

Prodigies 321

Chapter 321 Mind Cleansing Peak

The night was as still as stagnant water.

The carriage carried Lin Xun and the old man through the bustling and wide streets into the depths of the Forbidden City.

"What are your plans?" the old man asked.

Lin Xun answered simply, "Take on the responsibility of the successor to the Lin Family."

"It won't be an easy path."

"I understand."

"I want to remind you that the Black Glory Sacred Hall, Miss, and I will not help you because these are the affairs of your Lin Family. You should understand what is involved," the old man said after thinking for a bit.

"I understand." Lin Xun seemed to have long known that would be the case.

The old man changed the topic and an imperceptible smile came to his lips. "Of course, many people in the Forbidden City think that you are closely connected with the Black Glory Sacred Hall. Since that's the case, let the misunderstanding continue."

Lin Xun felt warmth fill his heart. The old man was telling him that, although he couldn't help him, he could act using the power of the Black Glory Sacred Hall!

That alone could help Lin Xun solve a lot of trouble!

Whoever wanted to touch Lin Xun would have to first weigh their strengths against the Black Glory Sacred Hall.

Such power often played a key role in critical times.

Moreover, Lin Xun believed that the Black Glory Sacred Hall wouldn't really leave him to fend for himself. Otherwise, the old man wouldn't have helped him so many times in the past two years.

He knew that there had to be a reason for it. It might be because of Xia Zhi, Mister Lu, or my background.

Regardless, Lin Xun knew that he was already connected to the Black Glory Sacred Hall in many ways. They were already inseparable.

"Elder, thank you."

Lin Xun didn't know how many times he had thanked the old man, but he knew he owed him a lot.

The old man smiled, his expression kind and gentle as always.

The carriage came to a halt.

As the old man led Lin Xun off the carriage, Lin Xun couldn't help looking stunned. A huge mountain peak was suspended in front of him!

The mountain spanned hundreds of feet and stood thousands of feet tall. Rows upon rows of ancient buildings covered the mountain peak.

In the dark, the moonlight cast a silvery light over the mountain peak as it towered into the sky, making it look particularly majestic and sacred.

It was one of the seventy-two peaks of the Mountains of Aristocratic Clans!

Lin Xun had already noticed the mountains outside of the Forbidden City, but he only just realized the scale of the mountain peaks.

"This peak is called Mind Cleansing and is occupied by the Lin Clan. However, ever since that incident, the members of the Lin Clan had moved away one after another. Now, only an old servant is guarding this peak," the old man softly explained.

Lin Xun's heart fluttered. He had never thought that the Lin Family could occupy one of the seventy-two mountain peaks!

It indicated that the Lin Family was at least a middle-class aristocratic clan in the past!

Lin Xun couldn't help but ask, "But as far as I know, a clan's position on the Mountain of Aristocratic Clans would be taken away once the clan declines, isn't that right?"

"It's complicated and it involved some past incidents. Once you settle in Mind Cleansing Peak, someone will tell you about it."

As the old man was speaking, he stepped forward and flicked his sleeve. A stream of light gushed out and struck the bottom of the peak.

Only then did Lin Xun notice a rune array set up at the bottom of Mind Cleansing Peak!

The collision between the ray of light and the rune array caused the runes to ripple mysteriously.

Immediately, a voice rang out from the rune array, "This is Mind Cleansing Peak, land of the Lin Clan. Can I ask who has come to visit?"

The old man said softly, "Lin Wenjing's son has returned."

"What!? Distinguished guest, please wait a moment!"

The old man turned his head to explain to Lin Xun, "The Mountain of Aristocratic Clans is a forbidden area and outsiders can't break in if they don't report their arrival."

Lin Xun nodded.

Soon, the rune array rippled at the bottom of Mind Cleansing Peak and cast out a door shrouded in divine light.

At the same time, a row of steps descended like a rainbow and connected with the ground. From afar, it resembled a cloud ladder.

A hunched, old man walked out of the door and made his way down the steps. He cast a suspicious glance at the old man before shifting his gaze to Lin Xun.

With just one glance, the old man dropped to the ground with a thud like he was struck by lightning. He cried out, "Master, more than ten years have passed. I thought you had passed away. Fortunately, you're still alive!"

Lin Xun stood there blankly.

"He's not Lin Wenjing, but Lin Wenjing's son," the old man explained.

The old servant's body stiffened. Then, he raised his head, wiped the tears from his eyes, and studied Lin Xun carefully. "You are indeed not Master. You are younger than the Master, but you look very much like him when he was young..."

The hunched old man sprang up in excitement. "You're...you're Master's son? Master has a descendant! Hahaha..."

The corners of his lips were quivering as he shed a happy tear. He seemed to have lost control of his emotions but his excitement and surprise couldn't be concealed.

Seeing that, Lin Xun's heart inexplicably ached. "Can you take me to the clan to take a look?"

The old servant suddenly took a deep breath, assumed a solemn expression, and bowed respectfully. "Welcome home, Young Master!"

His manners were flawless.

Lin Xun glanced at the old man beside him.

The old man nodded with a smile. "Go, I should return too."

"Elder, thank you for everything. When there's a chance, I will personally visit you in the Black Glory Sacred Hall to thank you." Lin Xun gave a cupped fist salute.

The old man waved his hand and drifted away.

"Young Master, please come with me!" The old servant beckoned.

Lin Xun nodded, took a deep breath, and walked up the stairs.

Mind Cleansing Peak.

This was the peak that the Lin Clan occupied and where his father and mother lived. He had finally returned after fifteen years!

As he stepped through the door, a wide, winding stone path led up to the mountain peak.

Ancient temples, quaint pavilions, and beautiful flowers and trees were littered on both sides of the path.

Occasionally, he passed streams, waterfalls, springs, and bamboo forests. Under the moonlight, the scenery was as beautiful as a painting.

“Young Master, please go ahead!”

The old servant led the way in front. From the moment he laid eyes on Lin Xun, he knew that he wasn't wrong because Lin Xun resembled Lin Wenjing quite closely.

Lin Xun surveyed the surroundings as he moved forward.

The old servant said, “You can just call me Lin Zhong. When the Master was born, the head of the family sent me to take care of him. Decades have passed in the blink of an eye.” Lin Zhong sounded emotional.

How would Lin Xun call him by his name? “Uncle Zhong, don't call me ‘Young Master,’ just call me Lin Xun.”

Lin Zhong frantically shook his head. “Young Master, that's the rules of the family.”

Helpless, Lin Xun changed the subject. “Are you the only one left on Mind Cleansing Peak now?”

Lin Zhong's expression suddenly turned glum as though he had thought of something sad.

Lin Xun clapped Lin Zhong on the shoulder and reassured, “Uncle Zhong, from now on, I will stay on Mind Cleansing Peak with you. There are many things I don't know yet so I hope you can tell me everything one by one.”

Lin Zhong instantly perked up and nodded vigorously.

Just as they were about to reach the mountaintop, a burst of joyous laughter rang in the distance. It sounded particularly noisy and unpleasant in the quiet night.

Lin Xun was puzzled to see that a grand ancient building atop the mountain was brightly lit and very noisy.

Earlier, Lin Zhong had informed Lin Xun that the great hall on the mountain was called Mind Cleansing Hall and it spanned tens of acres. Only the immediate family of the head of the family was allowed to live and cultivate there.

However, Mind Cleansing Hall was brightly lit, and singing and laughing constantly rang out from the hall, which was a stark contrast to the other deserted and desolate places on the mountain peak.

“Young Master, it's a gathering between the young masters and young ladies from other branches of our Lin Family. I have stopped them before, but...” Lin Zhong tried to explain.

“They don't care at all, do they?”

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes. “I heard that the rest of the Lin Family moved away from Mind Cleansing Peak more than ten years ago. Why do those young masters and young ladies still come here?”

Lin Zhong smiled bitterly. “Young Master, you have just come back so might not know about the situation...”

Lin Xun interrupted, “Uncle Zhong, tell me, are those young masters and ladies qualified to enter Mind Cleansing Hall to drink and have fun?”

“Of course not!”

A grin spread across Lin Xun's face and his deep jet-black eyes lit up. "Good." He strode into Mind Cleansing Hall.

He had already used his spirit-sensing power to find out that there were a dozen men and women in the hall. The men were drinking indulgently and the women were dressed provocatively. They created a foul and murky atmosphere in Mind Cleansing Hall.

If Lin Xun didn't know better, he would have wondered whether he had wandered into a brothel.

Lin Xun wouldn't have cared in the past, but now that he had learned about his background, had reached the Forbidden City, and had come to Mind Cleansing Peak, he was ready to take responsibility upon himself.

Of course, he had to take care of the matter in front of him!

"Young Master, what...what are you going to do?"

Lin Zhong's expression dramatically changed and he frantically caught up to Lin Xun. "Young Master, don't!"

Boom!

However, Lin Xun had already come to the hall entrance and kicked down the door.

Didn't the influential person of the imperial family say that I could turn the Forbidden City upside down?

Since that's the case, let's start with this matter!

Chapter 322 Murky Atmosphere

Boom!

The door to the main hall was kicked open, and a gust of cold wind rushed in. Everyone inside froze, and their expressions dramatically changed.

They thought it was an enemy attack.

The most ridiculous sight was when a man accidentally bit the plump breast of a woman in a panic and made her scream sharply.

Lin Xun ran his eyes across the hall and saw nothing but a mess. The stench of alcohol saturated the hall, and all the men and women reeked of alcohol and were all scantily dressed.

A grand hall had been pervaded by a foul and murky atmosphere.

Calmly, Lin Xun walked into the hall in huge strides.

Seeing a teenager break down the door alone, the men and women all reddened with anger and cursed out loud.

"Kid, do you have a death wish?! How dare you break into the Lin Family's Mind Cleansing Peak!?"

"How dare you! Where did this madman come from?"

“Lin Zhong, Lin Zhong, get over here right now. Do you want to be killed? How could you let anyone into Mind Cleansing Peak? Do you know the rules?”

Lin Xun's expression remained unchanged as he watched on, but Lin Zhong was sweating profusely as he tried to explain, “Young masters and young ladies, this is...”

“Shut up, I don't want to hear your explanation!” A woman in a red dress rose to her feet in anger and scolded Lin Xun, “Bastard, this is the Lin Family's residence. How dare you act outrageously here? Get down on your knees and apologize!”

She raised her hand and swung her arm to slap Lin Xun.

What is outrageous?

This is! Regardless of who you are, since you dared to trespass, I'm going to hit you first!

PA!

However, before the woman in the red dress neared Lin Xun, he had already lashed out with a slap. Screaming, the woman flew across the air, her hair disheveled and her face swelled up like a stuffed bun.

“You—!” The woman crouched down and screamed like crazy.

“You have a death wish!”

A man slammed the table and pulled his sword out of its sheath. He brought it down at Lin Xun's head with all his strength.

Lin Xun didn't retreat but instead took a step forward. He thrust his hand forward and clutched the opponent's sword. Then he lashed out with a front kick to the man's stomach.

The man hunched over and flew into the air before landing heavily on the ground like a toad. His face contorted, and his eyes rolled back to his head. He couldn't help but whimper in agony.

Lin Xun's swift and powerful attack stunned everyone in the hall. Everyone awakened from their drunken state.

Only then did they realize that something was wrong. Their gazes changed to fear and shock when they looked at Lin Xun again.

Lin Xun couldn't help but shake his head at their slow responses. An enemy could wipe them out without any effort.

“Why are you all standing there?!” the woman in the red dress screamed. Anger had clearly taken over her and made her lose her mind.

Everyone looked at each other in dismay, but no one dared to move an inch. Although Lin Xun appeared young, he showed his terrifying power without uttering a single word.

Lin Xun grinned and strode towards the woman in red.

