himself on Maple Cloud Spirit Mountain, which Lin Xun had already stored away.

At this moment, Lin Xun stood with his hands behind his back, looking up at a patch of auspicious white clouds below. A moment later, he suddenly extended a finger and drew a line in the distance.

Buzz!

The patch of auspicious white clouds churned violently, then revealed a portal-like structure. This was the entrance to the Immortal Pavilion!

"My enemies must have already made their preparations..." While thinking this, Lin Xun took a step, his figure rushing into the seemingly empty portal and disappearing in the blink of an eye.

"Lin Xun had actually charged in like that!"

In recent days, as news spread, countless cultivators had already gathered in this land. When they witnessed this happening, they were all stunned, trembling with shock.

Chapter 3205 Sweeping Across a Zone

Within the Immortal Pavilion's secret realm, the sky was vast, the land expansive, and immortal mountains stood tall, presenting a scene of idyllic paradise. However, the moment Lin Xun entered, he was met with an ambush.

Boom!

A force of ten Transcendence Immortals attacked together, activating a supreme divine array, a veritable forbidden art, to trap Lin Xun within. This array was vast, containing the imagery of ten thousand stars, connecting with the power of heaven and earth, manifesting wondrous phenomena such as wind, thunder, earth, and fire. Being trapped within it was like being imprisoned in a monstrous inferno.

Even a Transcendence Immortal would be severely injured, if not killed, by such a sudden attack! However, Lin Xun seemed to have anticipated this. The instant he was surrounded, he took a step forward.

Boom!

Endless divine flames surged forth, transforming into a heaven-devouring storm that swept across the land. The ten thousand stars within the supreme forbidden formation were instantly engulfed by flames, turning to ashes and vanishing. Following this, the myriad elements of heaven and earth, wind, thunder, earth, and fire connected within the formation were all consumed by a deafening roar.

Finally, the entire array collapsed! The endless torrent of flames forced the ten Transcendence Immortals to retreat, their expressions drastically changing.

"How can he be so powerful?" A cry of astonishment rang out.

Amidst the raging flames, Lin Xun appeared like a god reborn from the ashes; his unparalleled divine might chilled the hearts of his attackers.

"You are no match for me. I advise you to get out of my way." Lin Xun said, then strode away into the distance.

"Kill!"

"Stop him!"

Unexpectedly, these ten Transcendence Immortals did not retreat. Instead, they all charged forward again, attempting to intercept him.

Lin Xun frowned slightly, then hesitated no longer.

“Go!” He pointed his finger at the air.

Clang! Clang! Clang! A dense rain of swords surged forth amidst the clear, resonant sword cries, filling the void. The terrifying sword intent swept across, instantly sending globs of blood flying.

The ten Transcendence Immortals were torn to pieces like paper, completely crushed by the overwhelming sword intent, their bodies and souls annihilated! If outside cultivators were to witness this, they would surely be terrified.

“Zhu Cheng, you are a Heavenly Mandate Apostle of the Gen Division, yet you send cultivators from this zone to their deaths. Don’t you feel ashamed? You have utterly disgraced your leader, Alpha Origin!” Lin Xun declared loudly. His voice, like a tidal wave and thunder, resounded throughout this secret realm, spreading outwards.

In an instant, mountains and rivers trembled, and the surrounding void trembled. Lin Xun's voice echoed throughout the Immortal Pavilion's secret realm.

"This boy is truly arrogant!"

Within the Immortal Pavilion's secret realm depths stood a divine mountain, its surface entirely white and crystalline. Atop this mountain stood seven Heavenly Mandate Apostles, including Zhu Cheng and Yuan Zhong.

Before them, a light screen floated, displaying Lin Xun, who had just stormed into the Immortal Pavilion's secret realm. They had witnessed everything that had transpired, their faces grim and solemn.

"He certainly has the right to be arrogant. Didn't you see that his cultivation has already reached the Transcendence Realm?" Zhu Cheng's expression was grave. He took a deep breath, a resolute look appearing between his brows. "According to the previous plan, let the others make their move!"

...

Throughout the heavens and earth, Lin Xun strode forward, his divine sense spreading out, almost without concealment, advancing openly and honestly.

Boom! Soon, a group of Transcendence Immortals rushed in, each manipulating secret treasures to draw upon the law power within the Immortal Pavilion secret realm to attack him.

At this moment, Lin Xun was inevitably surprised. The law power of heaven and earth within the Immortal Pavilion Secret Realm was actually filled with a faint aura of primal chaos origin, and various supreme paths of enlightenment were also revealed within it, resulting in unimaginably terrifying power.

Part of the law power within this Immortal Pavilion secret realm must originate from the Dao Divine Stele!

Lin Xun vaguely understood something.

Legend had it that the Dao Divine Stele was the manifestation of the primal chaos of this Dao Derivation Zone. Those who sought to leave this zone must imprint their derived dao of enlightenment upon the Dao Divine Stele. When the stele recognized and resonated with it, that person could attract a Chaos Dao Fruit and break through the heavenly gate.

Now, the power of this Dao Divine Stele was clearly merging with the law power of this world, and was being borrowed by those Immortals!

In the blink of an eye, as those his enemies attacked, Lin Xun immediately unleashed his full power.

Boom!

He threw a punch, a vast and powerful fist force seemingly shattering eternity, carrying an unstoppable momentum, sweeping out in a mighty torrent. The surrounding void exploded, shattering and collapsing. The law power borrowed by the enemy was also greatly impacted by this punch, brutally crushed and utterly dissipating.

That fist force even sent the group of Immortals who had attacked flying backward in disarray! Instantly, cries of alarm rose from all sides; the enemy Immortals all paled, their hearts pounding with fear.

“This power ultimately does not belong to you, and its might is beyond your ability to unleash.”

Lin Xun shook his head slightly. As he spoke, his figure flashed, and in an instant, one Immortal after another was blasted to death, blood splattering high into the air. In just a few breaths, all the enemies had been slaughtered!

"Damn it! Even the power of the Dao Divine Stele couldn't harm him, how is this possible?"

Atop the snow-white divine mountain deep within the Immortal Pavilion secret realm, Yuan Zhong was enraged upon witnessing this, his face filled with disbelief. Looking at the other Heavenly Mandate Apostles, their faces were also ashen, their eyes filled with sternness.

"There's only one possibility." Zhu Cheng's voice seemed to be squeezed out from between his teeth, "Lin Xun not only deduced an immortal path, but he has also developed the secrets to reach eternity within this path! Only in this way can he resist the attack of the Dao Divine Stele's power!"

These words struck like a bolt from out of nowhere, leaving everyone stunned.

"If that's the case, doesn't it mean that we've all fallen short of him on this path of dao derivation?" asked a low and somber voice. The owner’s face was grim.

In the Dao Derivation Zone, being able to deduce a path leading directly to eternity was equivalent to having the opportunity to leave this place!

These seven apostles had cultivated diligently in this zone for countless years, yet they were still stuck at this final step, unable to deduce a path to eternity. However, Lin Xun had only been in this zone for two years, yet he had already achieved this. How could they not be devastated by such a comparison?

"The lord was right. Failing to eliminate him when he was weak means that our hope of dealing with him again has become slim..." Zhu Cheng's voice also carried a bitter undertone.

They had thought that Lin Xun had only deduced a complete path to immortality, so they were confident they could still kill him. Only now did they realize that their opponent had already touched upon the mysteries of eternity on the path of dao, far surpassing them!

“We must leave as soon as possible!” Yuan Zhong said through gritted teeth.

“There’s no chance.”

Zhu Cheng’s gaze turned to the distance. A tall, imposing figure strode through the void, his bearing ethereal and otherworldly. It was Lin Xun! Upon seeing this, Yuan Zhong and the others felt a chill in their hearts.

“I’ve kept you all waiting.” Lin Xun stood in the distance, speaking calmly.

“We truly didn’t expect that, in just two years, Fellow Daoist Lin would have already forged a supreme path leading directly to eternity. Now it seems our plans today have become somewhat laughable.” Zhu Cheng sighed.

“Lin Xun, could we compromise? We won’t hinder your departure from this zone, and you won’t push us to the brink.” Yuan Zhong suddenly offered.

Everyone else looked at Lin Xun. As far as they knew, he hadn't harmed a single opponent during his journey to the Crimson Serpent Immortal Sect a few days prior. This subconsciously led them to believe that if they willingly surrendered, he might not make things difficult for them.

A mocking smile appeared on Lin Xun's lips. He said, "The reason those cultivators in this zone had targeted me was simply because they were acting on your orders. Now, you want me to release you, the culprits? Don't you find that laughable?"

His words sank the hearts of everyone opposite him.

A chilling voice rang out, "Lin Xun, even if you manage to fight your way out of this zone, you'll still face the killing intent of the Xuanhuang Zone and the challenges on the Dao Slaying Path. Even if you eventually have the chance to enter the Realm of All Mysteries, the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords of the Nine Departments of Alpha Origin, the Ape Ancestor, and Her Ladyship will never let you go!"

"What happens afterward has nothing to do with you. Don't worry about it." Lin Xun laughed.

Boom! At that very moment, Zhu Cheng, Yuan Zhong, and the other five Heavenly Mandate Apostles all moved, immediately attacking Lin Xun. Each displayed terrifying combat power far exceeding that of other beings of the same realm in this world.

This was the formidable strength of a Deriver of the Dao. This was also the reason why Zhu Cheng and the others were able to dominate this zone. Unfortunately, Lin Xun was also a Dao Deriver, and a more powerful one at that, having already cultivated the power of the Eternal dao!

"It seems you are all eager to embark on your journey. Then I, Lin Xun, will send you on your way." His carefree voice was still echoing as he leapt forward, his palm and fingers like swords, slashing out decisively.

Poof!

Yuan Zhong was cleanly cut in two. Before his blood could even spill, he was obliterated by the terrifying sword intent, his body and soul annihilated.

Immediately following, as Lin Xun unleashed his sword intent, one after another, the Heavenly Mandate Apostles fell with the ease of slicing through melons. The terrifying slaughter left them with no chance to escape.

In the end, only Zhu Cheng remained. Lin Xun grabbed him by the neck and lifted him up.

Zhu Cheng was stunned. He couldn't believe that the seven of them were so fragile, utterly vulnerable! Unfortunately, by the time he realized this, it was too late...

Seeing the bewilderment and fear on Zhu Cheng's face, Lin Xun smiled slightly and said, "Don't be nervous. After I search your soul, I'll send you on your way."

Boom!

A massive surge of divine consciousness swept into Zhu Cheng's mind-sea. His vision went black, and he let out a painful groan. A moment later, Lin Xun withdrew his divine sense, and in his hand, the captured Zhu Cheng instantly turned into ashes, which poured out from between his fingers and vanished completely.

Chapter 3206 Eradicating the Heart Demon

From the moment Lin Xun entered the Immortal Pavilion to the moment he annihilated Zhu Cheng and the other six Heavenly Mandate Apostles, less than a quarter of an hour had passed! His speed was incredible; he swept through the secret realm with overwhelming force, encountering no worthy adversaries.

At this moment, his gaze swept across his surroundings, and he suddenly called out, "Where is Shui Cangliu, the leader of the Immortal Pavilion?"

His voice boomed throughout the secret realm.

"Senior, please forgive us! Our Immortal Pavilion has absolutely no intention of being your enemy!" A trembling voice rang out, and even faster than the voice was its owner, an old man with white hair and beard. He stood in mid-air, bowing deeply, his face filled with trepidation. This man was Shui Cangliu, the Immortal Pavilion's leader, and an Immortal at the Nirvana Spirit Realm.

"Your Immortal Pavilion possesses the Dao Divine Stele, making you all the most likely target for Derivers of the Dao. I won't dwell on that." Lin Xun glanced at the man and said, "However, I have a task for you."

Shui Cangliu quickly replied, "Please instruct me, Senior."

Lin Xun immediately explained what he wanted to arrange for the Tianwu Sect. Shui Cangliu breathed a sigh of relief. He had thought it would be some unreasonable request, but it turned out to be merely allowing some cultivators in.

"Senior, leave it to me." Shui Cangliu agreed without hesitation.

"After I leave this zone, Qing Feng will also remain in the Immortal Pavilion. With him in charge, the Immortal Pavilion's prestige should be as glorious as before," Lin Xun said casually.

Shui Cangliu felt a chill run down his spine. He knew that Lin Xun was actually warning him not to harbor any other thoughts; otherwise, Qing Feng's very existence would be enough to threaten the Immortal Pavilion!

"Hmm?"

Lin Xun was about to say something when he suddenly raised an eyebrow, and in the next instant, his figure vanished into thin air.

...

Whoosh!

A beautiful woman darted towards the entrance of the Immortal Pavilion. She wore a snow-white dress, had fair skin, and an exquisitely beautiful face; it was none other than Tian Ruojing. However, at this moment, her expression was full of terror. Her pretty face was deathly pale, showing extreme panic.

Seeing the entrance of the Immortal Pavilion appear in the distance, Tian Ruojing secretly breathed a sigh of relief. That guy is only focused on killing his enemies; he probably has already forgotten about me, a nobody, right? That’s all for the better!

Just as Tian Ruojing thought this, her expression suddenly changed drastically, and her figure froze in mid-air. Right at the entrance of the Immortal Pavilion, a person stood in mid-air; it was Qing Feng, or rather, Lin Xun.

Tian Ruojing's heart sank. After a long, stunned silence, she suddenly said bitterly, "You are a Dao Deriver, a supreme being, yet you keep making things difficult for someone as insignificant as me. Should I feel honored, or should I feel sorrow?"

Lin Xun looked at the woman Qing Feng had been obsessed with for over nine hundred years and remarked, "The one who tied the knot must untie it. I will resolve the karma on Qing Feng's shoulders."

Tian Ruojing said emotionally, "What does his matter have to do with you, Senior? Or does Senior also think I need to apologize and repent for what happened back then? That’s impossible!"

She seemed to have gone mad as her beautiful face contorted. "I never regretted what I did back then! Why should I marry him just because he saved my life? Why should I be the one responsible for his injured dao foundation?"

Lin Xun's gaze turned cold. "You promised that you'd marry him, but you went back on your vow. Of course, you can break your own promise, and you can disregard Qing Feng's injuries, but you shouldn't forget the person who had once saved your life! Can you really ignore that kind of debt?"

Tian Ruojing's beautiful face shifted, and she gritted her teeth, saying, "I didn't ask him to save me back then; he offered to save me himself. What does that have to do with me?"

Lin Xun raised an eyebrow. Even he hadn't expected Tian Ruojing to utter something that shameless! Even so, this very woman had caused Qing Feng to be infatuated with her for over nine hundred years. He truly believed that Qing Feng had gotten the short end of the stick in this scenario.

"Senior." Tian Ruojing took a deep breath and said, "If you want to see me kneel and beg for mercy, then you're sorely mistaken. I'd rather die than bow down to a piece of trash like Qing Feng!"

Lin Xun said, "You're wrong about one thing. After I leave, Qing Feng will possess the cultivation of a perfect Transcendence Realm cultivator and a complete and supreme path at that. Limited by the power of the laws of this world, he can never leave this Dao Derivation Zone in this lifetime, but he can always stand at the pinnacle of the world. And you...are ultimately just a supreme Emperor Ancestor."

His words were like a merciless blade piercing Tian Ruojing's heart, making her breath catch in her throat, her body tremble, and her face shift repeatedly. A piece of trash she had hated and rejected for nine hundred years would soon become a supreme being she could only look up to. Such a blow made her feel like she was about to collapse.

“Even so, I won’t bow my head! I’ll only hate him more!” Tian Ruojing hissed, her eyes bloodshot.