“You...what are you doing?” the woman in the red dress shrieked.

Lin Xun was smiling but an indescribable fear flooded her.

"Uncle Zhong, this woman is..." Lin Xun asked softly.

"Young Master, according to the ranks of our clan, she is your cousin Lin Yujiao."

Young Master?

Cousin?

Everyone in the hall looked bewildered. Could this guy also be part of the Lin Family? But why have we never seen him before?

"Oh, so you're my cousin." Lin Xun chuckled, his dark eyes fixed on the woman in red. "Do you know the rules of our clan?"

Lin Yujiao frowned. "Nonsense! As a member of the Lin Family, how would I not know the rules of our clan?"

Lin Xun said ruminatively, "Oh, you know? If that's the case, then this matter is easier to handle."

He stretched out his hand and lifted Lin Yujiao like a chick. Then, he gathered strength to his arm and swung it gently.

Everyone was horrified to see Lin Yujiao's body draw across the air in a beautiful arc before she was hurled out of the hall.

They uncontrollably trembled all over. They had never thought that Lin Xun would attack!

"Bastard, I'm going to kill you. I'm going to kill you!" Lin Yujiao's shrill and tragic scream echoed throughout the hall.

"Regardless of whether you want to kill me or not, you better kneel outside the hall and wait to receive your punishment. If not, I don't mind using your life to set an example for the rest of the people," said Lin Xun, his voice calm as always, but a terrifying and imposing aura had emerged around him.

It was as though he had become another person. His brows were like blades and his dark eyes flashed like lightning. He seemed capable of summoning a storm to engulf the entire world.

Instantly, the atmosphere turned deathly silent and still. Everyone felt they couldn't breathe, especially Lin Yujiao who was outside the main hall. She was about to go berserk with rage, but Lin Xun's terrifying power had frightened her to the spot. Her face blanched, and she felt life-threatening danger.

Then, she knelt down!

If she dared to waver, the youngster wouldn't hesitate to kill her!

How would Lin Xun's aura be normal after tempering it in mountains of corpses and seas of blood in the past few years?

His imposing bearing would shock even elite cultivators, let alone the flamboyant young masters and young ladies in the hall!

Lin Zhong, who was standing on the side of the main hall, fell into a trance-like state. He realized that his young master possessed an extraordinary strength despite the fact that his origin aeth artery had been taken away over ten years ago!

The hall fell utterly silent.

"Those who aren't from the Lin Clan stand up," Lin Xun said indifferently as he swept a glance over the men and women.

Immediately, six coquettish women came forward, all of them pale and shaking. They kept their heads low and dared not to look directly at Lin Xun.

"Who are they?" asked Lin Xun.

Lin Zhong reddened with embarrassment as he mumbled, "Young master, they...they are women from the brothel..."

Lin Xun nodded and waved his hand dismissively. "Uncle Zhong, send them away but give them the payment they deserve."

"Yes." Lin Zhong hurriedly nodded.

At that moment, a pretty and delicate man covered in makeup stepped forward in a panic, mumbling, "I...I'm also not from the Lin Clan."

Lin Xun was stunned. This man is too feminine. Not only does he look like a woman, but his mannerisms are also like that of a woman.

Lin Xun shuddered as a thought struck him. He isn't a legendary gigolo, right?

"Young Master, this is Master Xiuwen's...male companion," Lin Zhong explained in a whisper.

Lin Xun immediately noticed a man in an elegant robe looking uncomfortable. Clearly, he was Young Master Xiuwen.

"Take him away too."

Lin Xun waved and sighed inwardly. They are descendants of the Lin Family, but they are all drinking indulgently and playing around with brothel women and men! They are rotten to the core

Soon, Lin Zhong left with the brothel women and male companion.

Only four men and two women were left, as well as Lin Yujiao, who was kneeling outside the hall.

Lin Xun stood in the center of the hall and didn't say a single word, making the atmosphere even more stifling. The men and women almost felt like they couldn't breathe.

Lin Xun made a decision and said calmly, "You all, kneel outside the hall and wait for your punishment!"

The expressions on the faces of the men and women changed dramatically as though they couldn't believe what they heard.

“Don’t go too far! This is Mind Cleansing Peak, the territory of the Lin Family. You will die a tragic death if the elders of our clan find out what you have done!”

Someone couldn’t help yelling, acting fierce.

“Yeah, what right do you have to deal with us?”

Lin Xun grinned. “What right do I have?”

Then, he charged forward with a flash and struck the men and women one by one. He sent them hurling out of the hall and slamming into the ground.

He showed not the slightest hesitation. Although he acted ruthlessly, it wasn’t enough to kill them. If they weren’t from the Lin Clan, he would have launched into a killing spree the moment he stepped into the hall.

“Kneel down.”

When those two words fell into the ears of the screaming men and women, it was like a demon's declaration.

Who is this guy?

How dare he treat us like this?

Is he really not afraid of death?

This is Mind Cleansing Peak!

It’s our Lin Family's territory!

However, regardless of how furious and terrified they were, their bodies went stiff when they saw Lin Xun striding out of the main hall. They felt like the god of death was walking toward them, so they frantically dropped to their knees.

Lin Xun halted his footsteps and ran his eyes across the clan members of the Lin Clan. Disappointment struck him once again. These guys kneel so easily. They wouldn’t be of any use if enemies really attacked.

“I am called Lin Xun. From today on, I will be in charge of this Mind Cleansing Peak,” Lin Xun calmly stated.

What?

All the men and women widened their eyes with disbelief. What did that guy say? He said he would take over the Mind Cleansing Peak?

Nonsense!

Even if the Lin Family had suffered heavy damages and deteriorated since that incident, no force in the Forbidden City had ever been able to touch the Mind Cleansing Peak.

However, a young man suddenly broke into the hall and demanded to take over the territory of the Lin Family. How was that not absurd for them?

If Lin Xun didn't wear an extremely serious expression as he spoke, they would have thought he was a lunatic spewing nonsense!

Chapter 323 Past Glory

The men and women dared not to say too much even if they thought that he was beneath them because of Lin Xun's power.

Lin Xun didn't need to guess to know what they were thinking, but he couldn't be bothered explaining to them. After all, what he said tonight wasn't meant for them.

They were just a group of hedonistic children, so he had no intention of stating who he was to them.

He only wanted to spread the news that he had taken charge of Mind Cleansing Peak through the mouths of the Lin Family's descendants!

He wanted all the members of the Lin Family to know about it!

He wanted to see how many people would come forward and stand against him.

Lin Zhong soon returned. He couldn't help but frown with worry when he saw the figures kneeling on the ground, but he didn't say anything. He knew that his young master wasn't a rash person. Perhaps, he did that to show his power or for other reasons. It definitely was not out of recklessness.

"It's my first time on Mind Cleansing Peak, so I don't want to make things too difficult for you all. I've decided to let you all go now. However, if you want to come to Mind Cleansing Peak in the future, you must receive my consent first."

Lin Xun waved his hand, turned around, and walked into the hall.

However, the men and women seemed to not believe that Lin Xun would let them go so easily. Only when they saw Lin Xun's figure disappear into the depths of Mind Cleansing Hall did they believe it was true.

"Let's go!"

The men and women got up and hurried away, full of anger and hatred.

They planned to immediately report the incident to the elders of their clan. A bastard in his teens dared to threaten to take charge of Mind Cleansing Peak.

It was only when they reached the bottom of the Mind Cleansing Peak did a man suddenly ask, "Lin Zhong, who is that kid?"

The others reacted fiercely. Correct, they were still unaware of Lin Xun's true identity!

They couldn't be blamed for that though. Lin Xun didn't respond to any of their questions and just beat them up. How would they have time to think about other things?

“Young masters and young ladies, that was Lin Xun, the son of my Master Lin Wenjing and my Lady Luo Qingxun,” Lin Zhong said proudly.

“What?”

“Lin Wenjing’s son? Didn’t he die when he was born?”

“Lin Zhong, are you mistaken?”

“No wonder he looks familiar. I felt like I’ve seen him somewhere before.”

The men and women broke into an uproar. Evidently, the news was a huge shock to them.

They continued to question Lin Zhong and repeatedly asked him whether he was certain that Lin Xun was Lin Wenjing’s son.

Lin Xun’s true identity brought a bad feeling to their hearts.

Although they had intended to report to the elders of the clan for them to retaliate against Lin Xun, they now realized how serious the situation was!

They had to immediately report the matter to the elders of the family!

The men and women left in a hurry.

The hall was in shambles and the air reeked of alcohol.

Lin Xun sat quietly on a chair, his gaze wandering around the room like he was full of worries.

From the moment he had learned about his background, he should have been happy, but the truth was that he wasn’t happy at all.

The matters back then were too complicated!

In that bloody tragedy, his father Lin Wenjing was killed, his mother Luo Qingxun disappeared and not one of his immediate family members survived.

The culprit was a man called Yun Qingbai, and he was from a mysterious sect called the Omega Sword Sect.

Lin Xun had no other information other than that.

However, the bloody tragedy didn’t end there. The reality was much cruller. The tragedy left the Lin Family without a leader and caused it to fall into a situation of internal struggles and external invasions.

In the end, many top forces took advantage of the chance to divide the wealth and power of the Lin Family and caused the clan to deteriorate.

All that previously had nothing to do with Lin Xun. But from the moment he stepped into the Forbidden City, he had to take the responsibility upon himself whether he wanted to or not because he was the son of Lin Wenjing.

However, it was easier said than done. When he was faced with the situation, he found that there were too many difficulties, complications, and things involved. He didn’t know where to start.

He had never experienced a similar matter in the past. A teenager from a mining prison had become a direct descendant of the Lin Clan in the Forbidden City and had taken charge of one of the seventy-two peaks of the Mountains of Aristocratic Clans!

Lin Xun found it hard to adapt to his sudden identity change.

It was like a beggar on the street being suddenly identified as a son of the emperor. No one could quickly adapt to such a huge change.

Of course, Lin Xun's encounter was like a gorgeous counterattack to many people from poor backgrounds. He didn't need to struggle anymore and had suddenly become a direct descendant of an aristocratic clan. Who wouldn't be envious of him?

Even if the Lin Clan had deteriorated, the identity of being the descendant of an aristocratic clan wasn't easy to obtain.

For example, Luo Qingxun was outstanding in every way and achieved first place in the national exam, but all the members of the Lin Family had still opposed her relationship with Lin Wenjing.

Why?

Simply because Luo Qingxun came from a poor family and wasn't considered qualified to be with Lin Wenjing!

Only Lin Xun was aware of the pitiful and unbearable situation of being the successor of the Lin Family and the countless dangers that were buried in the position.

If possible, he would rather not be a member of the Lin Clan!

Glamorous identity?

An unknown number of enemies were fiercely glaring at him in the dark!

His status had soared to the sky?

What a joke!

The members of the Lin Family wouldn't easily allow him to take charge of Mind Cleansing Peak. How had his status soared to the sky?

Lin Xun had to face unimaginable dangers and difficulties alone if he were to take the responsibilities upon his shoulders.

Moreover, he could die horribly with the slightest carelessness!

The empty and deserted hall was a mess, but the fifteen-year-old youngster sat in a chair in a daze, preoccupied with his thoughts.

"When you enter the Forbidden City, you can turn the world upside down!"

The letter marked with a cluster of Violet Glory Flower flashed across his mind. He thought of the sentence in the letter and thought of the mysterious, influential person in the imperial family.

Inexplicably, Lin Xun's jet-black eyes glimmered with light.

"Of course, many people in the Forbidden City think that you are closely connected with the Black Glory Sacred Hall. Since that's the case, let the misunderstanding continue."

Lin Xun then remembered the words of the old man from the Black Glory Sacred Hall. The corners of his lips curled upwards.