Just then, Lin Xun suddenly smiled. He felt that the deepest obsession in Qing Feng's heart had completely vanished in that instant. In other words, Qing Feng had shattered his nine hundred years of infatuation, and, in doing so, he himself had found liberation!

"I forgot to tell you something. In your heart, Qing Feng is a karmic obstacle, and in Qing Feng's heart, you are his heart demon." Lin Xun said softly, "And now, his heart demon has been removed."

Tian Ruojing was stunned, then collapsed to the ground as if struck by lightning, her eyes glazed over. "So you spent this long chatting with me to help him get rid of his heart demon? But I still don't understand why you would do this for him?"

She was furious and utterly bewildered.

Lin Xun said, "Helping him is helping myself. If his obsession doesn't dissipate, then I can't truly leave this zone. This is karma, do you understand?"

Tian Ruojing slumped, bitterly saying, "Forgive me, but are you telling me that I had been the karma in this zone that could threaten you?"

Lin Xun said with a hint of surprise, "You are indeed clever. Your guess is correct. If you had realized this earlier, then you might have caused me considerable trouble. But unfortunately, from the very beginning, your sights were too narrow."

With that, he turned and left. He didn't help Qing Feng kill Tian Ruojing. If his prediction was correct, then Tian Ruojing was destined to live a life of endless regret until her mind could no longer withstand the pressure of that karmic burden and collapsed under it. This punishment was far more cruel than just killing her outright.

"Just because he saved my life...how could it have turned out like this..."

Tian Ruojing slumped to the ground, her eyes empty, her expression blank. That very day, she was ruthlessly expelled by the cultivators of the Immortal Pavilion, left to wander the outside world.

...

With the personal intervention of the Immortal Pavilion's leader, Shui Zangliu, Qing Heng and all the cultivators of the Tianwu Sect were arranged to cultivate within the Immortal Pavilion. From that day forward, they all became members of the Immortal Pavilion, and the Tianwu Sect as they knew it ceased to exist in this world.

For Qing Heng, Fu Yunzi, and the others, it all felt like a dream. Moments before, they were merely an insignificant second-rate force in the eastern frontier. Now, in the blink of an eye, they had all entered the Immortal Pavilion, which was one of the four great dao lineages in the world!

The people of one sect had all risen to the top in one step!

"Martial Granduncle is actually a Dao Deriver..."

For Chun Ning and Dai Yan, all of this seemed even more bizarre. Especially when they thought about how they had treated Lin Xun not long ago. They had shown him little respect, so they couldn't help but feel ashamed.

"You two, come here. These are cultivation manuals gifted to you by Senior Lin Xun. Remember, don't reveal them to anyone else!" Sect Leader Fu Yunzi arrived and handed two jade slips to Chun Ning and Dai Yan.

"For us?" Both were taken aback, then laughed foolishly.

Fu Yunzi couldn't help but feel envious. He already knew about Lin Xun's sweeping victory over the seven Heavenly Mandate Apostles, so how could he not know that cultivation manuals left by him were bound to be extraordinary?

"You two silly brats really got a bargain!" Fu Yunzi muttered to himself. Then, he smiled too. For him, the fact that all cultivators of the Tianwu Sect could enter the Immortal Pavilion to cultivate was already an unimaginable stroke of luck.

"From now on, who will dare say that Martial Uncle Qing Feng is a disgrace to the sect?"

Fu Yunzi couldn't help but think that when the Dao Deriver Lin Xun left, Martial Uncle Qing Feng would essentially gain a cultivation level beyond the Transcendence Realm for free!

Meanwhile, Lin Xun was examining a strange and mysterious divine stele. The object stood in the forbidden area of the Immortal Pavilion and was only three feet tall. Its entire body permeated with the aura of primal chaos origin. The surface of it was blank.

However, when Lin Xun looked at it, he could sense that the divine stele was imprinted with countless paths to the heavens. Each path was complete and powerful, leading directly to the realm of eternity.

Of note, even upon closer inspection, he couldn't discern the mysteries of these paths. Lin Xun wasn't surprised by this. After all, this was the Dao Divine Stele, formed from the primal chaos origin of the Dao Deriver Zone. Only by imprinting a complete path upon it could a Deriver of the Dao attract a Chaos Dao Fruit and leave this place.

After a moment's thought, Lin Xun suddenly transmitted his voice. Shui Cangliu was arranging various matters for the cultivators of the Tianwu Sect in the Immortal Pavilion's secret realm when he suddenly heard Lin Xun's voice transmission.

"If a woman comes looking for me in the future, regardless of her name, status, or appearance, please inform me immediately."

Shui Cangliu trembled and solemnly accepted the order, "Yes!"

From that day on, Lin Xun sat cross-legged before the Dao Divine Stele, meditating quietly, attempting to comprehend the primal chaos origin of the Dao Deriver Zone.

Meanwhile, news of Lin Xun's incursion into the Immortal Pavilion, his sweeping victory over the four great dao lineages' numerous Transcendence Immortals, and the annihilation of the seven Heavenly Mandate Apostles had already spread throughout the Dao Derivation Zone, causing an unprecedented sensation.

Half a month passed quickly.

One day, beneath the sky, the white auspicious clouds at the entrance of the Immortal Pavilion floated as before. From afar, a man and a woman arrived.

The young boy was thin and frail, reserved and nervous, his eyes darting around warily. He followed closely behind the woman, as if afraid she would abandon him. The woman, however, was only at the Spirit Sea Stage, and her appearance was ordinary.

She looked up at the white auspicious clouds, thought for a moment, and said to the boy beside her, "Wait here."

The boy asked nervously, "Older Sister, where are you going?"

The woman pointed to the white auspicious cloud in the sky. "The Immortal Pavilion."

As soon as she finished speaking, laughter erupted in the surrounding area, followed by many whispers and murmurs. Many cultivators pointed and gossiped about the brother and sister, their expressions full of mockery.

A boy at the True Martial Stage and a woman at only the Spirit Sea Stage dared to dream of entering the Immortal Pavilion?

Chapter 3207 Trouble Comes from the Mouth

The people in the nearby mountains and rivers, young and old, were all cultivators yearning to enter the Immortal Pavilion. Many were exceptionally talented, while others came from noble families.

However, the Immortal Pavilion wasn't open to just anyone. Entering required a stroke of luck; out of thousands, perhaps only one would succeed. Despite that, this didn't deter cultivators from all over the world to come and try their luck.

The man and woman, judging from their clothing and demeanor, were clearly from impoverished backgrounds, and their cultivation was extremely low. Their attempt to enter the Immortal Pavilion naturally attracted much ridicule and mockery.

Some even maliciously laughed loudly, "If characters like them can enter the Immortal Pavilion, I will be their slave!"

The speaker was a young man of noble birth, dressed in a golden robe, handsome and refined. His words elicited a burst of laughter from the surrounding area. This made the young man beside the woman even more nervous. His cheeks flushed red, yet he dared not speak up despite being angry. His embarrassed appearance caused the golden-robed youth to burst into snickers again.

The woman, however, seemed completely oblivious, or rather, indifferent, ignoring everything from beginning to end.

“Wait patiently.” As she spoke, the woman soared into the air, approaching the white auspicious clouds in the sky.

This caused the entire spectating audience to fall silent. Everyone stared wide-eyed, incredulous. Where did this ordinary-looking woman get the courage to go directly to the entrance of the Immortal Pavilion? Wasn't she afraid of being kicked out?

After all, many individuals of noble birth or with extraordinary talent had gone to the entrance of the Immortal Pavilion in the past, attempting to gain the favor of its powerful experts. Without exception, they were all swept away and driven back!

"Ignorance is bliss." Someone chuckled. "She's obviously from a small village and doesn't know any rules. Does she really think she can just knock and walk in just because the entrance to the Immortal Pavilion is there? Doesn't she even know her own cultivation level and status?" The others laughed as well, as if they could already see the woman being thrown out.

Before the white auspicious clouds the woman stood still, reaching out to knock.