"No matter what dangers there are, from today on, I will turn the world upside down for you to see..." Lin Xun muttered, a resolute determination replacing the gloom around him.

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Soon, the old servant Lin Zhong returned and Lin Xun invited him to sit down. "Uncle Zhong, tell me about the situation of the Lin Family."

Lin Zhong seemed to have expected Lin Xun to ask him so he didn't look surprised. He organized his thoughts and told him everything.

Lin Xun learned that, five hundred years ago, the Lin Family was an upper aristocratic clan in the Forbidden City and was comparable with the current seven high clans!

The criteria for judging an aristocratic clan was very simple: whether or not it had a Life Death Stage King in the clan!

At the time, Lin Daochen, an ancestor of the Lin Family, was a renowned Life Death Stage King in the empire.

Unfortunately, a terrifying king in the Darkness Kingdom had defeated Lin Daochen on the battlefield and killed him!

Since then, the Lin Family fell from the ranks of the high clans to the ranks of the mid-aristocratic clans as its foundation was greatly damaged. Most embarrassingly, there had never been another Life Death Stage King in the Lin Clan for hundreds of years.

Even so, the power that the Lin Family possessed exceeded that of ordinary mid-aristocratic clans and was comparable to the seven high clans.

Hundreds of years passed and it remained relatively calm and peaceful. Although the Lin Family had never returned to the ranks of the high clans, its status hadn't declined again.

It wasn't until fifteen years ago that a bloody tragedy happened to the Lin Family and completely changed their power

Almost all the immediate families of the Lin Feiting, the head of the family, were killed. The rich and powerful forces ruthlessly took advantage of the chance to attack the Lin Clan to split its power and wealth. As a result, the Lin Clan hit rock bottom.

Now, the Lin Family could only barely be considered a lower aristocratic clan given its power.

Lin Xun couldn't help but feel upset. Five hundred years ago, the Lin Family was one of the top clans. We had monstrous authority and had a Life Death Stage King in the clan.

Five hundred years later, it has declined to the point where it could barely be considered a lower aristocratic clan. We have hit rock bottom and lost all our glory.

Compared with the other seven high clans, the Lin Family has indeed deteriorated too quickly.

Lin Xun restrained his emotions and asked, "Uncle Zhong, what is the current situation of the Lin Family?"

"All the immediate family members of the head of the clan were killed in the tragedy and now only the clansmen of the other four branches of the Lin Clan remain..." Lin Zhong's voice was low and his face clouded over.

It turned out that there were five main branches in the Lin Family. Lin Xun's grandfather, Lin Feiting, was in the direct descendant branch and that branch had always controlled the power of the clan.

The other four branches consisted of descendants of Lin Feiting's four younger brothers as well as many in-laws and distant relatives.

After the bloody incident, the clansmen of the other four branches moved away from Mind Cleansing Peak and resided in other areas of the Forbidden City. They were nominally members of the Lin Family, but in truth, they had split into four different forces.

Lin Xun frowned as he grasped a key problem. "The clansmen of the other four branches didn't hesitate to work with the enemies to split the wealth of the Lin Clan for their benefit. Why did they willingly move away from Mind Cleansing Peak?"

Mind Cleansing Peak!

It was one of the seventy-two peaks of the Mountains of Aristocratic Clans. It represented supreme glory and status. Who would be willing to give up on such a treasured place and settle down elsewhere?

There had to be a reason for it!

Chapter 324 Nothing Stored in the Sacred Book Pavilion

Lin Zhong's face glowed with pride. "Young Master, apart from you, no one else in the Lin Family is qualified to occupy Mind Cleansing Peak!"

Soon, Lin Xun learned that this was a special rule set by the imperial family.

Hundreds of years ago, Lin Daochen, a Life Death Stage King of the Lin Family fought for the empire and lost his life, but he helped the empire escape a monstrous disaster.

As a result, the imperial family issued an imperial decree to grant ownership of Mind Cleansing Peak to only the direct descendants of Lin Daochen!

Lin Xun's grandfather Lin Feiting was Lin Daochen's eldest son, and his father Lin Wenjing was Lin Daochen's eldest grandson.

In other words, Lin Xun was the great-grandson of Lin Daochen!

All the direct descendants of Lin Daochen were killed in the bloody incident that occurred more than ten years ago. So, according to the imperial decree, Lin Xun was the only person qualified to take charge of Mind Cleansing Peak.

As for the members of other side branches of the Lin Clan, they didn't have such a privilege and had to move out of Mind Cleansing Peak regardless of how unwilling they were.

Logically speaking, Mind Cleansing Peak should have been taken away as all the direct descendants of Lin Daochen were known to have died. Lin Xun was a baby at the time, and no one believed he had survived.

It was strange that the imperial family didn't make that decision and that the Lin Family still owned Mind Cleansing Peak to this day.

"Did they know that I didn't die?" Lin Xun asked in bafflement.

Lin Zhong had also been puzzling over this question during the years he took care of Mind Cleansing Peak. He pondered for a moment and said, "It's possible. All those years, I often worried that someone would take away Mind Cleansing Peak but it never happened. It's very possible that the imperial family believed that you would return one day."

Lin Xun suddenly thought of the influential figure from the imperial family. Could it be that person?

Lin Xun shook his head.

That wasn't the most important matter. The important thing was that Mind Cleansing Peak still belonged to the Lin Clan.

"Uncle Zhong, I want to ask you something." Lin Xun's expression turned solemn.

Lin Zhong sat up straight. "Young master, please go ahead. I will tell you everything I know!"

Lin Xun leaned forward and fixed his dark and deep eyes on Lin Zhong. "If I want to restore the Lin Clan, where do you think I should start?"

Lin Zhong's heart shook, but he looked stirred up. He quickly composed himself and said bitterly, "Young Master, you and I are the only people on Mind Cleansing Peak. It's almost impossible to do so..."

He knew the situation of the Lin Clan much better than Lin Xun. Even if Lin Xun was the only one eligible to inherit Mind Cleansing Peak, he was still too young. Additionally, how could he restore the Lin Clan alone?

Moreover, the other four branches of the Lin Family wouldn't be willing to submit to Lin Xun!

On the contrary, Lin Zhong was certain that all the clansmen wouldn't sit still and do nothing when they learned that Lin Xun had returned, took charge of Mind Cleansing Peak, and became the head of the family!

He knew the clansmen of the other branches too well. After the tragedy happened, they didn't hesitate to collude with outsiders to seize power and cause the Lin Clan to fall into infighting. In the end, the Lin Clan's power and wealth were split among them!

How would those clansmen let Lin Xun rule Mind Cleansing Peak alone?

Moreover, the many powerful and wealthy forces that divided up the Lin Family's wealth back then also wouldn't want to see Lin Xun grow stronger.

He had to deal with internal problems!

He had to face external aggression!

He was young, alone, and weak. It would be harder for him to lead the entire Lin Family than to ascend into the sky!

Instantly, Lin Xun knew that Lin Zhong wasn't attacking him. However, the old servant did believe that he lacked the ability to take charge of the Lin Family.

Lin Xun scrunched his brows and fell silent.

He also knew that he lacked the people, money, and resources to take charge. It's indeed difficult to restore the Lin Family.

However, since he had come back, how could he give up so easily?

He wasn't afraid of difficulties, but he was afraid of giving in!

Regardless of how bad the state of the Lin Family was, how dangerous the situation was, and how unbearable the environment was, he was hopeful that he could turn everything around as long as he took everything step by step!

If I give up, I might as well immediately leave the Forbidden City!

Of course, given Lin Xun's personality, he wouldn't admit defeat.

"Uncle Zhong, whether you believe it or not, tell me what to do first. I might lose if I do it, but if I don't, I will regret it for the rest of my life!"

His face bore a look of stubborn determination.

Lin Zhong's expression changed indefinitely. Only after a long period, he gritted his teeth and said, "Never mind, I have lived for decades and living is the same as death. If I wasn't worried that Mind Cleansing Peak left behind by the head of the clan would be occupied by other people, I would have killed myself already. Young Master, since you want to fight, I will fight with you even at the risk of my life!" His voice was resounding.

Lin Xun smiled and patted Lin Zhong on the shoulder. "Don't worry, Uncle Zhong, although I am alone, I have never run into any problems that I couldn't solve ever since I embarked on the cultivation path!"

"Young Master, pacify the internal conflicts before resolving external trouble. The first thing you need to do now is to fully understand the current situation of our Lin Family."

"We can only gather the power of the clan to fight against outsiders after we have solved the internal problems first!" Lin Zhong proposed.

Lin Xun pondered for a moment and nodded. That is indeed true.

It was true that he had encountered a lot of problems when he arrived at the Forbidden City, but the real problem was to solve the internal conflicts within the clan first!

Once solved, the foundation of the clan would be stabilized. If the foundation was unsteady, he shouldn't even think about avenging his parents and family.

To further understand the current situation of the Lin family, Lin Zhong took Lin Xun out of Mind Cleansing Hall.

.....

They came to the rear of Mind Cleansing Peak.

The Sacred Book Pavilion was an ancient building that was seven stories and was currently bathed in silvery starlight.

It was where the Lin Family kept the classical books and was one of the forbidden areas of the clan. The seven-story building housed the collection of cultivation arts that the Lin Family had passed down for thousands of years.

The Lin Family was one of the top aristocratic clans in the past, so it was easy to imagine how amazing the cultivation arts passed down through the family were.

The Sacred Book Pavilion showed the tremendous strength of a clan.

However, when Lin Xun entered the Sacred Book Pavilion under the leadership of Lin Zhong, he saw a dismal sight. Bookshelves were knocked down, cobwebs hung from every corner, and dust blanketed everything.

It was as though burglars had looted the entire Sacred Book Pavilion. Let alone cultivation arts, he couldn't even find a piece of scrap paper!

"Young Master, there are seven floors in the Sacred Book Pavilion. It was built by the ancestors and sages of our Lin Family. The ancient books here were once as vast as the misty ocean." Lin Zhong's voice was low with complex motions as he glanced around the room of cobwebs and dust.

"There were over three thousand cultivation arts and more than 1,900 secret combat techniques on this first floor alone.

"But after that bloody incident that year, those invaluable books...were all taken away..." Lin Zhong's voice was bitter and tinged with sadness.

Lin Xun surveyed the surroundings for a long moment but didn't say anything. He did silently ball his hands into fists.

Lin Zhong took Lin Xun to the second story of the Sacred Book Pavilion.

"Young Master, the second floor contained 1,600 cultivation books and more than 700 secret combat techniques."

The second story was similarly covered in a thick layer of dust. In some places there were still traces of battle and bloodstains.

Lin Xun stood silently for a long moment, took a deep breath, and retracted his gaze. "Let's go to the third floor."

Lin Zhong took Lin Xun up all the floors, and all were empty and dilapidated without exception.

When they reached the top, Lin Zhong's expression became desolate. His emotions were tumbling in his heart, and he looked like he was about to collapse.

There were only a few bookshelves.

The top story was the core forbidden area in the Sacred Books Pavilion. Back then, only core members of the Lin Family were allowed to set foot on that floor!

"Young Master, the most precious secret art passed down through the family was stored here. There were seven volumes in total. In addition, there were fifty-four volumes of cultivation notes left by our ancestors and sages!" Lin Zhong's face was pale, and he seemed to have lost all his strength.

Standing there, Lin Xun almost exploded with anger.

In a trance, he could almost see groups of enemies with glints of greed in their eyes as they looted the Sacred Book Pavilion.

Those were all sacred books the ancestors of the Lin Family had collected for generations! It is the foundation of the Lin Family! But they have all been looted!

Kacha!

Lin Xun clenched his hands tight and the veins on the back of his hand popped from the force.

However, he was unaware of this. A vortex seemed to be swirling in the depths of his dark eyes, producing terrifying raging flames.

After a long moment, Lin Xun withdrew his gaze and walked down.

He didn't dare to look at the state of the Sacred Books Pavilion any longer as he was worried that he couldn't control the anger bubbling in his heart. A treasury of cultivation built over generations by the ancestors of the Lin Family had been utterly destroyed in that tragedy!

Even an outsider would feel deep sadness upon seeing the state of the treasury, let alone Lin Xun, a direct descendant of the Lin Family.

"Uncle Zhong, do you know who stole the sacred books back then?"

"Yes."

"Good! Write them all down for me. Don't forget any!"

"Young Master, don't worry, I will never forget their names even if I die."

As Lin Xun left the Sacred Book Pavilion, he drew a deep breath and left some instructions for Lin Zhong.

He suddenly remembered something and asked, "Did any clansmen of the other four branches loot the Sacred Book Pavilion back then?"

Lin Zhong's body stiffened and his expression changed.

Lin Xun already knew the answer as his eyes grew cold and a slight smile came to his lips "Good! Very good!"

The smile, devoid of emotions, was colder than his eyes.

Lin Zhong inexplicably felt a chill strike his heart, and he trembled all over.

Chapter 325 West Creek Lin Clan

Lin Zhong led Lin Xun along the winding path at the rear of the mountain, and they came to another forbidden area of the Lin Clan: the treasury.

The five-story treasury originally housed thousands of aeth tools, ranging from the lowest human-grade aeth tools to the top heaven-grade aeth tools.

There used to be a variety of aeth tools such as swords, spears, halberds, axes and hooks, armor, shoulder pads, wrist guards, combat boots and chest plates.

There were even powerful killing weapons such as crossbows, cannons, and battleships.

However, it was now empty...

As Lin Xun stepped out of the treasury, his expression remained unchanged, but terrifying murderous intent emitted from his body.

He almost lost control of it!

It was understandable. The treasures owned by a former top aristocratic clan in the empire should be astonishing, but they had all been looted!

If Lin Xun's state of mind hadn't been tempered to a still, rock-like state, he would have exploded with anger. And if the ancestors of the Lin Family saw the state of the treasury, they would turn over in their graves.

Lin Xun was then brought to the Pill Collection Pavilion, Beast Reservoir, and Medicinal Garden, all of which were core forbidden areas of the Lin Family.

All valuable treasures in those areas had been looted without exception. They were all empty.

When Lin Xun returned to the Mind Cleansing Hall, he sat down in complete silence. He was as motionless as a statue and seemed to possess no emotions.

Outside the window, the stars shined brightly and the moon hung high in the sky; it was extraordinarily quiet and peaceful.

However, the youngster sitting alone in the hall couldn't calm down. Waves of emotions were tumbling endlessly in his heart.

He knew that the present Lin Clan was in a state of deterioration, but he had never expected that the tremendous Mind Cleansing Peak would be looted to such an extent.

All that was left were empty buildings and broken pieces of furniture. There was nothing of value.

This was the current situation that Lin Xun was facing!

Lin Zhong stood at the side of the hall, looking at Lin Xun with worry. He was worried that Lin Xun wouldn't be able to bear the blow and collapse.

It was understandable. The great Mind Cleansing Peak was one of the seventy-two peaks of the Mountains of Aristocratic Clans, but who would have imagined that such a place of supreme glory was nothing but an empty shell?

Thirty minutes passed.

One hour passed.

The time to burn a stick of incense passed

As time passed, Lin Xun was still sitting in silence, making Lin Zhong more and more worried. He even started to regret telling Lin Xun everything.

Young Master is, after all, still a teenager and too young. How can he endure such a cruel blow after knowing that he had to take over such an awful mess?

"Young Master..."

Lin Zhong took a deep breath and wanted to say something to comfort Lin Xun. "The situation isn't good...Let's just give up. As long as you are still alive, that's more important than anything else."

Lin Xun finally showed some response.

He raised his head and looked at Lin Zhong while an unfathomable smile spread across his lips. "Uncle Zhong, if you give up now, it would be crueler than killing me."

After a pause, he rose to his feet and gazed at the vast night sky outside the main hall. "When I entered the Forbidden City, someone told me that I could turn the world upside down. At the time, I wondered why they said such a thing but I finally understood. If I don't stir up a scene, the Lin Family...will have no hope of coming back to life!"

His voice turned icy-cold at the end of the sentence.

Lin Zhong's heart quivered. Looking at the youngster, he suddenly felt an inexplicable comfort, as if he saw the shadow of his master when he was young...

Wasn't Master just as determined and resolute when the clansmen opposed his marriage with Lady?

I go forward anyway despite thousands being against me.

.....

The Mind Cleansing Hall spanned three stories.

The first floor was the hall where clan meetings were held.

The second floor was a study for the head of the clan to deal with clan affairs.

The third floor consisted of a quiet room for the head of the clan to cultivate.

Not long after that, Lin Xun sat in front of the empty desk and twiddled with the translucent-violet, jade seal in his hand.

The seal was engraved with the word 'Mind Cleansing.' Although it was unknown what sort of materials made up the seal, its body exuded a mysterious and cryptic aura.

The Mind Cleansing Seal was the key to controlling Mind Cleansing Peak as it could control the passage to Mind Cleansing Peak.

In other words, Lin Xun could close the passage, and no one could enter the Mind Cleansing Peak unless they broke through!

However, whoever attempted to break through one of the seventy-two mountain peaks of the Mountains of Aristocratic Clans would have to first weigh the consequences.

Lin Zhong had been taking care of the seal, but he had now handed it over to Lin Xun. From then on, Lin Xun had the final say on whoever entered and left Mind Cleansing Peak.

However, in Lin Xun's view, the seal had little use in helping him solve the internal problems. The most important thing is to grow stronger!

Lin Xun put away the jade seal and took out a simple silver hairpin.

Chief Instructor Xu Sanqi gave Lin Xun the hairpin when he left Blood Kill Camp and told him to bring it to a place called the Spirit Vulture Residence if he encountered trouble in the Forbidden City. He reassured him that the owner of Spirit Vulture Residence would help him if he presented the silver hairpin.

Lin Xun originally didn't intend to accept the hairpin, but one sentence from Xu Sanqi made him change his mind—Xiaoke will also be there, don't you want to see your instructor again?

As Lin Xun twiddled with the silver hairpin in his hand, he couldn't help but think of the elegant but cold Xiaoke.

.....

The next morning.

Lin Xun left Mind Cleansing Hall early in the morning as he hadn't slept all night.

The morning sun peeped through the clouds, and the dreamy rays of dawn bathed Mind Cleansing Peak in a sacred golden glow and illuminated the sea of clouds.

From above, the golden morning rays and the violet clouds and mist blended perfectly. The magnificent spectacle lifted Lin Xun's spirit.

That was Mind Cleansing Peak, one of the seventy-two peaks of the Mountains of Aristocratic Clans. It stood thousands of feet above the Forbidden City, the capital of the empire!

Only the most powerful aristocratic clans in the empire could occupy one of the peaks and overlook the towering mountains and rivers!

“Young Master, do you not need me to accompany you?”

“No need, Uncle Zhong. Can you please compile the list of all the treasures that were looted back then and put it in the study for when I return?”

“Of course, Young Master.”

Lin Xun said goodbye to Lin Zhong and headed down Mind Cleansing Peak alone.

There should have been many carriages pulled by snow bristled deer on the path to the bottom of the peak, but even those deer had been taken away after the bloody tragedy.

Lin Xun felt an indescribable hatred every time he thought about the looting.

At the bottom of the mountain, an invisible door emerged as the rune array was activated, and a white jade staircase spread across the sky and connected with the ground like a rainbow.

When Lin Xun stepped through the door he came to a stop.

This was because people were waiting for him on the ground!

It was a group of young people, men and women, and all were dressed in luxurious clothes. From one glance, it was obvious they weren't ordinary youngsters.

They seemed to have been waiting for him for a long time as they all looked irritated and impatient and were cursing out loud.

However, they instantly perked up when they saw Lin Xun appear. They simultaneously swept a glance over Lin Xun, and some people cried out in disdain when they saw that Lin Xun was only in his teens.

“Lin Wenxiu, that kid is the ruthless man you spoke of?”

“Tsk ts, I can't believe he defeated you.”

“Yujiao, don't be angry, Regardless of who he is, your big brother will sever one of his arms for hitting you!”

Lin Xun noticed a few youngsters he saw last night among the group. They were all glaring at him resentfully.

Did they come for revenge?

When this thought came to Lin Xun's mind, he quickly rejected it because he noticed that not one of the youngsters dared to act despite them yelling and cursing.

This wasn't because they were afraid of him. Instead, the yellow-robed man in front of them was controlling the situation.

The man was tall with bold, fierce brows and sharp, lightning-like eyes. Even just standing there, he gave off a threatening aura.

Heaven Dipper Stage!

Instantly, Lin Xun determined the cultivation level of the opponent from his aura. He knew that the yellow-robed man was an outstanding descendant of a side branch of the Lin Family.

“Yujiao, that person is Lin Xun?”

The yellow-robed man locked his lightning-like eyes on Lin Xun. His voice was calm but his manner was aggressive.

“Cousin Yingzhen, that’s him.”

Lin Yujiao gritted her teeth, and her eyes were filled with hatred. Her pretty face was still swollen and bruised that even a piece of gauze couldn’t fully conceal the redness.

“I understand. Move aside.”

The yellow-robed man issued an order and strode forward towards the white jade stairs. He raised his head and looked directly at Lin Xun at the other end of the stairs. “I’m Lin Yingzhen from the West Creek Lin Clan. I heard that you threatened to occupy the Mind Cleansing Peak?”

Lin Yingzhen!

West Creek Lin Clan!

Lin Xun remembered what Lin Zhong said to him last night. After the four major branches of the Lin Family moved out of the Mind Cleansing Peak, they were divided into the West Creek Lin Clan, Cloud Weight Lin Clan, Flying Peak Lin Clan and the North Light Lin Clan.

They resided in different areas of the Forbidden City, like four independent Lin Clans. They had complicated relationships with one another, cycling between hatred and cooperation.

Everything was a result of the infighting within the clan after the bloody tragedy.

Lin Yingzhen was from the West Creek Lin Family and was a descendant of Lin Xun’s second grandfather, Lin Xixi.

However, Lin Xun was in no mood to reunite with his family nor did he want to be polite to them since they came looking for trouble.

“You’re wrong.” Lin Xun smiled slightly.

“It wasn’t a threat but a fact. From now on, no one, including random stray dogs and cats, can enter and leave Mind Cleansing Peak as they please.”

Random stray dogs and cats?

Many people’s faces darkened and some started to curse and yell, “That guy is so arrogant! He has a death wish.”

Lin Yingzhen’s face also darkened. He stopped the cursing and yelling with a wave of his hand and pinned a glare at Lin Xun. “You are arrogant. I wonder where you got the confidence to speak like that

from. But I still have to advise you to not make a mistake. Mind Cleansing Peak is not something you are qualified to touch!"

Chapter 326 Brutal Search

Seeing Lin Yingzhen's strong stance, the youngsters were all stirred up.

Lin Yingzhen was indeed an outstanding figure of his generation in the West Creek Lin Clan. When he broke through to the Human Dipper Stage, he formed a second-grade aeth power reservoir called the Wind God Reservoir!

After that, his cultivation improved at an extraordinary speed. Three years ago, he broke through to the Heaven Dipper Stage.

Rumor had it that Lin Yingzhen had already formed the foundation to break through to the Spirit Sea Stage!

He was suppressing his cultivation to build a more solid foundation to enable him to progress further on his cultivation path when he broke through in the future.