Whoosh~

The auspicious clouds churned, revealing a void portal. Just as the woman was about to approach, a loud shout rang out, "Who are you, daring to trespass into the Immortal Pavilion?"

A single voice, yet filled with authority, made the cultivators in this land tremble, falling as silent as cicadas in winter. Their gazes towards the woman were filled with mockery and pity. She was about to suffer soon!

To everyone's surprise, the woman remained calm and fearless, saying, "I've come to find Lin Xun."

Lin Xun! The name seemed to possess a strange magic, causing a jolt to everyone nearby, followed by a gasp. This woman was far too audacious, daring to call out Senior Lin Xun's name right at the entrance of the Immortal Pavilion!

On the ground, the reserved young man felt a surge of tension, his hands and feet sweating profusely. He didn't understand why his older sister insisted on coming and even dared to call out Senior Lin Xun's name so directly. This...this was far too bold...

The atmosphere became deathly silent. However, what people expected didn't happen. The woman stood there, not being driven away, and the majestic voice that had previously emanated from the entrance of the Immortal Pavilion never sounded again. This unusual turn of events left everyone bewildered and uncertain.

Before long—Boom!

The portal to the Immortal Pavilion shimmered with divine light, and a majestic and imposing figure appeared out of thin air. His hair and beard were white, and he radiated an aura of immortality.

"Heavens! It's the Immortal Pavilion's sect leader!" An old man exclaimed. Then, when he realized his lapse of manners, immediately prostrated himself, kowtowed and said, "This humble descendant of the Hengliang Mountain Yu Clan pays respects to Senior!"

Seeing this, how could everyone else not recognize the identity of that imposing figure?

Thump! Thump! Instantly, many people knelt down, respectfully kowtowing, "Greetings, Senior!"

Finally, even the golden-robed youth and the others knelt, their expressions devout, excited, and submissive. No one had expected that the Immortal Pavilion's most supreme sect leader would appear at this moment!

The reserved and nervous youth panicked upon seeing this, instinctively trying to kneel down like the others, but at that moment, the woman's voice rang out, "If you kneel, you will no longer be my younger brother."

Her voice was clear and melodious. The youth froze, at a loss for what to do. The crowd kneeling on the ground were also stunned, almost unable to believe their ears. Then, they realized that the seemingly ordinary woman standing at the entrance of the Immortal Pavilion had remained standing, showing no sign of bowing or paying homage even to the Pavilion's leader!

This...

Everyone was dumbfounded. Wasn't this courting death?!

Just then, Shui Cangliu, whom everyone revered as a deity, subtly suppressed his aura, revealing a kind and gentle smile. He said to the woman, "Please wait a moment, Miss. Senior Lin will be here shortly."

The woman nodded and remained silent. Her calm demeanor made it seem as if she were facing not the Immortal Pavilion's leader, whom all cultivators in the world looked up to, but an ordinary passerby delivering a message.

This left everyone dumbfounded. Their bodies stiffened, and their eyes became filled with bewilderment. What...what is going on?!

That was the head of the Immortal Pavilion, so how could he be so humble and kind towards a woman at the Spirit Sea Stage? What was even more chilling was that both the woman and the head of the Immortal Pavilion seemed completely at ease with each other, without the slightest hint of discomfort.

"Oh, by the way, is that young man your younger brother, young lady?" Shui Cangliu asked softly.

The woman nodded.

"Please come and greet me, young friend."

Instantly, Shui Cangliu's expression became even more benevolent, and he beckoned to the reserved young man standing on the ground. Then, realizing something, he stammered, "I almost forgot, those at the True Martial Stage cannot fly here."

With that, he stepped onto the ground, took the young man's hand, and said with a smile, "Come with me." He then took the young man and soared into the air.

Witnessing this, the atmosphere near the mountains and rivers grew increasingly silent. Everyone's eyes were wide open. Their minds and bodies had been subjected to an unprecedented shock, almost to the point of disarray. They couldn't fathom how such a bizarre situation could happen.

After being brought to the vicinity of the Immortal Pavilion entrance, the boy stood nervously beside the woman, head bowed, avoiding eye contact with Shui Cangliu. His heart pounded wildly, his mind a complete blank. He was just a country boy; how could he have imagined experiencing such an incomprehensible thing today?

Only the woman remained calm.

Whoosh~

Shortly afterward, the entrance to the Immortal Pavilion rippled, and a figure emerged. It was Lin Xun.

Shui Cangliu, who had been waiting, trembled and respectfully greeted him, "Greetings, Senior!"

Lin Xun nodded, then turned his gaze to the woman and smiled. "Xia Zhi, you've finally arrived."

The woman was naturally the form that Xia Zhi was using in this zone. Xia Zhi pointed to the reserved and nervous young man beside her and said, "Lin Xun, this is Mu Xian, my younger brother. He and I depend on each other for survival, so I brought him along."

Lin Xun nodded, smiled, and patted the young man named Mu Xian on the shoulder, saying, "Little guy, don't be nervous. Come with me and your older sister."

He led Xia Zhi and Mu Xian towards the entrance of the Immortal Pavilion, but Xia Zhi pointed to the golden-robed youth kneeling on the ground and said, "That guy just said that if Mu Xian and I could enter the Immortal Pavilion, he would serve us like slaves. But in my opinion, that's just wishful thinking. I don't need someone like that to serve me."

Her comment nearly paralyzed the golden-robed youth, leaving him utterly terrified. He never imagined that a pair of siblings who had clearly come from a poor background would have such a powerful backer, not only receiving a personal welcome from the Immortal Pavilion's sect leader but also having Dao Deriver Lin Xun appear to greet them!

Looking around, the others were also utterly terrified, trembling all over. At this point, how could they not understand the terrifying background of the siblings? Furthermore, when they remembered their earlier actions, they too felt a surge of unease and fear.

Lin Xun paused, his gaze sweeping over them, utterly speechless. Then he said, "He is indeed unworthy. Let's go; there's no need to pay him any attention."

Xia Zhi nodded, and together with Mu Xian, followed Lin Xun into the entrance of the Immortal Pavilion.

The Immortal Pavilion's leader, Shui Cangliu, remained behind. His warm and benevolent smile was gone, replaced by a stern and indifferent expression. His gaze swept over the kneeling crowd, and he coldly said, "Someone come here."

Instantly, two Immortal Pavilion disciples rushed out from the entrance, bowing respectfully.

"Report to me everything that had just happened here," Shui Cangliu said. Immediately, the two Immortal Pavilion disciples recounted everything that had happened since Xia Zhi and Mu Xian appeared.

Upon hearing this, Shui Cangliu raised an eyebrow and sneered, "What a bunch of blind fools! They even dare to mock Senior Lin's friends. I must say, people like you are truly unworthy to serve as their slaves!"

These words struck the golden-robed youth and those who had mocked Xia Zhi and Mu Xian like a thunderbolt, leaving them utterly dejected.

"Write down their origins and names, then drive them all away. From this day forward, no clan or force associated with these people shall ever approach the Immortal Pavilion again." After coldly uttering that, Shui Cangliu turned and left.

As the Immortal Pavilion's leader, he couldn't be bothered to deal with those insignificant figures personally; he would simply leave it to the disciples of the Immortal Pavilion. The two disciples of the Immortal Pavilion exchanged a glance, their eyes both fixed on the cultivators on the ground. Their expressions were exceptionally cold.

The cultivators present were no longer simply shocked; they were filled with despair and wanted to collapse. Shui Cangliu's declaration was like a death sentence for them and the forces behind them. Who could have imagined that merely mocking and ridiculing the siblings would lead to such a calamity? This was what they meant by "trouble comes from the mouth."

Meanwhile, within the Immortal Pavilion's secret realm, Lin Xun looked at the ordinary-looking Xia Zhi and couldn't help but ask in confusion, "Two years have passed, why has your cultivation remained stuck at the Spirit Sea Stage?"

Chapter 3208 Perfection

Xia Zhi looked up and said, "When you came to the Dao Derivation Zone, you said you would keep a low profile and try not to attract attention."

Lin Xun was taken aback, then chuckled, "So, you've been stuck in the Spirit Sea Stage all this time?"

"That's right." Xia Zhi nodded, then glanced at Mu Xian beside her. "Before coming here, he didn't know I am a Dao Deriver. However, I have already derived a complete path that leads directly to eternity."

Lin Xun gave her a thumbs up while praising her, "Impressive."

Xia Zhi smiled faintly, quite pleased.

Mu Xian, on the other hand, was extremely nervous, his mind and body in a daze. He was just a poor boy from the countryside, who had never left his village before. Now, he had arrived at the Immortal Pavilion, seeing many supreme figures like immortals and gods. Under such an impact, his mind was in a daze.

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes, then suddenly said gently to Mu Xian, "Little Fellow, don't let your imagination run wild. Whether it's a meteoric rise or just a dream, as long as you remember, you are Mu Xian."

His voice carried the power of the great dao, directly impacting Mu Xian's mind, instantly jolting him awake. His chaotic thoughts dissipated, and he felt a sense of ease and calm.

He looked at Xia Zhi beside him and, as if gathering his courage, said, "Older Sister, although I don't understand why such a strange thing happened, I will try my best to understand it in the future."

Xia Zhi nodded.

Lin Xun, standing to the side, seemed lost in thought. A country boy, unintentionally rising to prominence, encountering such an opportunity—it was a mixed blessing, with both advantages and disadvantages. However, as long as his character remained intact, that was enough.

At this moment, Lin Xun thought of Qing Feng. His talent wasn't exceptional, but Lin Xun had possessed the means to pave a path to enlightenment for him. This was partly due to his own cultivation experience and wisdom, but ultimately, it stemmed from the fact that even with Qing Feng's poor aptitude, he still had a chance to reach the pinnacle of the great dao! Otherwise, even with his extraordinary abilities, Lin Xun couldn't have accomplished this.

"Mindset, life, talent, the great dao..." A flash of insight struck Lin Xun like lightning, bringing a sudden realization.

Every life in this world possessed talent, and every person had the opportunity to embark on their own path to enlightenment! However, the key to attaining enlightenment lay not in the strength or quality of talent, but in mindset. A steadfast mind, like a spiritual platform, was the key to achieving the great dao!

Why was it that among the countless cultivators in the world, so few managed to reach the pinnacle of the great dao? One reason was the constraints of wealth, companions, techniques, and environment. However, the most fundamental core lay in one's state of mind!

Setbacks, hardships, triumphs, arrogance—all the seven emotions and six desires, all the ups and downs of life, were the most likely to breed karmic obstacles in the heart. This was the core reason why the vast majority of cultivators in the world could not reach the pinnacle of the great dao!

"What unparalleled genius, what heaven-defying talent, as long as one's character remains intact, even a tiny ant can one day attain enlightenment and reach the heavens. This, perhaps, is the true meaning of life..." Lin Xun murmured to himself.

Having witnessed the birth of various innate talents in the Spirit Empowerment World and experiencing all these events in the Dao Derivation Zone, Lin Xun gained a deeper understanding of the Dao of Life.

...

Ten days later, Xia Zhi awoke from meditation. Her cultivation had broken through from the Spirit Sea Stage to the perfect Transcendence Immortal Stage. This was normal; she had already derived a complete great dao that led directly to eternity, but had deliberately remained at the Spirit Sea Stage before.

Xia Zhi's experience was different from others. She had already undergone reincarnation and rebirth, and now, in this Dao Derivation Zone, she was simply experiencing it again. Therefore, she was able to use her temperament and wisdom to create a heaven-reaching dao when sensing the great dao of the Dao Derivation Zone.

Even if her dao path deviated from her newly created path after each breakthrough, she could adjust and correct it within this zone. This was completely different from Lin Xun's path of dao derivation.

At least, when he was reborn, he needed to gradually increase his realm, using the power of that realm to comprehend the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws of the Dao Derivation Zone, thereby creating a higher-level dao path.

Undoubtedly, both methods led to the same goal.

Seeing Xia Zhi awaken, Lin Xun asked with a smile, "Are you ready?"

Xia Zhi nodded.

“Then let’s leave this zone today,” Lin Xun said, his gaze already fixed on the Dao Divine Stele to the side. “You go first.”

Xia Zhi stepped forward directly, placing her hand on the Dao Divine Stele.

Boom!

The Dao Divine Stele roared, resonating with the dao path emanating from Xia Zhi, unleashing a surging, obscure chaotic aura. That was the power of a Chaos Dao Fruit!

After the time it took to brew a cup of tea, a heavenly gate appeared in the void. Immediately afterward, a beam of light shot out from Xia Zhi’s transformed form, Mu Yun, and vanished into the celestial gate.

Mu Yun’s body went limp, and she collapsed to the ground, utterly unconscious. Lin Xun knew that Xia Zhi had obtained a Chaos Dao Fruit and left this zone. Without delay, he too stepped forward, placing his hand on the Dao Divine Stele.

Boom!

In an instant, Lin Xun felt as if he had entered a primordial chaos, where countless supreme paths, like divine rainbows and rain of light, roared and flashed, radiating distinct divine charm. These were not the great dao, but paths that every life could tread, paths that could lead directly to eternity! This deeply shocked him.

Indeed, it's as I suspected. All life, regardless of its lowliness or strength, has a path to eternal existence. Ultimately, only those with an undying spirit and an unyielding mind have the opportunity to embark on this path...

At the same time, Lin Xun absorbed a surge of primal chaos origin, giving him a sense of fulfillment. It was as if he had reached the pinnacle of eternity, where nothing could surpass him!

"Finally, I have reached the perfect Immeasurable Realm..."

An indescribable satisfaction welled up within Lin Xun, an aura of great freedom and liberation, unconstrained and unburdened.

Thump!

Qing Feng collapsed to the ground, unconscious.

A long period of time passed. Mu Yun awoke first. She was startled. While recalling everything she had experienced over the past two years, her expression constantly shifted. Finally, she exhaled a long breath, rose, and bowed respectfully to the Dao Divine Stele. "Senior, your guidance was like that of a mentor’s. From now on, I will not fail your teachings!"

Mu Yun's mind was clear and calm. Before, she was merely a rural country girl, of humble status and limited experience. Now, she was at the perfect Transcendence Stage on the path of immortality! Her heart and will were far beyond what they once were.

Not long after, Qing Feng also awoke from unconsciousness. Like Mu Yun, he too stared blankly for a long time, understanding everything he had experienced over the past two years.

"Thank you for your life-saving grace, Senior!" Qing Feng rose and, like Mu Yun, bowed respectfully towards the Dao Divine Stele.

...

Realm of All Mysteries

"All seven of my Gen Division's Heavenly Mandate Envoys have perished..." said Qin Fu, the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Gen Division, in a low voice. She was dressed in a long, dark dress. Her exquisite and alluring features were arranged in a gloomy expression.

The other eight Dao Lords, including Pei Tu of the Qian Division, Qing Yangzi of the Kun Division, Ku He of the Xun Division, Tian Shu of the Zhen Division, and Wei Yun of the Kan Division, felt a chill in their hearts.

"Failed again... How could Lin Xun be so difficult to deal with..."

Pei Tu sighed deeply. Over the years, as Lin Xun had traversed each heavenly gate, he had brought them one devastating blow after another.

Now, the mindset of these nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords had undergone a profound change; none of them dared to underestimate Lin Xun anymore. Their attitude towards him was completely different now compared to their initial disdain.

“The core strength of our Nine Departments of Alpha Origin is now all concentrated in the Xuanhuang Zone. In other words, if we want to deal with Lin Xun in the Realm of All Spirits, the ninth sky zone is our last chance to do so,” Qing Yangzi said solemnly.

Each of the Nine Departments of Alpha Origin had an extremely powerful Heavenly Mandate Apostle stationed in the Xuanhuang Zone, each possessing cultivation almost comparable to that of an Immeasurable Dao Lord.