For many cultivators in the world, it was incredibly difficult to set foot into the Spirit Sea Stage, but it wasn't a problem for Lin Yingzhen.

Simply speaking, in everyone's view, Lin Yingzhen had remarkable talent and strength and was the pride of the younger generation of the West Creek Lin Family.

How could the youngsters not be excited to see him come forward and stand up for them?

Some were even worried that Lin Yingzhen would frighten Lin Xun with his strong stance to the point he would directly admit defeat. If so, that would be very disappointing.

However, Lin Xun said with a smile, "Stop talking nonsense. Since you came here to start a fight, I believe you're prepared to be beaten. Then, don't be polite and come over here. I will end you quickly as I have other affairs to attend to. I have no time to waste with you."

He spoke indifferently but the youngsters all widened their eyes and couldn't believe what they heard. That guy is too arrogant!

"Big Brother Yingzhen, teach him a lesson!"

"That damn kid speaks so arrogantly! He must be killed!"

"He has a death wish! This is why they say a loose tongue brings trouble."

The youngsters raged.

Lin Yingzhen was a little taken aback by Lin Xun's response. He had seen arrogant people before but never one as arrogant as Lin Xun. A sharp glint flashed past his eyes.

"My friend, from what you said, today, you..."

"You talk so much, like a woman." Lin Xun rolled his eyes. "Are you a woman?"

“You...” Lin Yingzhen was so infuriated that he almost coughed up blood. As a descendant of an aristocratic clan, manners and etiquette were of utmost importance. He had never seen a young master as ill-mannered as Lin Xun.

Clang!

Lin Xun seemed to have lost his patience as he brought his Flowing Light Blade down in a slash from the top of the white jade steps.

He didn’t show the least bit of hesitation!

“You are going too far!”

Lin Yingzhen fumed, a terrifying aura pulsing around his body. He resembled an unsheathed sword enveloped with monstrous killing intent. His sword blazed with a flaming red light in his hand.

Huh?

However, just as he moved, his eyes narrowed because Lin Xun’s blade seemed unstoppable and unavoidable despite its ordinary appearance.

What kind of blade art is that?

Sensing a bad feeling, Lin Yingzhen gasped in his heart. The blade light slashing through the air seemed invincible like a raging storm that was about to tear apart everything in the universe.

That...

Lin Yingzhen felt his hair stand on end, and he became chilled to the bone. A feeling of deadly danger replaced all the anger and disdain in his heart.

At that critical moment, he subconsciously unleashed all his strength. It wasn’t to attack but instead to defend himself!

The youngsters frowned strangely as they were under the impression that Lin Yingzhen could effortlessly kill their enemy with a single strike!

It never crossed their mind that Lin Yingzhen would use the sword to defend himself...

Defend?

They haven’t even fought yet. Why is he already defending?

Everyone was baffled.

Immediately, their vision blurred and a deafening boom reverberated across the air. Beams of divine light shot out and powerful qi raged in the air. It was as though two mountains were colliding.

Then, they saw the well-respected Lin Yingzhen flying across the air like a broken kite being struck by a giant beast.

With a thud, a cloud of smoke and dust blasted upwards. Lin Yingzhen screamed in agony and vomited a huge mouthful of blood. No one could tell how many bones he had broken, but he couldn't stand back up.

Hissssss!

Everyone inhaled sharply and their eyes widened with horror. Am I seeing things correctly? Lin Yingzhen was sent flying just as the battle began?

It's too terrifying!

The result was beyond everyone's imagination, so they couldn't help but stand there in stunned silence.

Lin Xun broke the silence with an exclamation, "Your reaction speed is not bad. Consider yourself lucky since you can block my attack!"

Many people shuddered at his words and their faces contorted with horror. They finally realized that the handsome youngster in front of them wasn't easy to deal with!

With just the strength of the Earth Dipper Stage, Lin Xun had defeated Lin Yingzhen, who was at the Heaven Dipper Stage! Moreover, he looked incredibly relaxed and leisurely in the battle! In other words, he didn't use his full strength!

It's too unbelievable!

"You...You..."

Lin Yingzhen's face was ashen as he coughed up endless amounts of blood on the ground. Disbelief contorted his features as he couldn't imagine how he would be defeated so easily.

At that moment, Lin Xun had already made his way down the steps. Wherever he passed, the youngsters moved aside in panic like they were avoiding a scorpion.

Clearly, Lin Xun's blade had terrified them.

However, Lin Xun marched straight toward Lin Yingzhen and stripped him of all his valuables, including jade belts, combat boots, and armor.

Lin Yingzhen constantly screamed in terror and helplessness like a woman being raped.

In the blink of an eye, Lin Yingzhen was left with only his pants. His spotless body was exposed.

All the youngsters had dumbfounded looks on their faces.

It wasn't that they didn't want to help him, but Lin Xun had acted too quickly. Before they realized it, Lin Yingzhen had almost been stripped naked.

Most importantly, if Lin Yingzhen couldn't counter one attack of Lin Xun, they would simply be throwing eggs against a rock.

Lin Xun only stopped after taking all the valuables on Lin Yingzhen. Then, he shifted his gaze to the group of youngsters, completely ignoring Lin Yingzhen who was still screaming tragically on the ground.

Just one glance from Lin Xun sent the youngsters trembling all over. It was as though a starving wolf was eyeing them. The men's faces paled and the women's faces turned grim. They were worried that they would suffer the same fate as Lin Yingzhen.

Lin Xun sighed inwardly. Those guys are such cowards. They won't attack so I can't find a chance to search them for treasures.

"Everyone, go back and tell your elders that it's useless to come to test my strength. I will forgive you this time, but if you dare to come and provoke me next time, don't blame me for being impolite."

Lin Xun ran his eyes across everyone, smiled warmly, and turned around.

Of course, he knew that it was a test. They had sent Lin Yingzhen to test his strength.

This proved that the members of the four other branches of the Lin Family knew he had returned. Perhaps, they didn't dare to come personally because they had received some news, so they sent Lin Yingzhen on their behalf.

Unfortunately for them, Lin Xun wasn't willing to be tested so blatantly!

In his opinion, the test, even more, indicated that the clansmen of the four branches attached no importance to him!

Lin Yingzhen's tragic fate was Lin Xun's intense and powerful counterattack. He wanted the four branches to know that he was determined to take back control of Mind Cleansing Peak.

As the youngsters watched Lin Xun leave, their expressions changed indefinitely, but no one dared to stop him. Some were even glad that Lin Xun didn't give them trouble.

It was understandable. The way Lin Xun defeated Lin Yingzhen was indeed too astonishing. Not only did he search and take everything on him, but he also left him half-naked! It was no doubt humiliating!

From now on, Lin Yingzhen would undoubtedly become a laughingstock of the West Creek Lin Clan. If he wanted to lift his head high again, he would have to kill Lin Xun!

"Hateful! So hateful—!"

Lin Yingzhen was red with shame and fury. He roared repeatedly. So embarrassing! So shameful! What Lin Xun had done was worse than killing him. He was so furious that his eyes rolled to the back of his head, and he lost consciousness.

The youngsters all rushed toward him when they saw him faint.

.....

After dealing with Lin Yingzhen's provocation, Lin Xun cast the matter to the back of his mind and wandered the spacious and wide streets of Forbidden City in the early morning.

He had arrived at the Forbidden City yesterday in the middle of the night. Furthermore, he had gotten into a carriage and traveled straight to Mind Cleansing Peak, so he wasn't able to appreciate the beauty of the Forbidden City then.

Now, as he strolled alone on the spacious and wide street, he saw endless streams of people and carriages. The majority were cultivators, and very rarely did he see ordinary people.

That was also normal. It was the Forbidden City, the capital of the empire, one of the most sacred places to countless cultivators. It was extremely difficult for cultivators to take root here, let alone ordinary people.

Rumble—

In the sky, violet qi rolled across, the rays of dawn illuminated the world, and rune shuttles sped past one after another. It was an unusually spectacular sight.

In the Forbidden City, only rune shuttles were allowed to fly in the sky.

Therefore, along the way, Lin Xun noticed that high and mighty Spirit Sea cultivators were traveling on foot like him or in carriages.

Moreover, he frequently saw Heaven Ascension cultivators!

As for Human Dipper, Earth Dipper, and Heaven Dipper cultivators, they were everywhere and very common.

Of course, the most common cultivators were True Martial Stage cultivators.

In addition to cultivators, Lin Xun also saw many foreigners in unusual clothing! For example, there were monks of the Treasure Kingdom and warriors of the Cloud Mist Kingdom.

There were even Magi Brute experts from the Darkness Kingdom!

That observation made Lin Xun's pupils shrink, but he soon learned that, from conversations with nearby cultivators, those Magi Brute experts were envoys who lived in the Forbidden City all year round and posed no threat

Lin Xun couldn't help but marvel at the unusual and wondrous sights.

This was the Forbidden City!

It was the heart of the Ziyao Empire, the core of many clans and sects, and the center of the empire's power.

In terms of prosperity and foundation, it was unrivaled in the world.

Chapter 327 Whipped

After wandering around for half an hour, Lin Xun found Spirit Vulture Residence's address.

Then, he hired a carriage with one gold coin and headed towards Spirit Vulture Residence.

One gold coin was enough to hire seven to eight carriages in other cities. This alone showed how expensive it was to live in the Forbidden City. It was indeed very difficult for a person to establish themselves there without an impressive background.

The northwestern area of the Forbidden City was considered a common people area in the imperial capital. Almost all the cultivators who resided there were from all over the world. In terms of affluence, it couldn't be compared to the other areas of the Forbidden City.

Even so, the area was bustling and had all sorts of businesses, including restaurants, inns, and brothels...

Spirit Vulture Residence was a restaurant in that area, but it was very remote. Lin Xun had to search the area on a carriage for a long time before he found it on a corner of an alley.

It was an ordinary and unremarkable-looking two-story building.

It was almost noon, but at most ten people were eating in the restaurant. Its business didn't seem too good.

"The friend of Instructor Xu Sanqi is the owner of this restaurant?"

Lin Xun lifted his head to look at the restaurant sign and a flash of surprise crossed his eyes when he saw the three words in ancient writing: Spirit Vulture Residence.

He thought that the friend of Xu Sanqi had to be a powerful cultivator, but who would have thought that the so-called Spirit Vulture Residence was just an ordinary restaurant located in a common people area?

However, Lin Xun didn't underestimate Xu Sanqi's friend. As the saying went, many people with remarkable abilities lie low in inconspicuous cities.

Just when Lin Xun was about to step into Spirit Vulture Residence, a thunderous clatter of hooves in the distance caught his attention. The ground quaked like thousands of troops were approaching.

Lin Xun saw a group of cultivators sitting astride fierce beasts racing towards his side.

PA! PA! PA!

The cultivators swung their long whips, lashing the pedestrians in their way.

"Move away! Damn ugly thing, get lost!"

"Get lost if you don't want to die!"

The people screamed on the street and bolted in panic. Chaos broke out.

People who failed to evade in time were sent flying across the air by the beasts and slammed into the ground.

Some people had moved away, but the cultivators still swung their whips at them, hitting them until their skin split open, leaving them to scream in agony on the ground.

Arrogant!

Disregards life!

Those were Lin Xun's first impressions of the group of cultivators.

The beasts galloped wildly in the downtown area. It was no different from trampling on life.

However, despite committing such a heinous crime, the cultivators seemed incredibly triumphant and broke into loud peals of laughter.

Lin Xun narrowed his eyes.

Not far from him, he saw a little boy wailing in terror as he had forgotten to flee.

PA!

The fierce beast in front was speeding towards him, and the cultivator on it donned a sinister grin and flicked the whip towards the little boy.

If struck, the little boy's head would no doubt crack open!