Ku He pondered, “The Xuanhuang Zone is a contest of control over the Xuanhuang Origin. If we seize the opportunity, we might have a chance to kill Lin Xun.”

“A chance?” Tian Shu smiled bitterly, “To be honest, I no longer dare to hope that we can kill Lin Xun.”

The others fell silent. Indeed, after so many setbacks, they were all uncertain, unsure whether anyone in the Xuanhuang Zone could defeat Lin Xun.

"No matter what, Lin Xun has entered the Xuanhuang Zone. Even if we can't ultimately capture him, we absolutely cannot let him pass through there so easily!" Pei Tu gritted his teeth, his eyes filled with madness, like a reckless gambler making a desperate bet.

...

Xuanhuang Zone.

Under a powerful, ancient tree, Lone Man was drinking heavily, his expression somewhat anxious. Across from him, Elder Seer shook his head helplessly, "We've waited so many years, why are you still so impatient?"

Lone Man said irritably, "Throughout the nine sky zones of the Realm of All Spirits, the power of the Nine Departments of Alpha Origin is scattered everywhere. If that brat Lin Xun wants to kill his way through, he'll likely face countless dangers. How can I not be anxious?"

Elder Seer was silent for a moment, then said, "Those old fellows in the Realm of All Mysteries are all waiting, which is enough to prove that Young Friend Lin is still safe."

"Being safe doesn't mean he can successfully reach this Xuanhuang Zone," Lone Man sneered.

"Hehe." Elder Seer chuckled. "Speaking of which, I recall the divination I performed for Young Friend Lin back in the Ziyao Empire. His path ahead was shrouded in thick fog, and his journey there was a scene of utter destruction. Now it seems it has all come true. Look at his path of cultivation so far; it has been almost entirely filled with turmoil, chaos, and bloodshed, triggering countless variables."

Lone Man was taken aback. "You think that kid is a jinx?"

"No, without destruction, there can be no construction; only then can it be called an unprecedented variable." Elder Seer shook his head. "The golden cicada saw it, Old Bodhi saw it, and I believe supreme beings like Chen Xi and Alpha Origin have already seen it. I'm just curious now, what kind of variables will he unleash when he arrives in the Realm of All Mysteries..."

Chapter 3209 Xuanhuang Origin

Lone Man stared blankly for a moment before rolling his eyes. “What’s the point of talking about all this nonsense about the future?!”

Elder Seer replied calmly, “Because I firmly believe that Lin Xun will not only enter this Xuanhuang Zone, but also cross the Dao Slaying Path and step into the Realm of Myriad Wonders.”

Lone Man fell silent. After a long moment, he said quietly, “If Lin Xun truly has the chance to enter the Xuanhuang Zone...then even if I must stake my life on it, I will fight to give him a chance to leave this place.”

Elder Seer glanced at him. “In the end, you’re still wary of those nine opponents from the Nine Departments of Alpha Origin.”

At present, only eleven people remained within the Xuanhuang Zone.

He and Lone Man accounted for two of them. The remaining nine were Heavenly Mandate Apostles. The disparity in numbers was obvious. As for strength, the two of them stood on the same level as the other nine. There might be slight differences between individuals, but overall the gap was negligible.

Over the years, the two sides had clashed many times. Though they could never withstand the enemy’s combined assault, escaping with their lives had never been particularly difficult.

“I’m not afraid, but I know that the moment Lin Xun arrives, those nine old monsters will stop at nothing to deal with him.”

He continued, “In the Xuanhuang Zone, what truly matters is one’s control over the Xuanhuang Origin. Whoever condenses more of the Xuanhuang Origin will hold the advantage. Which means that even if Lin Xun arrives in this world with the strength of an Immeasurable Dao Lord, he still won’t be able to contend with those enemies.”

Elder Seer nodded. “That is why we must find him the moment he enters this world. Only if the two of us protect him with all our strength will he have enough time to comprehend and seize the power of the Xuanhuang Origin.”

Lone Man pursed his lips and sighed helplessly. “The problem now is that no one knows when that kid will actually show up!”

“Hm?”

Suddenly, a figure appeared in the distant heavens. He wore a long azure robe with a white jade belt at his waist. Tall and slender, his eyes shone with a piercing brilliance, as dazzling as the sun and moon.

“Dizang!”

Elder Seer narrowed his eyes. It was the Heavenly Mandate Apostle of the Kun Department, an existence of terrifying power. Then, one after another, figures appeared across the sky.

One stood upon auspicious clouds, their figure illuminating the heavens. One commanded wind and lightning, their body radiating boundless brilliance. One carried swords upon their back, and with every step countless sword phantoms shimmered into existence.

There were six in total, arriving from different directions.

Rumble—

The heavens dimmed, and the void trembled violently. An immeasurable and terrifying aura emanated from the six figures, as if six sovereign rulers had descended upon the world.

Lone Man frowned. “After nearly hundreds of years of silence, these old bastards suddenly decide to show up today. I’ve got a bad feeling about this.”

He and Elder Seer knew these six all too well.

They were Du Tianyuan of the Qian Department, Dizang of the Kun Department, Chongxu of the Xun Department, Bajue of the Zhen Department, Xing Yunzhou of the Gen Department and Feiya of the Dui Department. Each of them stood only a step away from becoming an Immeasurable Dao Lord!

Because they had clashed many times in the past, Lone Man and Elder Seer were not alarmed by their appearance, only faintly puzzled.

“It’s very likely that Lin Xun is about to arrive,” Elder Seer said, his eyes flashing.

Lone Man trembled inwardly. “Their purpose in coming here is obvious: to surround us and prevent us from meeting him!

“You go first. I’ll hold them off,” Elder Seer said with a deep breath. “Remember, no matter what happens, we must find Lin Xun as soon as possible. We cannot allow those enemies to capture him!”

Boom!

As he soared into the heavens, his gaunt form suddenly blazed with extraordinary radiance. Around him, a vast starry sky unfurled, forming a grand dao vision. Billions of stars revolved and guarded him.

“Surround them!”

In the distance, Dizang, clad in a long azure robe, let out a thunderous shout that resounded across the heavens. He and the other five Heavenly Mandate Apostles moved at once, each activating their cultivation and closing in to encircle Lone Man and Elder Seer.

Rumble—

In an instant, wind and thunder roared. The sky seemed to collapse while the earth caved beneath them. Terrifying divine radiance surged forth, flooding the heavens as though to blot out the sun itself.

The battle erupted without warning. Meanwhile, Elder Seer grew increasingly fierce. Alone, he faced the six Heavenly Mandate Apostles, fighting as though he cared nothing for his own life.

However, anyone who looked closely would discover something astonishing. Whether it was Elder Seer or the six apostles, each of their figures seemed to have transformed into a world of their own.

Within those worlds lay a civilization, great dao laws, living beings, myriad phenomena, and countless forms of existence. From afar, each person appeared like an entire civilization, and those civilizations were violently colliding and clashing!

The sight was utterly shocking. This was the struggle for supremacy within the Xuanhuang Zone. Those who entered this realm could comprehend and condense Xuanhuang qi, transforming themselves into an invisible world capable of bearing the power of an entire cultivation civilization!

This power was known as the Xuanhuang Dao. The more abundant the Xuanhuang qi one condensed, the greater one's mastery over the Xuanhuang Dao!

"Go now!" Elder Seer's voice rang out across the battlefield.

Lone Man drew a deep breath. With a thunderous roar, his figure transformed into an invisible world as well. Unleashing the profound essence of the Xuanhuang Dao, he charged toward the distant horizon.

Several Heavenly Mandate Apostles attempted to intercept him, but Lone Man fought as if his life depended on it, tearing through their blockade. He flashed, teleporting through the void as he fled with all his might.

Only after breaking through the encirclement did he cough up a mouthful of blood. That combined strike just now had inflicted serious injuries on him. Otherwise, he would not have escaped so easily.