Gasps rang out on the street, and many people couldn't help but close their eyes. They couldn't watch anymore, knowing that the pitiful little boy would be killed.

At that critical moment, Lin Xun leapt up like a bolt of lightning, grabbed the little boy, and narrowly darted to the other side.

However, the whip landed on Lin Xun's back, ripped his clothes, and left a bloody mark on his skin. It throbbed with burning pain.

Fortunately, the little boy was unscathed. He was only crying from the fright.

"Huh?"

Suddenly, the leader of the group of cultivators glanced at Lin Xun in surprise. His lips curved in a disdainful smile and he withdrew his gaze.

Rumble—

All the cultivators on fierce beasts screeched to a halt in front of Spirit Vulture Residence.

An azure-bronze carriage drawn by four black-scaled horses was behind the group of cultivators. Although the carriage was unadorned, it was enveloped in a terrifying and threatening air.

From the appearance of the four fierce, black-scaled horses and the way the groups of cultivator guards cleared the path for the carriage, it was obvious that the owner of the carriage had an extraordinary identity.

Lin Xun frowned. He first brought the child back to his parents and then he turned around and peered at the carriage.

Soon, a young man draped in a scarlet cloak and black armor stepped down. His expression was stern and fierce, and a ruthless, iron-willed aura shrouded his entire body.

The young man headed straight into Spirit Vulture Residence and the group of cultivators quickly followed him.

"It's Chi Ze again!" someone hissed on the street.

“For the last half a year, he has brought his people to Spirit Vulture Residence every few days and caused a lot of trouble!”

“Hey, he didn’t originally have the surname Chi. It’s just because his younger sister married into the Chi Family, so he was luckily granted the surname Chi. Otherwise, how would he be able to enjoy such power?” someone remarked disdainfully.

“You’re wrong. Although Chi Ze is from a poor family, he has pretty good cultivation talent. He joined the army at a young age and earned a lot of military achievements during his years on the battlefield. Otherwise, the Chi Family wouldn’t have granted him the surname Chi just based on his younger sister’s relationship.”

“Regardless, he is too arrogant. Does he think that he can do what he wants in the Forbidden City after changing his surname to Chi? Someone will deal with people like him one day!”

“Although I also want to see that, the surname Chi does indeed allow Chi Ze to do whatever he wants in the Forbidden City.”

Discussions broke out on the streets. Curses and exclamations of envy and hatred repeatedly rang out one after another.

Chi Ze?

Lin Xun immediately thought of the siblings Chi Cangmei and Chi Cangfeng. He also thought of the numerous encirclement operations he had encountered on his way to the Forbidden City.

The whip hadn’t damaged his bones, but the burning pain caused a chilling intent to flash across Lin Xun’s jet-black eyes.

He had killed an unknown number of cultivators from the Chi Family on his way to the Forbidden City, but he had just suffered a whip slash from a guy who changed his surname to Chi. How could Lin Xun not be furious?

“Friend, why does Chi Ze often come to the Spirit Vulture Residence?” Lin Xun asked the passerby beside him.

“Hey, isn’t it for the beauty in the Spirit Vulture Residence?” The man snorted coldly. “Chi Ze is so shameless. The beautiful woman has shown no interest in him, but he still comes to pester her repeatedly. He has no backbone at all. He really is a lowly being. Even if he changed his surname to Chi, he can’t change his inferiority complex.”

“Beautiful woman?”

“Brother, this must be your first time here. You might not know, but around one year ago, the owner of the Spirit Vulture Residence hired a woman who is elegant and stunning but as cold as ice. She’s like an unattainable iceberg. Her presence caused a sensation and attracted many people to eat here.”

The man’s eyes gleamed covetously. “I’ve also seen the beautiful woman before. Her face and figure can’t be described with words. If I can sleep with her for one night...”

Lin Xun frowned and interrupted, "But the business of Spirit Vulture Residence doesn't seem too good. Why is that?"

The man shot Lin Xun a sidelong glare. "Isn't it obvious? Chi Ze often brings his fierce-looking men to cause trouble. How would anyone dare to eat at Spirit Vulture Residence?"

As he was speaking, he rolled his eyes and left.

Lin Xun stood there alone and fell into contemplation. He believed the 'beauty' who Chi Ze had been pestering for over half a year should be Instructor Xiaoke.

Graceful and beautiful but with a cold-as-ice personality. Isn't that her?

He counted the days. Instructor Xiaoke also left Blood Kill Camp around a year ago, so the timing matches.

Did Chi Ze eat the gall of a leopard? How dare he covet the beauty of Instructor Xiaoke. Isn't he afraid of being beaten to death?

Lin Xun shook his head. No, if the beautiful woman is indeed Instructor Xiaoke, why would she let Chi Ze pester her for half a year and not ruthlessly strike back?

Bang—

Loud booms and clatter shook Spirit Vulture Residence. Immediately, dozens of diners were thrown out and screamed tragically.

"Hurry up and get out! Don't you see my master is here? If we see you in the Spirit Vulture Residence again, we will kill without mercy!"

One of Chi Ze's servants stepped forward and threatened one of the customers who had rolled onto the floor.

Lin Xun frowned, stepped forward to help the customer, and asked, "What happened inside?"

The man cried, "That Chi Ze went crazy again after the beauty rejected him."

Lin Xun's heart tightened. Without any hesitation, he stormed into Spirit Vulture Residence.

He wasn't worried about Xiaoke being bullied, but he was worried that the Chi Family would target Xiaoke after she bullied Chi Ze!

Now that Lin Xun was aware of the conflicts between the aristocratic clans and the poor families, he knew that if something happened to Chi Ze, they would harm Xiaoke to protect the Chi Family's face!

"Spirit Vulture Residence is closed today. Hurry get out of here!"

The two cultivator guards at the door roared when they saw Lin Xun.

Coincidentally, one of them was the man who whipped Lin Xun. He grinned sinisterly when he saw it was Lin Xun. "It's you. What? Was that whip not enough?"

As he was speaking, he raised the whip in his hand again and swung it down at Lin Xun.

PA!

However, Lin Xun didn't retreat and instead stepped forward. Without any visible movement, he slapped the man in the face. The man spewed blood from his nostrils and mouth with a whimper. His teeth shattered and his body spun in circles like a spinning top. He fell to his knees with a thud and saw sparks flying before his eyes. He almost lost consciousness.

Chapter 328 Kill in Rage

Almost at the same time, Lin Xun stretched out his hand and clutched the whip.

PA!

He pulled the whip and struck back. A blast of wind and qi gushed out and split the cultivator's skin open while heavily damaging his organs.

In the end, he fainted while convulsing.

"You have a death wish!" the other cultivator fumed.

Just as he lifted his hand, he felt a terrifying, storm-like aura erupt from Lin Xun.

With a boom, Lin Xun's aura blasted the cultivator across the air.

PA!

Lin Xun didn't show any mercy. The powerful swish of his whip lashed through the air and struck the cultivator like a bolt of lightning. The cultivator coughed up blood and immediately lost consciousness.

He tossed the whip aside and rushed into the ground floor of Spirit Vulture Residence.

He quickly glanced around and saw no one. It was the same situation on the second floor.

Lin Xun frowned in puzzlement, but he suddenly noticed a door leading to a courtyard in the depths of Spirit Vulture Residence.

He saw the entire courtyard from the second floor.

A group of cultivator servants were standing behind Chi Ze in the courtyard, and Chi Ze had a blade pressed against his neck.

The person holding the blade was dressed in plain clothing. Her graceful and slender figure and her long legs made her look taller than she was.

She had fine short black hair, fair skin, and delicate facial features. She was a flawless beauty in every aspect: face, body and demeanor.

Her movements were steady and precise, and her body exuded calmness like a solitary iceberg.

Of course, the person was Instructor Xiaoke!

However, she had grown even more beautiful compared to when she was in Blood Kill Camp as she had always worn the empire's military uniform then.

Her unique calm and cold temperament coupled with her delicate and beautiful facial features made her captivatingly beautiful.

Even Lin Xun was taken aback by her looks when he saw her.

Then, he let out a long sigh of relief. Fortunately, Xiaoke is only threatening him with a blade and hasn't killed him yet.

Surprisingly, Chi Ze remained unusually calm and didn't seem nervous at all with a blade pressed against his neck.

He stared at Xiaoke's beautiful face and grinned. "I know, you made a move. So, put away the blade now."

Xiaoke refused to withdraw her blade. "Do you think I don't have the guts to kill you?"

Chi Ze burst out in arrogant laughter. "Of course, you won't dare to kill me. You might be able to escape after killing me but the owner of Spirit Vulture Residence will have to pay with blood!

After a pause, his eyes blazed. "Xiaoke, you know very well that it's very simple to kill me, but the consequences won't be simple. This is the reason why you haven't done so already. See, this is power!"

He lifted his hand to stroke Xiaoke's soft and smooth face, but when he saw her eyes remained calm and without a ripple of emotion, he retracted his hand.

Chi Ze grinned like he had the upper hand. "Regardless, you are coming with me today. Otherwise, I will destroy Spirit Vulture Residence and kill the owner!"

Xiaoke narrowed her eyes and her voice was icy cold, "You dare!"

Chi Ze said with a smile, "You can try me. I believe you don't want to see the owner of Spirit Vulture Residence die because of you. If that's the case, what other means do you have to resist?"

Xiaoke fell silent.

Chi Ze grew more and more smug. He looked like someone who enjoyed playing with women's minds. "Xiaoke, I like you. What's wrong with coming with me? Now, I have the Chi Clan, one of the seven high clans, supporting me. If you come with me, you will also become a member of the Chi Family. What an honor that is!"

Bang!

Xiaoke flicked her wrist and slammed the back of the blade at Chi Ze's chest, sending him flying across the air.

"Get lost!" Xiaoke softly spat out two words.

However, Chi Ze surprisingly didn't get angry. He leisurely rose to his feet, dusted his clothes, and strode towards Xiaoke. "Don't create trouble. If you don't dare to kill me, why are you still resisting?"

The nearby cultivator servants were all grinning. In their eyes, Xiaoke was an unattainable iceberg and strongly sparked a man's desire to conquer her.

They enjoyed watching Chi Ze relentlessly attack Xiaoke's psychological line of defense like an experienced hunter.

As Xiaoke watched Chi Ze draw closer and closer to her, she clenched the blade in her hand tight and made her fingers turn white. If one looked closely, one would see the struggle in the depths of her usual calm and clear eyes.

Just as Chi Ze was only one foot away from Xiaoke, he grinned triumphantly. No matter how strong this woman is, no matter how high her cultivation is, no matter how cold and proud she is, she still has to submit to me.

The satisfaction of conquering Xiaoke sent blood bubbling with excitement around Chi Ze's body. He almost threw his head back and laughed. This is power!

In the face of power, everything is as weak as a paper tiger!

"Xiaoke, come with me..." Chi Ze said softly as reached to grab Xiaoke's arm.

Xiaoke imperceptibly trembled like she was trying hard to suppress her emotions.

It only made Chi Ze more and more complacent. He felt an intense thrill, an unparalleled enjoyment, and only the woman in front of him could evoke such strong feelings in him.

It was at that moment that a voice rang out, "If you dare touch her, I promise I will chop off your hands to feed the dogs."

In a flash, Lin Xun appeared in the courtyard.

"Who is it?"

"You want to die!"

"How dare you ruin my Master's time!"

The group of cultivators roared as they charged toward Lin Xun.

When Xiaoke saw that it was Lin Xun, she looked dumbfounded. Why did this little guy come?

"Die!"

The group of cultivators launched head-on attacks at Lin Xun.

However, Lin Xun unhurriedly brought out two Flying Star Crossbows, and following two ear-piercing explosion-like booms, silver arrows shot out and bloomed like fireworks.