“Chongxu, Bajue, Feiya, go after Lone Man!”

On the battlefield, Dizang’s command rang out like a thunderclap. At once, Chongxu and the other two tore through the void, pursuing Lone Man at full speed. Meanwhile, Dizang, Du Tianyuan, and Xing Yunzhou turned their full attention back to Elder Seer, launching a relentless assault.

Rumble—

The battle raged ever more fiercely. Though Elder Seer stood in grave danger, his mind had grown utterly calm. He knew that even if it cost him his life, Lone Man would never allow anything to happen to Lin Xun.

The only uncertainty was whether Lin Xun had truly arrived in the Xuanhuang Zone. If this were a scheme devised by the enemies, then the desperate gamble he and Lone Man had taken today would place them in unimaginable peril.

.....

Meanwhile, Lone Man raced across the world. A question gnawed at his mind: If Lin Xun had indeed arrived, where would he be now?

The Xuanhuang Zone was vast beyond measure, seemingly without end. Lone Man had roamed this land for many years, yet even now he had not discovered where its true boundaries lay.

“Only six people appeared this time. Xiao Yunzi, Mo Cheng, and Zhong Rui have yet to show themselves. Could it be that those three have already sensed Lin Xun’s arrival in this world and moved ahead of time?”

Lone Man frowned deeply. After a long while, he murmured to himself, “Lin Xun...Lin Xun...nothing must happen to you...”

Huh?

His pupils contracted. From the distant horizon behind him, Chongxu, Bajue, and Feiya were rapidly closing the distance. Lone Man dared not hesitate. Gritting his teeth, he surged forward at full speed.

Within this boundless world, his figure became a streak of black light, flashing across mountains and rivers with astonishing speed. Behind him, Chongxu, Bajue, and Feiya pursued relentlessly.

However, compared to Lone Man's urgency and growing unease, the three pursuers appeared completely calm.

"These two old fellows reacted rather quickly," Chongxu said with a light chuckle. "It seems they've already guessed that Lin Xun is about to enter the Xuanhuang Zone."

An ancient sword rested across his back. Beneath his feet, layer upon layer of sword diagrams unfolded, giving him a carefree and transcendent bearing.

"Unfortunately," Bajue snorted coldly, "even if Lin Xun enters this world, those two won't be able to help him."

His towering, mountain-like body surged with wind and lightning, boundless rays of light rising from him like a blazing tide.

"Once we've set out sights on them, the most they can hope for is to preserve their lives. How could they possibly help anyone else?" Feiya chuckled.

He looked old and frail, yet his voice was as clear as a young man's. Around him flowed extraordinary phenomena like surging tides, and a vast aura emanated from his body.

"We only received the news today," Chongxu said thoughtfully. "According to the analysis of the nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords, Lin Xun should enter the Xuanhuang Zone sometime in the near future."

He paused briefly before continuing, "But the message also said that even the nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords cannot determine exactly when Lin Xun will leave the Dao Derivation Zone. Do you think it's

possible that Lin Xun may have already arrived in the Xuanhuang Zone ahead of time, and we simply don't know it yet?"

"Arrived ahead of time?" Bajue shook his head. "Impossible. If he had arrived earlier, how could he not have contacted Lone Man and Elder Seer?"

"Not contacting them doesn't necessarily mean he hasn't arrived," Chongxu replied calmly. "With Lin Xun's abilities, he must have already gained a thorough understanding of the Xuanhuang Zone before coming here. He likely knows that if he wishes to contend with us, he must first comprehend and seize control of the power of the Xuanhuang Origin. If he chooses to lie low after entering this world, it would become extremely difficult for us to track him down and capture him."

After a moment, he added, "That's precisely why capturing Lone Man and Elder Seer would be so valuable. If we can seize them, they'll become hostages to threaten Lin Xun. No matter when he appears, we'll be able to force him to show himself. If Lin Xun has already entered the Xuanhuang Zone and discovers that we are hunting down those two old men, how could he possibly remain indifferent?"

Bajue and Feiya both nodded. Ultimately, the Xuanhuang Zone was simply too vast. No one could predict when Lin Xun would appear. If they wanted to strike him immediately, they needed another strategy. That was why, the moment they received word from the nine Heavenly Mandate Dao Lords, they acted without hesitation.

Their goal was not to kill Lone Man and Heavenly Seer. It was to use them as bait to lure Lin Xun out. While the six of them were confronting Lone Man and Heavenly Seer, three other Heavenly Mandate Apostles were already moving separately, patrolling different regions of the Xuanhuang Zone.

Their mission was simple: Find Lin Xun as soon as possible and kill him. Even while speaking, Chongxu, Bajue, and Feiya never slowed their pursuit, chasing Lone Man relentlessly and keeping tight on his trail.

Meanwhile, deep within a silent and desolate mountain range of the Xuanhuang Zone lay an inconspicuous canyon. Ten thousand feet beneath its floor, a cave dwelling had been carved out. Outside the cave, a mysterious restriction array concealed the aura of those within. Inside the cave, a man and a woman sat cross-legged in meditation, quietly cultivating.

Chapter 3210 Aid in Peril

The man and woman within the cave were none other than Lin Xun and Xia Zhi. Half a month earlier, they had entered the Xuanhuang Zone one after another.

Just as their enemies had speculated, Lin Xun had already learned much about the Xuanhuang Zone beforehand. He knew that before he could begin comprehending and controlling the power of the Xuanhuang Origin, no matter how strong he was, he would stand no chance against those enemies.

Thus, upon arriving in this world, he and Xia Zhi immediately chose to lie low and enter secluded cultivation.

Just then...

A profound and mysterious dao vision emerged from Lin Xun. It seemed to transform into an invisible and boundless world. Within it were a vast and radiant civilization and countless great daos of the heavens. All phenomena and living beings evolved within that world, while endless vitality surged and spread throughout.

When primal chaos first parted, Xuanhuang emerged.

'Xuan' was said to be the color of the heavens, while 'Huang' was regarded as the color of the earth. Thus, Xuanhuang came to symbolize heaven and earth themselves.

However, in the eyes of cultivators, Xuanhuang held a far deeper meaning. It was the formless realm born when primal chaos first parted, a primordial state capable of bearing civilization, the great dao, vitality, all phenomena, and all living beings.

In another sense, Xuanhuang could also be called heaven and earth. However, it referred not to a single world, but to all worlds, all universes, and all realms of form and formlessness. From the smallest grain of sand or stone to the vast domains of the heavens filled with countless phenomena, everything could be regarded as Xuanhuang.

By comprehending the Xuanhuang Origin, the great dao a cultivator possessed could evolve toward that primordial state at the beginning of chaos. Through this process, one's own dao would undergo a wondrous transformation.

This was not a breakthrough in cultivation. Rather, it was a kind of ancestral reversion of one's dao, a return toward its primordial source.

In simple terms, within the Xuanhuang Zone, once a cultivator comprehended the Xuanhuang Origin, they could condense Xuanhuang qi within their own dao. In doing so, their very being could transform into heaven and earth itself, becoming a vessel capable of bearing civilization and the great dao!

Once a cultivator reached such a state, it was practically no different from becoming an existence that embodied an entire epoch.

Over the past half month, Lin Xun had already comprehended and mastered the Xuanhuang Origin with remarkable ease. The dao power within his body was undergoing a slow but astonishing transformation!

Within the Xuanhuang Zone, the true contest lay in who could condense more Xuanhuang qi. Whoever possessed the greater amount would gain the advantage in battle. In other words, this was essentially another form of contest between great daos.

The difference was that what was being compared was how well one's dao could control the power of the Xuanhuang Origin. Since ancient times, there has been a saying that almost every cultivator who managed to leave the Xuanhuang Zone would ultimately reach the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Realm.

The reason was simple: the Xuanhuang qi they condensed served as an opportunity for the transformation of their own dao path! To leave the Xuanhuang Zone, the Xuanhuang qi one condensed had to resonate with the primal chaos origin of this world!