PU— PU— PU—

Instantly, seven to eight cultivators were killed on the spot, blood gushing everywhere like waterfalls.

It didn't end there. He unsheathed the Flowing Light Blade with a clang and walked forward in large strides.

Lin Xun's lungs almost exploded when he witnessed the scene of Instructor Xiaoke standing there helplessly. At that moment, anger and sadness flooded him.

Xiaoke is an instructor in the empire's Blood Kill Camp!

But some guy with the surname Chi is constraining her. This...how absurd is this?

How ridiculous is that?

However, Lin Xun knew that this was the cruel reality. The reason why Xiaoke didn't dare to act rashly was ultimately because the Chi Family was standing behind Chi Ze!

The power of aristocratic clans was the cause of everything!

How would Lin Xun be able to endure it? He immediately vented the endless hatred in his heart and mercilessly acted.

Instantly, rays of blade light crisscrossed throughout the courtyard, wreaking havoc like a storm. The majority of the cultivators were at the Human Dipper Stage, so how could they withstand such an impact?

In the blink of an eye, more than half suffered casualties.

"Die!"

Chi Ze's face darkened. He was utterly infuriated and his gaze grew even more terrifying. He had almost succeeded, but someone appeared and ruined everything. Violent currents of rage surged in his heart.

Boom!

He sprang up and thrust his palm forward. A blast of jet-black wind swept out from his hand like a wave, compressing the void.

Kill from a distance!

The ability of a Spirit Sea cultivator!

But just as Chi Ze made a move, Xiaoke clenched her teeth and leapt up as though she had made a decision.

Xiaoke lightly clapped her hands together and the fabric of space seemed to collapse, instantly crushing Chi Ze's palm strike.

"Xiaoke, you..." Chi Ze raged as though he couldn't believe that Xiaoke would dare to stop him.

Bang!

However, before he finished his sentence, Xiaoke attacked with a beautiful, swift kick. The terrifying power of her kick formed a shadow in the air and crushed Chi Ze's chest from a distance.

Chi Ze's chest sank in and blood seeped out from his seven orifices. His body blasted a huge pit into the ground and whipped up a cloud of dust.

Lin Xun had dealt with Chi Ze's servants almost at the same time. Carrying a sword dripping with blood, he said with a smile, "Instructor Xiaoke, this is more like you."

Xiaoke's clear eyes were calm as she shot a sidelong glance at Lin Xun. "You've caused me a big problem the moment we met again. Let's think of how to solve it first."

"Solve it? Impossible! Unless you kill me now, otherwise none of you can escape!" Chi Ze roared on the ground, his hair dishevelled, his face contorted and livid, and his eyes bloodshot and filled with murderous rage.

Ever since he had changed his surname to Chi, no one had dared to anger him wherever he went.

Xiaoke frowned and was about to say something when Lin Xun spoke before her, "Instructor, leave it to me. I guarantee that you won't have to worry!"

As he reassured Xiaoke, he was already standing in front of Chi Ze with a blade in his hand. A warm smile spread across his lips. "Don't worry, I won't kill you."

He raised the blade in his hand and, with two swift motions, severed both of Chi Ze's hands. Blood spurted everywhere like a spring.

Chi Ze madly screamed in agony, "You're dead! You're dead! The Chi Family won't let you go! I swear!"

Xiaoke's frown deepened. She was still a little worried.

However, Lin Xun crouched down, stared at Chi Ze's twisted, crazy, and livid face and smiled. "You might not know, but on my way to the Forbidden City, I killed over two thousand cultivators sent out by the Chi Clan and also damaged and destroyed six Violet Hero Battleships. Oh and even that kid Chi Cangfeng came to Wuqu City to kill me, but I am still alive and well."

After a pause, Lin Xun asked, "Now, do you think I would be afraid of retaliation from the Chi Family?"

Chapter 329 Like a Demon

Xiaoke had already broken Chi Ze's ribs.

Then, Lin Xun severed his hands. He was in so much pain that he constantly let out a blood-curdling scream and was on the verge of collapsing.

He madly cursed in his mind. He hated Lin Xun and Xiaoke to the bone and swore to torture the two to death if he survived!

However, when he heard what Lin Xun said, he felt as if a bolt of lightning had struck him. Panic and terror replaced the endless hatred and murderous rage in his heart.

He killed around two thousand cultivators sent out by the Chi Clan?

He destroyed six Violet Hero Battleships?

How is that possible?

Chi Ze didn't believe Lin Xun at first, but he began to panic when he heard that even Chi Cangfeng couldn't do anything to Lin Xun.

This was because, yesterday, he had heard that Chi Cangfeng ignored the clan's order to deal with an outsider and had been imprisoned by the influential figures of the Chi Clan.

If what Lin Xun said is true, the outsider whom Chi Cangfeng went to deal with yesterday was Lin Xun!

With that thought, Chi Ze felt like his heart had completely collapsed. His face was deathly pale and his eyes were lifeless. He even seemed to have forgotten about his severe injuries.

No wonder that kid is so fearless. It turns out that he's a fierce character with a remarkable background!

Xiaoke was just as astonished. It turns out that kid has done that much before he came to the Forbidden City?

But why did the Chi Family send people to deal with him?

Why did they let him into the Forbidden City in the end and not retaliate?

Xiaoke knew there had to be a reason.

However, Lin Xun seemed to not notice the change in Chi Ze's expression and was still smiling. "Of course, you don't have to believe it. It doesn't matter anyway. You just need to know that it's a very simple matter for me to kill you."

Chi Ze's expression seemed lifeless and hollow as if all emotion had been stripped from him. It was as though he admitted defeat.

"Of course, since I told you so much, I naturally have no intention of killing you now."

His sentence completely surprised Xiaoke.

Even Chi Ze couldn't help quivering with shock, and a glimmer of light flashed in his lifeless eyes as if he had escaped from death.

However, he suddenly found it suspicious. He felt that Lin Xun was deliberately torturing him. He hissed, "Stop playing ticks! Kill me if you dare!"

Lin Xun smiled slightly. Under Chi Ze's bewildered gaze, he swiftly treated Chi Ze's hand injury.

He was quick and skilful. He first stopped the bleeding, then cleaned the wound, applied ointment, and wrapped it in cloth.

"You..." Chi Ze was so perplexed that he didn't know what to say.

"Don't be moved. I'm only doing this to keep you alive." Lin Xun smiled. "Because I'm curious as to how your Chi Family will react when you return to them as a cripple. Oh, I heard that the Chi Family gave you the surname Chi, isn't that right? Then that's going to be a bit troublesome for you. If they take back the surname and no longer acknowledge you as a part of the clan..."

Before he finished his sentence, Chi Ze felt like his head was about to explode. He understood!

He's not killing me because he's kind. He just wants to push me into a situation worse than death!

A crippled person was worthless to the Chi Family. Even if the Chi Family didn't take back his surname, how would he have the face to continue to live?

After losing his power, he would become a clown for everyone to see. He would only be trampled by countless people if he continued to live!

The more he thought about it, the more afraid he felt. Who is this young man? Why is he so ruthless?

He is simply a demon!

No, even demons aren't as ruthless as him!

Xiaoke couldn't help but ask, "Lin Xun, what if you anger..."

"Don't worry, the Chi Family can come to find me if they want to get revenge." Lin Xun smiled warmly.

Then, he thought of something and reminded Chi Ze, "Oh, I forgot to tell you that if you want to retaliate, just come to find me on Mind Cleansing Peak, one of the seventy-two peaks of the Mountains of Aristocratic Clans. I have just become the owner there."

Mountains of Aristocratic Clans!

Mind Cleansing Peak!

Chi Ze felt everything before him had turned gloomy. He wanted to die. It...turns out that guy is a descendant of an aristocratic clan!

No!

Chi Ze suddenly remembered that the Lin Family's Mind Cleansing Peak had fallen into a state of decline more than ten years ago. The Lin Clan is at most only a lower aristocratic clan now. What does he have to go against the Chi Family?

"Pah! You said so much, but it turns out that you're just a crook," Chi Ze coldly sneered.

Lin Xun rose to his feet and said with a smile, "What would I gain from deceiving people like you? You can leave now, but I welcome you to bring the people of the Chi Family to Mind Cleansing Peak for revenge."

Chi Ze's face changed indefinitely when he saw Lin Xun speak so confidently. In the end, he gritted his teeth, endured the pain, got up, and tottered away.

Before leaving, he resentfully glanced back at Lin Xun and Xiaoke.

"That guy thinks the Chi Family will help a piece of trash like him get revenge. It's understandable, people need to have hope in life. Otherwise, it will be no different from death." Lin Xun sighed.

However, Xiaoke glanced at Lin Xun with a frown. "You are still in the mood to sigh for others?"

"I don't care if many lice are bothering me, but he dared to harm you, Instructor Xiaoke. I had to make his life worse than death and pay an unbearable price!"

Xiaoke focused her clear eyes on Lin Xun. A strange feeling surfaced in her heart as she stared at the handsome young man whom she hadn't seen in a long time.

Although that kid has changed a lot, he still isn't bad.

"I forgot something. We should have made Chi Ze clean this place before leaving..."

Lin Xun swept a glance around the courtyard. The courtyard was strewn with corpses and the stench of blood was suffocating.

"There's no need to clean up. Do you think we can stay here after killing so many people of the Chi Family?"

Xiaoke frowned helplessly. Then, she turned around and ran outside. "I'll get Spirit Vulture and tell him to leave with us."

"Leave? Where are we going?"

"After causing such a huge storm, is there still a place for us in the Forbidden City? Of course, we are going to run as far as possible."

Understanding dawned on Lin Xun. Ultimately, Xiaoke is still worried about retaliation from the Chi Family.

How fearless and heroic was Instructor Xiaoke in Blood Kill Camp?

But in the Forbidden City, she couldn't do anything to a guy who had been constantly harassing her.

Now, she has just killed a bunch of trash, but she had to leave the Forbidden City...

Lin Xun felt very uncomfortable because he finally understood what the so-called noble aristocratic families meant to ordinary people.

Even Xiaoke had to keep quiet, let alone other people.

If Chi Ze hadn't relied on the power of the Chi Family, how would he dare to act so unscrupulously and lawlessly given that he was far inferior to Xiaoke in terms of strength?

"Instructor, I have a plan that can allow us to continue to stay in the Forbidden City," Lin Xun said seriously.

He could tell that Xiaoke was reluctant to leave the city. Otherwise, she wouldn't have tolerated Chi Ze's harassment for over half a year.

As he thought, Xiaoke stopped abruptly and turned around. "What plan?"

"Come to Mind Cleansing Peak with me." Lin Xun drew a deep breath and told her everything about his background and the situation he was facing. He didn't try to hide anything from her.

After understanding everything, Xiaoke couldn't help but exclaim, "You're...a direct descendant of the Lin Family?"

She had also heard of the Lin Family, but she had never imagined that Lin Xun would be connected with such an aristocratic family.

Lin Xun smiled. "I only found out about it yesterday."

His ordinary and indifferent delivery contained many complicated and inexpressible emotions. Only he would understand the bitterness of his situation.

"In other words, you came to find me to help you?" Xiaoke fixed her eyes on Lin Xun.

Lin Xun said helplessly, "I had no choice. I'm new here and I'm alone. It's impossible to single-handedly fight against those ruthless, old things."

He took a deep breath and his eyes flashed with a resolute glint. "So, I have to quickly grow my strength and take advantage of any available resources by any means. Otherwise, it will be difficult to even protect my little life, let alone protect Mind Cleansing Peak."

Xiaoke fell silent. Then, she calmly looked at Lin Xun and said, "If I anger the Chi Family, I can still run away. But if I jump into your fire pit, I may be completely trapped."

"Indeed." Lin Xun smiled wryly.