Only then could they draw forth the Chaos Dao Fruit and pass through the heavenly gate. From this, one could infer that once a cultivator condensed enough Xuanhuang qi to resonate with heaven and earth, they would gain the opportunity to perfect their dao and reach the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Realm.

Of course, for Lin Xun, things were entirely different.

When he was in the Dao Derivation Zone, he had already reached the pinnacle of the Immeasurable Realm!

Thus, after entering the Xuanhuang Zone, comprehending and controlling the Xuanhuang Origin posed little difficulty for him. He quickly grasped its profound mysteries and effortlessly brought it under his control.

Even when condensing Xuanhuang qi, his progress advanced at a breathtaking pace. In just half a month, he had already refined his great dao to fifty percent.

This Xuanhuang Origin can bear civilization and the great dao, allowing cultivators to transform themselves into heaven and earth, and thus also bear civilization and the great dao. In a sense, this is equivalent to transforming one's body into an epoch...

Even as he sat in meditation, Lin Xun could not help but marvel. The Xuanhuang Origin was truly wondrous beyond words.

On the other side, the power of the Xuanhuang Origin also surged within Xia Zhi. Unlike Lin Xun's, the world she manifested was one of eternal darkness. Within the darkness, civilizations and great daos shone like countless stars, adorning the eternal night with a mysterious and unfathomable depth.

Time flowed swiftly. Several days passed in the blink of an eye. Midway through his cultivation, Lin Xun suddenly opened his eyes. The restriction array outside the cave dwelling was rippling. He sensed these disturbances immediately.

A cultivator just passed through these mountains!

The thought flashed through his mind. Lin Xun rose at once, his spirit sense flowing into the restriction array. Instantly, a scene appeared before him. Amid the vast expanse of mountains, a figure streaked across the sky like a bolt of light. Three more figures followed close behind, relentlessly pursuing the one in front.

Lone Man!

Although the scene vanished almost instantly, Lin Xun had already recognized the fleeing figure. A cold glint flashed in his eyes.

Back in the Mortal Transformation Zone, Xing Jianxia had once told him that his master, Yuan Chu, had sent word instructing Lin Xun to seek out Lone Man upon entering the Xuanhuang Zone so that he could receive Lone Man's protection.

However, because Lin Xun had already learned much about the Xuanhuang Zone beforehand, he had decided to lie low first and cultivate in seclusion. Only by comprehending and mastering the power of the Xuanhuang Origin would he go to find Lone Man.

Unfortunately, who could have imagined that Lone Man was being hunted down?

Lin Xun took a deep breath and made his decision. "Xia Zhi, stay here and focus on your cultivation. I'm going out for a while."

"Alright," Xia Zhi replied as she continued cultivating.

Without the slightest delay, Lin Xun shot out of the underground cave dwelling. His figure flashed, and in the next instant he was already streaking across the sky.

Shua!

He unleashed his full speed. In a blink, he became like a faint phantom racing through the heavens. With every step, it was as if the stars shifted and endless mountains and rivers were cast far behind him.

.....

Hu—

Meanwhile, Lone Man was panting heavily as he fled. His face had grown pale. For four days he had been pursued without rest, fleeing across countless mountains and rivers, but the three Heavenly Mandate Apostles behind him still clung to his trail.

By now, Lone Man had already realized the enemy's intention. They were not trying to kill him. They wanted to capture him alive to use him as a hostage to threaten Lin Xun. The thought filled him with anger, yet at the same time he could not help but breathe a quiet sigh of relief.

Although he had been driven into a rather miserable state by the pursuit, it at least proved one thing: either Lin Xun had not yet arrived in the Xuanhuang Zone or he had already arrived but had not yet been discovered by the enemy.

For Lone Man, that was enough.

I must find a way to shake them off. Lone Man's brows knit tightly together.

His situation was growing increasingly dire. Four days of continuous fight had greatly drained his strength. If this continued, he would not be able to hold on much longer. However, he also knew that while he was suffering, the three enemies who had been pursuing him all this time would not be faring much better.

After all, he had been fleeing for four days, and they had been chasing him for four days...

"Old man, you won't escape." From behind came Chongxu's voice, cold and filled with murderous hatred.

"Cut the nonsense. Catch up to me first," Lone Man said, rolling his eyes.

Over the past four days, he had been mocked, ridiculed and threatened countless times. Now, hearing the same threats again, he only found them ridiculous.

However, at that very moment, far off between heaven and earth, a figure suddenly appeared out of thin air, a silver spear in hand. Tall and imposing, he stood like an unrivalled war god descending upon the mortal world.

The instant he appeared, an invisible surge of Xuanhuang power spread outward, transforming into a vast world. Within it, the qi of civilization and the great dao churned violently, magnificent and boundless.

It was clear this man had been waiting there for some time. He appeared directly in Lone Man's path. Caught completely off guard, Lone Man, who had been fleeing with all his might, halted and was about to dodge when the world formed from the Xuanhuang power descended and enveloped him.

Boom!

Heaven and earth roared as all things trembled. Though Lone Man reacted with astonishing speed and unleashed his own Xuanhuang power to resist, the impact still forced him back several steps. His body shook violently as he coughed up a mouthful of blood.

"Xiao Yunzi!"

His expression changed the moment he recognized the man wielding the silver spear. It was Xiao Yunzi, one of the nine Heavenly Mandate Apostles. Despair immediately sank into Lone Man's heart.

After four days of desperate fight and now struck by this sudden attack, his condition had worsened even further. Worse, Chongxu, Bajue, and Feiya had already seized the opportunity to catch up.

"Old man, I told you that you can't escape!" Chongxu sneered.

Even before the three of them arrived, vast worlds had already manifested around them. Each world was formed from their own Xuanhuang qi, capable of bearing civilization and the great dao. At the same time, Xiao Yunzi had already launched another attack from the front.

He was being attacked from both front and rear. Lone Man drew a deep breath, and his aura erupted with a thunderous roar. A world of his own manifested in the sky, vast and boundless, radiating immeasurable power.

He had made his decision. He would fight his way out. In the past, he had battled these Heavenly Mandate Apostles countless times, and each time he had managed to escape unscathed, but this time was different.

His condition was terrible and he was surrounded by four Heavenly Mandate Apostles whose strength rivaled his own. His situation had become perilous beyond measure.

“Everyone, this concerns our operation against Lin Xun. No matter what, we cannot let that old bastard escape this time!” Chongxu said in a deep voice.

Even as he spoke, the great battle erupted in full. Across the mountain range, it was as if countless epochal worlds were clashing and colliding with one another. Their violent collisions unleashed endless torrents of dazzling and terrifying light that rained down across the land.

Again and again, Lone Man tried to break through the encirclement. Again and again, he was forced back. Each clash left fresh wounds on him until his entire body was drenched in blood.

The great dao world he manifested churned violently in the sky, completely suppressed by Chongxu and the others and already teetering on the verge of collapse.

“Am I really going to meet my end here today?” Lone Man wiped the blood from the corner of his lips as a trace of despair rose in his heart. Then, a wild, ferocious light flashed in his eyes. “If I’m going to die, I’ll drag one of you down with me!”

With a thunderous roar, he cast aside all restraint and prepared to fight with his life on the line. Seeing this, Xiao Yunzi, Chongxu, Bajue, and Feiya couldn’t help but sneer. Trying to risk your life only now? Too late!

After four days of relentless pursuit, Lone Man’s strength had already been greatly depleted. On top of that, the sudden heavy blow from Xiao Yunzi had left him severely wounded. In their eyes, even if he fought with his life on the line, it would be no different from a moth flying into a flame.

However, at that very moment, Xiao Yunzi and the others suddenly stiffened. They sensed a deadly attack rushing toward them. Their expressions changed instantly, and they instinctively moved to evade.

Shua!

Just as they hastily retreated to avoid the attack, a tall and imposing figure suddenly appeared out of thin air, standing directly before Lone Man, who had been preparing to stake his life in battle.