He suddenly looked dispirited. He realized that he was being too selfish to ask Instructor Xiaoke to come to the Mind Cleansing Peak with him.

If she were to stand on the same side as him, the dangers that she would have to face would be hundreds of times more dangerous than killing trash like Chi Ze!

"Come with me first."

Xiaoke didn't refuse but she took Lin Xun out of Spirit Vulture Residence and walked along the streets and alleys for a few minutes. They came to a secluded courtyard and pushed open the door.

The courtyard was quiet and peaceful with an ancient tree standing in the center.

Under the tree sat a middle-aged man in a wheelchair under the tree. A chubby, snowy-white cat was snuggling in his arms.

The middle-aged man had long, gray hair and a pale face to the point of becoming translucent. He seemed to be ill and incredibly frail.

However, he exuded a very tranquil demeanor and his calm and peaceful eyes seemed capable of seeing through everything in the world.

If he wasn't sitting in a wheelchair with a sickly, pale face, Lin Xun would have thought he was an extraordinarily powerful master living in seclusion!

"Xiaoke, you came."

The middle-aged man donned a gentle smile. His voice was as low as the morning bell but had a unique charm.

However, he scrunched his brows and looked taken aback when he saw Lin Xun. "This young man is filled with murderous intent and his clothes are stained with blood. Could it be that he killed someone just now?"

Then, he shifted his clear eyes to Xiaoke like he realized something. "If my guess is correct, you were in a fight with Chi Ze?"

Lin Xun trembled inwardly. This middle-aged man has sharp insight.

He was able to determine so many things from just one glance. It's impossible to do so without a wealth of experience and wisdom!

Lin Xun didn't dare to underestimate the man anymore. The middle-aged man might be ill, but he was no doubt an extremely powerful existence in the past.

Chapter 330 Overjoy

Xiaoke acknowledged the middle-aged man but she didn't deny his observation.

The middle-aged man smiled. "Is it because of this young man? You don't need to deny it. In my view, even without the young man, I knew it would happen soon or later given your temperament."

Lin Xun was completely stunned. He finally understood the term 'demonic wisdom.' From just one glance, the middle-aged man had remarkably guessed what had happened.

However, Xiaoke changed the topic. "Spirit Vulture, this is Lin Xun, one of the students who successfully graduated from Blood Kill Camp the year before."

Spirit Vulture!

The middle-aged man is actually the owner of Spirit Vulture Residence!

Lin Xun stepped forward and bowed. "Elder, I pay my respects to you."

Spirit Vulture smiled slightly. "You don't need to be so polite. Since you came here, I believe Xu Sanqi advised you to do so. If that's the case, you're not an outsider."

Lin Xun marveled, "Elder, you have amazing insight. You see through everything like a bright torch. I'm impressed!"

Spirit Vulture smiled. "Give me the hairpin."

Lin Xun was puzzled at first, but he soon took out the silver hairpin that Xu Sanqi had given him and handed it over.

Spirit Vulture rubbed the hairpin between his fingers and a gentleness emerged within his eyes. He said after a while, "Since you brought the hairpin here, you must have a favor to ask. Tell me, what do you want me to help you with."

Before Lin Xun answered him, Xiaoke stepped forward and informed Spirit Vulture of Lin Xun's situation in a whisper.

Spirit Vulture assumed a solemn look and said, "I didn't expect you to be a direct descendant of Duke Daochen. Forgive my disrespect."

Duke Daochen! Lin Xun's great-grandfather was Lin Daochen!

Lin Xun had never thought that Spirit Vulture would respect his great-grandfather so much that he spoke to him, a junior, so politely.

"Elder, to be honest, I only realized my background yesterday, so I don't know much about my great-grandfather. Please don't laugh," Lin Xun said in shame.

"Okay, let's stop the small talk and get straight to the point. I have learned about your background, but I still don't know whether I can help you."

Spirit Vulture's eyes were incredibly calm and seemed to contain a power able to penetrate a person's heart. "After all, whoever helps you will face earthshaking dangers. I need you to prove that you can take on such a responsibility."

"How would I prove that?" asked Lin Xun.

"You are only at the Earth Dipper Stage so if I test your strength, it will be a little unfair. How about this, tell me what you would do if you were in control of Mind Cleansing Peak?"

Spirit Vulture spoke calmly but his gaze felt inexplicably oppressive.

Xiaoke didn't say anything and just stared at Lin Xun with her clear eyes.

She could tell that it was a test for him. If Lin Xun could pass the test, Spirit Vulture would help him.

But if he failed...

He had to leave with his tail between his legs!

"First deal with the internal problems," Lin Xun answered unwaveringly.

He had been pondering the same question the entire night.

"How would you resolve the internal problems?" Spirit Vulture continued to ask, his eyes extremely calm but there was a hint of majesty that oppressed a person's mind.

"Stabilize first, then accumulate strength, and then attack."

Spirit Vulture shook his head in dissatisfaction. "That's too general. It seems you don't have a specific plan."

Lin Xun explained, "In my view, the current situation doesn't call for a specific plan yet."

Spirit Vulture nodded and his interest seemed to be piqued. "Continue."

Lin Xun quickly said, "The only advantage I have at the moment is that I am a direct successor of the Lin Family, so I can justifiably take over Mind Cleansing Peak. The other members of the Lin Family have already lost to me in that respect."

Spirit Vulture nodded. "That is true and a key point."

Lin Xun smiled slightly and continued, "But my situation isn't too optimistic. I have no money, I have no people, I am alone, I don't have a reputation, and I am not strong enough. No one would have any confidence in me or respect me."

Spirit Vulture's eyes lit up with admiration. Lin Xun's words convinced him that he wasn't all talk.

It was easy to understand the enemy, but it was often difficult for one to know oneself. The most difficult thing for a cultivator to understand was themselves.

It was very rare for someone at Lin Xun's age to be able to assess himself and make a calm and accurate judgment.

"So I plan to change myself before solving the internal problems. When I have the ability, I will make a clear and specific plan of how to advance from there."

Lin Xun inhaled deeply. He had expressed his true thoughts.

Xiaoke seemed to be persuaded by Lin Xun. She could tell that he had his own ideas and plan and didn't just come to ask for help out of fear!

"I haven't seen him for around two years but he has changed so much. Chief Xu would be very pleased to know about this," Xiaoke said ruminatively. She knew very well that although Xu Sanqi didn't do much to take care of Lin Xun in Blood Kill Camp, he was still no doubt the student whom he admired the most.

Otherwise, Xu Sanqi wouldn't have given Lin Xun the silver hairpin.

Xiaoke was only surprised to see that Spirit Vulture seemed unconvinced as he continued to question Lin Xun. "That's not a bad plan, but I'm curious how you would change yourself? It's not something that can be changed overnight."

Lin Xun suddenly smiled. A rare, superior expression spread across his sharp and handsome features as he explained calmly, "It may be difficult for others to change, but I am different. If I set my mind on it, I guarantee I can make everyone in the Forbidden City know my name within one month."

Xiaoke's eyes narrowed, and a strange glint flashed across them. It's very rare to see Lin Xun speak so confidently. A person like him wouldn't rashly say such resolute and complacent words.

It seems like he has a lot of trump cards still to show!

At the same time, Spirit Vulture also smiled and clapped his hands in admiration. "I am now certain that it's not a bad thing to help you."

Lin Xun quivered with excitement. "Does that mean you agree to help me, Elder?" *NoVelnext.Com*

Xiaoke said irritably, "Anyone who has a whit of sense would know! Kid, you're so intelligent, so why are you acting so dimwitted now?"

Lin Xun was speechless.

Of course, he knew, but he was so excited that he couldn't digest the joy and excitement.

He originally planned to ask Xiaoke for help, but who would have thought that he somehow also got the help of Spirit Vulture!

How would Lin Xun not be overjoyed?

Spirit Vulture looked sickly and didn't look imposing, but he couldn't be an ordinary person given that he was a friend of Xu Sanqi and was highly respected by Xiaoke.

If I have their help, it will undoubtedly increase my prospect of taking charge of Mind Cleansing Peak!

"Now, let me formally introduce myself. My code name is Spirit Vulture. Like Xu Sanqi, I am a former student of Blood Kill Camp."

Spirit Vulture looked solemn as he said, "I originally had the cultivation base of the upper Heaven Ascension Stage, but I was afflicted with an illness after a disaster and I am now no different from a common cripple."

Crippling illness!

What sort of illness could turn a Heaven Ascension cultivator into a crippled person?

Lin Xun trembled inwardly. He was about to ask further when Spirit Vulture waved his hand. "Don't ask anymore. I can only tell you that I can't help you with anything on the battlefield. The only thing I can do is perhaps assess the situation and formulate plans. In short, leave all the trivial things to me."

Lin Xun stared at him blankly, but Xiaoke shot a glare at him. "Spirit Vulture is a master tactician. Even Chief Xu will have to bow his head to him and humbly ask him for advice. Even the principal of Qinglu Academy had personally invited him to take up a position in the academy but he refused. Kid, you're really stupid to be still standing there blankly."

Lin Xun smacked his lips and hurriedly bowed to express his gratitude. He was overjoyed to learn that Spirit Vulture was so extraordinary. Even Instructor Xu Sanqi had to ask him for advice and even the Principal of Qinglu Academy personally invited him to teach in the academy...

He's so badass!

Without further delay, Lin Xun brought Xiaoke and Spirit Vulture back to Mind Cleansing Peak on a carriage.

On the way, through small talk, Lin Xun learned that Xiaoke chose to stay in the Forbidden City entirely because she wanted to take care of Spirit Vulture.

According to Xiaoke, Spirit Vulture had saved her life.

However, when Lin Xun asked about Spirit Vulture's illness, Xiaoke avoided the question and only told him that he would understand if there was an opportunity in the future.

This made Lin Xun conclude that Spirit Vulture's illness was either extremely difficult to treat or he might be terminally ill. Otherwise, given his ability, he would have healed already.

After returning to Mind Cleansing Peak, Lin Xun instructed Lin Zhong to arrange a residence for Xiaoke and Spirit Vulture. He also informed him that Xiaoke and Spirit Vulture were the people he trusted the most apart from him and asked him to not treat them with disrespect.

Lin Xun was most surprised when Spirit Vulture's eyes widened when he saw Lin Zhong and the older man asked, "Dare I ask whether you achieved third place in the national exam sixty years ago and were known as the White Casanova Shen Jinglun?"

Lin Zhong's body went stiff and his expression dramatically changed. Only after a while did he shake his head and deny it, "Shen Jinglun is dead and now only an old servant of the Lin Family remains in the world."

Spirit Vulture narrowed his eyes and didn't ask further.

However, his words set off a wave of emotions in Lin Xun's heart. It never crossed his mind that the ordinary-looking, hunched old man had another identity.

White Casanova Shen Jinglun!

How would an ordinary person have such a beautiful title?

Lin Xun decided to find out more when he got the chance.

After arranging their residence, Lin Xun invited Xiaoke and Spirit Vulture into his study and they began to formulate a plan.

Spirit Vulture directly told Lin Xun to take charge of everything, and he was only responsible for the miscellaneous tasks. He would only propose relevant plans and wouldn't criticize or pick faults at Lin Xun's decisions.

Xiaoke also bluntly stated that she was only responsible for taking orders and urged Lin Xun to tell her to handle something if there was anything.

Lin Xun was a little taken aback by their attitude. But then he realized that it wasn't that they didn't want to help him. They only wanted to remind him that he was the owner of Mind Cleansing Peak and he controlled everything.

If Lin Xun wanted to become the true successor of the Lin Family, he had to have the ability to make his own decisions and couldn't rely on other people!

Otherwise, he would be the same as a puppet

From that moment on, Lin Xun fully realized that his identity had completely changed.